

Local council ward boundary review

About Murrindindi Shire Council

The Traditional Custodians of much of the land in Murrindindi Shire Council are the Taungurung People.

With an area of 3,881 km², Murrindindi Shire Council is located in central Victoria, approximately 150 km north-east of the Melbourne CBD. It stretches from the Kinglake Ranges and Great Dividing Range in the south to the Strathbogie Ranges in the north, and from Eildon in the east to Flowerdale in the west. The major towns include Alexandra, Yea, Eildon, Kinglake, Kinglake West and Marysville.

Murrindindi Shire Council is home to many National and State parks and other natural attractions including Kinglake, Lake Eildon and Yarra Ranges National Parks, Cathedral Range State Park and the Goulburn River. Approximately 48% of the council area is forested public land.

Being predominantly rural, the council area has a diverse agricultural base along with forestry, fishing and tourism being the major economic drivers. Tourism is largely focused on the natural environment and outdoor activities.

From a population of 15,197 in 2021, Murrindindi Shire Council is expected to have a low growth rate, reaching 17,455 by 2036. The median age in the shire in 2021 was 50, higher than the Victorian average of 43. The average household size of 2.3 persons was lower than the Victorian average of 2.5.

In 2021, over 80% of people were born in Australia and the most common industries of employment for residents were beef cattle farming, accommodation and hospitals.

Current structure

Murrindindi Shire Council is divided into 7 wards with one councillor per ward. There are 7 councillors in total.

About the review

If a council is subdivided into wards, the number of voters in each ward should be within +/-10% of the average across all wards to comply with the *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)*.

Changes to the population, location of housing areas, and voting entitlements all impact the number of voters in wards.

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, the Minister for Local Government has asked the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to review the ward boundaries for Murrindindi Shire Council.

Adjusting ward boundaries aims to ensure voters are represented equally at the next council general election.

During its review, the VEC will look at Murrindindi Shire Council's:

- enrolled voter numbers
- projected voter numbers
- ward boundary locations.

As a local you know your council area better than anyone. You can have your say on the suggested ward boundary adjustments:

1. in a response submission to the preliminary report
2. at an online public hearing, if you ask to speak in your response submission.

Last review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Murrindindi Shire Council in 2019.

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au to access a copy of the 2019 review final report.

Review process

Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 February

Information sessions

Session 1: 12 noon, Monday 19 February

Session 2: 12 noon, Tuesday 20 February

These sessions will give you more information about the review process. You will be able to register for a session on the VEC website.

Wednesday 21 February

Preliminary report

The VEC will release a preliminary report with one or more options for the ward boundaries on Wednesday 21 February.

You can make a response submission from this date.

Wednesday 13 March

Response submissions

The VEC must receive your submission by 5 pm on Wednesday 13 March.

The VEC will not accept late submissions.

Tuesday 19 March

Public hearing

The VEC will hold an online public hearing if anyone asks to speak about their response submission at 10 am on Tuesday 19 March.

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

Wednesday 17 April

Final report

The VEC will submit a final report to the Minister for Local Government including its advice for the adjustments to ward boundaries on Wednesday 17 April.

The minister will consider the VEC's advice regarding the adjustments. Any change is expected to apply at the next local council general election.


Submission guide

You can download a submission guide from the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au

How to make a submission

 On the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au

@ By email to:
Murrindindi.WardReview@vec.vic.gov.au

 By post to:
Ward boundary review panel
Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins St
Melbourne VIC 3000

Submissions must include your:

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

Your submission will be published on the VEC website, including your name and suburb or town but not your full address or contact details. See the submission guide or VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au/privacy for privacy information.

One vote, one value

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

When a local council is subdivided into wards, the number of voters each councillor represents in each ward must be plus-or-minus 10% of the average number of voters per councillor for all wards.

The map below includes the current number of voters in each ward and the ward's current deviation from the average. The VEC will also consider projected population and voter changes to ensure the structure remains fair.

If you make a submission online, you can use a mapping tool to build your preferred ward boundaries. The tool uses current voter numbers to tell you the deviations of the wards you make. This will help your proposal meet the requirements of the Act.

