

Local council electoral structure review

Preliminary Report

Hume City Council

November 2023

Acknowledgement of Country

The electoral representation advisory panel acknowledges the Wurundjeri 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

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1	25 October 2023	Ms Julie Eisenbise
1	25 October 2023	Mr Tim Presnell
1	24 October 2023	Ms Dana Fleming

Version approval

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Executive summary

An electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government is reviewing the electoral structure of Hume 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), Hume 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 Hume 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 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 22 November 2023. If any response submitters wish to speak at a public hearing, the panel will hold an online

public hearing on Wednesday 29 November. Following this, the panel will present its final recommendation to the Minister on Wednesday 24 January 2024.

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 Hume City Council) must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

For Hume 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 Hume City Council has 3 members:

- Ms Julie Eisenbise (Chairperson)
- Mr Tim Presnell
- Deputy Electoral Commissioner Ms Dana Fleming.

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 Hume City 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.

Hume City Council was also offered and took 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 Hume 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 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 Hume 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 Hume 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 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 Hume City Council

Profile

Hume City Council is 20 km north-west of the Melbourne CBD and spans an area of about 503 km². The council sits at the rural-urban interface with Macedon Ranges and Mitchell shire councils to its north and the metropolitan councils of Brimbank, Merri-bek and Moonee Ponds city councils to its south. It is bordered by Melton City Council to its west and Whittlesea City Council to the east, with which it shares similar characteristics including rapid population growth.

Hume is home to Melbourne Airport, which is the main airport servicing the Greater Melbourne area. Flight corridors over the council area vary depending on wind conditions. Flights are able to operate out of Melbourne Airport without a curfew due to the large wedge of non-urbanised land which bisects the two main growth corridors in the council area. Hume City Council includes a mix of urban suburbs in the south-east, major areas of growth stretching to its northern boundaries, the satellite town of Sunbury in the north-west and large stretches of farmland throughout. Merri Creek forms a strong eastern boundary and likewise the Calder Freeway and Maribyrnong River in the west and south.

The Traditional Custodians of the land in Hume City Council are the Wurundjeri people.

Landscape

Most of the population live in the east of the council area along the Hume growth corridor, which straddles the main north-south transport routes. It includes residential, commercial and industrial areas and various existing and planned activity centres in Broadmeadows, Gladstone Park, Roxburgh Park, Craigieburn, Donnybrook (Cloverton) and Mickleham (Merrifield). The Somerton industrial zone is located along the Council's eastern boundary and is vital for Melbourne's manufacturing and shipping needs.

In the north-west of the council area, the satellite town of Sunbury is an important housing, commercial and employment centre, and a key connection point to places inside and outside Hume City Council.

The council area provides important access points to Melbourne's north via major roads like Sydney, Mickleham, Sunbury, Riddell and Lancefield roads, and freeways like the Hume Highway and the Calder and Tullamarine freeways. Hume City Council is also serviced by national freight links and the Upfield, Craigieburn and Sunbury commuter train lines.

Large areas of farmland stretch across the north and throughout much of the centre of the council and south towards Melbourne Airport. Largely uninhabited, these farming areas also include protected zones with some of Victoria's most at-risk remnant vegetation, such as various trees, grasslands, and other plant types. Notable natural features are the Organ Pipes National Park and Woodlands Historic Park in the south-east, along with several other grassland and nature reserves. Spanning the Maribyrnong and Yarra River catchments,

important waterways, such as the Deep, Emu, Jacksons, and Moonee Ponds creeks run through the council area.

Population and community

In 2021 the council area was home to 243,901 people, with Craigieburn (64,178 residents), Sunbury (38,851 residents), and Roxburgh Park (24,129 residents) the most populous suburbs (ABS 2022a, .id 2023a). Forecast to continue growing at a rate of 3% per year annum between 2022 and 2028, the population of the council area will likely approach 395,000 residents by 2041, and 420,000 once all areas marked for growth are developed (Hume City Council 2022). Most of the growth will occur along the northern half of the Hume growth corridor in Mickleham, Craigieburn, Kalkallo, Roxburgh Park and then in the west around the satellite town of Sunbury (Hume City Council 2022).

At the 2021 Census, the median age in the council was 35 years, slightly lower than that for Greater Melbourne. The council area is comprised mostly of family households, at about 80% of the total, which across Greater Melbourne is around 70% (ABS 2022; 2022a). Recent homebuyers are also more common, with about 47% of dwellings owned with mortgage compared with about 37% across Melbourne metropolitan area (ABS 2022; 2022a).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprised 0.8% of the population in 2021, similar to the rate of 0.7% recorded for Greater Melbourne overall (ABS 2022).

The population in the council area is considered very diverse, with nearly 40% of its residents born overseas and almost half speaking a language other than English home (.id 2023a). In some areas, such as Roxburgh Park and Broadmeadows, people born overseas represent well above half the population, whereas in Sunbury less than 20% of residents were born overseas (.id 2023c). The council area is home to significant Indian, Iraqi, and Turkish communities (ABS 2022). Religious diversity is evident with the presence of Catholic, Islamic, and Hindu communities (ABS 2022).

The median household weekly income of \$1,703 is significantly lower than that of Greater Melbourne overall (\$1,901) (ABS 2022a; 2022b). There are large parts of the council area where people experience social disadvantage and some suburbs, such as Roxburgh Park, Meadow Heights and Broadmeadows, are measured as the most socially disadvantaged across Melbourne and the State (ABS 2023).

Current number of councillors and electoral structure

Hume City Council is currently divided into 3 wards with a total of 11 councillors:

- 2 wards with 4 councillors (Aitken and Jacksons Creek wards)
- one ward with 3 councillors (Meadow Valley Ward).

