

**Casey City Council  
Subdivision Review**

**Subdivision Review Report**

A large, light gray watermark of the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) logo is centered on the page. The logo consists of the letters 'VEC' in a bold, sans-serif font, with the 'V' and 'E' slanted. The letters are white and set against a light gray oval background that is part of the overall page design.

**VEC**

21 April 2008



---

## 1 Summary of recommendation

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is required under legislation for the electoral subdivision review to make a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government as to the location of the ward boundaries for the City of Casey (s.219L *Local Government Act 1989*). The VEC recommends that the boundaries for the following wards be changed:

- Four Oaks; and
- Edrington.

The recommended location of the new ward boundaries can be seen in the map at the back of this Report. The black boundary lines represent the recommended ward boundaries.

## 2 Background

### 2.1 Legislative basis

Subdivision reviews are allowed for by the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act). Their purpose is to consider the location of a municipality's ward boundaries to ensure the number of electors represented by each councillor is within 10% of the average number of electors represented by all councillors (compliance may be determined by reference to the number of electors at the time of the review or the projected number electors as at the entitlement date for the next general election).

Subdivision review provisions only apply to councils:

- that are not scheduled to conduct an electoral representation review before the next general election; and
- where, two years before the council is to hold a general election, the VEC considers that the boundaries for the wards of the Council are unlikely to meet the equality requirements of the legislation as at the time of their next general election.

(Based on projected enrolment estimates as at 31 October 2006, the VEC considered that the City of Casey would have two wards (Edrington and Springfield) that were unlikely to conform with the equality requirements of the legislation).

A subdivision review is only required where the Minister for Local Government directs a Council to which the subdivision provisions apply to appoint an electoral commission to conduct a review.

The Casey City Council received notice in January 2007 pursuant to section 219K of the Act from the Minister for Local Government that the Council must appoint an electoral commission to conduct an independent subdivision review. The Casey City Council appointed the VEC to conduct the review.

### 2.2 Scope of the review

Subdivision reviews can **only** look at the location of ward boundaries. They **cannot** look at the total number of councillors, the number of councillors in a ward, ward names, the external boundaries of a municipality, whether a municipality should be divided into two municipalities or amalgamated or any other such matters.

Electoral representation reviews (as opposed to subdivision reviews) consider a broader range of topics, including the number of councillors, whether or not there should be wards, how many councillors there should be in a ward and how many wards there should be (if any). The Casey City Council will undergo an electoral representation review considering these matters in 2011 or 2012.

### 2.3 The VEC's experience

The VEC has over ten years' experience in developing municipal ward boundaries, being contracted by councils to prepare options for their consideration and conducting independent electoral representation reviews of most of Victoria's municipalities. VEC staff have also worked for the Electoral Boundaries Commission during State redivisions. The VEC uses sophisticated mapping software, and has developed expertise in preparing electoral boundaries that both comply with legislative equality requirements and respect communities of interest.

### 2.4 Electoral structure

The Casey City Council currently has eleven councillors elected from six wards (five wards with two councillors each and one ward with one councillor). The table below shows the number of current and projected electors in the existing wards as at 4 February 2008.

Ward	Councillors	Current Electors	Current Deviation	Projected Electors	Projected Deviation	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )
Balla Balla	1	12,704	-8.17%	13,644	-4.37%	215.738
Edrington	2	29,577	+6.90%	31,580	+10.67%	60.252
Four Oaks	2	25,195	-8.93%	25,222	-11.61%	28.846
Mayfield	2	26,860	-2.92%	28,076	-1.61%	38.304
River Gum	2	27,741	+0.27%	28,008	-1.84%	26.231
Springfield	2	30,102	+8.80%	30,403	+6.55%	27.196
<b>Totals for all Electorates</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>152,179</b>		<b>156,933</b>		<b>396.567</b>
Average per Councillor		13,834		14,267		36.05

Current Electors is derived from the number of legislative assembly electors enrolled on the State roll for the City of Casey and the number of electors from council records that have a council entitlement to be enrolled.