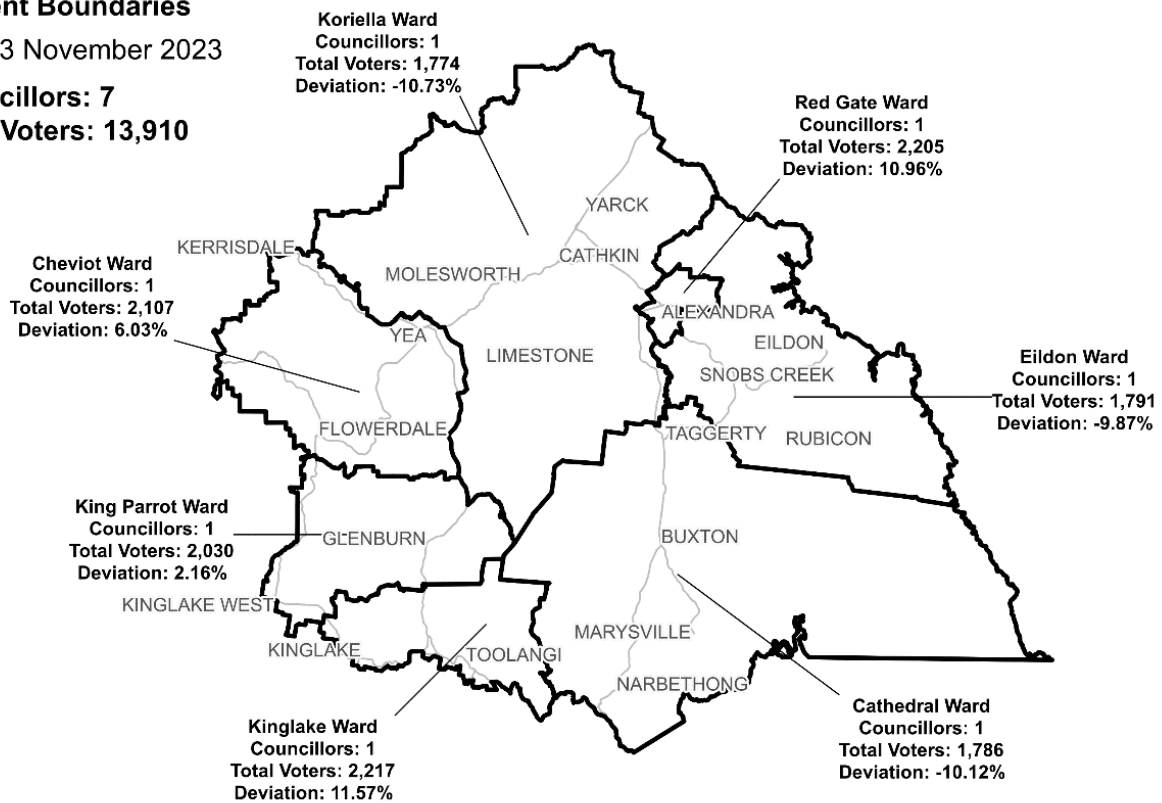
Current electoral structure

Voter Numbers by Current Boundaries

As at 3 November 2023

Councillors: 7

Total Voters: 13,910



Ward	Councillors	Voters	Deviation
Cathedral Ward*	1	1,786	-10.12%
Cheviot Ward*	1	2,107	+6.03%
Eildon Ward*	1	1,791	-9.87%
King Parrot Ward	1	2,030	+2.16%
Kinglake Ward*	1	2,217	+11.57%
Koriella Ward*	1	1,774	-10.73%
Red Gate Ward*	1	2,205	+10.96%

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

Statistics

Area (km²) 3881

Voters

Voters per square km

3.6

Average voters per councillor

1,987

Population

Current population

15,197

Forecast population growth

0.8% p.a.

More Census statistics available at abs.gov.au



Voter numbers by locality (map)

