

Local council electoral structure review

About Brimbank City Council

The Traditional Custodians of the land in Brimbank City Council are the Wurundjeri and the Bunurong peoples.

Brimbank City Council is about 20 km west of central Melbourne. Covering an area of 123 km² it is home to 194,618 people. As the most populated of Victoria's metropolitan councils, it is forecast to grow to nearly 230,000 people by 2040.

The council area is heavily urbanised and residential, industrial and commercial areas account for about 85% of all land use. It comprises 25 suburbs, which the council has organised into 5 local districts: St Albans, Sunshine, Deer Park, Sydenham and Keilor. Each district has its own identity, culture, and heritage.

Pre- and post-war homes characterise the established suburbs of Sunshine, St Albans and Deer Park. The more recently developed suburbs of Cairnlea, Sydenham, Hillside, and Derrimut feature more contemporary housing.

Growth is expected to occur through medium and higher density housing development in Brimbank, Deer Park, Keilor Downs, St Albans, Sunshine, and Sydenham.

Brimbank is culturally diverse. At the 2021 Census, about 70% of residents had both parents born overseas and people with Vietnamese ancestry accounted for about 17% of the population. Other large cultural groups include people with Chinese, Italian and Maltese ancestry.

Current structure

Brimbank City Council is divided into 4 wards with a total of 11 councillors:

- one ward with 2 councillors
- 3 wards with 3 councillors each

About the review

Under Victoria's *Local Government Act 2020*, Brimbank City Council must now have a single-councillor ward electoral structure.

The Minister for Local Government has appointed an electoral representation advisory panel to review the electoral structure of Brimbank City Council and advise on the most appropriate single-councillor ward structure.

The panel is looking at:

- the appropriate number of councillors and wards
- the location of ward boundaries
- appropriate ward names.

Electoral structure reviews are an important part of democracy and your input is valuable. As a local, you know your council area better than anyone. This is your chance to tell the panel your thoughts about the single-councillor ward structure you believe would best provide representation for your community.

You can have your say:

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 Brimbank City 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 16 and Tuesday 17 October

Information sessions

Session 1: 12 noon, Monday 16 October

Session 2: 6 pm, Tuesday 17 October

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 18 October

Preliminary report

The panel will release a preliminary report with one or more options for the electoral structure on Wednesday 18 October.

You can make a response submission from this date.

Wednesday 8 November

Response submission close

The panel must receive all submissions by 5 pm on Wednesday 8 November.

The panel will not accept late submissions.

Wednesday 15 November

Public hearing

The panel will hold an online public hearing if anyone asks to speak about their response submission at 10 am Wednesday 15 November.

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

Wednesday 13 December

Final report

The panel will submit a final report to the Minister for Local Government including its advice for the electoral structure on Wednesday 13 December.

The minister will consider the panel's advice before recommending a change to the electoral structure. 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:

Brimbank.ERAPSubmissions@vec.vic.gov.au



By post to:

Electoral representation advisory panel
c/o 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 panel will consider likely population and voter changes to ensure the structure remains equitable.

If you make a submission online, you can use a mapping tool to build your preferred electoral structure. The tool uses current voter numbers to tell you the deviations of the wards you make. This will help you propose a structure that meets the requirements of the Act.

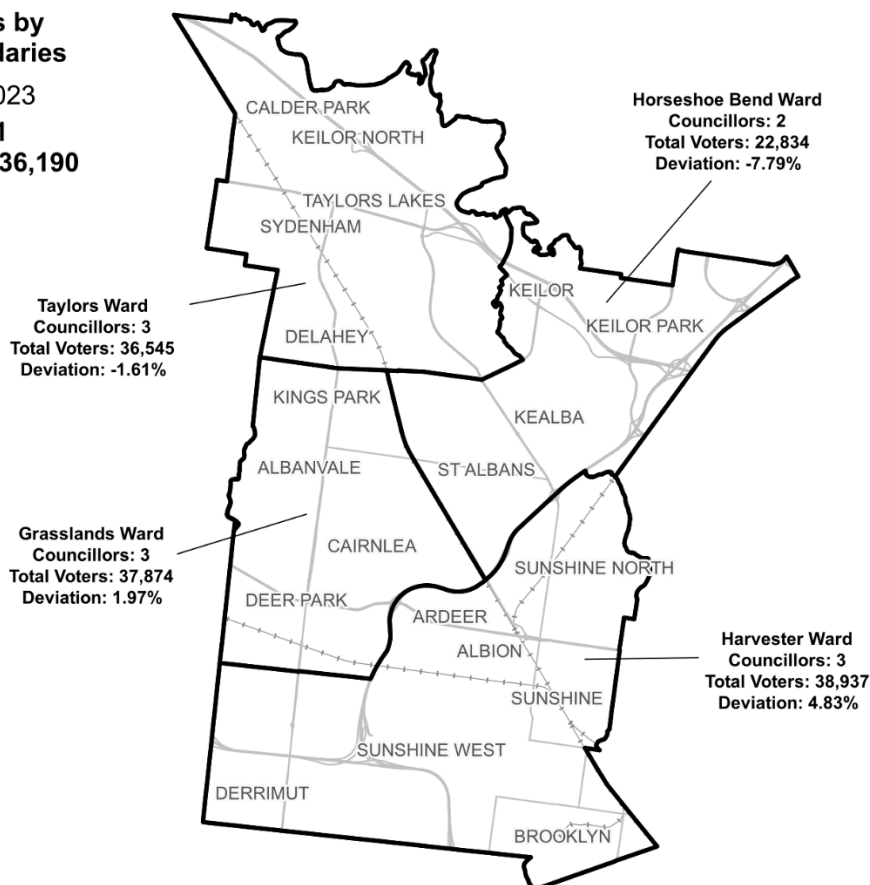
Current electoral structure

Voter Numbers by Current Boundaries

As at 25 July 2023

Councillors: 11

Total Voters: 136,190



Ward	Councillors	Voters	Deviation
Grasslands Ward	3	37,874	+1.97%
Harvester Ward	3	38,937	+4.83%
Horseshoe Bend Ward	2	22,834	-7.79%
Taylors Ward	3	36,545	-1.61%

Statistics

Area (km²) 123

Voters

Voter density (per square km)

1,107

Average voters per councillor

12,380

Population

Current population

194,618

Forecast population growth

0.3 % p.a.

