

FINAL REPORT

Electoral Representation Review

Moorabool Shire Council



3 May 2004

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1 Recommendation

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is required under the legislation for electoral representation reviews to make a recommendation as to the number of councillors and the electoral structure that provide fair and equitable representation for the voters of the Moorabool Shire. (s.219D *Local Government Act 1989*)

The VEC recommends that the Moorabool Shire consist of seven councillors to be elected from four wards, comprising three single-councillor wards and one four-councillor ward.

This recommended structure is indicated in the map on the back page of this report.

2 Background

2.1 Legislative basis

The *Local Government (Democratic Reform) Act 2003*, which amended the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), was passed by Parliament in Spring 2003. The amendments included provisions for independent electoral representation reviews of all Victorian councils. In accordance with this new legislation, the Moorabool Shire Council received notice pursuant to section 219C of the Act from the Minister for Local Government that an electoral representation review was to be conducted for Moorabool Shire. The notice appeared in the *Victoria Government Gazette* on 15 December 2003.

Under the legislation, a Council is required to appoint an electoral commission to conduct an electoral representation review. On 22 January 2004 the Moorabool Shire Council appointed the VEC to conduct the review.

The purpose of an electoral representation review is to recommend an electoral structure that provides fair and equitable representation for the persons who are entitled to vote at a general election of the Council. Matters to be considered by the review are:

- a) the number of councillors;
- b) the electoral structure of the Shire (whether the Shire should be unsubdivided or divided into wards; and, if the Shire is to be divided into wards, the number of wards and the number of councillors to be elected for each ward); and
- c) if the recommendation is for the Shire to be divided into wards, boundaries for the wards that will:
 - i. provide for a fair and equitable division of the Shire; and
 - ii. ensure equality of representation, through the number of voters represented by each councillor being within 10% of the average number of voters represented by all councillors.

2.2 Municipality profile

Moorabool Shire was formed in 1994 by the amalgamation of the Shires of Bacchus Marsh and Ballan, the eastern parts of the Shires of Bungaree and Buninyong, and the Balliang East district of the City of Werribee. Moorabool Shire is a semi-urban municipality located between the west of the Melbourne metropolitan area and the City of Ballarat. Covering 2,112 square kilometres, the Shire has some 25,000

residents. Moorabool is projected to be the third fastest growing council on the periphery of the Melbourne metropolitan area, with a population growth rate of some 0.8% per year. The population is distinguished by a large number of young families.

Bacchus Marsh is the main population and retail centre of the Shire, with about 13,000 residents. Population growth is concentrated in the Bacchus Marsh area. The other main service centre is Ballan, which has some 2,000 residents.

With the growing urbanisation of the Shire, retail and service industries, light manufacturing and construction have become the major economic activities. Agricultural industries are important in the rural parts of the Shire. Around 40% of residents commute to Melbourne for work.

2.3 Current electoral structure

At present, Moorabool Shire has seven councillors and five ridings, with three councillors representing Bacchus Riding and one councillor representing each of the other ridings.

3 Electoral representation review process

3.1 Public consultation

The VEC developed a community consultation framework for the electoral representation review that focussed on:

- creating an awareness of the review process through an advertising and public relations strategy;
- distributing a community information brochure for Moorabool Shire voters;
- conducting two public meetings – at Ballan at 5.30 pm and at Bacchus Marsh at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 11 February 2004, to outline the review process and to respond to questions from members of the community;
- communicating with the Moorabool Shire community through the use of media releases and the VEC website;
- ensuring the review process remains transparent by publishing all preliminary and response submissions and making them available to the public;
- releasing a preliminary report on 22 March 2004 and making the report available at the Council offices, the VEC and on the VEC website;
- conducting a public hearing at the Council offices in Ballan on Friday, 16 April 2004; and
- providing information for those persons or organisations with an interest in the review process, by establishing a help line for responding to community questions and distributing a guide to assist those persons who decide to make preliminary submissions for consideration by the VEC.