Murrindindi Shire Council

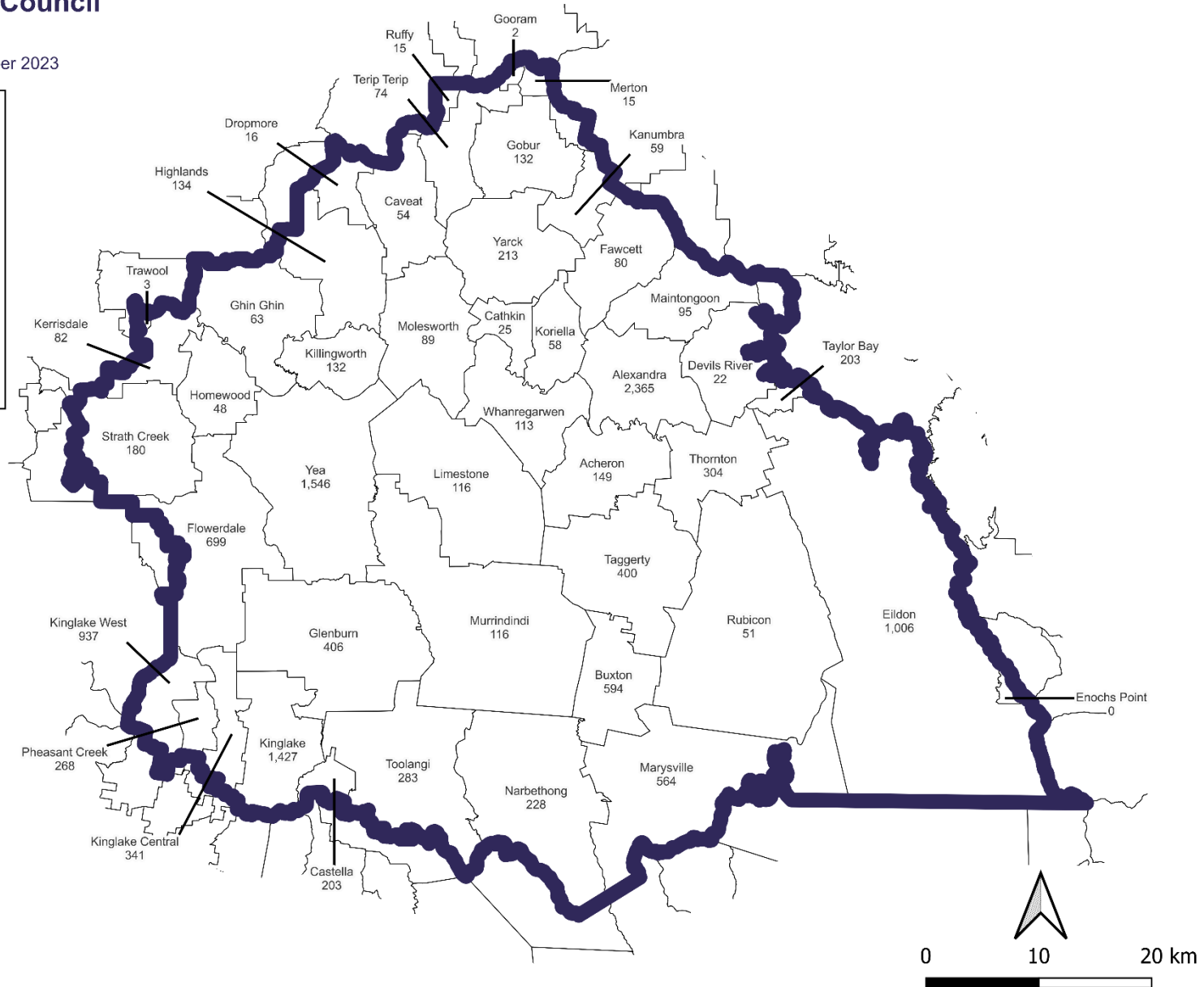
TOTAL VOTERS: 13,910

Voter numbers as at 3 November 2023

Legend

-  Council Boundary
-  Locality Boundary

Please note: Where a locality overlaps Murrindindi Shire Council and a neighbouring council, the total voters shown includes only those voters found within Murrindindi Shire Council.



Voter numbers by locality (table)

Murrindindi Shire Council voter numbers at 3 November 2023

Locality	Voters
Acheron	149
Alexandra	2,365
Buxton	594
Castella	203
Cathkin	25
Caveat	54
Devils River	22
Dropmore	16
Eildon	1,006
Enochs Point	0
Fawcett	80
Flowerdale	699
Ghin Ghin	63
Glenburn	406
Gobur	132
Gooram	2
Highlands	134
Homewood	48
Kanumbra	59
Kerrisdale	82
Killingworth	132
Kinglake	1,427

Locality	Voters
Kinglake Central	341
Kinglake West	937
Koriella	58
Limestone	116
Maintongoon	95
Marysville	564
Merton	15
Molesworth	89
Murrindindi	116
Narbethong	228
Pheasant Creek	268
Rubicon	51
Ruffy	15
Strath Creek	180
Taggerty	400
Taylor Bay	203
Terip Terip	74
Thornton	304
Toolangi	283
Trawool	3
Whanregarwen	113
Yarck	213

Locality	Voters
Yea	1,546