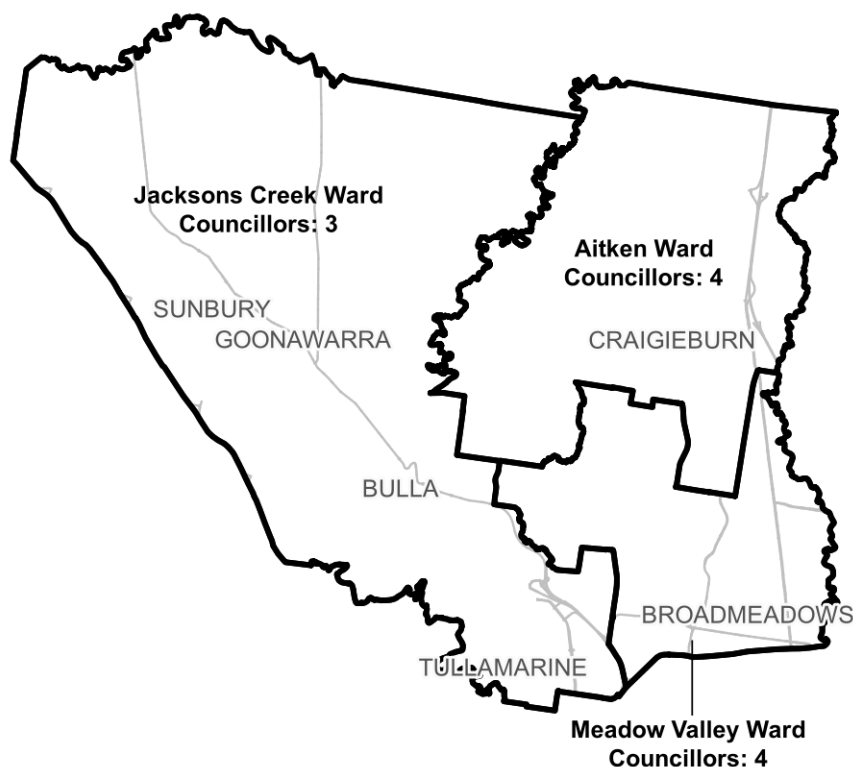


Figure 1: Diagram of current electoral structure of Hume City Council.

There are approximately 170,268 voters in Hume City Council, with an approximate ratio of 15,478 voters per councillor.

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

Last electoral structure review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Hume City 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 Hume City Council adopt a structure of 11 councillors elected from 3 wards (2 wards with 4 councillors and one ward with 3 councillors).

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 Hume City Council in 2020.

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 2020 review of Hume City Council aimed to return the Aitken, Jacksons Creek and Meadow Valley wards to within the permitted +/-10% tolerance before the 2020 local council elections. Visit the [Hume City Council profile page](#) on the VEC website to access a copy of the 2020 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 Hume City Council.

The panel considered the characteristics of Hume City 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 Hume 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
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

Hume City Council currently has 170,268 voters represented by 11 councillors and covers an area of 503 km². While ongoing population growth is forecast for Hume City Council, other comparable councils undergoing similar levels of growth have 11 councillors. As such, 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 Hume City 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 Hume City 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, Hume City Council would adopt a 11-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act.

Model 1 uses Deep Creek as a continuous boundary for 2 wards covering the western part of the council area. A further 9 wards to the east would also include most of the council's population. The town of Sunbury has a population too large for one ward and must be split. Sunbury Road and Emu Creek are used as boundaries to create Mount Holden Ward in the north and Calder Ward in the south. Both wards include large rural areas and parts of Sunbury.

The area east of Deep Creek would be divided into 9 wards. For three wards, Gaayip-Yagila, Yuroke and Tullamarine, the creek would form their western boundary and each would extend eastwards to capture the necessary number of voters.

- Tullamarine in the south would include the airport and the suburbs of Tullamarine, Bulla and Gladstone Park
- Yuroke, in the middle, would include a large section of rural land, the suburb of the same name and a section of Craigieburn
- Gaayip-Yagila in the north would extend east to the Hume Highway to capture Mickleham and a large area of rural land.

Four wards would be arranged along the council's eastern boundary of Merri Creek, with each extending westwards to capture the necessary numbers of voters. Banum Warrick in the far north to encompass Kalkallo and part of Craigieburn. Burt-kur-min Ward extending to the Yuroke locality boundary to capture the southern portion of Craigieburn. Roxburgh Park Ward stretching west to include the suburb of the same name and all of Somerton along the Merri

Creek boundary. Bababi Marning in the south would include Campbellfield, and north of Barry Road would extend west to include Meadow Heights and Coolaroo.

In the south of the council area, west of the railway line to Moonee Ponds Creek the suburbs of Broadmeadows, Jacana and Dallas would be brought together in Merlynston Creek Ward.

Similar to other models, there would be a ward created in the centre of the council area, which in Model 1 would be centred around Greenvale.

Although Model 1 provides a reasonable division of the voters across wards and in many cases maintains suburbs within wards, the panel identified a number of potential drawbacks. For instance, the residential zones in Bababi Marning Ward would be disjointed by industrial sections. Yuroke Ward would amalgamate the western part of Craigieburn with a minor portion of Greenvale, which may not adequately capture geographic communities of interest.

Due to ongoing growth and the uneven distribution of population across the council area, it was not always possible to use clear roads or other features to identify boundaries. In the north-eastern portion of the council main roads could not be used as boundaries to separate Gaayip-Yagila, Banum Warrick and Yuroke wards. Other ward boundaries, such as the division between Burt-kur-min and Greenvale wards, may not be easily identifiable for locals.

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

Under this model, Hume City 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 uses the same Deep Creek boundary used in Model 1 to create 2 wards in the western half of the council and 9 wards in the east, deviating slightly in the south to place Bulla in Calder Ward with the more rural areas of the council.