3.2 Advertising

The VEC published the following advertisements for the representation review:

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- A public notice of the representation review (in accordance with section 219F(4) of the Act), which detailed the process for the review and called for public submissions, appearing in the *Moorabool Leader* on 3 February 2004;
 - A general advertisement covering several electoral representation reviews and including the Moorabool Shire review, appearing in the *Herald Sun* on 13 February 2004;
 - A notice of the Preliminary Report, appearing in the *Moorabool Leader* on 23 March 2004; and
 - A notice of the public hearing, appearing in the *Moorabool Leader* on 13 April 2004.

See Appendix 9.1.

3.3 Information leaflet

The VEC posted an information leaflet about the review to all households containing Moorabool Shire electors from 2 February 2004. See Appendix 9.2.

3.4 Media releases

Media releases designed to supplement the paid advertising were distributed to the *Ballarat Courier*, *Moorabool Leader*, *Melton Bacchus Marsh Express Telegraph* and *Ballan News* on 6 February and 22 March 2004. See Appendix 9.3.

3.5 VEC website

The VEC used its website to deliver information and to provide transparency in the review process. All preliminary submissions received by the due date were posted to the website to facilitate public access to this information. The VEC website can be viewed at www.vec.vic.gov.au

3.6 VEC support for public enquiries regarding the review

The VEC established a help line to assist with public enquiries concerning the process for the electoral representation review. In addition, the VEC developed and distributed a guide for those persons and organisations wanting to make a submission. See Appendix 9.4.

4 Consideration of the number of councillors

The electoral representation review provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* provide that the purpose of the review is to consider two matters. The first matter is the number of councillors for the municipality and the second matter is the electoral structure of the municipality.

In regard to the number of councillors, the legislation provides that a council must consist of not fewer than 5 councillors and not more than 12 councillors (s5B(1)).

The legislation does not prescribe the matters to be considered by the reviewer in recommending the number of councillors for a municipality.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has therefore been required to identify the appropriate matters to take into account when considering the number of councillors.

Parliament has provided for a range of councillors from 5 to 12 that can constitute a council. The range of councillors was to provide for those councils that have large numbers of voters and those who have a smaller number of voters. The size of councils in terms of voters varies from 4,131 to 155,000. The VEC has formed the view that Parliament intended these provisions to work in a logical way, with those councils that have the largest number of voters having the most councillors, and those councils that have the least number of voters having fewer councillors.

In most cases, the electoral structure and the number of councillors was established by the Commissioners when local government was re structured between 1993 and 1995. Commissioners did not have the benefit of a State-wide reference when considering the appropriate number of councillors. The result was a degree of disparity in councillor numbers for similar types of councils. The VEC has produced a table that lists each council and the councillor to voter ratio. The table differentiates between rural, regional and metropolitan councils. The table has been a valuable reference point in considering the appropriate number of councillors by recognising the different circumstances and needs between these categories of councils. This information was made available to the public in the information guide. The information has enabled the VEC to compare a council being reviewed with councils with similar voter numbers and size.

The VEC also considers whether the number of voters in the municipality is anticipated to increase or decline in the period between reviews (8 years). Population forecasts produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Victorian Department of Infrastructure have been used to assist the VEC in making its assessment.

In addition, the VEC considers any special issues or circumstances that may require a council to have more councillors than would otherwise be the case. The public consultation process provides valuable information regarding any such issues or circumstances.

In considering representation options for each council, the VEC takes into account submissions received. Submissions are not weighed up in numbers, as this would constitute a "straw poll" but rather, the arguments and local knowledge and perspectives they present are taken into consideration in coming to a view on the most appropriate number of councillors.

The VEC is implementing the approach outlined above as the way to fulfil its legislative obligation to make its recommendation to the Minister on the appropriate number of councillors.

5 Preliminary Report

In accordance with section 219F(6) of the Act, the VEC prepared a Preliminary Report containing the VEC's proposed options for Moorabool Shire. In developing these options, the VEC considered preliminary submissions made by individuals and organisations. The VEC also considered other relevant factors.

5.1 Preliminary submissions

By the closing time for submissions (5.00 pm Monday, 1 March 2004), the VEC had received 26 preliminary submissions.

Opinions in the submissions on the number of councillors varied, with the preferred number ranging from six to eleven. The current number (seven) was the most favoured, supported by twelve of the submissions.

