

Local council ward boundary review

About Loddon Shire Council

The Traditional Custodians of the land in the Loddon Shire Council are the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the Yorta Yorta People.

Loddon Shire Council is in north central Victoria, about 175 km from central Melbourne. Covering almost 6,700 km² it is one of Victoria's largest councils by area. With a population of 7,759 it is also one of the least populated. Population has been slowly declining since 2001.

A rural council, it has no dominant population centre and nearly 100 localities. Small settlements such as Boort, Bridgewater on Loddon, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn play a vitally important social, service provision, residential and community focused role in their respective districts.

Notable landscape features include the Loddon River and Terrick Terrick National Park. Dryland agricultural production is practiced across much of the council and more intensive irrigated agriculture is practiced in some northern areas.

The council is serviced by the Wimmera, Calder, and Loddon Valley highways, and 2 railway lines.

Compared to regional Victoria, the council has many people aged 50 and over, people born in Australia, and many living in freestanding houses in rural settings. The top occupations are associated with the agricultural sector and of those working fulltime a high proportion work 45 hours or more a week.

Current structure

Loddon Shire Council is divided into 5 wards with one councillor per ward. There are 5 councillors in total.

About the review

If a council is subdivided into wards, the number of voters in each ward should be within +/-10% of the average across all wards to comply with the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic).

Changes to the population, location of housing areas, and voting entitlements all impact the number of voters in wards.

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, the Minister for Local Government has asked the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to review the ward boundaries for Loddon Shire Council.

Adjusting ward boundaries aims to ensure voters are represented equally at the next council general election.

During its review, the VEC will look at Loddon Shire Council's:

- enrolled voter numbers
- projected voter numbers
- ward boundary locations.

As a local you know your council area better than anyone. You can have your say on the suggested ward boundary adjustments:

1. in a response submission to the preliminary report
2. at an online public hearing, if you ask to speak in your response submission.

Last review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Loddon Shire Council in 2011.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au to access a copy of the 2011 review final report.

Review process

Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 February

Information sessions

Session 1: 12 noon, Monday 19 February

Session 2: 12 noon, Tuesday 20 February

These sessions will give you more information about the review process. You will be able to register for a session on the VEC website.

Wednesday 21 February

Preliminary report

The VEC will release a preliminary report with one or more options for the ward boundaries on Wednesday 21 February.

You can make a response submission from this date.

Wednesday 13 March

Response submissions

The VEC must receive your submission by 5 pm on Wednesday 13 March.

The VEC will not accept late submissions.

Tuesday 19 March

Public hearing

The VEC will hold an online public hearing if anyone asks to speak about their response submission at 2 pm Tuesday 19 March.

The public hearing will not be held if no one asks to speak.

Wednesday 17 April

Final report

The VEC will submit a final report to the Minister for Local Government including its advice for the adjustments to ward boundaries on Wednesday 17 April.

The minister will consider the VEC's advice regarding the adjustments. Any change is expected to apply at the next local council general election.

Submission guide

You can download a submission guide from the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au

How to make a submission



On the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au



By email to:

Loddon.WardReview@vec.vic.gov.au



By post to:

Ward boundary review panel
Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins St
Melbourne VIC 3000

Submissions must include your:

- full name
- contact phone number or email address
- residential or postal address.

Your submission will be published on the VEC website, including your name and suburb or town but not your full address or contact details. See the submission guide or VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au/privacy for privacy information.

One vote, one value

The 'one vote, one value' democratic principle is enshrined in the *Local Government Act 2020*. This means every person's vote counts equally.

When a local council is subdivided into wards, the number of voters each councillor represents in each ward must be plus-or-minus 10% of the average number of voters per councillor for all wards.

The map below includes the current number of voters in each ward and the ward's current deviation from the average. The VEC will also consider projected population and voter changes to ensure the structure remains fair.

If you make a submission online, you can use a mapping tool to build your preferred ward boundaries. The tool uses current voter numbers to tell you the deviations of the wards you make. This will help your proposal meet the requirements of the Act.

