

Local council ward boundary review

About Baw Baw Shire Council

The Traditional Custodians of the majority of land in the Baw Baw Shire Council area are the Bunurong, Gunaikurnai and the Wurundjeri peoples.

Baw Baw Shire Council is located in the Gippsland region, with the main two population centres of Warragul and Drouin located about 90 km east of central Melbourne. The council consists of 98 localities, ranging from major urban centres to remote localities that are sparsely populated.

The council covers an area of 4,025 km² and has a population of 57,626. Warragul and Drouin account for nearly 60% of Baw Baw Shire's total population. The population is forecast to grow at a rate of approximately 3% per year between now and 2028.

Prominent features include the Great Dividing Range, Baw Baw National Park and the Thomson Reservoir. The north of the council is heavily forested, while the south consists of rich agricultural land with dairy farming and potato production important industries. Healthcare, construction, and education are the top industries of employment.

The council is serviced by the Princes Highway and the Melbourne-Bairnsdale railway line. Many major roads radiate out from Warragul or Drouin to rural areas within the council.

Current structure

Baw Baw Shire Council is divided into 3 wards with 3 councillors per ward. There are 9 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 Baw Baw 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 Baw Baw 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 Baw Baw Shire Council in 2015.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au to access a copy of the 2015 review final report.

Review process

Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 February

Information sessions

Session 1: 12 noon, Monday 12 February

Session 2: 12 noon, Tuesday 13 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 14 February

Preliminary report

The VEC will release a preliminary report with one or more options for the ward boundaries on Wednesday 14 February.

You can make a response submission from this date.

Wednesday 6 March

Response submissions

The VEC must receive your submission by 5 pm on Wednesday 6 March.

The VEC will not accept late submissions.

Friday 15 March

Public hearing

The VEC will hold an online public hearing if anyone asks to speak about their response submission at 2 pm Friday 15 March.

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

Wednesday 10 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 10 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:

BawBaw.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.

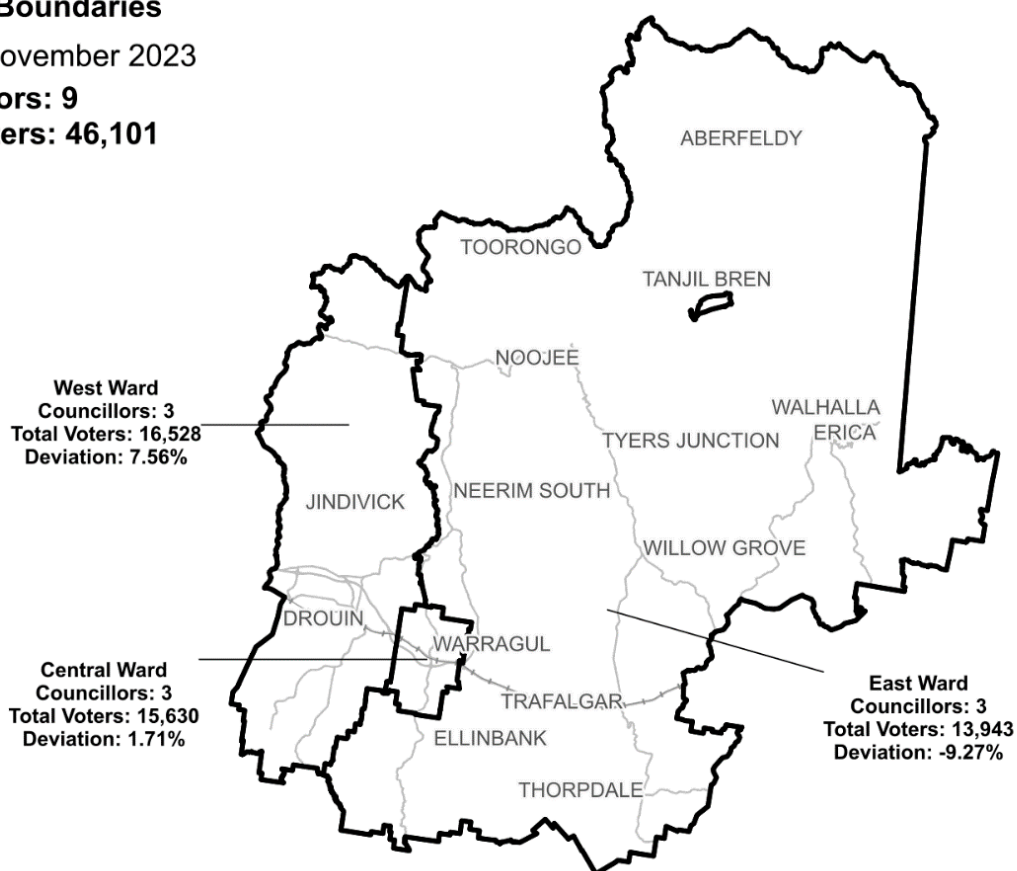
Current electoral structure

Voter Numbers by Current Boundaries

As at 3 November 2023

Councillors: 9

Total Voters: 46,101



Ward	Councillors	Voters	Deviation
Central	3	15,630	+1.71%
East*	3	13,943	-9.27%
West	3	16,528	+7.56%