Opinions on the Council's electoral structure also varied: thirteen submissions advocated single-councillor wards; four submissions supported different numbers of councillors for Bacchus Marsh and the rural areas of the Shire; and three submissions proposed an unsubdivided municipality.

See Appendix 9.5 for details of those persons and organisations making preliminary submissions. Copies of the submissions can be downloaded from the VEC website, www.vec.vic.gov.au

5.2 Other relevant factors

The VEC took into account such other relevant factors as:

- the requirements of the Act as to the number of councillors permitted;
- fairness and equity of representation;
- the total number of voters and their geographic distribution;
- anticipated changes in the total number of voters;
- the level of representation of councillors for similar sized Victorian municipalities;
- the workload and responsibilities of councillors including council business requirements;
- consideration of communities of interest within the Shire;
- spreading developing areas over a number of wards; and
- using logical boundaries such as main roads, physical features and existing boundaries for easy identification of wards.

5.3 Recommended options

Having considered the preliminary submissions and all other relevant factors, the VEC proposed two options for Moorabool Shire.

The VEC's preferred option was:

- **That the Moorabool Shire consist of seven councillors to be elected from four wards, with three single-councillor wards and one four-councillor ward.**

The VEC's alternative option was :

- That the Moorabool Shire consist of seven councillors to be elected from seven single-councillor wards.

6 Response submissions

In accordance with section 219F(7) of the Act, the VEC invited written submissions in response to the Preliminary Report. The VEC required submissions to be limited to commenting on the options set out in the Preliminary Report.

The deadline for submissions was 5.00 pm on Monday, 12 April 2004. In recognition of the fact that this was the Easter Monday public holiday, the VEC extended the deadline to Tuesday, 13 April 2004. However, the VEC rejected a request from the Moorabool Shire Council for a further extension to 23 April 2004, since the three-week period already allowed complied with the legislation and provided ample time for the lodging of submissions.

The VEC received a total of 154 response submissions. Almost half of the submissions were form letters. One form letter was sent by 58 people, and there were four other form letters.

Of the 154 submissions, 14 (all from Bacchus Marsh) supported the VEC's preferred option of a four-councillor Bacchus Ward and three single-councillor wards. The majority of submissions (136, of which 112 were from outside Bacchus Marsh) supported the alternative option of seven single-councillor wards. Four submissions opposed both options; three advocated an unsubdivided Council, while the fourth suggested nine single-councillor wards.

See Appendix 9.5 for details of those persons and organisations making response submissions. Copies of the submissions can be downloaded from the VEC website, www.vec.vic.gov.au

7 Public hearing

A public hearing was held on Friday, 16 April 2004 at the Moorabool Shire Council offices, 16 Stead Street, Ballan. The hearing provided an opportunity for people who had requested in their submissions to speak publicly on them to amplify and explain their arguments. The duration of the hearing was from 7.30 to 10.45 pm, and some 40 people attended. There were 22 speakers, including the Mayor on behalf of the Council and as an individual, and the other six councillors. Four of the speakers supported the VEC's preferred model; sixteen speakers supported the single-councillor ward alternative option; and two speakers proposed other models.

8 Findings and recommendations

The VEC's task is to recommend the number of councillors and an electoral structure that provides fair and equitable representation for the voters of Moorabool Shire. In coming to its recommendation, the VEC has considered a number of critical factors collectively.

The major difference between the VEC's preferred and alternative options is the position of Bacchus Marsh. In the preferred option the town of Bacchus Marsh and the surrounding area forms one four-councillor ward, to be elected by proportional representation, while in the alternative option this area forms four single-councillor

wards. In both options there are three single-councillor wards in the western part of the Shire, recognising the three distinct rural communities in this area.

