

Local council electoral structure review

Preliminary Report

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

October 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

The electoral representation advisory panel acknowledges the Bunurong people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters for which it is holding this review and pays respects to ancestors and Elders past, present and emerging. The panel acknowledges their custodianship for many thousands of years and their continuing living culture.

Report approval

Version	Date approved	Approved by
1	17 October 2023	The Honourable Frank Vincent AO KC
1	17 October 2023	Ms Liz Williams PSM
1	18 October 2023	Mr Sven Bluemmel

Version approval

Version	Date approved	Approved by	Brief description
1	20 October 2023	Program Sponsor	Final proofread and confirmed for publication

Contents

Executive summary	4
Developing electoral structure models	4
Electoral structure models.....	4
Next steps.....	4
Background	6
About the 2023–24 electoral structure reviews.....	6
The electoral representation advisory panel.....	6
Public engagement	6
Developing recommendations.....	7
About Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	11
Profile	11
Current number of councillors and electoral structure	13
Last electoral structure review.....	13
Preliminary findings and models	15
Number of councillors	15
Electoral structure	16
Models for public feedback	19
Ward names	19
Next steps	21
Response submissions	21
Public hearing	22
Final report.....	22
References	23
Appendix 1: Model maps	24

Executive summary

An electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government is reviewing the electoral structure of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.

The purpose of the review is to advise the Minister on the appropriate number of councillors and electoral structure, including ward names, for the council.

Under Victoria's *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Mornington Peninsula Shire Council must now have a single-councillor ward electoral structure.

The panel is looking at:

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

This report outlines the preliminary models the panel is presenting for public consultation, for the proposed new electoral structure of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council to meet the requirements of the Act.

More information about the background to the review is available on [page 6](#).

Developing electoral structure models

The panel considered a range of factors when deciding on the models in this report, including:

- research and analysis
- voter growth or decline over time.

More information on the way the panel decided on the models is available on [page 7](#).

Electoral structure models

After considering research and the requirements of the Act, the panel is presenting the following electoral structure models for public consultation:

- Model 1: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 11 councillors – 11 wards with one councillor per ward.
- Model 2: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 11 councillors – 11 wards with one councillor per ward, with different ward boundaries to Model 1.
- Model 3: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 11 councillors – 11 wards with one councillor per ward, with different ward boundaries to models 1 and 2.

Details on these models, including maps, are available in [Appendix 1](#).

Next steps

The panel is now seeking feedback on the preliminary electoral structure models. You can make a response submission to the preliminary models until 5 pm Wednesday 15 November 2023. If any response submitters wish to speak at a public hearing, the panel will hold an online

public hearing on Wednesday 22 November. Following this, the panel will present its final recommendation to the Minister on Wednesday 20 December 2023.

More information about the review process is available on the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) website at vec.vic.gov.au

Background

About the 2023–24 electoral structure reviews

In October 2022, the Minister for Local Government formed 2 electoral representation advisory panels to review and provide advice on the electoral structures of 39 local councils, under section 16 of the Act. If the Minister accepts the electoral structure recommended by the panel, any changes are expected to take effect at the October 2024 local council elections.

The Act introduced several changes to local government representation, including the types of electoral structures local councils may have. All metropolitan, interface and regional city councils (including Mornington Peninsula Shire Council) must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

For Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, the panel is examining:

- the number of councillors and wards
- where the ward boundaries should be
- the name of each ward.

The Act requires electoral structures to provide fair and equitable representation and facilitate good governance. Each ward must have an approximately equal number of voters per councillor (within +/-10% of the average). While conducting the review, the panel also notes the role of a councillor as specified under section 28 of the Act.

The electoral representation advisory panel

The panel conducting the electoral structure review of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has 3 members:

- The Honourable Frank Vincent AO KC (Chairperson)
- Ms Liz Williams PSM
- Electoral Commissioner Mr Sven Bluemmel.

The purpose of the review is to advise the Minister on the appropriate number of councillors and electoral structure, including ward names, for the council. The panel is independent of councils and the VEC.

Under the Act, the VEC is not responsible for reviewing council electoral structures but must provide administrative and technical support to the panel. The Electoral Commissioner (or their nominated representative) must be a member of each panel.

Public engagement

Public information program

On behalf of the panel, the VEC conducts a public information and awareness program to inform the public about the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council electoral structure review. This includes:

- printed public notices in state-wide newspapers
- public information sessions to outline the review process and respond to questions from the community
- a media release to announce the start of the review
- information on social media channels
- website content on vec.vic.gov.au, including:
 - current information on the review process
 - fact sheets for each council under review and a submission guide.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council was also offered but did not take up 2 optional methods to promote the reviews:

- social media advertisements targeted at the council area
- notifying voters in the council area subscribed to the VEC's VoterAlert service about the start of the review and release of the preliminary report.

Public consultation

The panel now invites input to the electoral structure review of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council via:

- response submissions to this preliminary report
- an online public hearing for anyone who makes a response submission to speak to the panel and expand on their submission.

Public submissions are an important part of the review process and are considered alongside other factors addressed during the review. These are outlined below.

Developing recommendations

The electoral structure models the panel is presenting in this preliminary report comply with the Act and were developed through careful consideration of:

- research and analysis conducted by the VEC support team, including geospatial and demographic data
- rates or patterns of population and voter change over time, and relevant forecasts of growth or decline based on forecast information provided by .id (informed decisions, a company specialising in demographics and forecasting).

Deciding on the number of councillors

The Act allows local councils to have between 5 and 12 councillors, but neither the Act nor the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 specify how to determine the appropriate number of councillors. Therefore, the models put forward by the panel in this report are guided by the Act's intention for fairness and equity in voter representation.

In examining the appropriate number of councillors for Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, the panel considered the following criteria:

- the population and number of voters in the council area, compared to other councils with a similar population size and number of voters in the same category (for example, other comparable metropolitan, interface or regional city councils)
- patterns of population change and voter growth or decline in the council area over time
- the current and past numbers of councillors
- the representation needs of the communities of interest in the council area.

The panel's final recommendation will also consider any matters raised in public response submissions not already listed above.

Local councils with a larger number of voters will often have more councillors. Large populations generally have greater diversity, both in the type and number of communities of interest and issues relating to representation. However, the ideal number of councillors can also be influenced by the circumstances of each council, such as the:

- nature and complexity of services the council provides
- geographic size and topography of the area
- forecast population and voter growth or decline
- social diversity.

Deciding the electoral structure

Under the Act, regional city, metropolitan and interface councils must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

When developing single-councillor ward models for Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, the panel considered these criteria:

- whether the structure would comply with section 15(2) of the Act (see below), and for how long it would likely comply
- the appropriate number of councillors, as outlined above
- whether meaningful and effective ward boundaries could be established and whether these would be easily identifiable to local communities
- the representation of communities of interest
- the voter distribution and physical features of the area, and the impact these may have on the shape and size of wards
- past elections for the council, including:
 - numbers of candidates nominating
 - incidences of uncontested elections
 - rates of informal voting.

The panel's final recommendation will also consider any matters raised in public response submissions not already listed above.

Under section 15(2) of the Act, subdivided structures must aim for an approximately equal number of voters per councillor in each ward. This means the number of voters represented by each councillor in a ward should be within +/-10% of the average number of voters per councillor for all wards.

During this review, the panel aims to recommend a structure that will comply with section 15(2) at the time of the 2024 local council elections and, if possible, also comply based on voter numbers at the time the review is conducted. The panel uses forecasts of population and voter change to assess compliance at the 2024 elections with as much accuracy as possible. In some cases, population change and other factors impacting voter numbers mean it is not possible to create compliant subdivided structures based both on voter numbers that were current at the time of the review and forecast voter numbers. In these instances, the panel prioritises compliance at the 2024 local government elections to ensure each vote will have approximately equal value at the 2024 election.

One of the factors that may impact compliance with section 15(2) is the number of current and forecast voters with ratepayer-based voting entitlements, also known as council-enrolled electors. Voters' rolls include both state-enrolled electors (the majority of the roll) and a smaller number of council-enrolled electors. The Act introduced changes to ratepayer-based entitlement categories, which come into full effect at the 2024 local council elections. The panel will take this change to the makeup of voters' rolls, and therefore compliance with section 15(2) of the Act, into consideration during this review.

Deciding on ward names

The panel takes the following approach to naming wards:

1. The panel retains existing ward names if these are still relevant to the area covered by the ward.
2. When a new name is required, the panel bases this on features such as:
 - places (registered under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*) in the ward
 - compass directions
 - native flora or fauna.

Use of Aboriginal language

The panel recognises that there should be meaningful consultation with local Aboriginal communities and groups before a ward is named using Aboriginal language. Meaningful consultation is a significant process that the panel is not able to undertake within the timeframes of the current review program.

The panel also recognises that many of the place names in current use across Victoria are based on Aboriginal language. As such, the panel may put forward new ward names using Aboriginal language if:

- it is the name of a place within a ward

- it is currently in common use

and

- the name is registered under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*.

Unregistered names using Aboriginal language have not been put forward by the panel as new ward names. While the panel supports the adoption of names based on Aboriginal language, this requires appropriate consultation.

Accordingly, for the panel to consider an Aboriginal language ward name that is suggested in a public submission to the review, the name submitted needs to comply with the above guidelines.

About Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

Profile

Located about 50 km south of the Melbourne CBD, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council covers an area of about 724 km². Apart from the boundaries it shares with Frankston and Casey city councils to the north, it is defined by long stretches of coastline, following Port Phillip Bay in the west, Bass Strait in the south and the Western Port Bay in the east.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council is a popular tourist destination with a high concentration of holiday homes. This sees a significant surge in people during the holiday months.

The Traditional Custodians of the land are the Bunurong people.

Landscape

The council area includes the suburbs of Mornington, Mount Eliza, Mount Martha, Dromana, Rosebud and Rye in the west along Port Phillip Bay, where the majority of the population reside. Sorrento and Portsea on Point Nepean along with Cape Schanck, Flinders, and St Andrews Beach on the Bass Strait Coast round out the coastal communities, while Bittern, Hastings, Somerville, Tyabb and others form the Western Port Bay communities. Suburbs and towns, such as Balnarring, Baxter, Moorooduc, and Red Hill are located in the hinterland.

About 70% of population live in one of the suburbs along the Port Phillip Bay coast, while nearly a quarter (23%) reside in one of the Western Port communities, the largest town being Hastings. These areas also accommodate various commercial and industrial activities (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council 2023).

Most of the land (up to 70%) covered by the council area has green wedge planning provisions, which prevents development encroaching on areas of environmental or scenic value (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council 2023). While the large rural area has a smaller population, it supports important agricultural activities and contains biodiverse parklands of national and international importance (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council 2023).

Population and community

In 2021 the council area was home to 168,948 people, with Mornington (25,759 residents), Mount Martha (19,846 residents) and Mount Eliza (18,734 residents) being the most populous suburbs (ABS 2022). Forecast to grow at a rate of 1.1% per year, the population will likely surpass 181,138 by 2036 (.id 2023). This growth will largely occur in Mornington, Rosebud and Hastings (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council 2023).

At the 2021 Census, the median age was 48, higher than the metropolitan average, but on par with that of regional Victoria. Overall, incomes of residents across the council area were slightly lower (ABS 2022) than those for Greater Melbourne. While most areas of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council are considered to have low levels of social disadvantage, some areas in the suburbs of Hastings, Rosebud, Dromana, Crib Point, Capel Sound and Tootgarook are reported to have high levels of social disadvantage (ABS 2023).

Home ownership rates are relatively high across the council the area. In 2021, 42% of residents owned their home outright and 35% owned it with a mortgage (ABS 2022). Of note, 28% of the dwellings in the shire were unoccupied at the last Census (ABS 2022), which indicates a large number of holiday homes.

About three quarters of residents were born in Australia, 49% had no religious affiliation, 6% required daily assistance due to disability, 89% of households used only English at home and 1% were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. These statistics were all higher in Mornington Peninsula Shire Council than the metropolitan averages (ABS 2022, .id 2023a).

Current number of councillors and electoral structure

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council is currently divided into 6 wards with a total of 11 councillors:

- 2 wards with 3 councillors (Briars and Seawinds wards)
- One ward with 2 councillors (Nepean Ward)
- 3 wards with one councillor each (Cerberus, Red Hill and Watson wards).

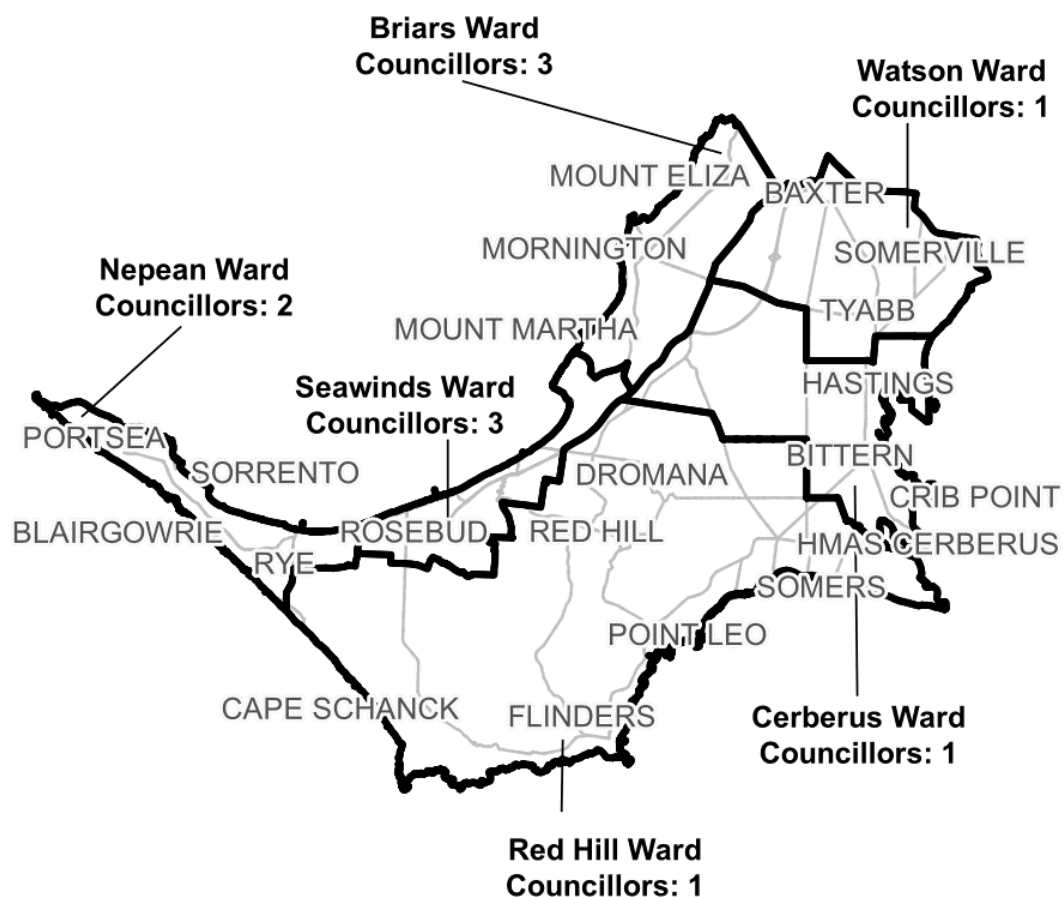


Figure 1: Diagram of current electoral structure of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.

There are an estimated 151,741 voters in Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, with an estimated ratio of 13,794 voters per councillor.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au for more information on Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.

Last electoral structure review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council in 2012. This review was carried out under the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic), which was replaced by the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic).

After conducting the review, the VEC recommended that Mornington Peninsula Shire Council adopt a structure of 11 councillors elected from 6 wards (2 wards with 3 councillors, one ward with 2 councillors and 3 wards with one councillor).

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au to access a copy of the 2012 representation review final report.

Subdivision review

Since the 2012 representation review, the VEC also conducted a subdivision review of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council in 2016.

Subdivision reviews conducted under the *Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)* adjusted the internal ward boundaries of a council but did not change the electoral structure or number of councillors. Subdivision reviews were conducted in situations where the voter-to-councillor ratios in one or more wards of a council were forecast to move outside the legislated +/-10% tolerance before the council's next election and aimed to ensure voter-to-councillor ratios for all wards were within tolerance at the election.

The 2016 review of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council aimed to return Cerberus, Nepean, Red Hill and Seawinds wards to within the permitted +/-10% tolerance before the 2016 local council elections. Visit the Mornington Peninsula Shire [Council profile page](#) on the VEC website to access a copy of the 2016 subdivision review final report.

Preliminary findings and models

Number of councillors

After taking into consideration the requirements of the Act and the agreed criteria, the panel found 11 councillors to be an appropriate number for Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.

The panel considered the characteristics of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council in relation to similar interface councils, including its population, the number and distribution of voters, and the size and geography of the council.

Similar interface councils to Mornington Peninsula Shire Council						
Local council	Area (km ²)	Number of voters at 2020 election	Population (2021 Census)	Current total estimate of voters	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor
Casey City*	397	n/a	365,239	252,670	11	22,970
Wyndham City*	542	154,404	292,011	196,938	11	17,903
Whittlesea City*	490	n/a	229,396	170,869	11	15,533
Hume City*	503	152,470	243,901	170,268	11	15,478
Mornington Peninsula Shire*	727	154,651	168,948	151,741	11	13,794
Melton City*	528	104,010	178,960	120,696	9	13,410
Yarra Ranges Shire	2468	117,583	156,068	117,900	9	13,100
Cardinia Shire	1283	78,991	118,194	83,258	9	9,251
Nillumbik Shire	432	48,101	62,895	47,845	7	6,835

*These local councils are undergoing an electoral structure review during 2023–24.

Maintaining 11 councillors

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council currently has 151,741 voters represented by 11 councillors and covers an area of 724 km². Other interface councils with a similar number of voters usually also have 11 councillors. As only modest population change is forecast for the council, the panel considers it appropriate for the total number of councillors to remain unchanged.

Electoral structure

To identify the most appropriate electoral structure, various factors were considered. This included the requirements of the Act, the communities of interest in Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, the appropriateness of ward boundaries and which models offered the best potential for fair and equitable representation and consequently facilitate good governance.

In developing the preliminary models presented in this report, the panel considered a range of models. The strongest 3 models have been put forward for further public comment.

The panel proposes 3 models for the consideration of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council community:

- a subdivided electoral structure of 11 single-councillor wards (Model 1)
- a subdivided electoral structure of 11 single-councillor wards, with different ward boundaries to Model 1 (Model 2)
- a subdivided electoral structure of 11 single-councillor wards, with different ward boundaries to models 1 and 2 (Model 3).

