

# Local council ward boundary review

## About Boroondara City Council

The Traditional Custodians of the land in the Boroondara City Council area are the Wurundjeri people. The name Boroondara is from the Woi wurrung language meaning 'where the ground is thickly shaded'.

Located 5 km from central Melbourne, and covering 60 km<sup>2</sup>, Boroondara is a residential, inner metropolitan council. The suburbs are Ashburton, Balwyn, Camberwell, Canterbury, Deepdene, Hawthorn, Hawthorn East, Kew, Kew East, and part of Balwyn North, Glen Iris, Mont Albert and Surrey Hills.

Following colonisation, proximity to a rapidly expanding Melbourne, loamy soils, and picturesque vistas led to the area becoming highly sought after and, according to historian Geoffrey Blainey, known as 'a gentleman's retreat'. Its desirability remains, and today the council is one of Victoria's more affluent.

There are 3 major commercial centres at Camberwell, Hawthorn and Kew, and over 50 shopping centres and strips, and numerous neighbourhood and local centres.

The Yarra River forms part of the northern boundary and offers an important continuous area of open space in the council.

Major roads servicing the council include the Eastern Freeway, the Monash Freeway, Citylink, plus many locally important thoroughfares. The Alamein, Belgrave and Lilydale railway lines also service the area, as do several tramlines.

### Current structure

Boroondara City Council is divided into 11 wards with one councillor per ward. There are 11 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 Boroondara City 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 Boroondara City 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 Boroondara City Council in 2019.

Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) to access a copy of the 2019 review final report.

# Review process

## Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 February

### Information sessions

Session 1: 12 noon, Monday 26 February

Session 2: 12 noon, Tuesday 27 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 28 February

### Preliminary report

The VEC will release a preliminary report with one or more options for the ward boundaries on Wednesday 28 February.

**You can make a response submission from this date.**

## Wednesday 20 March

### Response submissions

The VEC must receive your submission by 5 pm on Wednesday 20 March.

The VEC will not accept late submissions.

## Tuesday 26 March

### Public hearing

The VEC will hold an online public hearing if anyone asks to speak about their response submission at 10 am Tuesday 26 March.

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

## Wednesday 24 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 24 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](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

## How to make a submission



On the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)



By email to:

[Boroondara.WardReview@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:Boroondara.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](http://vec.vic.gov.au/privacy) for privacy information.

## One vote, one value

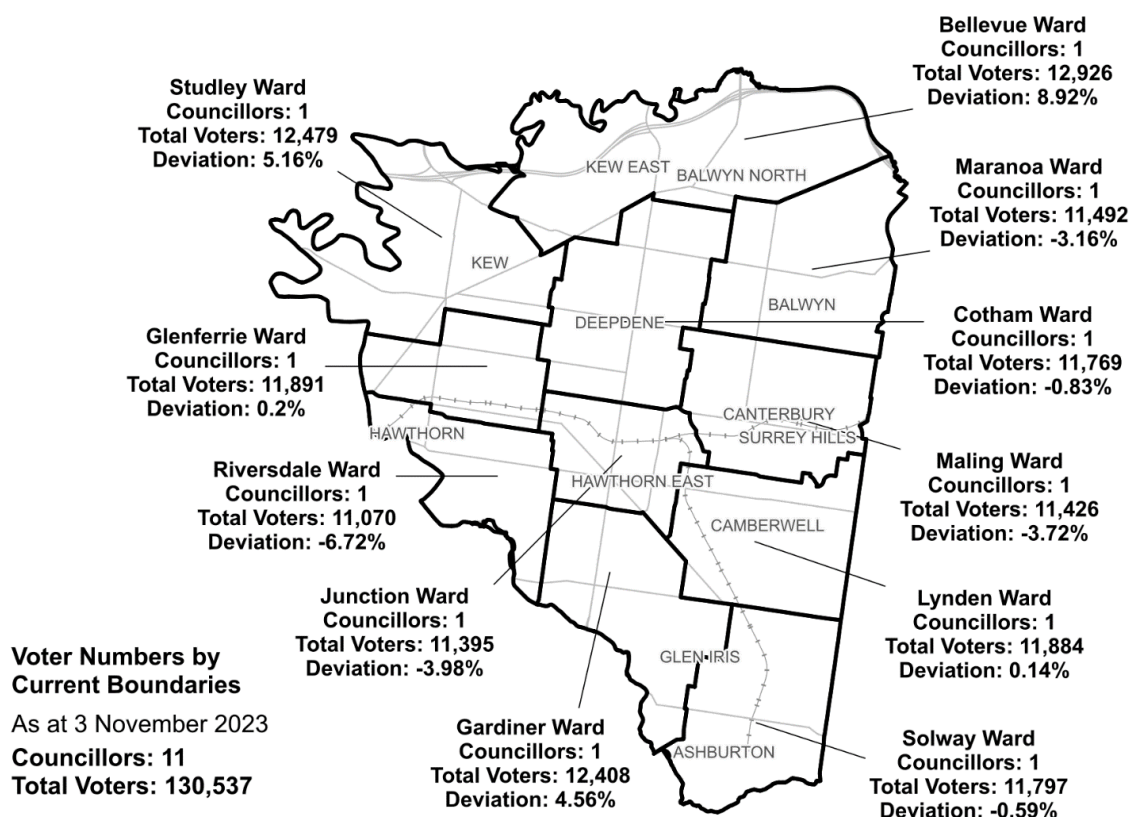
The 'one vote, one value' democratic principle is enshrined in the *Local Government Act 2020*. This means every person's vote counts equally.