As with Model 1, 3 wards would extend east from Deep Creek. Greenvale would be incorporated with the semi-rural areas to the south of Craigieburn Road into Woodlands Ward, Tullamarine Ward would be similar to Model 1 but lose Bulla, and Gaayip-Yagila Ward would extend south to capture Yuroke.

Model 2 maintains the approach of wards originating from Merri Creek, but in Model 2 Merlynston Creek Ward would extend east to create a total of 5 Merri Creek-based wards.

Aitken North Ward in the centre of the eastern region would capture parts of Craigieburn and Mickleham.

Model 2 introduces certain complexities. Wards like Broadmeadows Valley, Aitken South, and Aitken North are unusually shaped. Notably, the suburb of Broadmeadows would be split into 2 wards, which could pose identification challenges for residents. Similarly, Attwood would be split between Woodlands and Tullamarine wards.

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

Under this model, Hume City 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 uses Deep Creek continuously as in Model 1 to create 2 wards in the west and 9 wards in the east. The division of the western half of the council differs to models 1 and 2. This sees greater use of Sunbury Road as a boundary, creating Emu Creek Ward in the north and Calder Ward in the south.

Model 3, as with Model 2, would have 3 wards extending east from Deep Creek. Bulla would be captured within Woodlands Ward alongside Greenvale and the semi-rural areas to the south of Craigieburn Road. Tullamarine Ward would absorb Attwood, and Yubup Ward would capture a different part of Yuroke compared to Model 2. Gaayip-Yagila Ward would include part of Mickleham, but not extend as far east as in models 1 and 2.

Model 3 would also maintain the same approach as Model 1 in the east of the council area. Four wards sitting alongside Merri Creek and extending west to capture voters in the council's most populated suburbs. An important point of difference is that Model 3 uses Aitken Boulevard as the western boundary for the new Gaayip-Yagila Ward and the wards of Aitken East, Roxburgh Park and Bababi Marning would be configured differently.

Aitken West Ward would be located in the centre of the eastern side of the council, sharing Aitken Boulevard as a boundary with Aitken West Ward, and capturing a different area of Craigieburn and northern pockets of Greenvale. Merlynston Creek Ward is nearly identical to that of Model 1.

A potential disadvantage of Model 3 is the boundary between Gaayip-Yagila and Yubup wards. This consists of some small streets and property boundaries, which may not be as easy for residents to identify. The equivalent wards in models 1 and 2 use more prominent boundaries, such as the Hume Freeway.

Summary

In summary, introducing single-councillor wards represents a large electoral structure change for Hume City 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.

All 3 models have 2 large wards covering the west and dividing Sunbury, as the town is too large for one ward. They vary in terms of the boundary used to separate them from the other 9 wards. Models 1 and 3 use Deep Creek continuously, whereas Model 2 uses roads and localities to group Bulla into Calder Ward. Models 1 and 2 use Emu Creek and Sunbury Road as boundaries, while Model 3 forgoes the use of Emu Creek. All 3 models use the same Reservoir Road boundary to split the town of Sunbury.

Models 1, 2 and 3 have applied the same approach in placing 3 of the eastern wards on Deep Creek and at least 4 on Merri Creek, with one ward left to capture the remaining populations that could not be accommodated in creek-based wards.

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

Model 1

Hume City Council has 11 councillors and is divided into 11 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Bababi Marning Ward, Banum Warrik Ward, Burt-kur-min Ward, Calder Ward, Gaayip-Yagila Ward, Greenvale Ward, Merlynston Creek Ward, Mount Holden Ward, Roxburgh Park Ward, Tullamarine Ward, Yuroke Ward.

Model 2

Hume City Council has 11 councillors and is divided into 11 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Aitken North Ward, Aitken South Ward, Banum Warrik Ward, Broadmeadows Valley Ward, Calder Ward, Gaayip-Yagila Ward, Merlynston Creek Ward, Mount Holden Ward, Roxburgh Park Ward, Tullamarine Ward, Woodlands Ward.

Model 3

Hume City Council has 11 councillors and is divided into 11 wards with one councillor per ward.

Ward names: Aitken East Ward, Aitken West Ward, Bababi Marning Ward, Calder Ward, Emu Creek Ward, Gaayip-Yagila Ward, Merlynston Creek Ward, Roxburgh Park Ward, Tullamarine Ward, Woodlands Ward, Yubup 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

Bababi Marning ward name is new and based on the registered name of grasslands found within the ward.

Banum Warrik and Gaayip-Yagila ward names are new and are based on the registered names of primary schools found within each ward.

Burt-kur-min ward name is new and based on the registered name of a park found within the ward.

Calder ward name is new and based on the registered name of a road found within the ward.

Greenvale, Roxburgh Park, Tullamarine, and Yuroke ward names are new and based on registered names of localities found within each ward.

Merlynston Creek ward name is new and based on the registered name of a creek found within the ward.

Mount Holden ward name is new and based on the registered name of a mountain found within the ward.

Model 2

Banum Warrick, Calder, Gaayip-Yagila, Marlynston Creek, Mount Holden, Roxburgh Park and Tullamarine ward names are as outlined above for Model 1.

Aitken North and Aitken South ward names are new and based on the current ward name of Aitken.

Broadmeadows Valley and Woodlands ward names are new and are based on registered names of parks found within each ward.

Model 3

Bababi Marning ward name is outlined above for Model 1.

Woodlands ward name is outlined above for Model 2.

Banum Warrick, Calder, Gaayip-Yagila, Marlynston Creek, Mount Holden, Roxburgh Park and Tullamarine ward names are as outlined above for Model 1 and Model 2.

Aitken East and Aitken West ward names are new and based on the current ward name of Aitken.