Diagrams of the preliminary models are included in [Appendix 1](#).

A single-councillor ward structure with 11 councillors (Model 1)

Under this model, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council would adopt an 11-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act.

Model 1 uses locality boundaries where possible to divide the council area into 11 wards. The most populous areas along Port Phillip Bay make up 7 wards, all of which are coastal, except for Moorooduc Ward, which includes the eastern part of Mornington and all of Moorooduc. The remaining 6 wards are divided mostly using locality boundaries and recognisable roads.

While it was not possible to keep the more populous suburbs within their own wards, the panel attempted to unite each ward around suburb centres. Most of Mount Eliza is contained in one ward, as are Mount Martha and Rosebud. Where dividing suburbs was necessary, solid boundaries likely to be familiar to residents were prioritised. For example, Arthurs Seat Road makes up most of the boundary between Safety Beach and Red Hill wards, while Jetty Road divides Rosebud between Seawinds and Rosebud Wards. The division of Mornington, which was required due to high voter numbers in the suburb, uses as much of Nepean Highway as possible.

The communities of Point Nepean are neatly captured in Nepean Ward, with most of Rye also included. Red Hill Ward captures the rural areas and the coastal communities of St Andrews, Flinders and Point Leo, which some residents may consider to be a drawback of this model. In the east, Warringine Ward captures the main part of Hastings and Crib Point, while further north Watsons Ward is centred on Somerville and Tyabb.

Model 1 provides an appropriate number of wards to represent the communities along Port Phillip Bay, though some of the ward boundaries might not be as easy to identify as others. Red

Hill Ward is significantly larger in geographic area than the other 10 wards and includes coastal communities, which may more closely associate with Point Nepean. The ward covering Hastings is narrow and captures most of the population of the town.

A single-councillor ward structure with 11 councillors (alternative version) (Model 2)

Under this model, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council would adopt an 11-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act.

Model 2 takes a similar base approach to Model 1, retaining the separation between bayside and hinterland. It uses different boundaries to separate the Bay-facing wards than Model 1. For example, Rye is split into Nepean and Truemans wards using Weeroona Street, while Rosebud is divided between Truemans and Seawinds wards at the end of Mornington Peninsula Highway. This possibly provides a cleaner split of Rosebud, though Jetty Road is used in part, similar to Model 1. More recognisable boundaries are adopted in parts of this area, such as Boundary Road to separate Seawinds, Safety Beach and Red Hill wards, and Hearn Creek to separate Safety Beach and Balcombe wards.

Mornington is again split across 2 wards, with the west in Tanti Creek Ward and the east in Moorooduc Ward. The division around Mount Eliza Ward offers an alternative approach to Model 1.

In Model 2, Moorooduc Ward follows the locality boundary, crossing the Moorooduc highway to create a larger ward.

As in Model 1, townships or suburbs with the largest populations are split, though different features are used. Some coastal communities remain in the larger rural wards in Model 2, as they do in Model 1. In the east, similar wards are proposed for the towns of Hastings, Tyabb and Sommersville, though all of the Hastings is included in the one ward in Model 2.

A single-councillor ward structure with 11 councillors (alternative version) (Model 3)

Under this model, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council would adopt an 11-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act.

Model 3 attempts to reduce the size of the large rural Red Hill Ward by using rural locality boundaries to a greater degree. At the last review, public submissions emphasised the importance of keeping rural localities together. In this model, Nepean Ward captures the surf beaches around Rye, and by including Fingal, it also addresses a concern raised at previous reviews where residents suggested the area was more closely affiliated with Rye than with Cape Schanck, Flinders and the area covered by Red Hill Ward more broadly.

Many of the Bay-facing communities are split in Model 3. Rye is split along a boundary using Dundas Street but avoids dividing the main strip of Rye shops to keep the area together in Capel Sound Ward. Rosebud is also split as in the other models but retains much of the foreshore around Rosebud beach, with the boundary running along Jetty, Boneo and Eastbourne roads. Seawinds Ward is almost entirely contained by locality boundaries except where the ward boundary follows Ellerina Road.

Model 3 excises from Mount Eliza Ward a different area of the Mount Eliza locality than models 1 and 2. Additionally, this model uses the highway to include Baxter, Moorooduc and the eastern part of Mornington in Moorooduc Ward.

In this model, the coastal communities in the east, around Crib Point, Stony Point and HMAS Cerberus are all contained in Red Hill Ward, using mostly localities as ward boundaries. The larger Nepean, Warringine and Seawinds wards take up areas of rural land and effectively reduce the size of Red Hill Ward, which is a feature common to models 1 and 2. This creates an opportunity for more rural councillors to be elected to council. And, given that many of the coastal wards, particularly in the south and east, contain larger areas of rural land, councillors will likely be required to be receptive to rural issues alongside those of the coast.

Summary

In summary, introducing single-councillor wards represents a large electoral structure change for Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. Achieving models that divide communities into appropriate wards while also accounting for population growth and ensuring they comply with the +/-10% requirement can be challenging.

The legislated move to single-councillor wards and uneven voter distribution between the coastal areas, particularly along Port Phillip Bay, and the larger rural areas requires the creation of wards that are not uniform in size and inevitably divide localities with large populations, such as Rye, Rosebud, Mornington and Mount Eliza.

Models 1 and 2 adopt a similar approach through the use of localities as the basis for ward divisions, though each uses different features for this purpose. The panel is interested in public feedback on the suitability of the boundaries proposed in each of these models.

Model 3 adopts a significantly smaller Red Hill Ward to cover most of the rural areas, while wards in the north, south and east expand to take parts of that rural land. This shift could see more councillors representing rural areas or issues specific to particular areas and land uses considered together. It also sees many of the coastal communities along the Bay divided due to the large number of voters in major suburbs.

Models for public feedback

The panel considers all models outlined below to be the single-councillor ward electoral structures with the best potential to offer fair and equitable representation for voters in Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and consequently facilitate good governance. Please see [Appendix 1](#) for detailed maps of these models.

Model 1

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has 11 councillors and is divided into 11 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Briars Ward, Moorooduc Ward, Mount Eliza Ward, Nepean Ward, Red Hill Ward, Rosebud Ward, Safety Beach Ward, Seawinds Ward, Tanti Creek Ward, Watson Creek Ward, Warringine Ward.

Model 2

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has 11 councillors and is divided into 11 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Balcombe Ward, Moorooduc Ward, Mount Eliza Ward, Nepean Ward, Red Hill Ward, Safety Beach Ward, Seawinds Ward, Tanti Creek Ward, Truemans Ward, Watson Creek Ward, Warringine Ward.

Model 3

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has 11 councillors and is divided into 11 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Briars Ward, Capel Sound Ward, McCrae Ward, Moorooduc Ward, Mount Eliza Ward, Nepean Ward, Red Hill Ward, Seawinds Ward, Somerville Ward, Tanti Creek Ward, Warringine Ward.

Ward names

The panel has suggested ward names to identify the wards in each model and invites comments from the community on these names as part of submissions responding to the preliminary report. The basis of the ward name recommendations for each model are described below.

Model 1

Moorooduc, Mount Eliza, Rosebud and Safety Beach ward names are new and are based on localities found within each ward.

Tanti Creek, Warringine and Watson Creek ward names are new and are based on waterways found within each ward.

Briars, Nepean, Red Hill and Seawinds ward names are the existing names of 4 wards under the current electoral structure.

Model 2

Balcombe, Moorooduc, Mount Eliza and Safety Beach ward names are new and are based on natural features, built features, roads, rivers, lakes or localities found within each ward.

Tanti Creek, Warringine and Watson Creek ward names are new and are based on waterways found within each ward.

Truemans ward name is new and based on a road found within the ward.

Nepean, Red Hill and Seawinds ward names are the existing names of 3 wards under the current electoral structure.

Model 3

Capel Sound, McCrae, Moorooduc, Mount Eliza and Somerville ward names are new and are based on localities found within each ward.

Tanti Creek and Warringine ward names are new and are based on waterways found within each ward.

Briars, Nepean, Red Hill and Seawinds, ward names are the existing names of 4 wards under the current electoral structure.




The panel will review ward name suggestions received during the response submission stage when forming the final advice to the Minister for Local Government on the electoral structure of the council. Suggested ward names should comply with the panel's approach to naming wards (see [Deciding on ward names](#) and [Use of Aboriginal language](#)). All ward name suggestions received during the response submission stage will be provided to the Minister for consideration at the conclusion of the electoral structure review.

Next steps

Response submissions

Any person or group, including the local council under review, can make a response submission to the electoral representation advisory panel. In your submission you should address the models proposed by the panel in this preliminary report.

You can make a submission:

	<p>Online</p> <p>Visit vec.vic.gov.au to make a submission online.</p> <p>You will need to make an account to use the online Public Submission Tool and can save a draft submission to finish later.</p>
	<p>By email</p> <p>morningtonpeninsula.erapsubmissions@vec.vic.gov.au</p>
	<p>By post</p> <p>Electoral Representation Advisory Panel c/o Victorian Electoral Commission Level 11, 530 Collins St Melbourne VIC 3000</p>

The panel must receive all response submissions before 5 pm on Wednesday 15 November 2023. If you post your submission, make sure it has enough time to reach the panel before the deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Required information

For your submission to be considered, you must include your:

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

To protect the integrity and transparency of the review process, the panel will not consider submissions without this information. If you are submitting as a group or organisation, you must include the name of a nominated contact person who is authorised to submit on behalf of your group.

