

Local council electoral structure review

Preliminary Report

Horsham Rural City Council

June 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

The electoral representation advisory panel acknowledges the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagalk, Jaadwa and Jadawadjali peoples 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.

Document history and version control

Version	Date approved	Submission approved by	Brief description
1	23 May 2023	Acting Deputy Electoral Commissioner	Final version 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 Horsham Rural City Council	11
Profile	11
Current number of councillors and electoral structure	13
Last electoral structure review.....	13
Preliminary findings and models	14
Number of councillors	14
Electoral structure	15
Models for public feedback	18
Ward names	18
Next steps	20
Response submissions	20
Public hearing	21
Final report.....	21
References	22
Appendix 1: Model maps	23

Executive summary

An independent electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government is reviewing the electoral structure of Horsham Rural City 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), Horsham Rural City 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 Horsham Rural City 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 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward.
- Model 2: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward, with different ward boundaries to Model 1.
- Model 3: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward, with different ward boundaries to Model 1 and Model 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 19 July. If any response submitters wish to speak at a public hearing, the panel will hold an online public

hearing on Wednesday 26 July. Following this, the panel will present its final recommendation to the Minister on Wednesday 23 August 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 will 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 Horsham Rural City Council) must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

For Horsham Rural City 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 Horsham Rural City Council has 3 members:

- The Honourable Frank Vincent AO KC (Chairperson)
- Ms Liz Williams PSM
- Acting Deputy Electoral Commissioner Ms Máiréad Doyle.

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 Victorian State government.

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 delegate) must be a member of each panel.

Public engagement

Public information program

On behalf of the panel, the VEC has conducted a public information and awareness program to inform the public about the Horsham Rural City Council electoral structure review. This has included:

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

The VEC will continue to promote the review on behalf of the panel during the response submission stage via media releases, the VEC’s social media channels and the VEC website.

Public consultation

The panel now invites input to the electoral structure review of Horsham Rural City 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 the number of councillors is to be determined. 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 Horsham Rural City 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 Horsham Rural City 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 has taken the following approach to naming wards.

1. Retaining 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 first 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 Horsham Rural City Council

Profile

Horsham Rural City Council is a regional council located in western Victoria, about 300 km north-west of Melbourne. The council area covers 4,267 km² with broadacre agriculture the main land use. It is surrounded by 5 shire councils: West Wimmera, Hindmarsh, Yarriambiack, Northern Grampians and Southern Grampians shire councils. Horsham township is the main population centre and home to nearly three-quarters of all its people. It is the largest urban centre in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region and serves as a regional service centre for an extensive rural area.

The formally recognised Traditional Custodians for this area are the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagalk, Jaadwa and Jadawadjali peoples.

Landscape

The municipality has a semi-arid climate. Summer temperatures can reach over 40 degrees and regular frosts are experienced in winter. Average annual rainfall is around 450 mm. About 70% of the area is dryland broadacre cropping and 27% of the area is covered by native vegetation and waterways (WCMA 2023).

Distinct natural features are Dyurrite (Mount Arapiles) and Burren (Black Range State Park), the Wimmera and Mackenzie rivers, Burnt Creek, and the Natimuk Douglas Saline Wetland Depression (WCMA 2023). Rivers, creeks, streams, wetlands and lakes are among the municipality's most valuable natural assets, and the Wimmera River is the largest watercourse in the municipality. The Natimuk Douglas Saline Wetland Depression is a former course of the Murray River and consists of more than 30 natural saline and freshwater lakes, with its wetlands providing significant nesting sites for migratory birds (DTP 2023).

At the 2021 Census, Horsham Rural City Council had a total population of 20,429 people (ABS 2021a), with 16,289 people, or over three quarters of the population living in Horsham regional city (ABS 2021b). Natimuk is the second largest town, with a population of 421 (ABS 2021c). The council also has about 25 small localities scattered throughout, each with less than 200 residents.

Agriculture is a key land use, and the main agricultural industries are cropping, wool and sheep meat, and the region is a major producer and exporter of hay (WCMA 2023).