Projected Electors is based on the number of current electors plus the estimated number of electors likely to be enrolled as at 3 October 2008 (entitlement date for the 2008 Casey City Council elections). The VEC uses information from Department of Planning and Community Development and Council regarding housing developments, recent trends in enrolment and population estimates from the Department of Sustainability and Environment to determine its projected estimates (refer Section 6.1 for more information on elector projections).

---

### 3 Subdivision review process

- 3.1 An up-to-date voters roll is prepared to determine the number of electors currently enrolled as at the time of the review and the projected number of electors likely to be enrolled at the time of the next general election.
- 3.2 Changes are modelled to the location of ward boundaries to achieve the equality requirements referred to in Section 2.1 using the number of electors projected to be electors on the entitlement date for the next general election.
- 3.3 Where possible, a “minimal change” approach is used when moving the location of ward boundaries to ensure that changes affect as few electors as possible. (It should be noted that changes to the boundaries of wards that do not conform to the equal enrolment principles generally have a flow-on effect and changes may need to be made to the boundaries of other wards, even though they may currently conform to the equal enrolment principles.)
- 3.4 When modelling changes to ward boundaries, due consideration is given to the following factors:
  - relevant issues that were considered as part of the preceding representation review;
  - area and physical features of terrain;
  - means of travel, traffic arteries, and communications and any special difficulties in connection therewith;
  - clear boundary delineators;
  - community or diversity of interests; and
  - the likelihood of changes in the number of electors in the various localities before the next general election.
- 3.5 A map of the proposed boundaries is published in the newspapers used by Council circulating within the municipality informing the community of the changes and inviting written suggestions or objections about the proposed changes.
- 3.6 A report containing a detailed map of the proposed boundaries together with the rationale for the boundary changes and information about the process is made available for inspection at the offices of the VEC and Council. Alternatively, the report can be downloaded from the VEC's website or hard copies can be requested by contacting the VEC.
- 3.7 Written suggestions and objections are considered and if necessary, a public hearing is held where submitters who request to make an oral submission in support of their written submission can be heard.
- 3.8 The VEC prepares a Report containing its final recommendation, which is lodged with the Minister for Local Government not later than six months before the general election in respect of which the subdivision review is to be implemented. Copies of the Subdivision Review Report are sent to Council and made available on the VEC website.

---

## **4 Public Involvement**

### **4.1 Public Information**

The VEC informed the community about the electoral subdivision review through:

- advertising in local newspapers;
- communicating with the City of Casey community through the use of media releases and the VEC website;
- establishing a helpline for responding to questions from the community;
- releasing a Proposed Ward Boundaries Report on 3 March 2008 and making the report available at the Casey City Council offices, at the VEC office and on the VEC website;
- publishing submissions in response to the proposed ward boundaries on the VEC website; and
- providing the opportunity for people to address the VEC in person.

### **4.2 Advertising**

The VEC published a public notice of the review, detailing the process, advising that the Proposed Ward Boundaries Report had been released and indicating the proposed new ward boundaries. The notice appeared in the *Cranbourne Journal*, the *Cranbourne News* and the *Berwick News* between 3 and 6 March 2008. See Appendix 7.1

### **4.3 Media Releases**

A media release designed to supplement the paid advertising was distributed to the *Cranbourne News*, the *Cranbourne Journal* and the *Berwick News*. See Appendix 7.2

### **4.4 VEC website**

The VEC used its website to deliver information and to provide transparency in the review process. Submissions received by the deadline were posted on the website to enable public access. The VEC's website can be viewed at [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au).

### **4.5 Helpline**

The VEC established a helpline to assist with public enquiries concerning the electoral subdivision review process.

## **5 Proposed Ward Boundaries Report**

The VEC's Proposed Ward Boundaries Report provided details of the VEC's proposed new boundaries and invited public comment on them. In developing the proposed boundary model, the VEC aimed to achieve the best possible balance between the criteria outlined under 3.2 to 3.4. Above all, it is essential that the number of electors represented by each councillor is within 10% (plus or minus) of the average number of electors represented by all councillors at the time of the next election.