On behalf of the panel, the VEC will handle information provided by submitters in accordance with the privacy policy available at vec.vic.gov.au/privacy

Public access to submissions

To ensure transparency in the electoral structure review process, your submission will be published on the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au. The VEC will remove your signature and contact details, including residential and postal addresses, from all public copies but must publish your full name (or group name) and locality (suburb or town).

Please note that any submission content that is potentially defamatory, offensive, obscene or that includes the personal information of people or organisations who are not a party to the submission may also be redacted before publication.

Public hearing

If you make a response submission, you can also ask to speak at an online public hearing to support your submission and expand on your views.

The online public hearing is scheduled for:

Time: 2 pm

Date: Wednesday 22 November 2023

The panel encourages participation in the public hearing. If you wish to speak at the public hearing, you **must** indicate this in your response submission. The public hearing will not be held if there are no requests to speak.

Anyone can attend a public hearing, but you will only be able to speak if you asked to in your response submission. If you ask to speak, the VEC will contact you to arrange a time for you to speak at the hearing. You will have 10 minutes to address the public hearing panel, which will include at least 2 of the review panel members. The members of the public hearing panel may ask you questions.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au for more information on public hearings.

Final report

Following the public hearing, the review panel will consider all evidence gathered and prepare a final report for the Minister for Local Government containing a recommendation for the number of councillors and the electoral structure for the local council.

The final report is scheduled to be provided to the Minister on Wednesday 20 December 2023. The Minister will consider the final reports, including any determination to make the reports publicly available. Any change to the electoral structure of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council following on from this review is expected to apply at the October 2024 local council elections. Under the Act, the final council electoral structure will be set by an Order in Council published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2022) [Mornington Peninsula 2021 Census All persons QuickStats](#), ABS, accessed 1 September 2023.

—(2023) [Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas \(SEIFA\), Australia, Suburbs and Localities, Indexes, SEIFA 2021](#), ABS, accessed 1 September 2023.

Electoral Act 2002 (Vic)

Geographic Place Names Act 1998 (Vic)

Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)

Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)

Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (Vic)

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (2023) [Mornington Peninsula planning scheme](#), Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, accessed 1 September 2023.

.id (informed decisions) (2023) [Mornington Peninsula Shire. Community profile](#), .id, accessed 1 September 2023.

—(2023a) [Mornington Peninsula Shire. Need for assistance](#), .id, accessed 1 September 2023.

Appendix 1: Model maps

The following maps are included in this report:

Map	Page
Model 1 – a single-councillor ward structure with 11 councillors – 11 wards with one councillor per ward.	25
Model 2 – a single-councillor ward structure with 11 councillors – 11 wards with one councillor per ward (with boundaries different to Model 1).	29
Model 3 – a single-councillor ward structure with 11 councillors – 11 wards with one councillor per ward (with boundaries different to Model 1 and Model 2).	33

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

Model 1

11 single-councillor wards


Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Briars	13,313	-3.49%	23.2
Moorooduc	11,837	-14.19%	55.1
Mount Eliza	11,971	-13.22%	17.9
Nepean	18,763	+36.02%	36.1
Red Hill	14,083	+2.09%	428.6
Rosebud	16,708	+21.12%	14.9
Safety Beach	15,115	+9.57%	20.7
Seawinds	12,600	-8.66%	20.8
Tanti Creek	12,447	-9.77%	7.9
Warringine	13,033	-5.52%	24.1
Watson Creek	11,871	-13.94%	74.1
Total	151,741		723.4
Average	13,795		65.8

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023

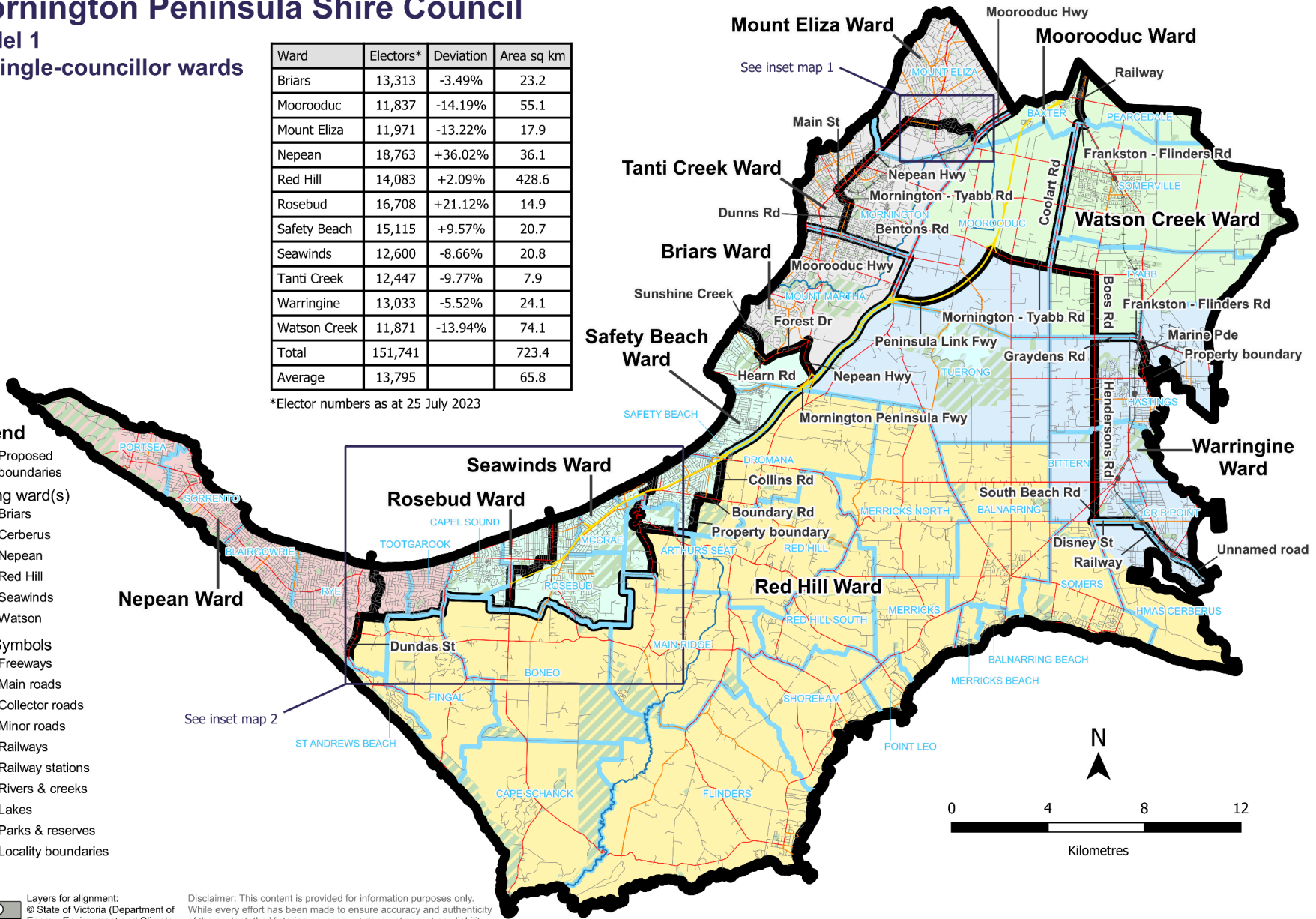
Legend

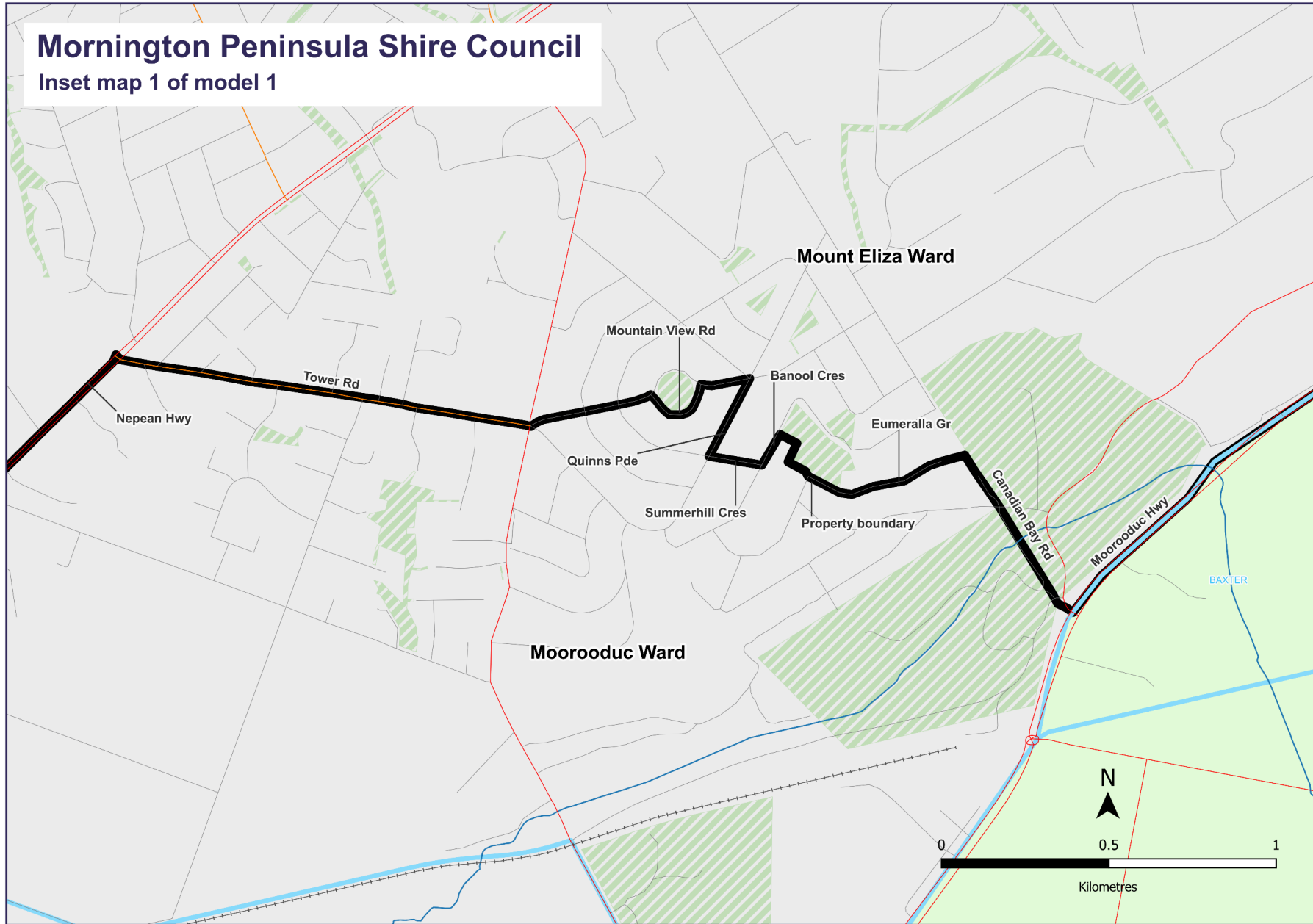
-  Proposed boundaries
- Existing ward(s)**
-  Briars
-  Cerberus
-  Nepean
-  Red Hill
-  Seawinds
-  Watson
- Map Symbols**
-  Freeways
-  Main roads
-  Collector roads
-  Minor roads
-  Railways
-  Railway stations
-  Rivers & creeks
-  Lakes
-  Parks & reserves
-  Locality boundaries