More Census statistics available at abs.gov.au



Voter numbers by locality (map)

Brimbank City Council

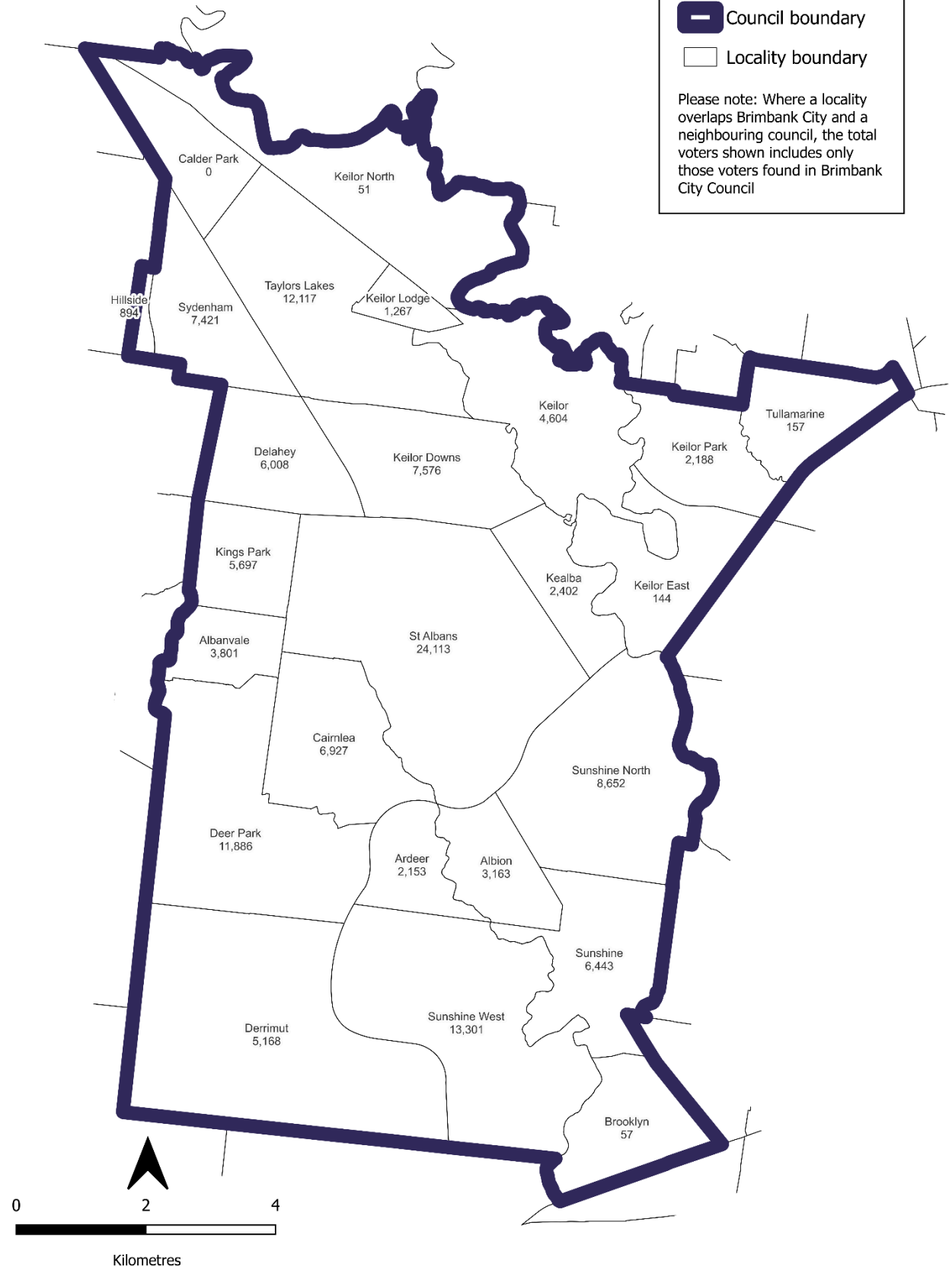
TOTAL VOTERS: 136,190

Voter numbers as at 25 July 2023

Legend

-  Council boundary
-  Locality boundary

Please note: Where a locality overlaps Brimbank City and a neighbouring council, the total voters shown includes only those voters found in Brimbank City Council



Voter numbers by locality (table)

Brimbank City Council voter numbers at 25 July 2023

Locality	Voters
Albanvale	3,801
Albion	3,163
Ardeer	2,153
Brooklyn	57
Cairnlea	6,927
Calder Park	0
Deer Park	11,886
Delahey	6,008
Derrimut	5,168
Hillside	894
Kealba	2,402
Keilor	4,604
Keilor Downs	7,576
Keilor East	144
Keilor Lodge	1,267
Keilor North	51
Keilor Park	2,188
Kings Park	5,697
St Albans	24,113
Sunshine	6,443
Sunshine North	8,652
Sunshine West	13,301
Sydenham	7,421
Taylors Lakes	12,117
Tullamarine	157