### **5.1 Submissions**

The VEC received two submissions by the closing time (Thursday, 27 March 2008 – 5:00 pm). Of those submissions, one supported the boundaries proposed by the VEC and one objected to the boundaries proposed by the VEC.

---

The submission supporting the changes (from the Casey City Council) indicated that the Council had considered the Proposed Ward Boundaries Report and supported the boundary changes proposed by the VEC.

The submission opposing the changes argued that the area being moved from Edrington Ward into Four Oaks Ward is of semi-rural nature and electors in that area would lose their country voice under the proposed boundary changes. The submitter did not suggest an alternative way to bring the voter numbers in Casey's wards to within the legislative tolerance.

A list of the submitters is provided in Appendix 7.3. Copies of the submissions can be downloaded from the VEC website, [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au).

## **5.2 Public Hearing**

The Council indicated that they appreciated the opportunity to submit comments but as they supported the proposed boundaries they would not be submitting any further comments. The other submitter did not indicate in their submission that they wished to speak at the public hearing. The VEC confirmed this by contacting the submitter by telephone. As neither of the submitters wished to speak to their submissions, the planned public hearing was not held.

## **6 Findings and recommendation**

### **6.1 The VEC's proposed ward boundaries**

In the Proposed Ward Boundaries Report the VEC noted that for the wards to conform to the equality requirements of the legislation at the next election it was necessary to alter the boundaries so there were fewer electors in Edrington Ward and more electors in Four Oaks Ward.

The table of voter statistics under Section 2.4 shows that currently there are no wards that have a deviation outside the 10% allowed by legislation. However, it is likely that at the time of the next election, the deviations for both Four Oaks Ward and Edrington Ward will be outside the 10% tolerance.

Although projected enrolment estimates at 31 October 2006 indicated that Springfield Ward was unlikely to conform to the equality requirements at the time of the next general election, the updated enrolment statistics suggest that enrolment in the Springfield Ward has peaked and the deviation in the number of voters will decline in the run-up to the elections in November 2008 as development occurs elsewhere within the municipality.

The VEC is using the number of electors projected to be electors as at the time of the next general election as compliance to the equality provisions of the legislation referred to in Section 2.1. The projected elector estimates are subject to variation as they are dependant upon many factors, some of which may or may not occur. The projected elector estimates are at the high end of the projection scale and the VEC is confident that the number of electors in each of the proposed wards at the time of the next election will be no more than that projected.

To achieve the increase in the number of electors in Four Oaks Ward and reduction in the number of electors in Edrington Ward, the VEC suggested that the most preferable change was to include the area bounded by Churchill Park Drive, Hallam North Road, Heatherton Road, Belgrave Hallam Road, Narre Warren North Road, the

---

Narre Warren/Narre Warren North locality boundary, the Narre Warren North/Harkaway locality boundary and the external municipal boundary in Four Oaks Ward.

## **6.2 The proposed boundaries are tested**

By releasing the proposed boundaries the community in the City of Casey had the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes before the VEC makes a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government.

As previously indicated, two submissions were received in response to the proposed boundaries –one supporting the proposed changes and one opposing them.

The submitter opposing the proposed changes argued that the semi-rural Narre Warren North area being transferred to Four Oaks Ward would lose its country voice under the proposed change. However, the VEC notes that part of the semi-rural Narre Warren North area is already located in the Four Oaks Ward. The VEC's proposed change places all of Narre Warren North in one ward, rather than split between two wards (as it is currently). This gives the entire semi-rural area of Narre Warren North a higher voter-to-councillor ratio that currently exists in either the Four Oaks Ward or Edrington Ward.

Overall, the VEC notes that the option with the smallest impact is to move the boundary between Four Oaks and Edrington wards, and considers that bringing all of Narre Warren North into Four Oaks Ward is the best way to do this.