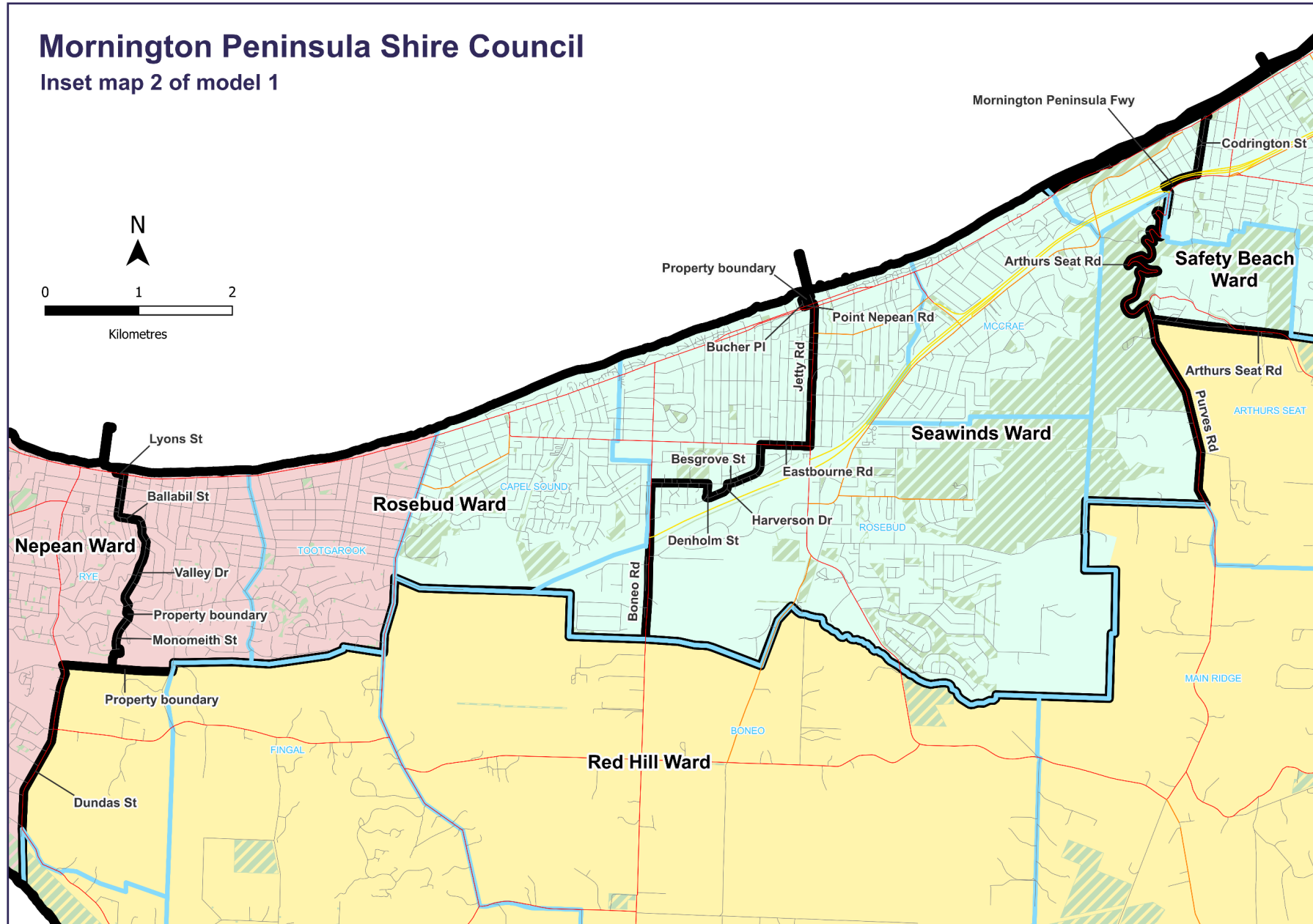
Data use:

 Layers for alignment:
© State of Victoria (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action)

Disclaimer: This content is provided for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and authenticity of the content, the Victorian government does not accept any liability to any person for the information provided.







Data for Model 1

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area# (square km)
Briars	13,313	-3.49%	23.2
Moorooduc	11,837	-14.19%	55.1
Mount Eliza	11,971	-13.22%	17.9
Nepean	18,763	+36.02%	36.1
Red Hill	14,083	+2.09%	428.6
Rosebud	16,708	+21.12%	14.9
Safety Beach	15,115	+9.57%	20.7
Seawinds	12,600	-8.66%	20.8
Tanti Creek	12,447	-9.77%	7.9
Warringine	13,033	-5.52%	24.1
Watson Creek	11,871	-13.94%	74.1
Total	151,741	n/a	723.4
Average	13,795	n/a	65.8

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023

#Ward area (square km) and total council area is measured at level of accuracy required for electoral boundaries. This may vary slightly from other data sources (for example, the ABS).

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

Model 2

11 single-councillor wards

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Balcombe	11,756	-14.78%	27.3
Moorooduc	11,812	-14.37%	66.4
Mount Eliza	11,669	-15.41%	15.5
Nepean	19,185	+39.08%	36.8
Red Hill	13,394	-2.9%	411.4
Safety Beach	14,686	+6.46%	19.2
Seawinds	14,062	+1.94%	24.4
Tanti Creek	12,447	-9.77%	7.9
Truemans	16,945	+22.84%	14.8
Warringine	13,071	-5.25%	34.4
Watson Creek	12,714	-7.83%	65.3
Total	151,741		723.4
Average	13,795		65.8