The main road transport corridor in the region is the Western Highway, which connects Horsham with Melbourne (via Ballarat) and Adelaide. Other important road and rail corridors include the Henty Highway, which runs north–south and provides access to the Port of Portland and the Wimmera Highway provides a regional east–west link (DTP 2023). The Henty, Wimmera and Western highways all pass through Horsham regional city, as does the Wimmera River and its tributary, Burnt Creek.

Community

The population of Horsham Rural City Council was 20,429 at the 2021 Census, an increase of 2,684 since 2001 when the population was 17,745 people (ABS 2021a). This trend of modest growth is expected to continue, with population increasing in the regional city, partially offset by a decrease in rural areas.

Residents of the council have a median age of 41 (ABS 2021a). Compared to the Victorian average, and as a proportion of the total population, there are less people in the 20-54 year old age brackets and more aged 55 years and over. The percentage of people in the 0-20 year old age bracket is similar to all of Victoria (ABS 2021a).

The ancestry of residents in the council area is predominantly Australian (42.3%) and English (41.7%), followed by Scottish (11.1%), German (10.3%), and Irish (10.2%). In comparison, the overall rate of Victorians indicating Australian (27.2%) and English (29.2%) ancestry is significantly lower, indicating that Horsham Rural City Council is probably less diverse than the state averages (ABS 2021a).

The country of birth for residents in the council (compared to Victoria) are Australia 87.0% (65.0% for Victorians), England 1.1% (2.7%), India 0.9% (4.0%), Philippines 0.7% (1.1%), New Zealand 0.5% (1.5%) and Thailand 0.3% (0.3%). Residents who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people account for 1.8% of the total population, or 361 people in the 2021 Census (ABS 2021a).

English is the only language spoken at home for 89.9% of residents, while 5.5% of households use a non-English language, including Karen (spoken by 0.6% of residents), Malayalam (0.4%), Italian (0.3%), Mandarin (0.3%), and Nepali (0.2%) (ABS 2021a).

Home ownership levels are high with 71.3% of residents owning a house outright or with a mortgage, compared to 68.3% for all Victorians, while about 25% of residents are renting, close to the average of 28.5% for all of Victoria (ABS 2021a).

In Horsham Rural City Council, 61.0% of people aged 15 years and over are in the labour force, which is similar to the state as a whole. The top 5 occupations were professionals (17.8%), managers (16.3%), technicians and trades workers (14.2%), community and personal services workers (12.5%), and clerical and administrative workers (11.1%), with the main industries of employment being hospitals (8.8%), other social assistance services (3.1%), other grain growing (2.9%), secondary education (2.7%), and local government administration (2.5%) (ABS 2021a).

In terms of weekly incomes, the council sits below the state median rates for individuals (\$772 compared to \$803 for all Victorians), families (\$1,850 compared to \$2,136) and households (\$1,381 compared to \$1,759) (ABS 2021a).

Current number of councillors and electoral structure

Horsham Rural City Council currently has an unsubdivided electoral structure with a total of 7 councillors.