## **6.3 Recommendation**

Having taken into account all relevant factors, the VEC recommends that the ward boundaries as presented in the Proposed Ward Boundaries Report and detailed in the map at the end of this Report be adopted for the City of Casey.

Steve Tully  
Electoral Commissioner



## 7 Appendices

### 7.1 Public notice of the subdivision review

#### Electoral Subdivision Review Casey City Council

##### Minor Adjustment to Ward Boundaries

To prepare for the November council elections, a subdivision review will be conducted. The number of voters represented by each councillor should be similar; a subdivision review will ensure this balance. The review only deals with the ward boundaries, and will not change the number of councillors, the number of councillors per ward, the voting method or the ward names.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has been appointed by the Casey City Council to conduct the review. The VEC has released a **Proposed Ward Boundaries Report**. The proposed boundary changes, which realign elector numbers within acceptable tolerances, can be seen in the map on the right.

##### How can you get involved?

The VEC is asking for public feedback on the proposed ward boundaries. All interested individuals and groups are asked to provide written submissions by 5.00 pm, 27 March 2008. The Proposed Ward Boundaries Report contains information on how to make a submission and is available from the VEC at [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au) or on 13 18 32. Copies are also available for viewing at the Council Offices, Magid Drive, Narre Warren.

Submitters who ask to speak in support of their submission can do so at a public hearing on 2 April 2008 at 6.30 pm. This hearing will be at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Magid Drive, Narre Warren.

Submissions can be sent to the VEC at:

- Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000;
- [casey.review@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:casey.review@vec.vic.gov.au); or
- faxed to (03) 9629 9330.

##### What does the VEC consider?

When recommending ward boundaries, the VEC's considerations will include:

- communities of interest;
- clear, identifiable boundaries; and
- geographic features that link or divide communities.

Above all, it is essential that the voter numbers represented by each councillor are within 10% of the average for the municipality at the next elections.

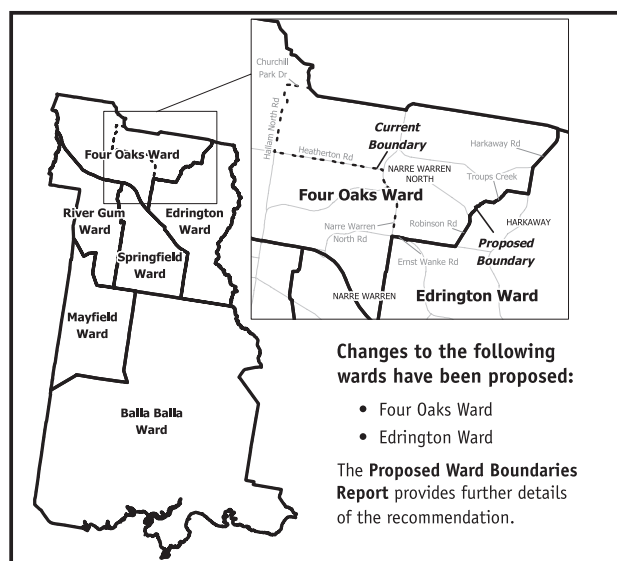
##### Final recommendation

On 21 April 2008, a Final Report will be sent to the Minister for Local Government and made available to the public. If accepted, the changes will come into effect for the Casey City Council elections in November 2008.

Subdivision review publications are available in large print upon request.

For further information visit [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au) or call 13 18 32

##### Preliminary Recommendation



##### For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

- ገጽ ፳፻፲፱ 9209 0190 Amharic • 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian
- Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese)
- ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Cambodian • ڊري 9209 0193 Dari • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek
- 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian
- 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali
- Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish
- Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian
- All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Victorian Electoral Commission

# Media Release

For release from Monday, 3 March 2008

## **PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON NEW WARD BOUNDARIES FOR THE CITY OF CASEY**

In preparation for the November 2008 local council elections, the ward boundaries in the City of Casey need to be altered so that each person's vote has the same value. The Victorian Electoral Commission has been appointed by the Casey City Council to conduct an electoral subdivision review to recommend new ward boundaries.