Emu Creek ward name is new and based on the registered name of a creek found within the ward.

Yubup ward name is new and based on the registered name of a primary school found within the 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 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>Hume.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 22 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: 10 am

Date: Wednesday 29 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 24 January 2024. The Minister will consider the final reports, including any determination to make the reports publicly available. Any change to the electoral structure of Hume 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) (2022a) [Hume 2021 Census All persons QuickStats](#), ABS, accessed 1 September 2023.

—(2022b) [Greater Melbourne 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)

Hume City Council (2023) [Hume planning scheme](#), Hume City Council, accessed 1 September 2023.

.id (informed decisions) (2023) [Hume City, Community profile](#), .id, accessed 1 September 2023.

—(2023a) [Hume City, Locality snapshots](#), .id, accessed 1 September 2023.

—(2023b) [Hume City, Need for assistance](#), .id, accessed 1 September 2023.

—(2023c) [City of Hume, People born overseas](#), .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).	28
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).	31

Hume City Council

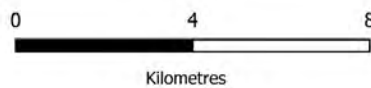
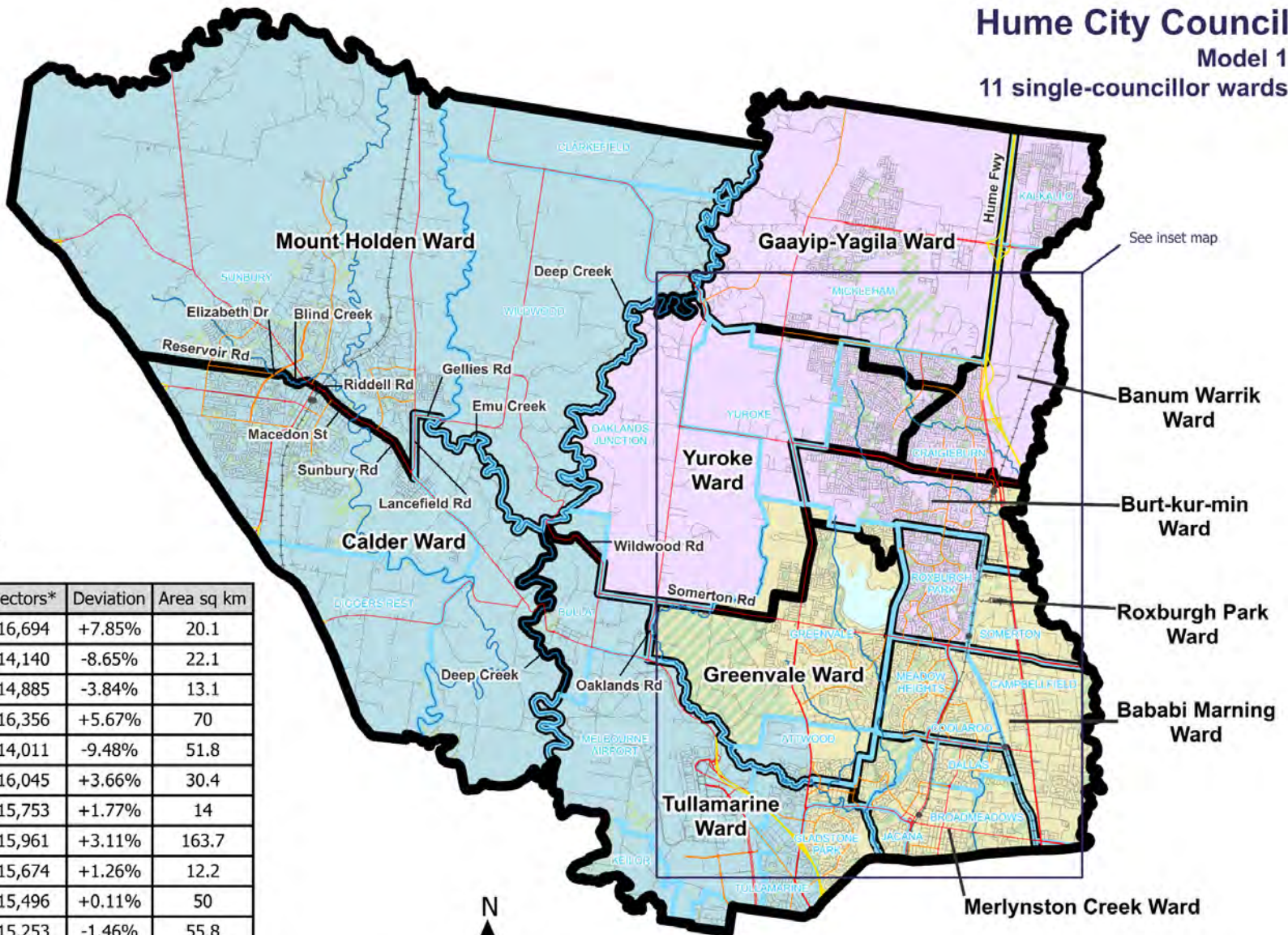
Model 1