*The deviation of this ward is forecast to be outside of +/-10% by October 2024.

Statistics

Area (km²) 4,028

Voters

Voters per square km

11.4

Average voters per councillor

5,122

Population

Current population

57,626

Forecast population growth

3% p.a.

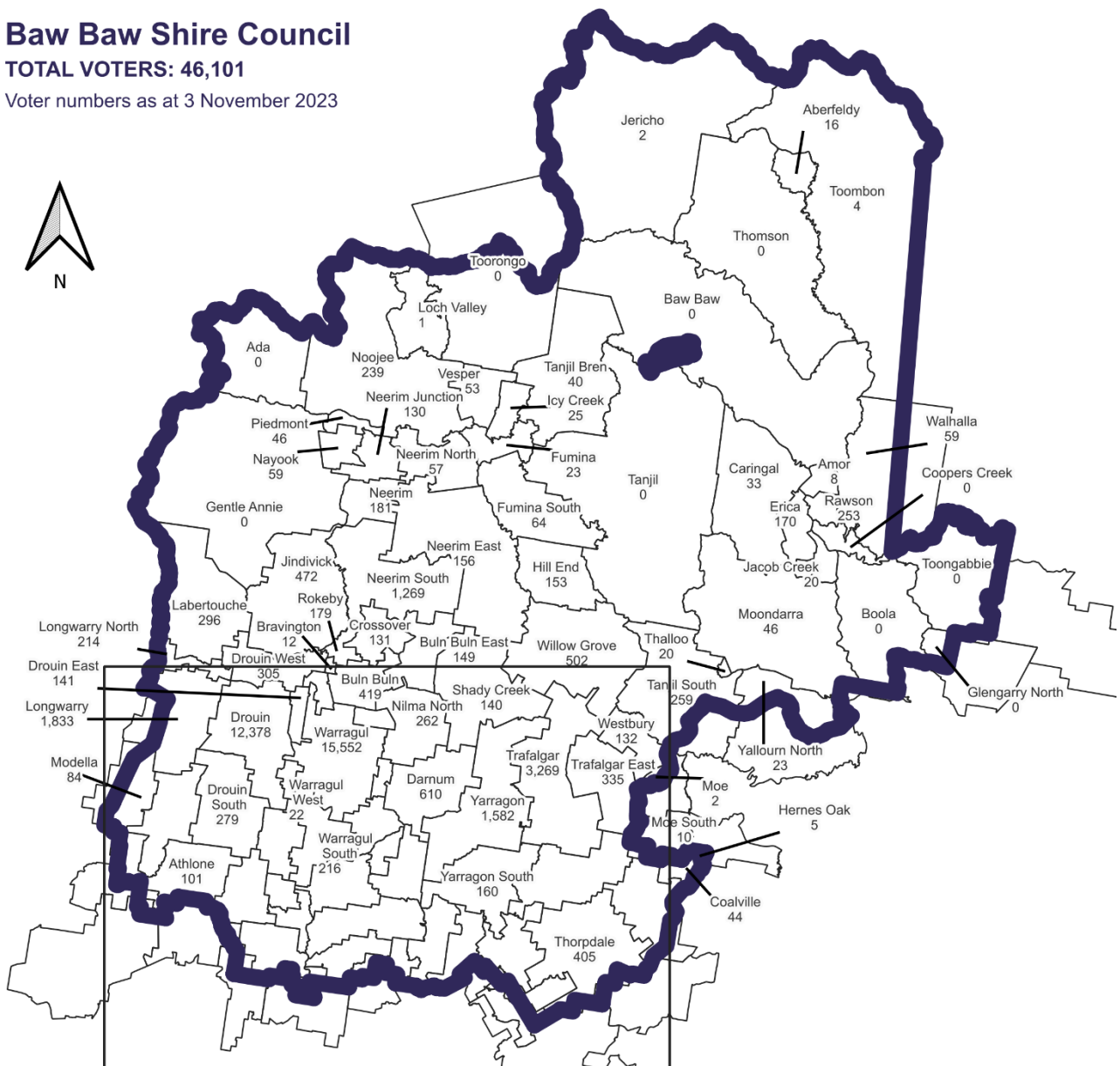
More Census statistics available at abs.gov.au