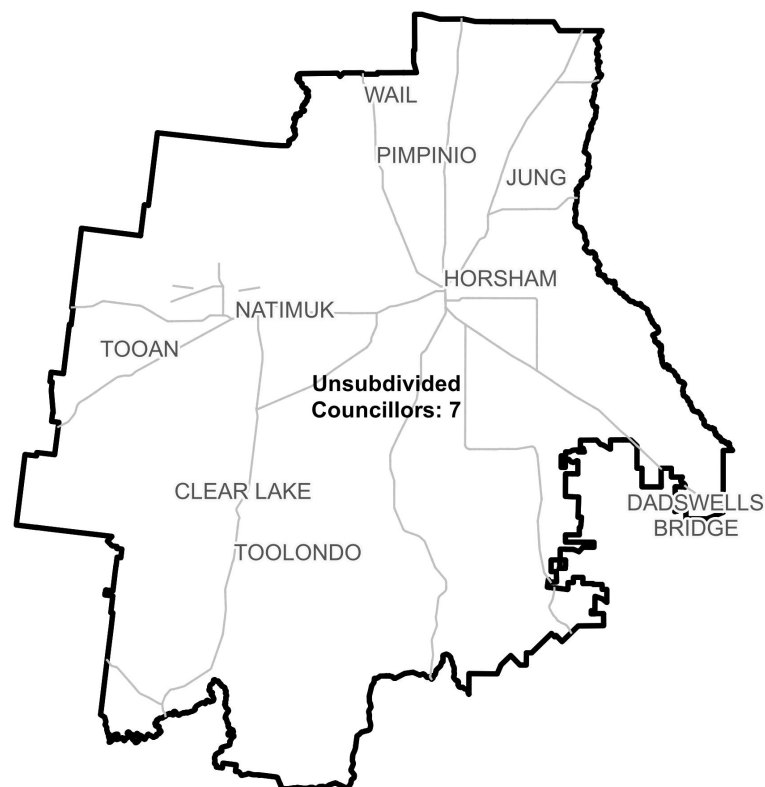


Figure 1: Diagram of current electoral structure of Horsham Rural City Council.

There are about 15,753 voters in the council area, with an approximate ratio of 2,250 voters per councillor.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au for more information on Horsham Rural City Council.

Last electoral structure review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Horsham Rural City Council in 2015. 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 Horsham Rural City Council continue to consist of 7 councillors elected from an unsubdivided electorate.

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

Horsham Rural City Council has maintained this structure since amalgamation in 1994.

Preliminary findings and models

Number of councillors

After taking into consideration the requirements of the Act and the agreed criteria, the panel found 7 councillors to be an appropriate number for Horsham Rural City Council.

The panel considered the characteristics of Horsham Rural City Council in relation to similar regional city councils, including its population, the number and distribution of voters, and the size and geography of the council.

Similar regional city councils to Horsham Rural City 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
Greater Geelong City Council*	1,248	204,092	271,057	212,369	11	19,306
Greater Bendigo City Council*	3,000	91,892	121,470	93,852	9	10,428
Ballarat City Council*	739	84,694	113,763	87,340	9	9,704
Latrobe City Council*	1,426	58,170	77,318	59,099	9	6,566
Greater Shepparton City Council*	2,422	46,242	68,409	46,959	9	5,217
Mildura Rural City Council*	22,082	40,720	56,972	42,932	9	4,770
Wodonga City Council*	433	32,430	43,253	33,461	7	4,780
Warrnambool City Council*	121	27,279	35,406	27,731	7	3,961
Wangaratta Rural City Council*	3,645	23,267	29,808	23,904	7	3,414
Horsham Rural City Council*	4,267	16,206	20,429	15,753	7	2,250

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

Maintaining 7 councillors

Horsham Rural City Council currently has 15,753 voters represented by 7 councillors and covers an area of 4,267 km². Other regional city councils with a similar number of voters usually also have 7 councillors. As forecasts indicate only modest population change is expected 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 Horsham Rural City Council, the appropriateness of ward boundaries and which models best offered 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 Horsham Rural City Council community:

- a subdivided electoral structure of 7 single-councillor wards (Model 1)
- a subdivided electoral structure of 7 single-councillor wards, with different ward boundaries to Model 1 (Model 2)
- a subdivided electoral structure of 7 single-councillor wards, with different ward boundaries to Model 1 and Model 2 (Model 3).

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

A single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors (Model 1)

Under this model, Horsham Rural City Council would adopt a 7-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act.

The model uses where possible strong natural features, such as the Wimmera River, major roads, and the railway line as boundaries. The boundaries depart from these features in some places to ensure an equal number of voters per ward.

This model divides the rural parts of Horsham into 2 wards, and the Horsham township itself into 5. The boundaries of the rural wards are the Western Highway running north of the Horsham township, and the Mackenzie River extending in the south. This creates 2 roughly equal rural wards - Pine Lake Ward in the east and Lake Wyn Wyn Ward in the west.

The division of Horsham township would result in 5 wards. Southbank Ward is south of the Wimmera River extending east to Cameron Road and includes some of the retail area south of the Wimmera Highway (Wilson Street). Sitting above this ward is Rudolf Ward, occupying a largely residential area south-west of Horsham township between the Wimmera River and Wimmera Highway (Natimuk Road). May Park Ward sits in the west of the township, between the Western Highway and the Wimmera Highway. Oaklands Park Ward is in the north-west part of the township. It would follow Albert Street, turning west at the Western Highway (Baillie Street), and follows the Western Highway (Dimboola Steet) to the edge of the township. Coglin Park Ward is in the north-east part of Horsham township. It would start at Albert Street and continue along McPherson Street and turns east on Hamilton Street to the Wimmera River.