11 single-councillor wards

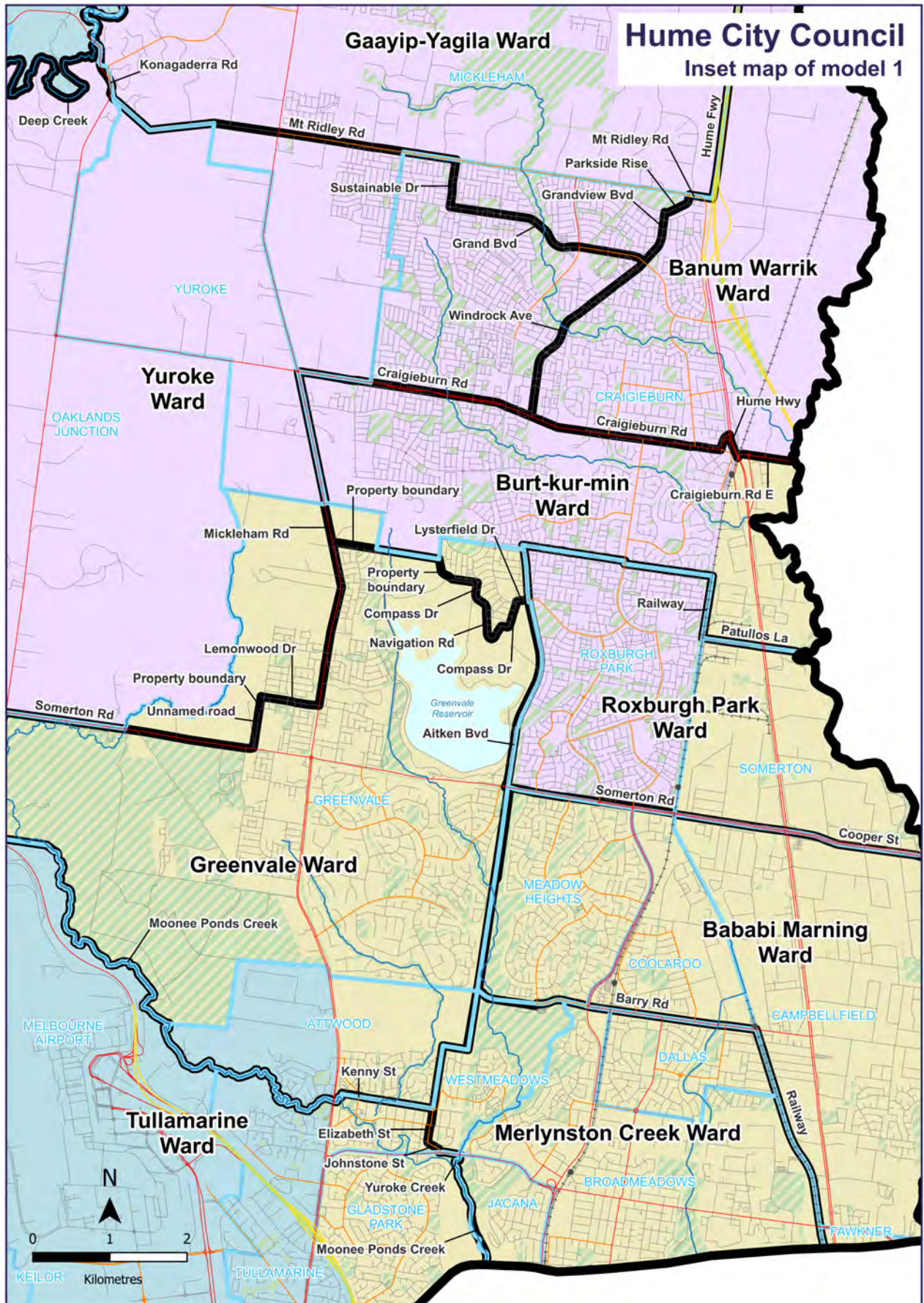
- Legend**
- Proposed boundaries
 - Existing ward(s)**
 - Aitken
 - Jacksons Creek
 - Meadow Valley
 - Map symbols**
 - Freeways
 - Main roads
 - Collector roads
 - Minor roads
 - Railways
 - Railway stations
 - Rivers & creeks
 - Lakes
 - Parks & reserves
 - Locality boundaries

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Bababi Marning	16,694	+7.85%	20.1
Banum Warrik	14,140	-8.65%	22.1
Burt-Kur-Min	14,885	-3.84%	13.1
Calder	16,356	+5.67%	70
Gaayip-Yagila	14,011	-9.48%	51.8
Greenvale	16,045	+3.66%	30.4
Merlynston Creek	15,753	+1.77%	14
Mount Holden	15,961	+3.11%	163.7
Roxburgh Park	15,674	+1.26%	12.2
Tullamarine	15,496	+0.11%	50
Yuroke	15,253	-1.46%	55.8
Total	170,268		503
Average	15,479		47.5

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023



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 Layers for alignment:
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Data for Model 1

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area# (square km)
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Banum Warrik	14,140	-8.65%	22.1
Burt-Kur-Min	14,885	-3.84%	13.1
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Tullamarine	15,496	+0.11%	50.0
Yuroke	15,253	-1.46%	55.8
Total	170,268	n/a	503
Average	15,479	n/a	45.7

*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).