The VEC proposes to alter the boundary between Four Oaks Ward and Edrington Ward. The VEC is now seeking feedback on the proposed new ward boundary.

Submissions must be received at the VEC by 5.00 pm on 27 March 2008. A public hearing for people to speak in support of their submissions, if they have requested to do so, will take place at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Magid Drive, Narre Warren on 2 April 2008 at 6.30 pm.

The Preliminary Ward Boundaries Report, which contains details of the recommendation and information on how to make a submission, is available from the VEC or can be downloaded from [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au) Copies are also available for viewing at the Council Offices, Magid Drive, Narre Warren.

"During a subdivision review, ward boundaries are re-drawn so that the 'one vote, one value' principle can apply at the next election," said Mr Steve Tully, Victorian Electoral Commissioner.

On 21 April 2008, the VEC will make a final recommendation which will be sent to the Minister for Local Government and made available to the public. If accepted, the new ward boundaries will come into effect for the local council elections in November 2008.

A subdivision review can only make recommendations to change ward boundaries. The number of councillors in the municipality, number of councillors in each ward, voting method and ward names cannot be altered.

**– ENDS –**

Media releases are available from the VEC website <http://www.vec.vic.gov.au/rrreleases.html>

**For further media information:**

Chris Gribbin  
Victorian Electoral Commission  
Tel: 9299 0737

# Media Fact Sheet

## MAP OF PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION FOR CASEY CITY COUNCIL



---

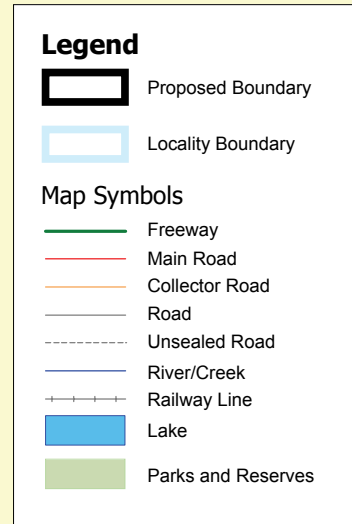
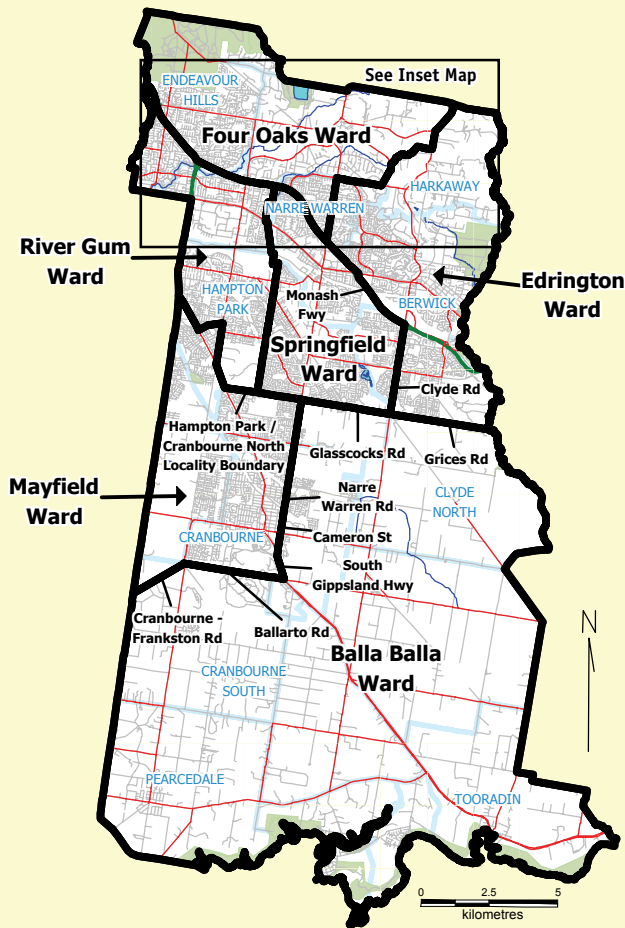
### **7.3 List of people and groups making submissions**