One downside of this model is that it creates 2 large rural wards requiring the elected representatives to engage in more travel than may be necessary for the township councillors.

Further, while Horsham township has some strong features for ward boundaries, it was not always possible to use these because of the need to ensure there are an equivalent number of voters in each ward.

A single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors (alternative version) (Model 2)

Under this model, Horsham Rural City Council would adopt a 7-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act.

This model is similar to Model 1, except it divides the rural part of Horsham into a south (Black Range Ward) and a north (Lake Wyn Wyn Ward) ward, with minor variations in the division of Horsham township into 5 wards.

The boundary separating the 2 largely rural-focused wards would start near Douglas in the south-west, continue through Nurrabel, then north to Vectis before joining the edge of Horsham township wards. To the east of Horsham township the boundary would mainly run along the Western Highway, but then diverts from the Western Highway close to Horsham township.

The 5 Horsham township wards are nearly identical to the township wards of Model 1, except for 2 wards in the south and eastern side of the township. Southbank Ward would be slightly larger in this model as it extends further along the Wimmera River to Cameron Road. In the north-eastern Coglin Park Ward the eastern boundary would run along the length of Cameron Road North until it meets the Wimmera River.

This structure has similar limitations as described for Model 1. Its structure would be partially determined by Haven having a large population compared to other rural areas which results in Black Range Ward being a smaller ward. Also, it is governed more by the layout of Horsham township and its access corridors. A disadvantage of Model 2 is that it groups some localities that may have few common interests, like Grassy Flat and St Helens Plains.

A single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors (Model 3)

Under this model, Horsham Rural City Council would adopt a 7-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act.

Model 3 is significantly different to models 1 and 2 because every ward would include part of Horsham township and stretch out to the edge of the municipal boundary, in what looks like a 'pizza cut' model. This model is based on the view that there are strong interdependencies between Horsham's rural and urban regions. It seeks to represent these connections by creating wards of similar geographic size and with similar proportions of rural and urban voters.

Described in clockwise order, the first of the 7 wards, Kalkee Ward, would start at Murra Warra with Blue Ribbon Road the western boundary and the railway line the eastern boundary. Kalkee Ward would include the localities of Blackheath and Jung and incorporate a north-east portion of Horsham township. Darlot Ward would include Longerenong and the eastern parts of Horsham township, bounded mainly by the Horsham-Lubeck Road in the south of the ward before joining the Wimmera River. Pine Lake Ward would use the Western Highway as its southern boundary and takes in the rural areas of Drung, St Helens Plains and Dadswells

Bridge, and extend across the Wimmera River into Horsham township. Black Range Ward takes in the southern sections and would include Haven, Wartook, Brimpaen, and the western boundary is Telangatuk East - Rocklands Road and Wonwondah Toolondo Road north to Lower Norton and then follows the Wimmera River. Toolondo Ward would include Quantong, Clear Lake and Jilpanger, the Wimmera Highway is the northern boundary, and in Horsham township the area largely to the west of Gardenia Street. Lake Wyn Wyn Ward would include an area to the west of Bennett Road and Jenkinson Avenue in the township and then sits west of the Western Highway and includes Pimpinio. Verandah Ward would sit between the Western Highway and Blue Ribbon Road and includes a large north central part of the township.

One advantage of this model is that it creates wards of roughly similar geographic size. However, this may also be considered by some people to be a disadvantage because the rural vote may be diluted by the urban proportion of the vote in each ward.

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 Horsham Rural City Council and consequently facilitate good governance. Please see [Appendix 1](#) for detailed maps of these models.

Model 1

Horsham Rural City Council has 7 councillors and is divided into 7 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Coglin Park Ward, Lake Wyn Wyn Ward, May Park Ward, Oaklands Park Ward, Pine Lake Ward, Rudolph Ward, Southbank Ward.

Model 2

Horsham Rural City Council has 7 councillors and is divided into 7 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Black Range Ward, Coglin Park Ward, Lake Wyn Wyn Ward, May Park Ward, Oaklands Park Ward, Rudolph Ward, Southbank Ward.