The VEC acknowledges that a majority of response submissions and speakers at the public hearing supported the VEC's alternative option of seven single-councillor wards. The following points were raised:

- It was put to the VEC that the Bacchus Riding councillors formed a block, and that division between the Bacchus Marsh block and the other councillors was not helpful in the Council decision-making process. It was further suggested that under the VEC's preferred option, the councillors representing the Bacchus Ward may adopt a common position within the Council to the possible detriment of the rural areas.
- Supporters of single-councillor wards argued:
 - this model puts all councillors on the same footing, with a clear line of accountability to their constituents and the ability to represent their particular concerns, whereas in multi-councillor wards the line of accountability was less clear;
 - there are several communities of interest within the Bacchus Marsh area, which would be best represented by separate wards, covering Darley, central Bacchus Marsh, Maddingley and Pentland. Several submissions from Darley stated that this area was neglected by the current town centre focussed councillors, and that a single-councillor ward for Darley was preferable. Submissions from Balliang observed that their current Pentland Riding councillor was a good representative for their rural district, and feared that their particular interests may be overlooked if made part of an enlarged Bacchus Ward.
- The preferred option would mean two voting systems (proportional representation for Bacchus Ward and preferential voting for the other wards) within the same Shire. It was argued that this hybrid model would lead to voter confusion.

The VEC's views

The VEC considers that the arguments for its preferred option are stronger. Arguments about whether the Bacchus Marsh area should be subdivided relate to what constitutes a geographical community of interest. While different interests may be identified within the area, there is a stronger argument that Bacchus Marsh is a single community of interest. Within the municipality of Moorabool Shire, Bacchus Marsh is the dominant urban area. However, in the broader context, it is a relatively small, homogeneous community, unlike the larger adjoining regional communities of Melton and Ballarat.

Most of the current Pentland Riding consists of residents living on hobby farms and one-acre allotments rather than engaging in broad-acre farming. The urban growth from Bacchus Marsh will continue to extend into the rural area of the current Pentland Riding. One ward containing Bacchus Marsh and the surrounding rural area will accommodate current and anticipated growth.

Currently, the partly rural Pentland Riding is represented by a single councillor from Bacchus Marsh. The VEC has no reason to believe that a single ward with four councillors to be elected by proportional representation will not allow for all areas to be well represented.

Under the alternative option, the Bacchus Marsh community of interest would be artificially divided into four wards, and would possibly fragment representation.

An additional reason for a four-councillor ward is that this structure would be looking to the future and allowing for an increase in the number of voters. Under the alternative model, expected population growth in the Pentland Ward would be likely to push its voter numbers outside the 10% tolerance, requiring a further subdivisional review within a few years. Based on known projected population growth, under the preferred option ward boundaries would be stable until the next representation review is due, in eight years.

The argument that having two electoral systems in one municipality would be confusing to voters is not supported. In all wards, voters would vote in exactly the same way. The difference in the four-councillor ward as compared to the other, single-councillor wards is in the calculation of the election result. Candidates and scrutineers would be fully briefed on the operation of the voting systems.

Ward names and other suggestions

During the course of the submissions, the issue of the name of wards was raised. It was suggested that the Bacchus Ward should be renamed “East Moorabool” as a more neutral and geographically descriptive name. The VEC agrees with this suggestion.

For similar reasons of neutrality, the VEC has reverted to the former name of “Bungal Ward” for the Ballan Ward named in the Preliminary Report.

It was further suggested that the town of Gordon should not be in the Woodlands ward but should be in the Ballan Ward, renamed Bungal Ward. The VEC acknowledges the strength of this argument, but the number of voters involved do not allow this change to be made.

Recommendation

Having considered submissions and all relevant factors, the VEC recommends that the Moorabool Shire consist of seven councillors to be elected from four wards, comprising three single-councillor wards and one four-councillor ward. The VEC is confident that the Moorabool Shire will be well served over the next eight years by this structure, which will provide for fair and equitable representation of the Shire’s voters.

9 Appendices

9.1 Public notices

Electoral Representation Review Moorabool Shire

The Minister for Local Government has given notice under section 219C of the *Local Government Act 1989* that there is to be an electoral representation review of the Moorabool Shire. The Moorabool Shire Council has appointed the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to conduct the review.

What is the review about?

The aim of the review is to achieve fair and equitable electoral representation for the voters of the Moorabool Shire. The review will consider:

- the number of councillors;
- the electoral structure of the Shire (whether the Shire should be unsubdivided or divided into ridings, how many ridings there should be, and how many councillors per riding); and
- the riding boundaries (if the Shire is to be divided into ridings).