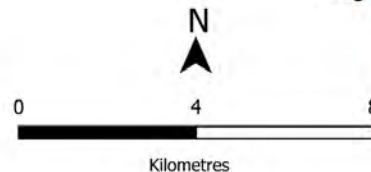
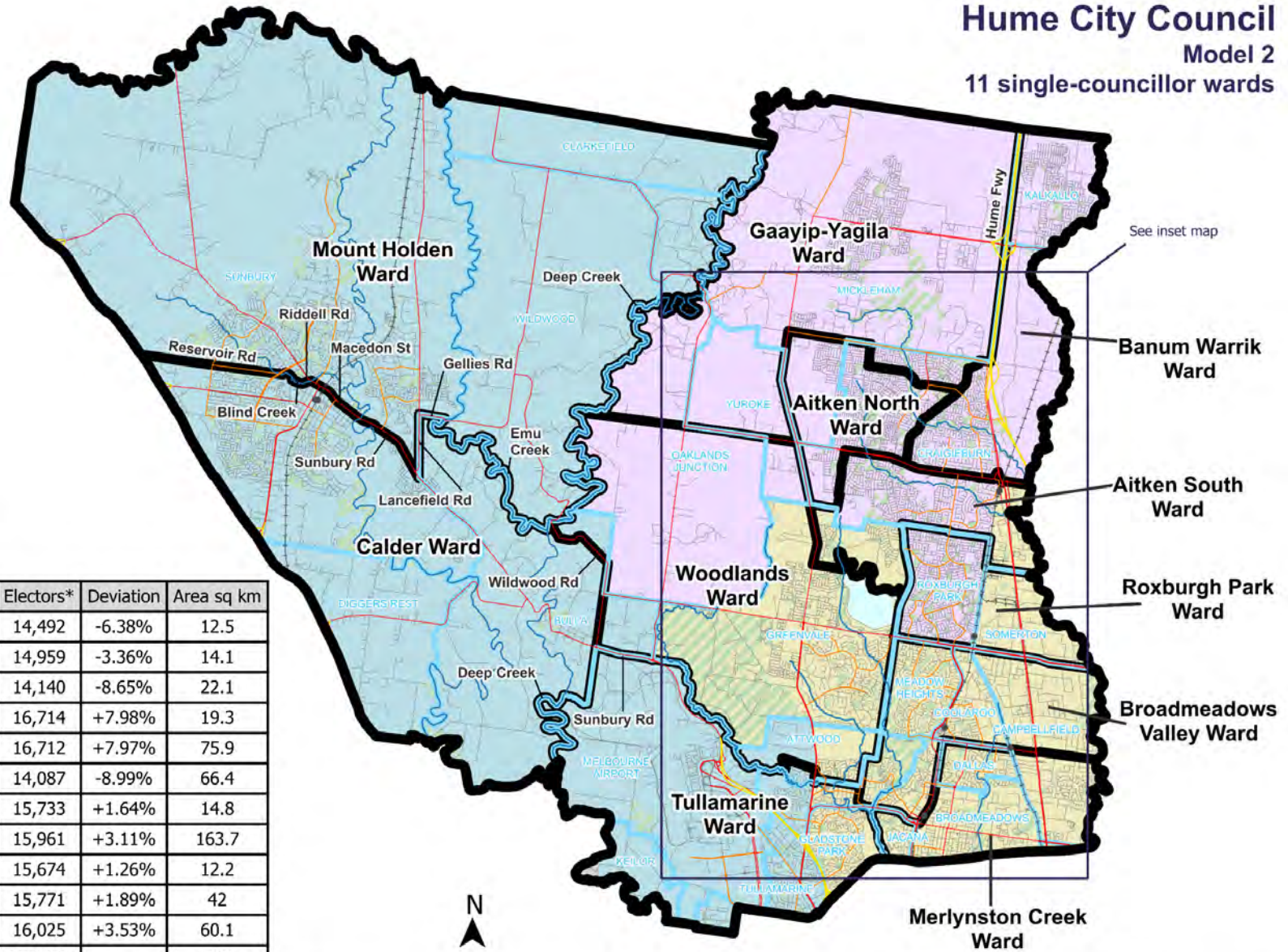
Hume City Council Model 2 11 single-councillor wards


Legend

-  Proposed boundaries
- Existing ward(s)**
-  Aitken
-  Jacksons Creek
-  Meadow Valley
- Map symbols**
-  Freeways
-  Main roads
-  Collector roads
-  Minor roads
-  Railways
-  Railway stations
-  Rivers & creeks
-  Lakes
-  Parks & reserves
-  Locality boundaries