Model 3

Horsham Rural City Council has 7 councillors and is divided into 7 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Black Range Ward, Darlot Ward, Kalkee Ward, Lake Wyn Wyn Ward, Pine Lake Ward, Toolando Ward, Verandah 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

All ward names are new and are based on natural features or localities found within each ward.

Model 2

All ward names are new and are based on natural features or localities found within each ward.

Model 3

All ward names are new and are based on natural features or localities found within each ward.

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 panel. In your submission you should address the models proposed by the panel in this preliminary report.

You can make a submission:

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

The panel must receive all response submissions before 5 pm on Wednesday 19 July 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: 10 am

Date: Wednesday 26 July 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 23 August 2023. The Minister will consider the final reports, including any determination to make the reports publicly available. Any change to the electoral structure of Horsham Rural City 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) (2021a) [2021 Census All Persons QuickStats, Horsham \(LGA\)](#), ABS, accessed 28 March 2023.

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2021b) [2021 Census All Persons QuickStats, Horsham \(UCL\)](#), ABS, accessed 16 May 2023.

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2021c) [2021 Census All Persons QuickStats, Natimuk \(UCL\)](#), ABS, accessed 16 May 2023.

DTP (Department of Transport and Planning) (2023) [Horsham Planning Scheme](#), DTP, accessed 28 March 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)

WCMA (Wimmera Catchment Management Authority) (2023) [Horsham | Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy \(rcs.vic.gov.au\)](#), WCMA, accessed 28 March 2023.

Appendix 1: Model maps

The following maps are included in this report:

Map	Page
Model 1 – a single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward.	23
Model 2 – a single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward (with boundaries different to Model 1).	25
Model 3 – a single-councillor ward structure with 7 councillors – 7 wards with one councillor per ward (with boundaries different to Model 1 and Model 2).	27

Horsham Rural City Council

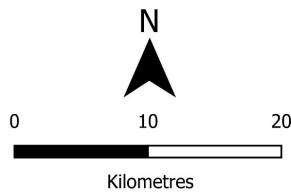
Model 1

7 single-councillor wards



Legend

- Proposed boundaries
- Existing wards**
- Horsham Rural City
- Map symbols**
- Freeways
- Main roads
- Collector roads
- Minor roads
- Railways
- Railway stations
- Rivers & creeks
- Lakes
- Parks & reserves
- Locality boundaries



Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Coglin Park	2,443	+8.56%	2
Lake Wyn Wyn	2,152	-4.37%	2,828
May Park	2,103	-6.55%	5
Oaklands Park	2,281	+1.36%	3
Pine Lake	2,081	-7.53%	1,415
Rudolph	2,417	+7.4%	2
Southbank	2,276	+1.14%	7
Total	15,753		4,262
Average	2,250		609

*Elector numbers as at 30 March 2023

Map prepared by:



Data use:

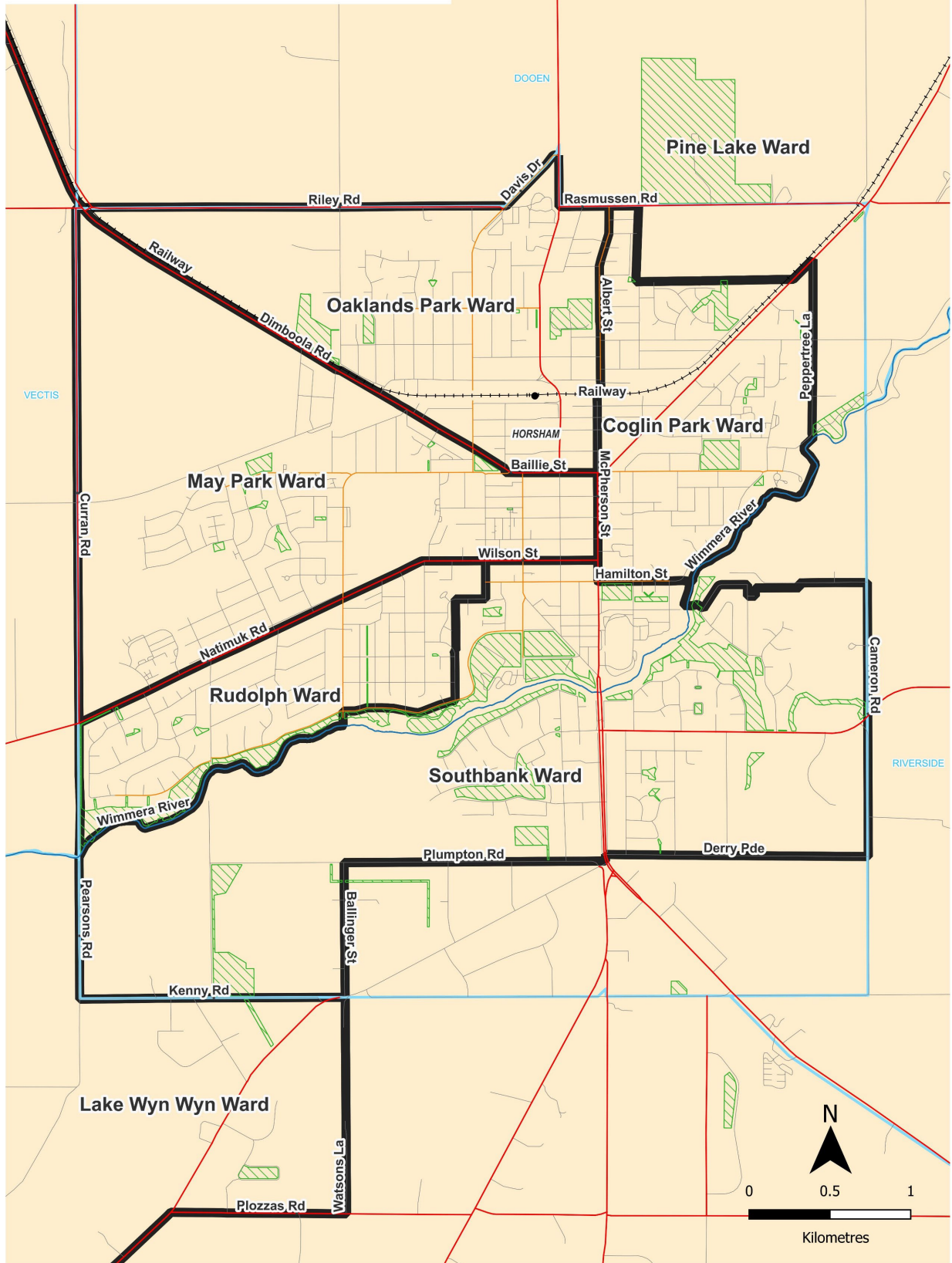


Copyright © 2023 - State Government of Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

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.

Horsham Rural City Council

Inset - Model 1



Horsham Rural City Council

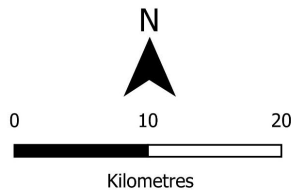
Model 2

7 single-councillor wards



Legend

- Proposed boundaries
- Existing wards**
- Horsham Rural City
- Map symbols**
- Freeways
- Main roads
- Collector roads
- Minor roads
- Railways
- Railway stations
- Rivers & creeks
- Lakes
- Parks & reserves
- Locality boundaries



Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Black Range	2,088	-7.22%	1,737
Coglin Park	2,469	+9.71%	3
Lake Wyn Wyn	2,056	-8.64%	2,506
May Park	2,103	-6.55%	5
Oaklands Park	2,281	+1.36%	3
Rudolph	2,417	+7.4%	2
Southbank	2,339	+3.94%	8
Total	15,753		4,264
Average	2,250		609

*Elector numbers as at 30 March 2023

Map prepared by:



Data use:

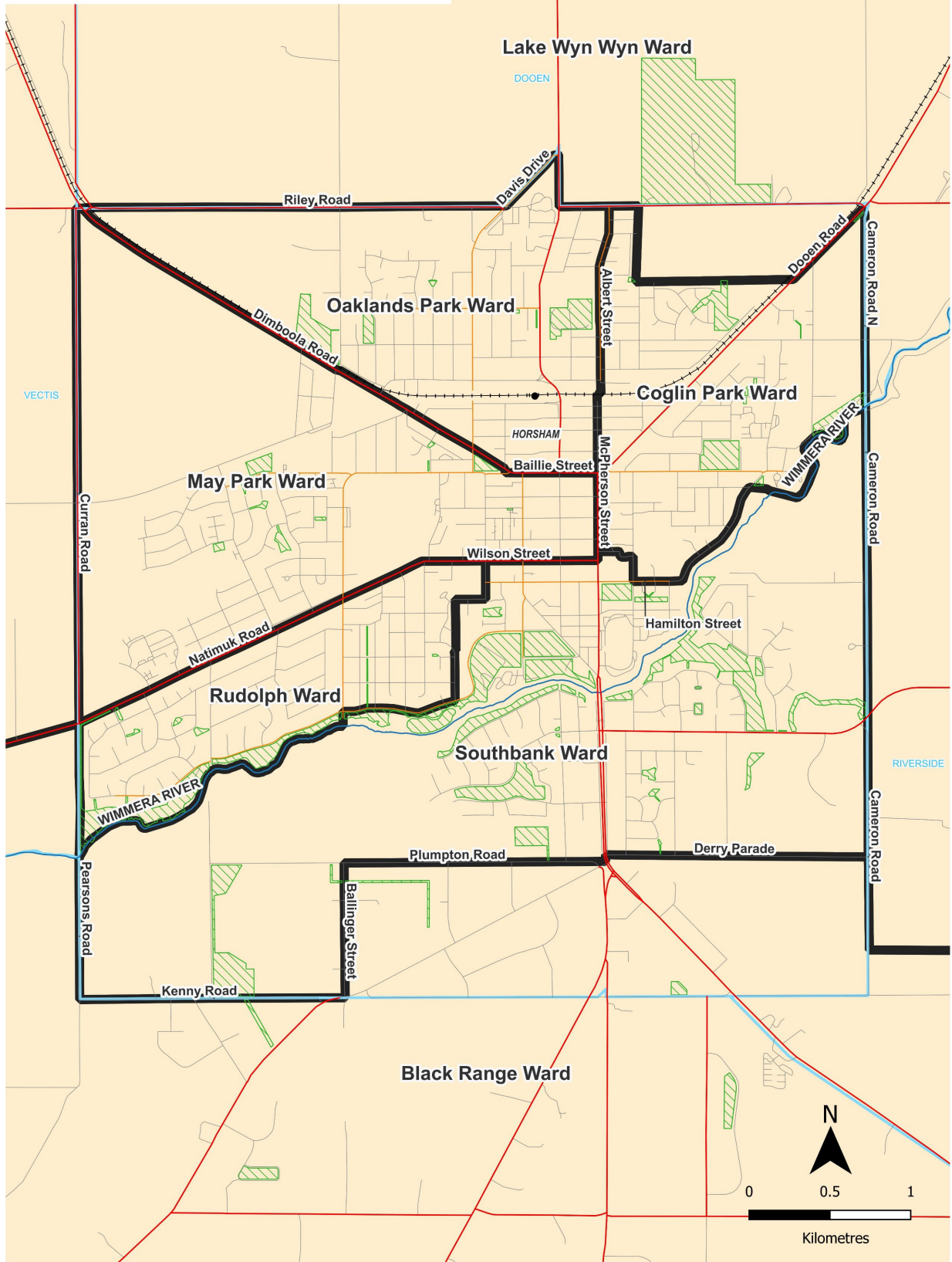


Copyright © 2023 - State Government of Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

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.

Horsham Rural City Council

Inset - Model 2



Horsham Rural City Council

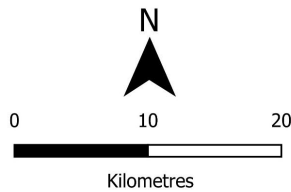
Model 3

7 single-councillor wards



Legend

- Proposed boundaries
- Existing wards
 - Horsham Rural City
- Map symbols
 - Freeways
 - Main roads
 - Collector roads
 - Minor roads
 - Railways
 - Railway stations
 - Rivers & creeks
 - Lakes
 - Parks & reserves
 - Locality boundaries



Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Black Range	2,161	-3.97%	1,305
Darlot	2,228	-1.0%	136
Kalkee	2,340	+3.98%	362
Lake Wyn Wyn	2,089	-7.17%	813
Pine Lake	2,344	+4.16%	335
Toolondo	2,178	-3.22%	1,116
Verandah	2,413	+7.22%	196
Total	15,753		4,263
Average	2,250		609