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023

Legend

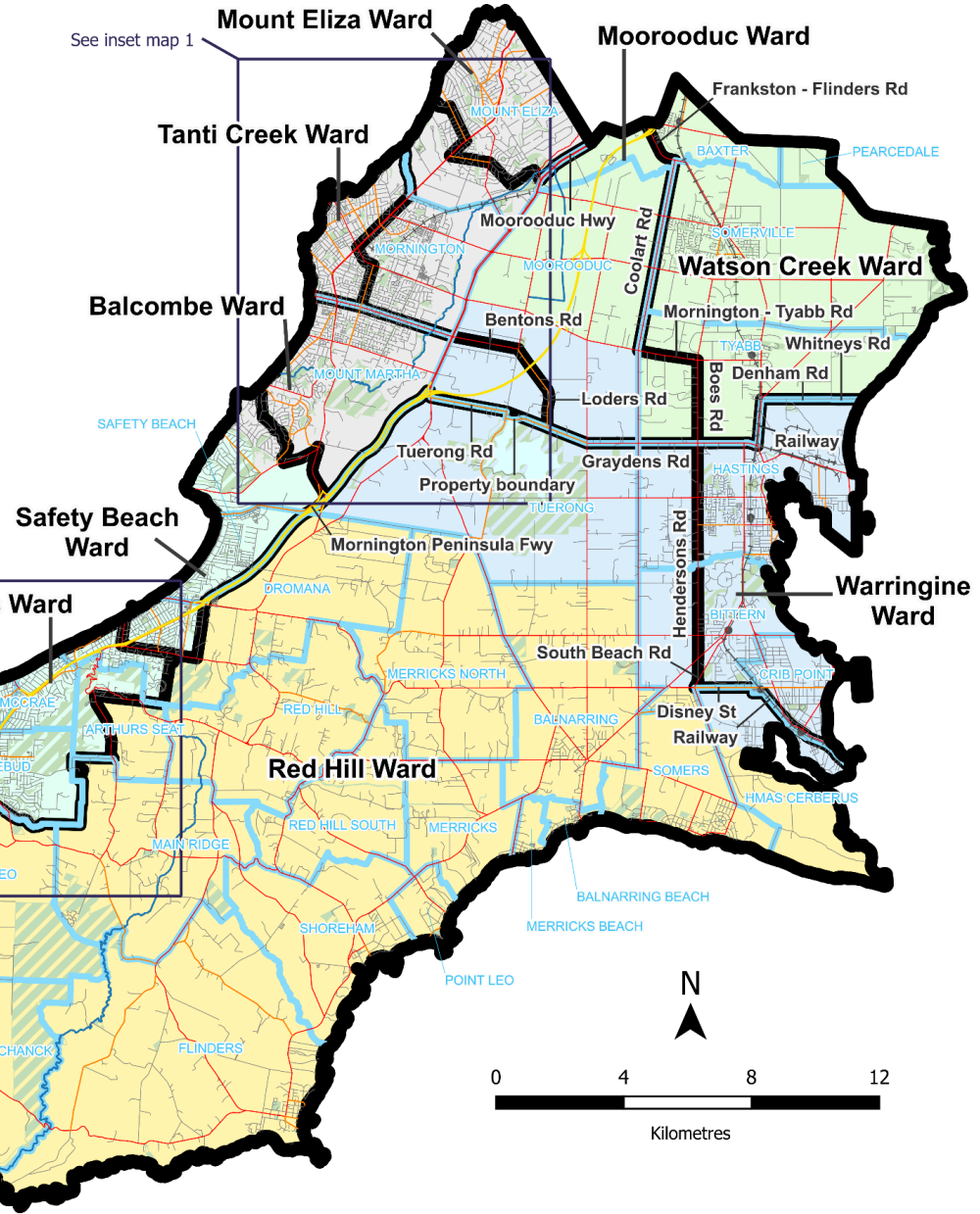
-  Proposed boundaries
- Existing ward(s)**
-  Briars
-  Cerberus
-  Nepean
-  Red Hill
-  Seawinds
-  Watson
- Map Symbols**
-  Freeways
-  Main roads
-  Collector roads
-  Minor roads
-  Railways
-  Railway stations
-  Rivers & creeks
-  Lakes
-  Locality boundaries
-  Parks & reserves

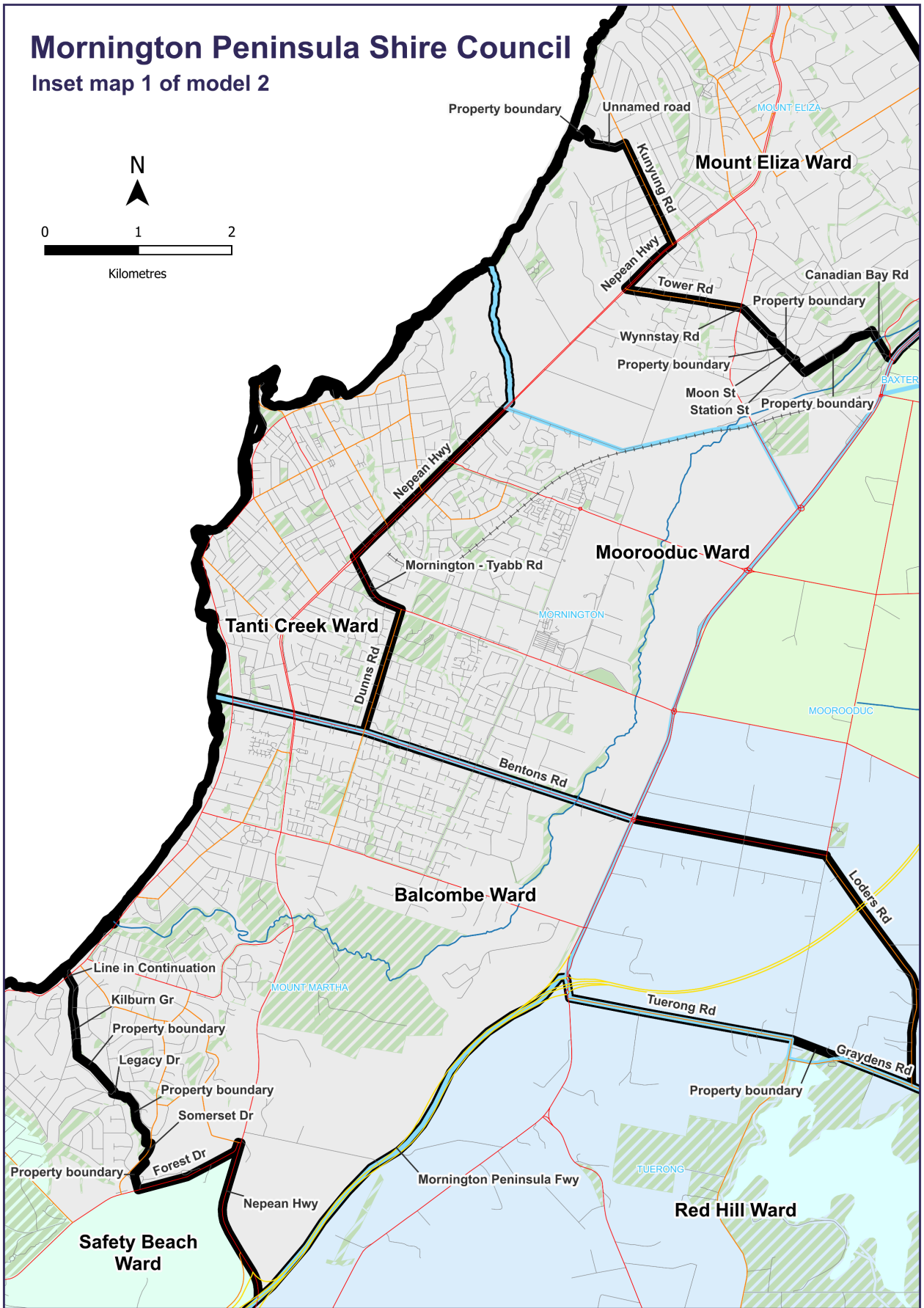
Data use:

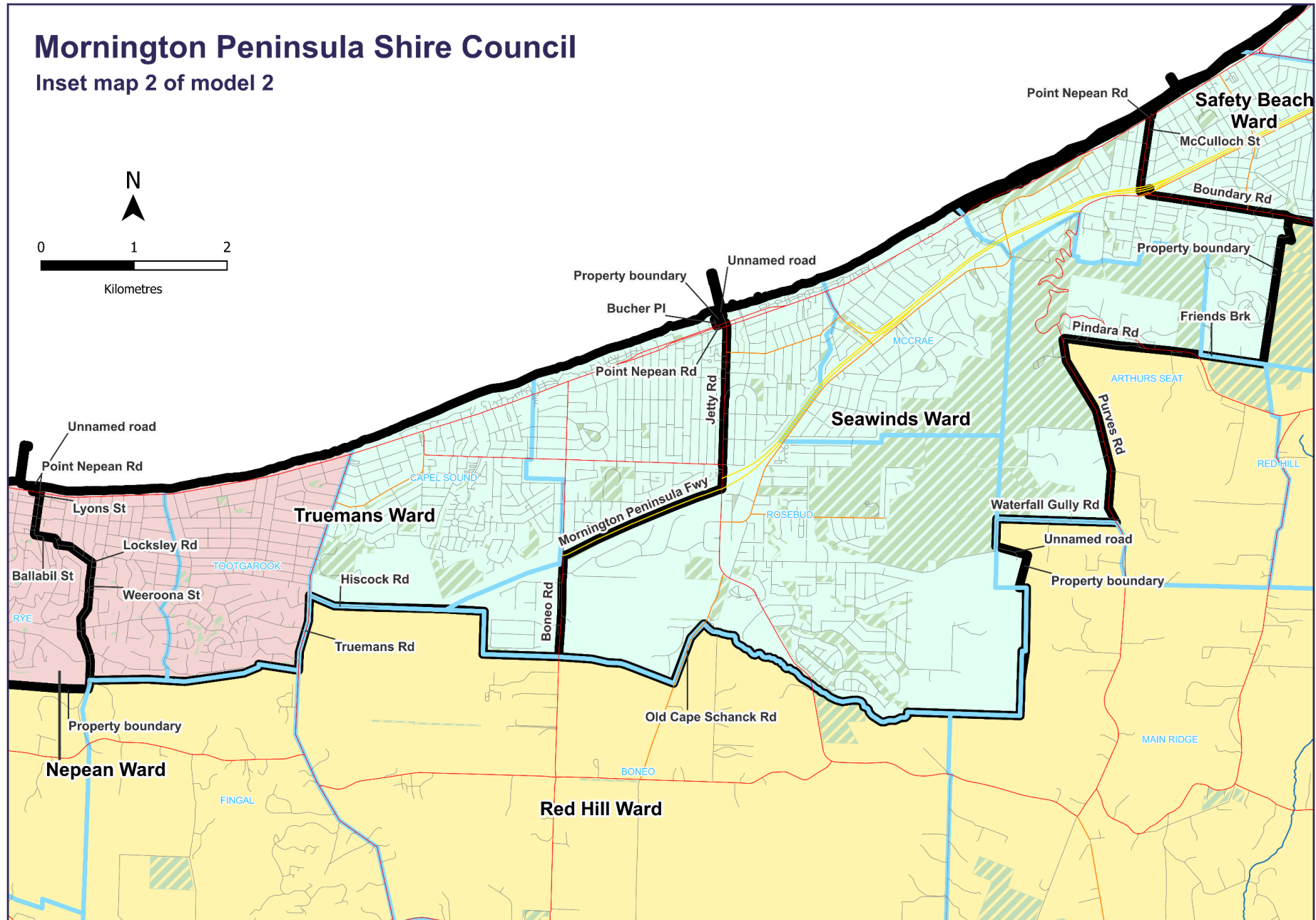


Layers for alignment:
 © State of Victoria (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action)

Disclaimer: This content is provided for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and authenticity of the content, the Victorian government does not accept any liability to any person for the information provided.