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



Ward	Councillors	Voters	Deviation
Bellevue Ward*	1	12,926	+8.92%
Cotham Ward	1	11,769	-0.83%
Gardiner Ward	1	12,408	+4.56%
Glenferrie Ward	1	11,891	+0.2%
Junction Ward	1	11,395	-3.98%
Lynden Ward	1	11,884	+0.14%
Maling Ward	1	11,426	-3.72%
Maranoa Ward	1	11,492	-3.16%
Riversdale Ward *	1	11,070	-6.72%
Solway Ward	1	11,797	-0.59%
Studley Ward	1	12,479	+5.16%

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

## Statistics

Area (km<sup>2</sup>) 60

### Voters

**Voters per square km**

2,176

**Average voters per councillor**

11,867

### Population

**Current population**

167,900

**Forecast population growth**

0.5% p.a.

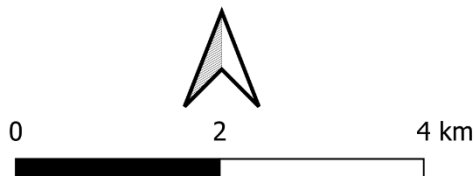
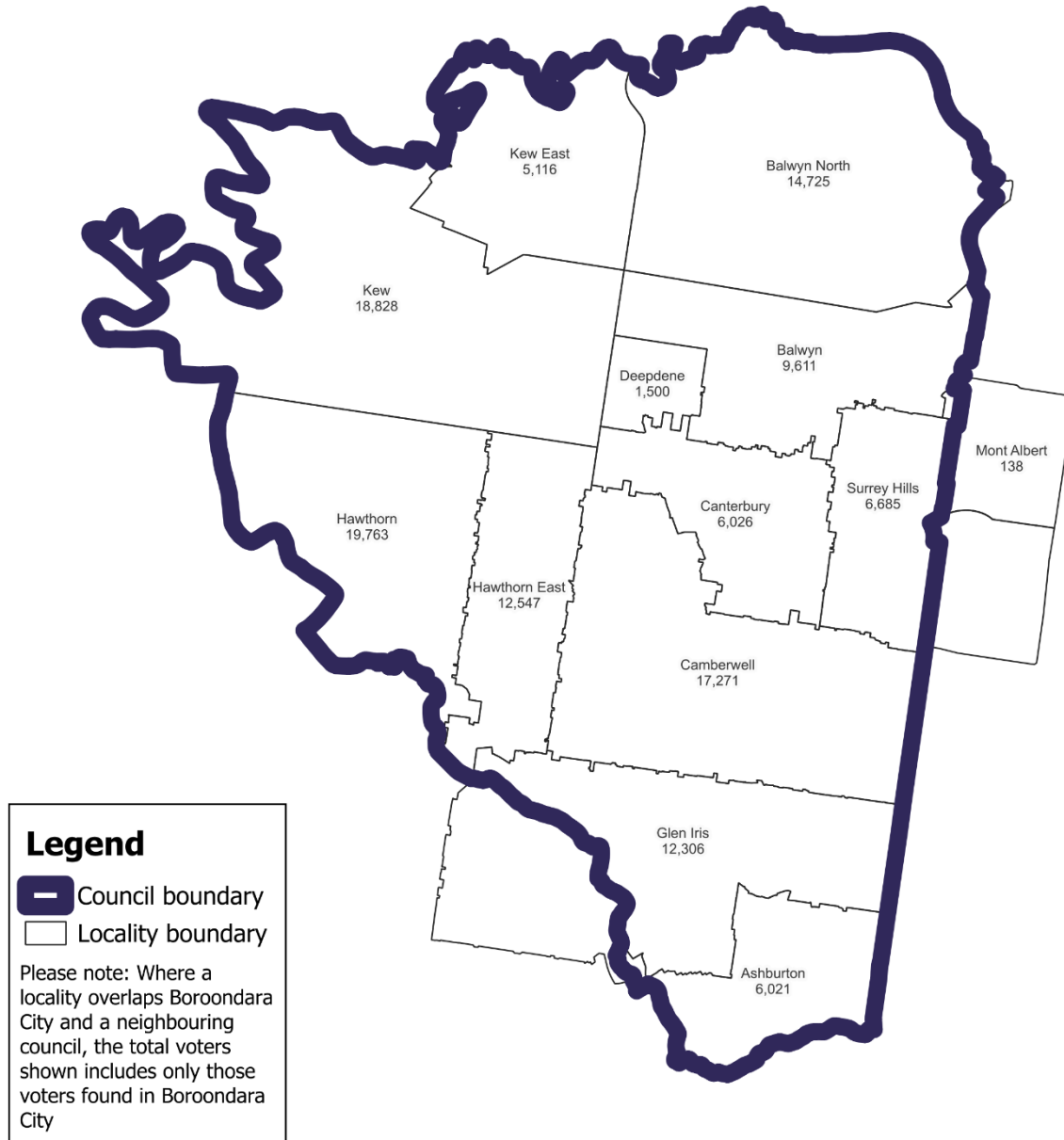
More Census statistics available at [abs.gov.au](https://abs.gov.au)

# Voter numbers by locality (map)

## Boroondara City Council

TOTAL VOTERS: 130,537

Voter numbers as at 3 November 2023



## Voter numbers by locality (table)

### Boroondara City Council voter numbers at 3 November 2023

Locality	Voters
Ashburton	6,021
Balwyn	9,611
Balwyn North	14,725
Camberwell	17,271
Canterbury	6,026
Deepdene	1,500
Glen Iris	12,306
Hawthorn	19,763
Hawthorn East	12,547
Kew	18,828
Kew East	5,116
Mont Albert	138
Surrey Hills	6,685