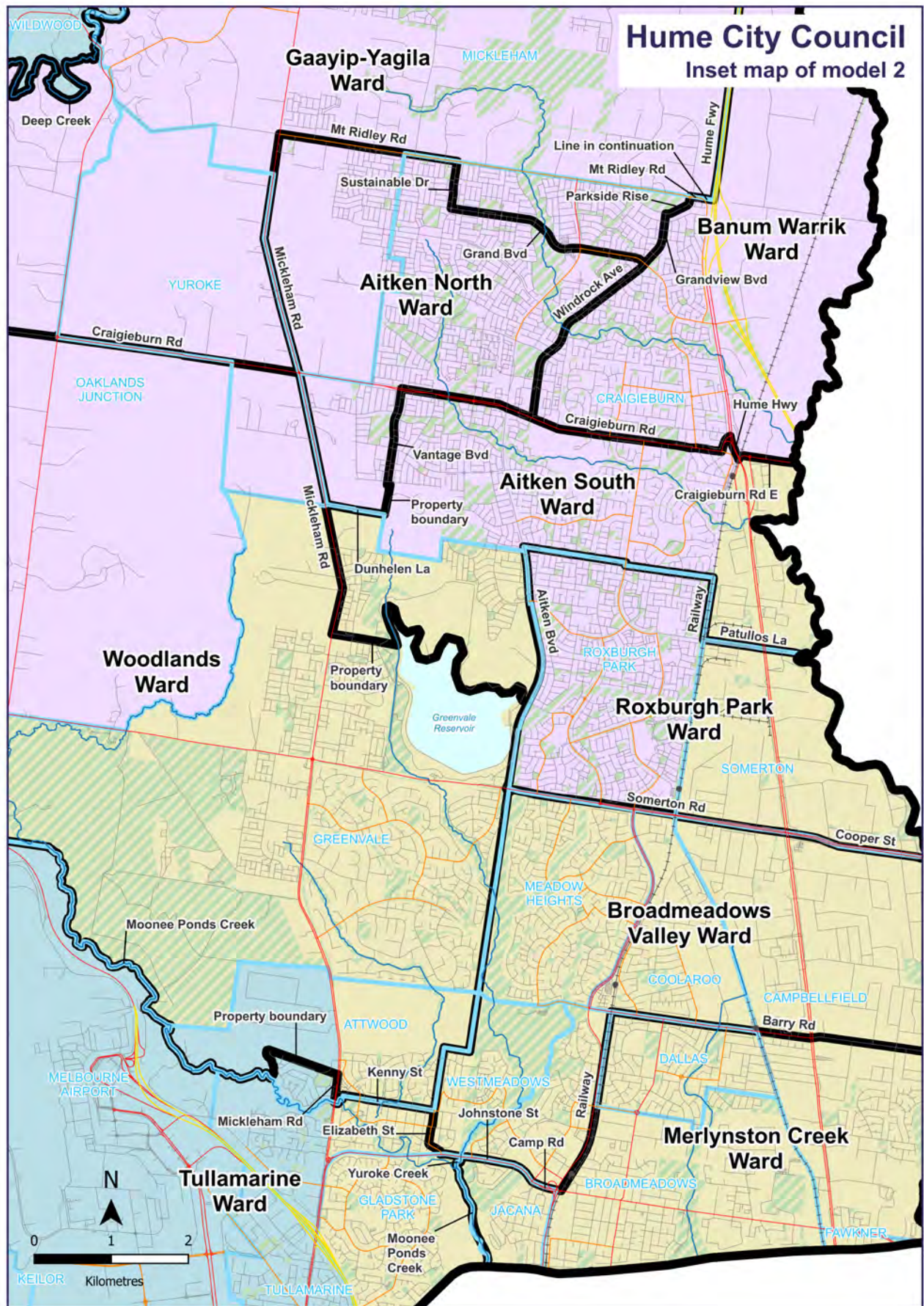
Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Aitken North	14,492	-6.38%	12.5
Aitken South	14,959	-3.36%	14.1
Banum Warrik	14,140	-8.65%	22.1
Broadmeadows Valley	16,714	+7.98%	19.3
Calder	16,712	+7.97%	75.9
Gaayip-Yagila	14,087	-8.99%	66.4
Merlynston Creek	15,733	+1.64%	14.8
Mount Holden	15,961	+3.11%	163.7
Roxburgh Park	15,674	+1.26%	12.2
Tullamarine	15,771	+1.89%	42
Woodlands	16,025	+3.53%	60.1
Total	170,268		503
Average	15,479		45.7

*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023



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Data for Model 2

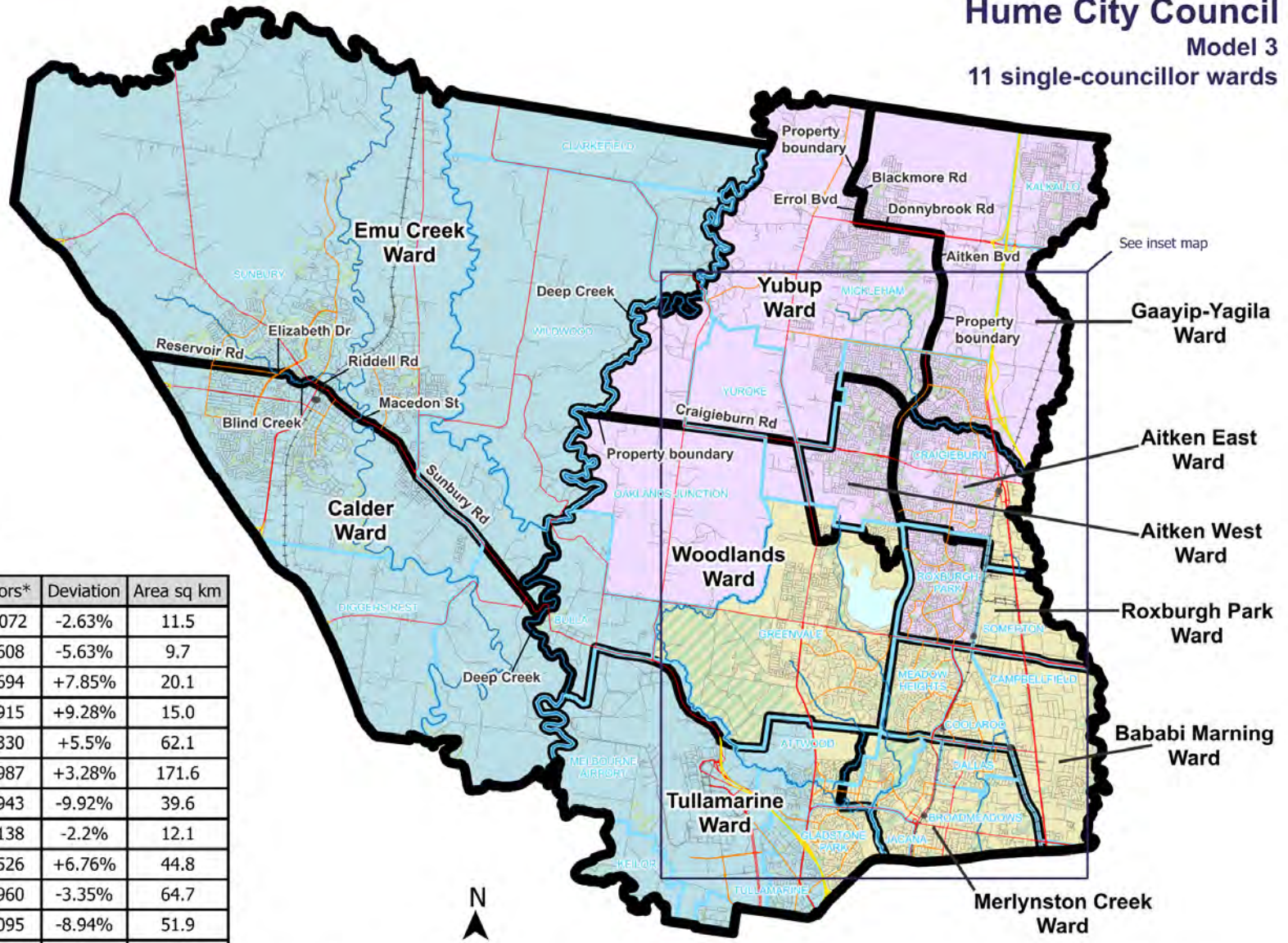
Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area# (square km)
Aitken North	14,492	-6.38%	12.5
Aitken South	14,959	-3.36%	14.1
Banum Warrik	14,140	-8.65%	22.1
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Total	170,268	n/a	503
Average	15,479	n/a	45.7