Data for Model 2

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area# (square km)
Balcombe	11,756	-14.78%	27.3
Moorooduc	11,812	-14.37%	66.4
Mount Eliza	11,669	-15.41%	15.5
Nepean	19,185	+39.08%	36.8
Red Hill	13,394	-2.9%	411.4
Safety Beach	14,686	+6.46%	19.2
Seawinds	14,062	+1.94%	24.4
Tanti Creek	12,447	-9.77%	7.9
Truemans	16,945	+22.84%	14.8
Warringine	13,071	-5.25%	34.4
Watson Creek	12,714	-7.83%	65.3
Total	151,741	n/a	723.4
Average	13,795	n/a	65.8

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023

#Ward area (square km) and total council area is measured at level of accuracy required for electoral boundaries. This may vary slightly from other data sources (for example, the ABS).

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

Model 3

11 single-councillor wards


Ward	Electorors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Briars	12,977	-5.93%	26.9
Capel Sound	17,451	+26.51%	15.2
McCrae	12,702	-7.92%	18.7
Moorooduc	12,666	-8.18%	75.1
Mount Eliza	13,183	-4.43%	16.1
Nepean	19,077	+38.29%	59
Red Hill	12,667	-8.17%	295.7
Seawinds	14,211	+3.02%	45.7
Somerville	11,860	-14.02%	64.6
Tanti Creek	13,209	-4.25%	8.7
Warringine	11,738	-14.91%	97.9
Total	151,741		723.6
Average	13,795		65.8

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023

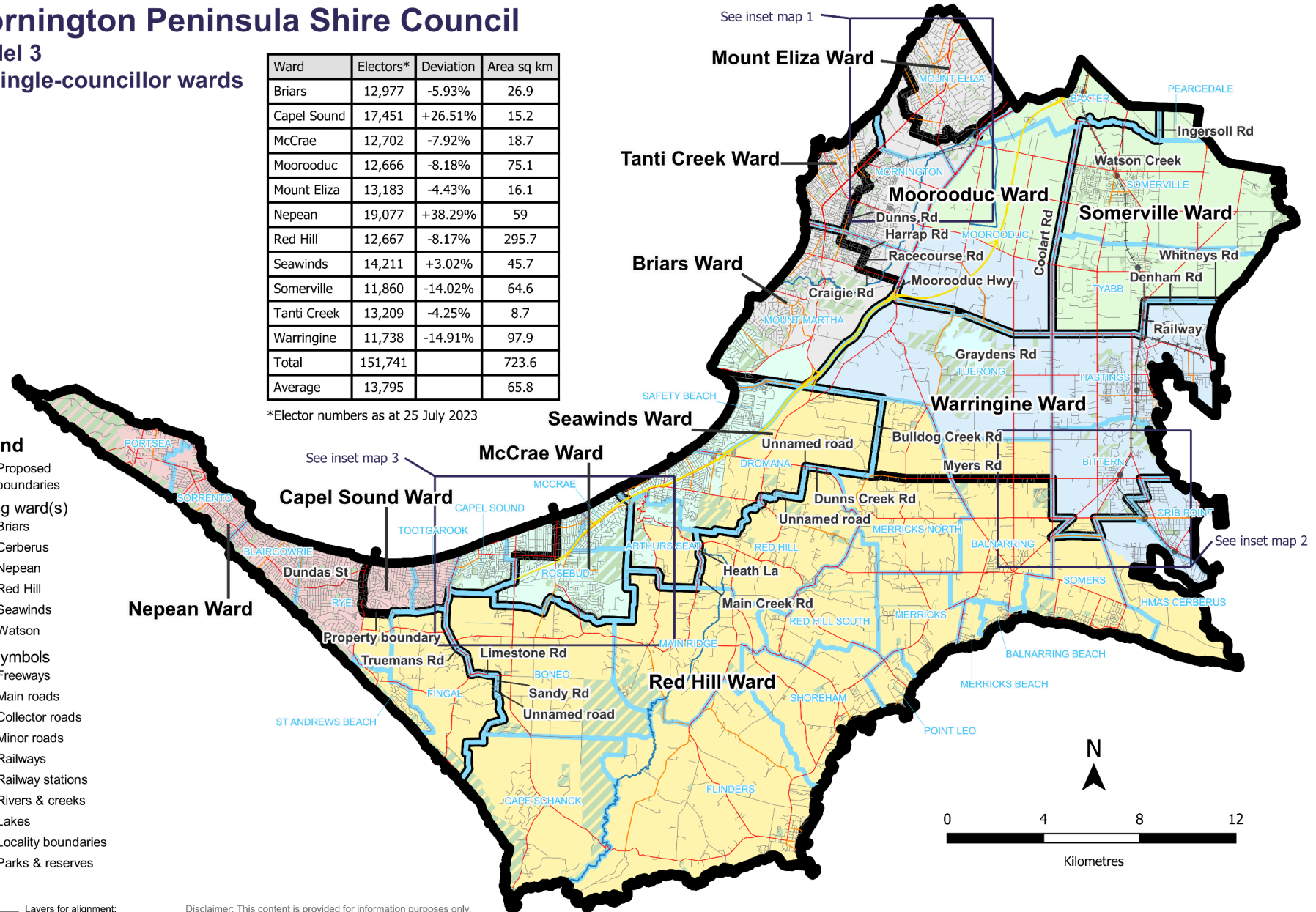
Legend

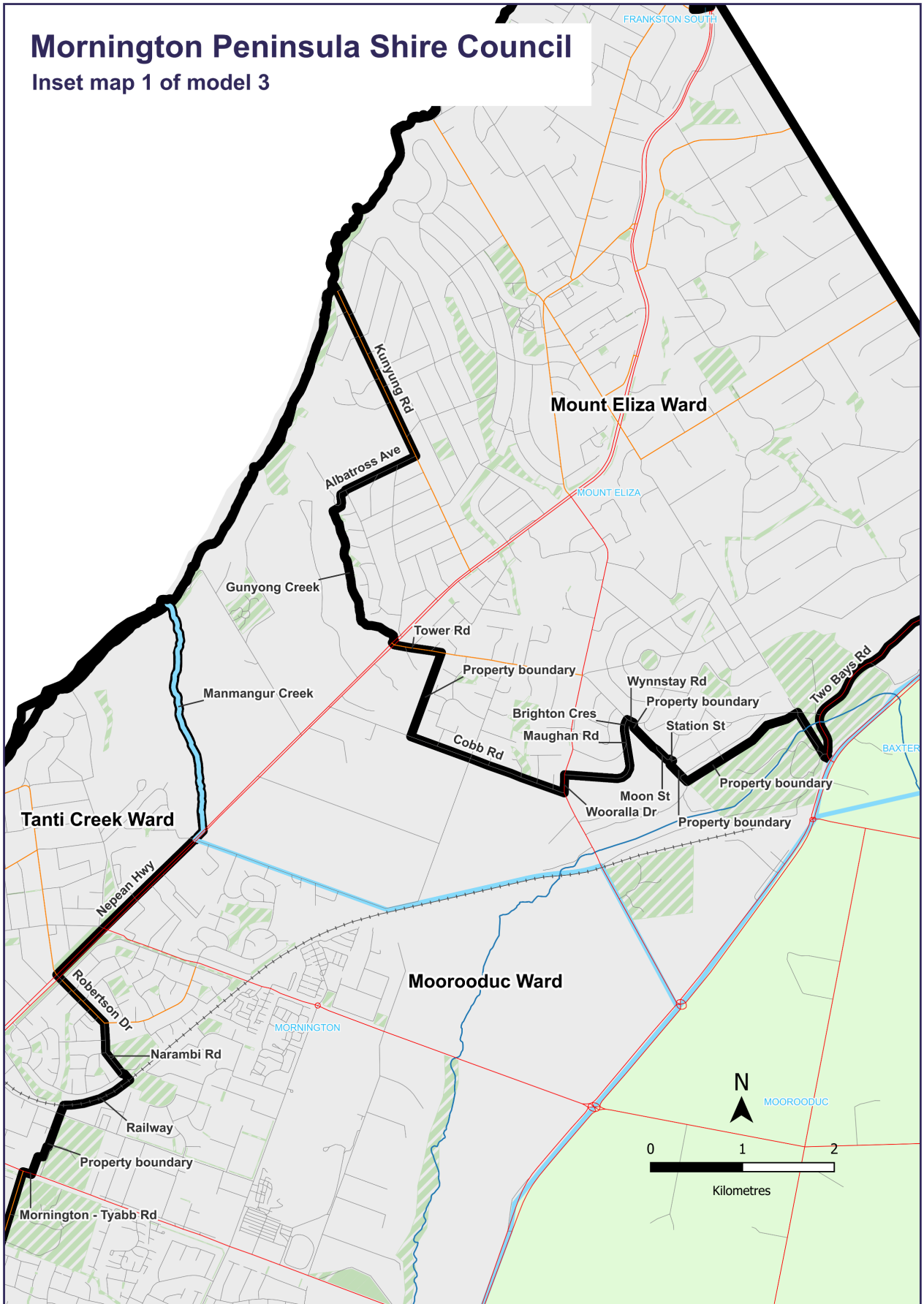
-  Proposed boundaries
- Existing ward(s)**
-  Briars
-  Cerberus
-  Nepean
-  Red Hill
-  Seawinds
-  Watson
- Map Symbols**
-  Freeways
-  Main roads
-  Collector roads
-  Minor roads
-  Railways
-  Railway stations
-  Rivers & creeks
-  Lakes
-  Locality boundaries
-  Parks & reserves