*Elector numbers as at 30 March 2023

Map prepared by:



Data use:

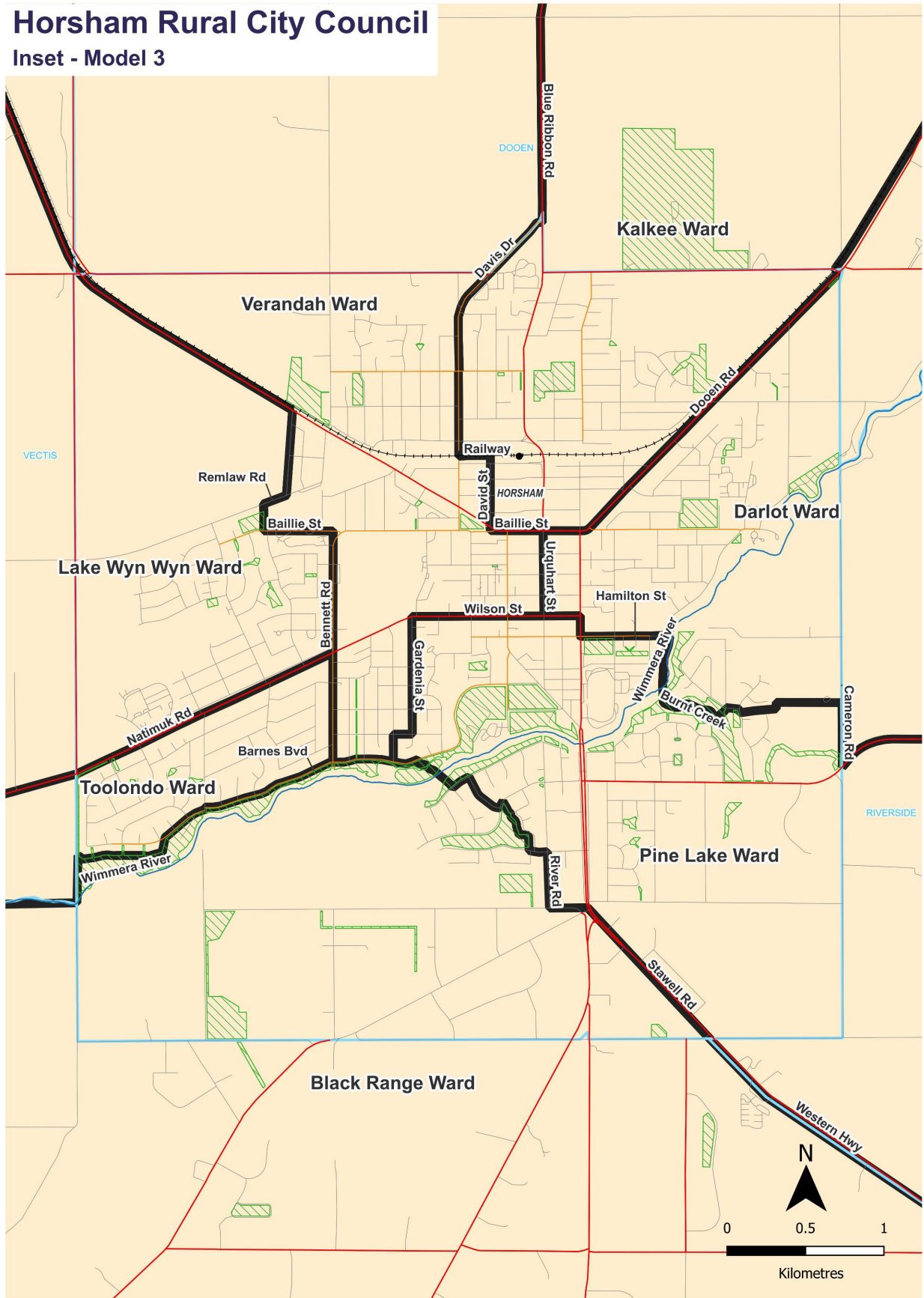


Copyright © 2023 - State Government of Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

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.

Horsham Rural City Council

Inset - Model 3



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.