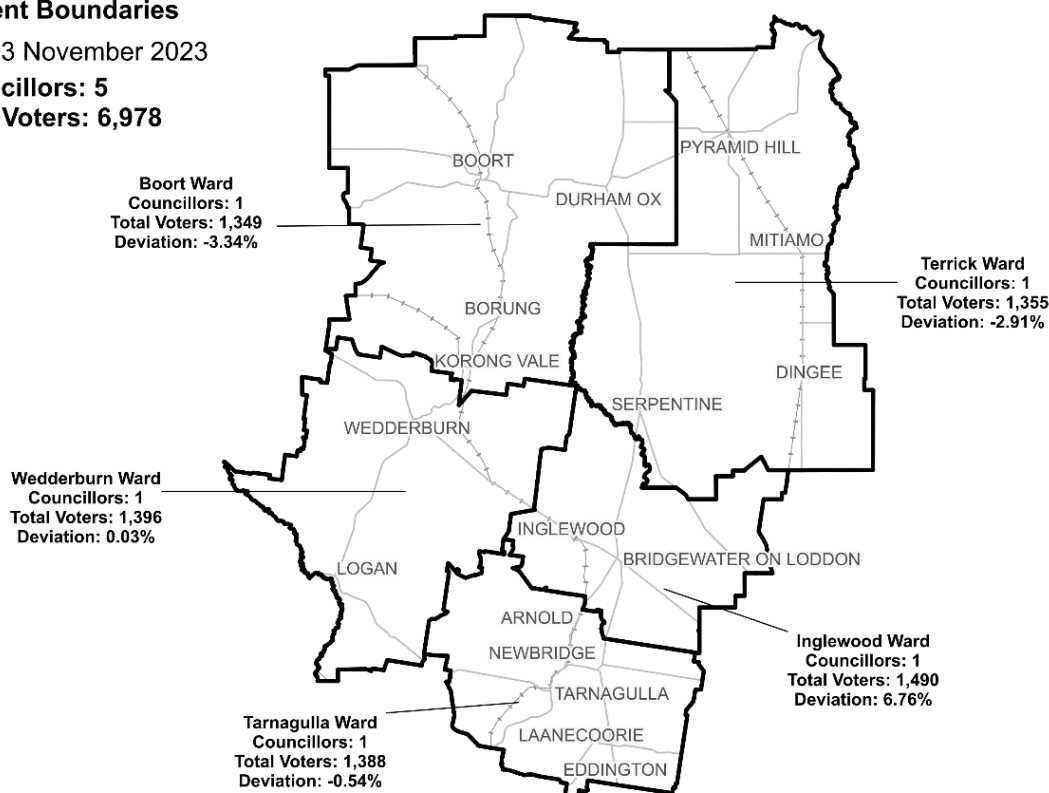
Current electoral structure

Voter Numbers by Current Boundaries

As at 3 November 2023

Councillors: 5

Total Voters: 6,978



Ward	Councillors	Voters	Deviation
Boort	1	1,349	-3.34%
Inglewood*	1	1,490	+6.76%
Tarnagulla*	1	1,388	-0.54%
Terrick	1	1,355	-2.91%
Wedderburn	1	1,396	+0.03%

* The deviations of these wards are forecast to be outside of +/-10% by October 2024.

Statistics

Area (km²) 6,696

Voters

Voters per square km

1

Average voters per councillor

1,396

Population

Current population

7,759

Forecast population growth

0.0% p.a.

More Census statistics available at abs.gov.au

Voter numbers by locality (table)

Loddon Shire Council voter numbers at 3 November 2023

Locality	Voters
Appin South	24
Arnold	63
Arnold West	16
Auchmore	5
Barraport	24
Barraport West	5
Bealiba	3
Bears Lagoon	46
Berrimal	39
Boort	655
Borong	55
Brenanah	38
Bridgewater	160
Bridgewater North	46
Bridgewater On Loddon	283
Buckrabanyule	18
Burkes Flat	19
Calivil	113
Campbells Forest	47
Canary Island	9
Catumnal	8
Cochranes Creek	26

Locality	Voters
Coonooer Bridge	3
Derby	20
Dingee	164
Dunolly	69
Durham Ox	52
Eastville	12
Eddington	80
Emu	5
Fentons Creek	32
Fernihurst	25
Fiery Flat	20
Gladfield	16
Glenalbyn	40
Glenloth East	1
Goldsborough	3
Gowar East	11
Gredgwin	11
Horfield	3
Inglewood	727
Inkerman	5
Jarklin	29
Jungaburra	3

Locality	Voters
Kamarooka	27
Kamarooka North	15
Kingower	54
Kinypanial	12
Korong Vale	165
Kurraca	13
Kurraca West	8
Kurting	49
Laanecoorie	193
Lake Marmal	21
Lake Meran	3
Leaghur	15
Leichardt	34
Leitchville	17
Llanelly	57
Loddon Vale	23
Logan	46
Macorna	9
Marong	19
Mcintyre	68
Meering West	2
Milloo	0

Locality	Voters
Mincha	50
Minmindie	14
Mitiamo	87
Moliagul	76
Mologa	29
Murphys Creek	37
Mysia	28
Newbridge	216
Nine Mile	12
Painswick	17
Pompapiel	34
Powlett Plains	41
Prairie	35
Pyramid Hill	443
Raywood	45
Rheola	50
Richmond Plains	9
Salisbury West	46
Sebastian	2
Serpentine	155
Shelbourne	78
Skidders Flat	19

Locality	Voters
Slaty Creek	3
Sylvaterre	9
Tandarra	48
Tarnagulla	173
Terrappee	21
Terrick Terrick	13
Waanyarra	54
Wedderburn	940
Wedderburn Junction	28
Wehla	57
Woodstock On Loddon	19
Woodstock West	29
Woolshed Flat	26
Woosang	8
Wychitella	27
Wychitella North	11
Yando	31
Yarraberb	20
Yarrowalla	54
Yeungroon East	1