

# Local council ward boundary review



## About Cardinia Shire Council

The Traditional Custodians of the land in the Cardinia Shire Council area are the Bunurong and Wurundjeri peoples.

Cardinia Shire Council is located 55 km south-east of Melbourne. It covers 1,282 km<sup>2</sup>. Much of the population is concentrated in towns around Pakenham and Officer. In the south, agricultural land and small communities lead to the Westernport coast and South Gippsland Highway.

The north of the council includes small to medium sized towns, farmland, Bunyip State Park, and the Cardinia Reservoir.

Between 2016 and 2021, the council grew from 94,128 to 118,194 residents. Forecasts predict strong growth to continue with the population to reach 154,726 by 2028.

Residential developments and relatively young families purchasing homes in the area have resulted in higher numbers of homeowners with mortgages than other areas. The median age of 34 is lower than the median age across greater Melbourne of 37.

23.5% of residents were born overseas. 17.8% of people spoke a language other than English at home. The most common ancestries were English, Australian, Irish Scottish, and Indian.

95.7% of residents were employed either full or part time. The construction, health care and social assistance, retail trade, manufacturing, and education industries are the largest employers.

## Current structure

Cardinia Shire Council is divided into 9 wards with one councillor per ward. There are 9 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 Cardinia 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 Cardinia 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 Cardinia Shire Council in 2020.

Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) to access a copy of the 2020 review final report.

# Review process

## Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 February

### Information sessions

Session 1: 12 noon, Monday 26 February

Session 2: 12 noon, Tuesday 27 February

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

## Wednesday 28 February

### Preliminary report

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

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

## Wednesday 20 March

### Response submissions

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

The VEC will not accept late submissions.

## Tuesday 26 March

### Public hearing

The VEC will hold an online public hearing if anyone asks to speak about their response submission at 2 pm Tuesday 26 March.

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

## Wednesday 24 April

### Final report

The VEC will submit a final report to the Minister for Local Government including its advice for the adjustments to ward boundaries on Wednesday 24 April.

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

## Submission guide


You can download a submission guide from the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

## How to make a submission

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

@ By email to:

[BassCoast.WardReview@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:BassCoast.WardReview@vec.vic.gov.au)

 By post to:

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

Submissions must include your:

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

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

## One vote, one value

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

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

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

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

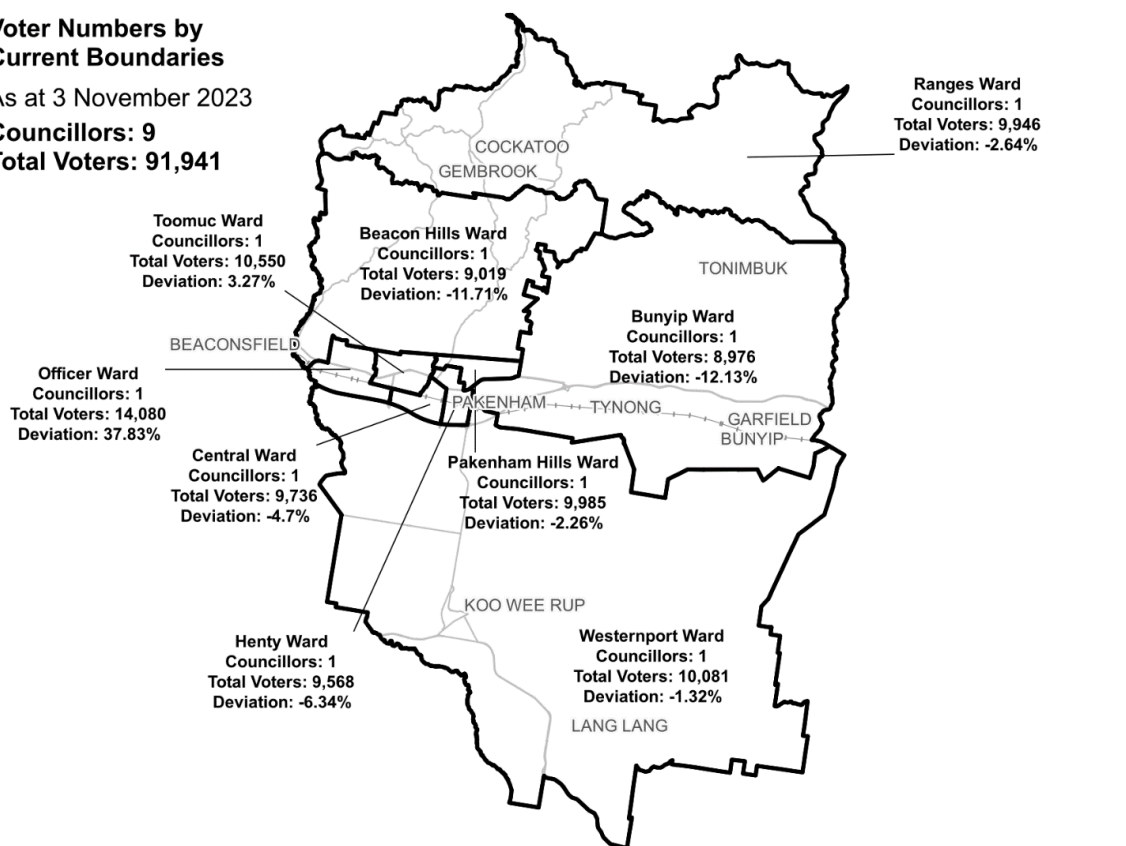
# Current electoral structure

## Voter Numbers by Current Boundaries

As at 3 November 2023

**Councillors: 9**

**Total Voters: 91,941**



| Ward                | Councillors | Voters | Deviation |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| Beacon Hills Ward*  | 1           | 9,019  | -11.71%   |
| Bunyip Ward         | 1           | 8,976  | -12.13%   |
| Central Ward        | 1           | 9,736  | -4.70%    |
| Henty Ward          | 1           | 9,568  | -6.34%    |
| Officer Ward*       | 1           | 14,080 | +37.83%   |
| Pakenham Hills Ward | 1           | 9,985  | -2.26%    |
| Ranges Ward         | 1           | 9,946  | -2.64%    |
| Toomuc Ward         | 1           | 10,550 | +3.27%    |
| Westernport Ward    | 1           | 10,081 | -1.32%    |

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

## Statistics

Area (km<sup>2</sup>) 1,282

### Voters

**Voters per square km**

72

**Average voters per councillor**

10,216

### Population

**Current population**

118,194

**Forecast population growth**

2.8% p.a.