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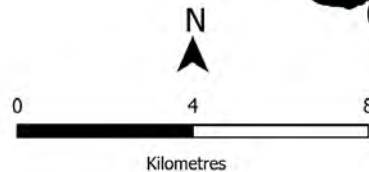
Hume City Council Model 3 11 single-councillor wards

- Legend**
- Proposed boundaries
 - Existing ward(s)**
 - Aitken
 - Jacksons Creek
 - Meadow Valley
 - 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
Aitken East	15,072	-2.63%	11.5
Aitken West	14,608	-5.63%	9.7
Bababi Marning	16,694	+7.85%	20.1
Merylston Creek	16,915	+9.28%	15.0
Calder	16,330	+5.5%	62.1
Emu Creek	15,987	+3.28%	171.6
Gaayip-Yagila	13,943	-9.92%	39.6
Roxburgh Park	15,138	-2.2%	12.1
Tullamarine	16,526	+6.76%	44.8
Woodlands	14,960	-3.35%	64.7
Yubup	14,095	-8.94%	51.9
Total	170,268		503
Average	15,479		45.7

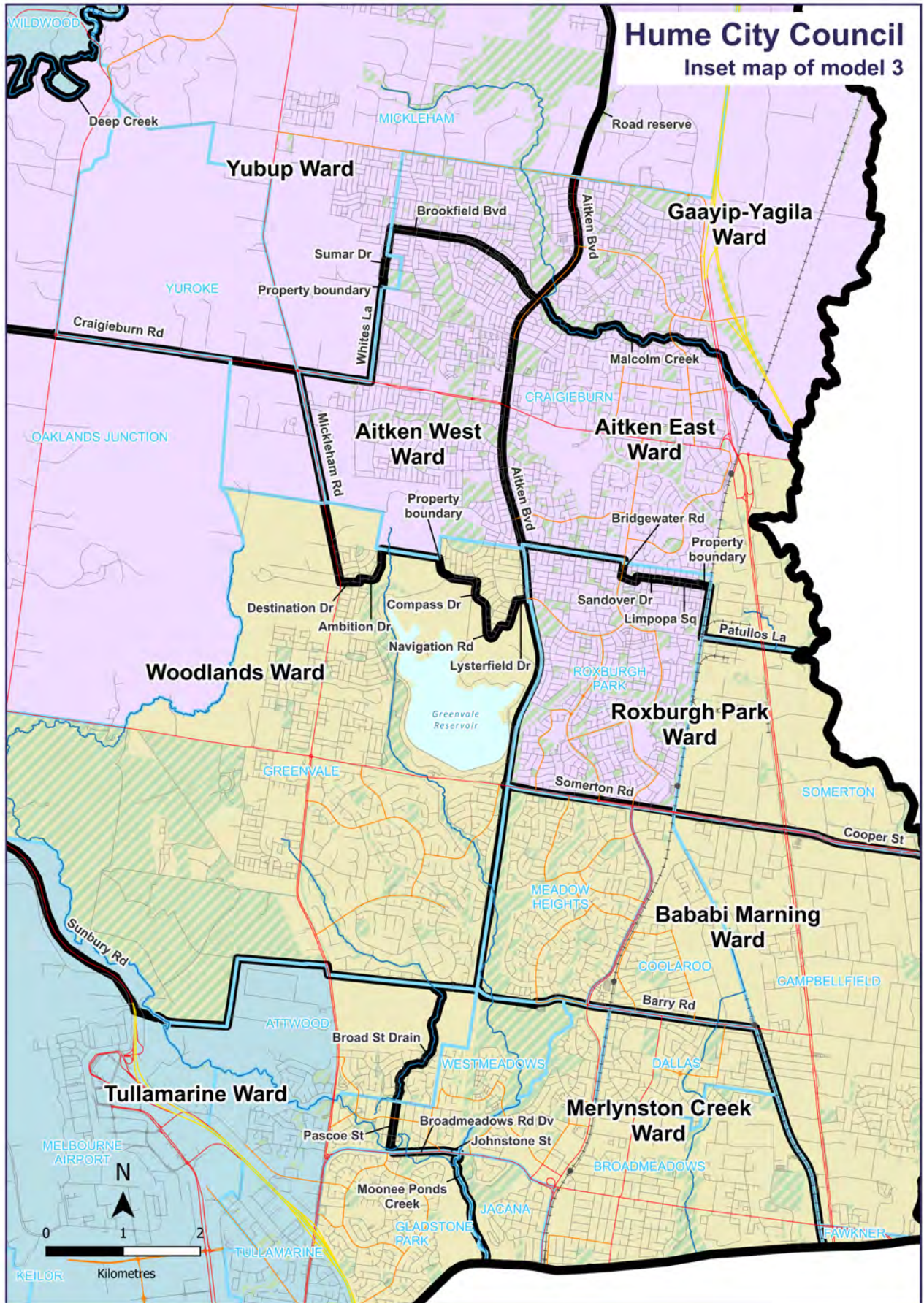
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Data for Model 1

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