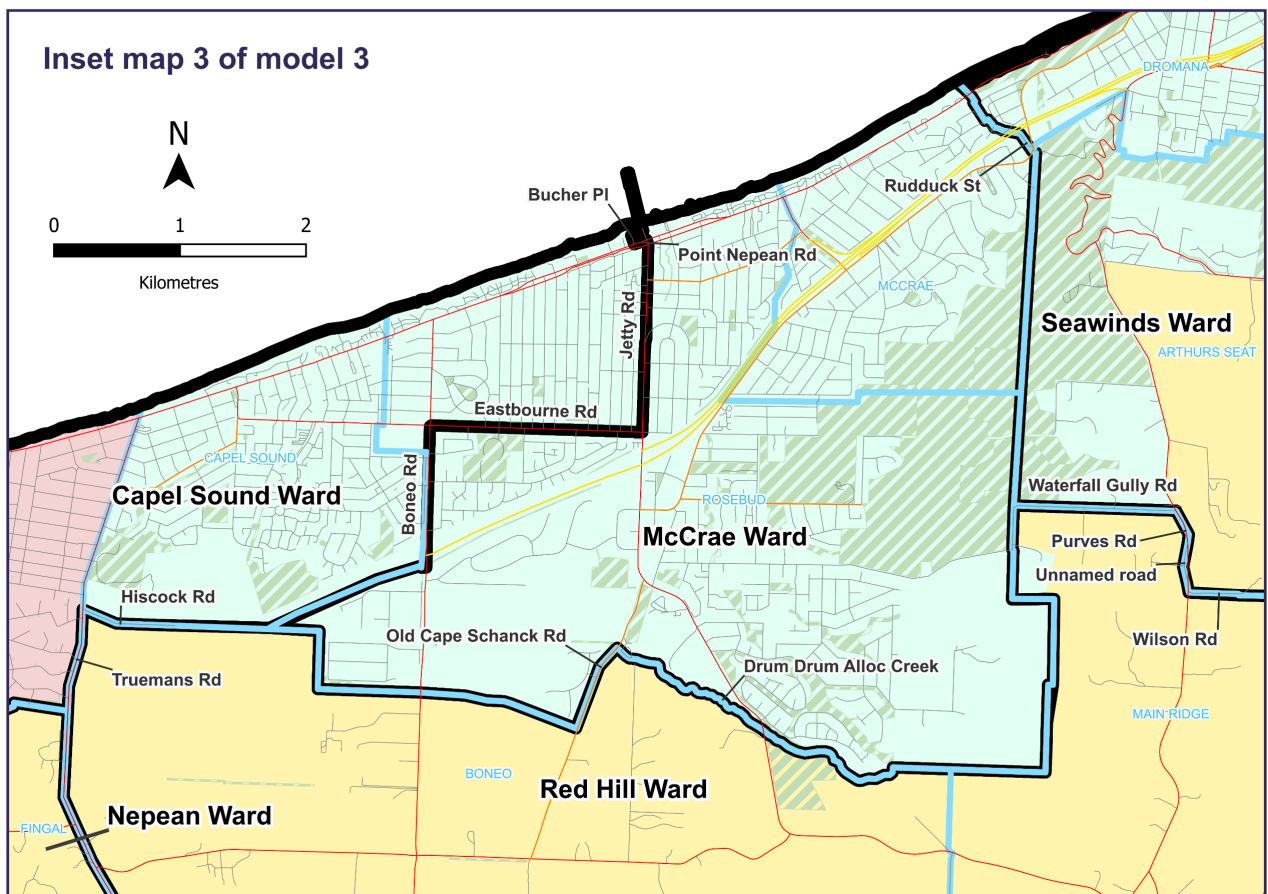
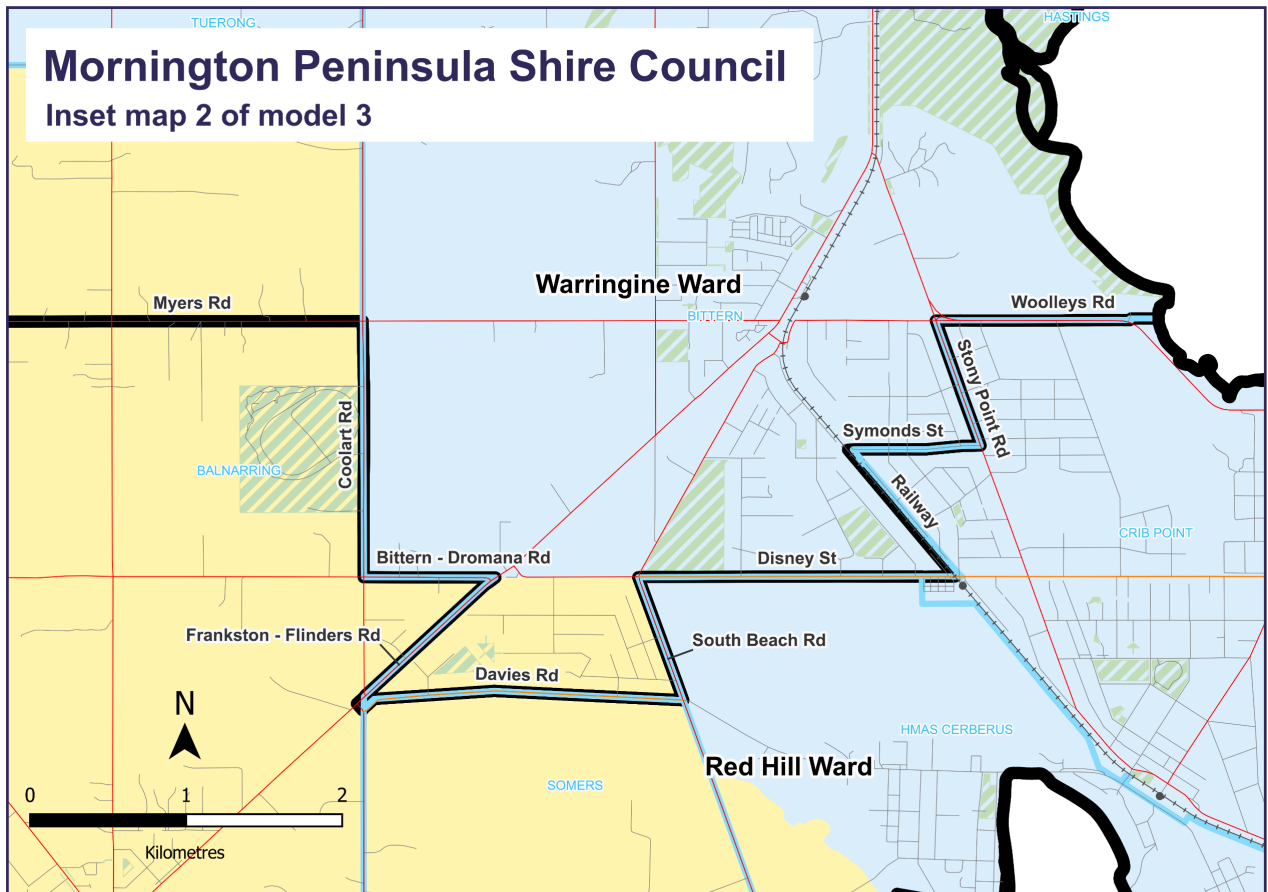
Data use:

 Layers for alignment:
 © State of Victoria (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action)

Disclaimer: This content is provided for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and authenticity of the content, the Victorian government does not accept any liability to any person for the information provided.







Data for Model 3

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area# (square km)
Briars	12,977	-5.93%	26.9
Capel Sound	17,451	+26.51%	15.2
McCrae	12,702	-7.92%	18.7
Moorooduc	12,666	-8.18%	75.1
Mount Eliza	13,183	-4.43%	16.1
Nepean	19,077	+38.29%	59
Red Hill	12,667	-8.17%	295.7
Seawinds	14,211	+3.02%	45.7
Somerville	11,860	-14.02%	64.6
Tanti Creek	13,209	-4.25%	8.7
Warringine	11,738	-14.91%	97.9
Total	151,741	n/a	723.6
Average	13,795	n/a	65.8

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023

#Ward area (square km) and total council area is measured at level of accuracy required for electoral boundaries. This may vary slightly from other data sources (for example, the ABS).

Forecast information referred to in the text of this report is based on forecasts prepared by .id – informed decisions id.com.au. .id and its licensors are the sole and exclusive owners of all rights, title and interest subsisting in that part of the report content where .id are identified. Some of .id content is a derivative of ABS Data, which can be accessed from the website of the Australian Bureau of Statistics at abs.gov.au, and licensed on terms published on the ABS website.