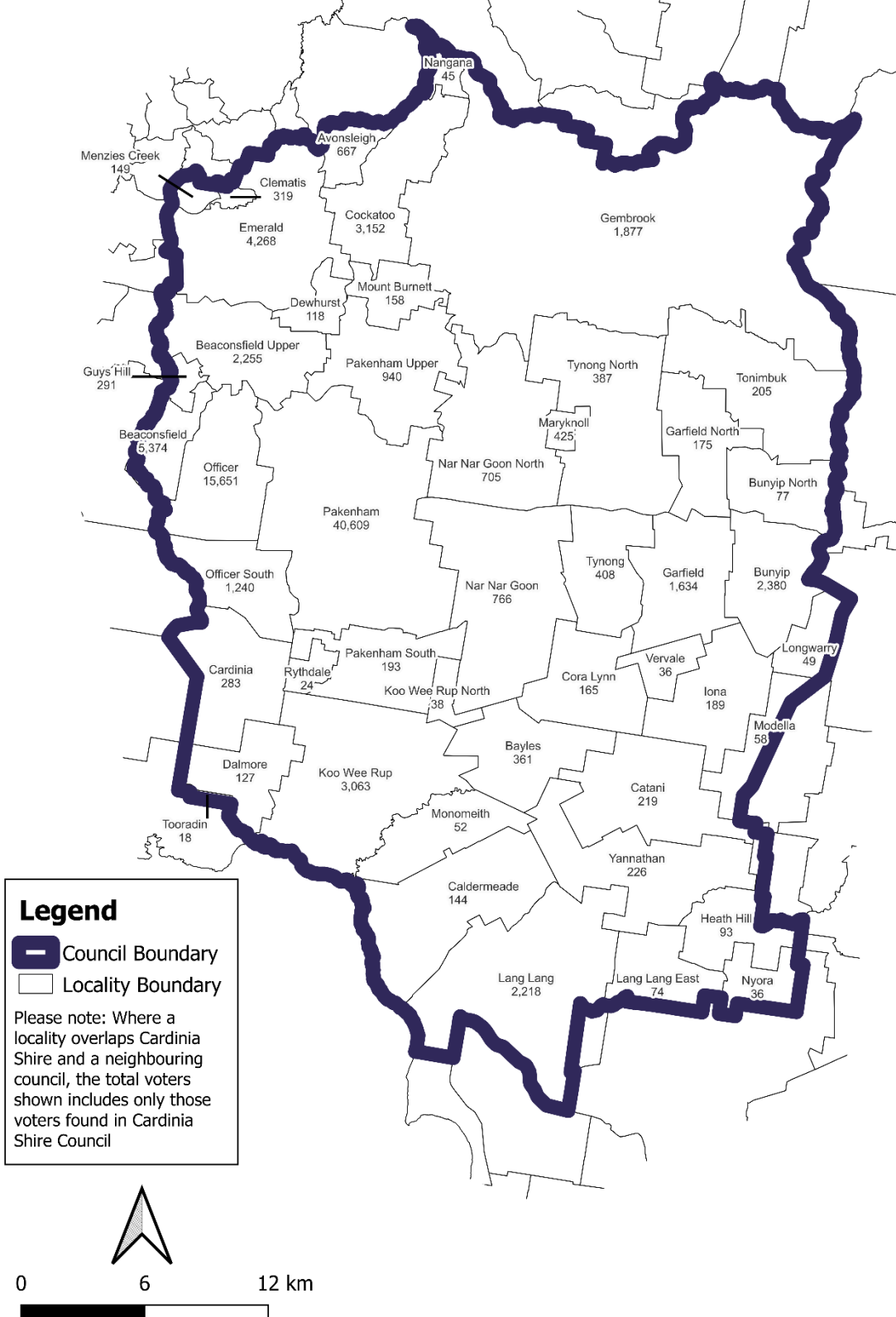
More Census statistics available at [abs.gov.au](https://abs.gov.au)

# Voter numbers by locality (map)

## Cardinia Shire Council

**TOTAL VOTERS: 91,941**

Voter numbers as at 3 November 2023



## Voter numbers by locality (table)

### Cardinia Shire Council voter numbers at 3 November 2023

| Locality           | Voters |
|--------------------|--------|
| Avonsleigh         | 667    |
| Bayles             | 361    |
| Beaconsfield       | 5,374  |
| Beaconsfield Upper | 2,255  |
| Bunyip             | 2,380  |
| Bunyip North       | 77     |
| Caldermeade        | 144    |
| Cardinia           | 283    |
| Catani             | 219    |
| Clematis           | 319    |
| Cockatoo           | 3,152  |
| Cora Lynn          | 165    |
| Dalmore            | 127    |
| Dewhurst           | 118    |
| Emerald            | 4,268  |
| Garfield           | 1,634  |
| Garfield North     | 175    |
| Gembrook           | 1,877  |
| Guys Hill          | 291    |
| Heath Hill         | 93     |
| Iona               | 189    |
| Kallista           | 0      |

| Locality           | Voters |
|--------------------|--------|
| Koo Wee Rup        | 3,063  |
| Koo Wee Rup North  | 38     |
| Lang Lang          | 2,218  |
| Lang Lang East     | 74     |
| Longwarry          | 49     |
| Maryknoll          | 425    |
| Menzies Creek      | 149    |
| Modella            | 58     |
| Monomeith          | 52     |
| Mount Burnett      | 158    |
| Nangana            | 45     |
| Nar Nar Goon       | 766    |
| Nar Nar Goon North | 705    |
| Narre Warren East  | 0      |
| Nyora              | 36     |
| Officer            | 15,651 |
| Officer South      | 1,240  |
| Pakenham           | 40,609 |
| Pakenham South     | 193    |
| Pakenham Upper     | 940    |
| Rythdale           | 24     |
| Tonimbuk           | 205    |

| Locality     | Voters |
|--------------|--------|
| Tooradin     | 18     |
| Tynong       | 408    |
| Tynong North | 387    |
| Vervale      | 36     |
| Yannathan    | 226    |