Voter numbers by locality (map)



Baw Baw Shire Council

TOTAL VOTERS: 46,101

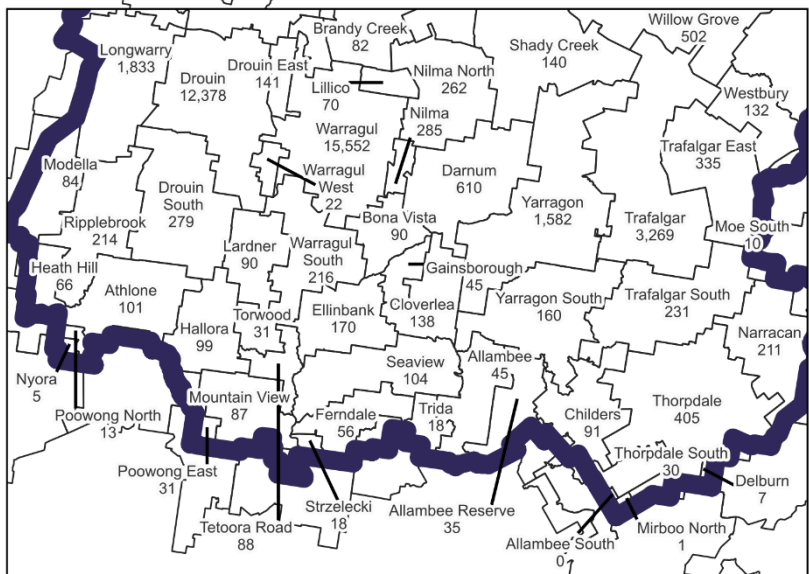
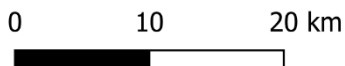
Voter numbers as at 3 November 2023



Legend

-  Council Boundary
-  Locality Boundary

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



Voter numbers by locality (table)

Baw Baw Shire Council voter numbers at 3 November 2023

Locality	Voters
Aberfeldy	16
Ada	-
Allambee	45
Allambee Reserve	35
Amor	8
Athlone	101
Baw Baw	-
Bona Vista	90
Boola	-
Brandy Creek	82
Bravington	12
Buln Buln	419
Buln Buln East	149
Caringal	33
Childers	91
Cloverlea	138
Coalville	44
Coopers Creek	-
Crossover	131
Darnum	610
Delburn	7
Drouin	12,378

Locality	Voters
Drouin East	141
Drouin South	279
Drouin West	305
Ellinbank	170
Erica	170
Ferndale	56
Fumina	23
Fumina South	64
Gainsborough	45
Gentle Annie	-
Hallora	99
Heath Hill	66
Hernes Oak	5
Hill End	153
Icy Creek	25
Jacob Creek	20
Jericho	2
Jindivick	472
Labertouche	296
Lardner	90
Lillico	70
Loch Valley	1

Locality	Voters
Longwarry	1,833
Longwarry North	214
Mirboo North	1
Modella	84
Moe	2
Moe South	10
Moondarra	46
Mountain View	87
Narracan	211
Nayook	59
Neerim	181
Neerim East	156
Neerim Junction	130
Neerim North	57
Neerim South	1,269
Nilma	285
Nilma North	262
Noojee	239
Nyora	5
Piedmont	46
Poowong East	31
Poowong North	13

Voter numbers by locality (table)

Baw Baw Shire voter numbers at 3 November 2023

Locality	Voters
Rawson	253
Ripplebrook	214
Rokeby	179
Seaview	104
Shady Creek	140
Strzelecki	18
Tanjil	-
Tanjil Bren	40
Tanjil South	259
Tetooro Road	88
Thaloo	20
Thomson	-
Thorpdale	405
Thorpdale South	30
Toombon	4
Toongabbie	-
Toorongo	-
Torwood	31
Trafalgar	3,269
Trafalgar East	335
Trafalgar South	231
Trida	18

Locality	Voters
Vesper	53
Walhalla	59
Warragul	15,552
Warragul South	216
Warragul West	22
Westbury	132
Willow Grove	502
Yallourn North	23
Yarragon	1,582
Yarragon South	160