Casey City Council

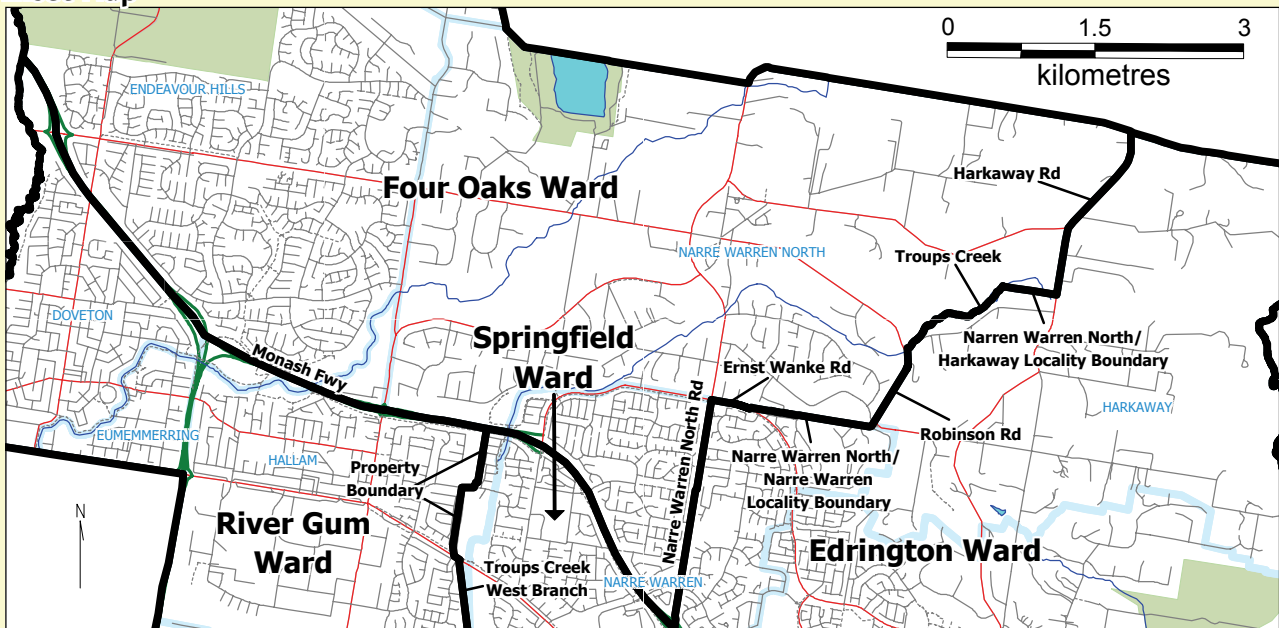
B Eccles

# Casey City Council

## Map of Recommended Option



### Inset Map



### Ward Statistics

Ward	Councillors	Voters at 4 Feb 08	Deviation	Est. Voters at 3 Oct 08	Deviation	Area (sq km)
Balla Balla	1	12,704	-8.17%	13,644	-4.37%	215.738
Edrington	2	27,511	-0.56%	29,328	+2.78%	45.165
Four Oaks	2	27,261	-1.47%	27,474	-3.71%	43.933
Mayfield	2	26,860	-2.92%	28,076	-1.61%	38.304
River Gum	2	27,741	+0.27%	28,008	-1.84%	26.231
Springfield	2	30,102	+8.80%	30,403	+6.55%	27.196
<b>Totals for all Electorates</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>152,179</b>	<b>-8.17% to +8.80%</b>	<b>156,933</b>	<b>-4.37% to +6.55%</b>	<b>396.57</b>
<b>Average per Councillor</b>		<b>13,834</b>		<b>14,267</b>		<b>36.05</b>