The review process

The VEC is delivering information about the review to residents.

On Wednesday, 11 February 2004, the VEC will hold information sessions on the review process at:

- 5.30 pm, Ballan Council Chamber, 15 Stead Street, Ballan; and
- 7.30 pm, Bacchus Marsh Public Hall, Supper Room, Main Street, Bacchus Marsh.

Anyone interested in making a submission should attend.


Any person or group may make a written submission to the VEC regarding electoral representation for the Moorabool Shire.

The deadline for submissions is 5.00 pm, 1 March 2004.

On 22 March 2004 the VEC will release a preliminary report for public comment.

After considering submissions, the VEC will make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government by 3 May 2004.

Further information 13 18 32 or visit www.vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission 

Electoral Representation Reviews

The Minister for Local Government has given notice under section 219C of the *Local Government Act 1989* that there are to be electoral representation reviews of the following councils:

Corangamite Shire Council
Greater Bendigo City Council
Hobsons Bay City Council
Moorabool Shire Council
Moreland City Council
Pyrenees Shire Council
Stonnington City Council
Warrnambool City Council
Yarra City Council.

The councils have appointed the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to conduct the reviews.

What are the reviews about?

The aim of the reviews is to ensure fair and equitable electoral representation for the voters of these councils. The reviews will consider:

- the number of councillors;
- the electoral structure of the councils (whether the Council should be unsubdivided or divided into wards, how many wards there should be, and the number of councillors per ward); and
- the ward boundaries (if the councils are to be divided into wards).

Do I have a say?

Consultation with the community is an important part of the reviews. The VEC welcomes input from the public. Any person or group can make a submission to the VEC. The VEC will take submissions into account in preparing its recommendations to the Minister for Local Government.

Making a submission

Submissions can be made by mail, fax or email. Submissions must reach the VEC by 5.00 pm on the following dates:

Corangamite: 8 March 2004	Pyrenees: 1 March 2004
Greater Bendigo: 1 March 2004	Stonnington: 15 March 2004
Hobsons Bay: 22 March 2004	Warrnambool: 8 March 2004
Moorabool: 1 March 2004	Yarra: 15 March 2004
Moreland: 22 March 2004	

What happens next?

After considering submissions, the VEC will release a preliminary report for each council for public comment.

After considering submissions on the preliminary reports, the VEC will make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government by 24 May 2004. The Minister will consider the VEC's recommendations and may make determinations, which would take effect at the council elections in November 2004.

**For further information or a guide to making submissions call
13 18 32 or visit www.vec.vic.gov.au**

Electoral Representation Review Moorabool Shire

Preliminary Report

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is conducting an electoral representation review for the Moorabool Shire. Having considered submissions from the public, the VEC has now released a preliminary report including recommendations to achieve fair and equitable electoral representation for persons who are entitled to vote at the Shire's general election.

What are the recommendations in the report?

Moorabool Shire is currently divided into five ridings, with three councillors representing Bacchus Riding and one councillor representing each of the other ridings.

Preferred option

The report recommends that Moorabool Shire be divided into four wards, with four councillors representing Bacchus Ward and one councillor representing each of the other wards.

Alternative option

The report also outlines an alternative option of a Council divided into seven wards, with one councillor representing each ward.

The maps on the right show the options.

Where is the report available?

Copies of the preliminary report are available from:

- The Moorabool Shire Council offices, 15 Stead Street, Ballan;
- The VEC's website, www.vec.vic.gov.au; and
- By telephoning the VEC on 13 18 32.

Submissions on the report

Any person or group may make a submission to the VEC about the preliminary report. A submission should comment only on the preferred option and/or the alternative option. Submissions can be:

- Posted to the VEC at Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne Vic. 3000;
- Emailed to moorabool.review@vec.vic.gov.au; or
- Faxed to 9629 9330.

Submissions must include the name, address and telephone contact number of the person making the submission. Submissions will be available to the public at the VEC and the VEC website.

Submissions should indicate whether the person making the submission wishes to speak at a public hearing in support of their submission.

Submissions must be received at the VEC by **5.00 pm, Monday, 12 April 2004**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Public hearing, Tuesday, 20 April 2004

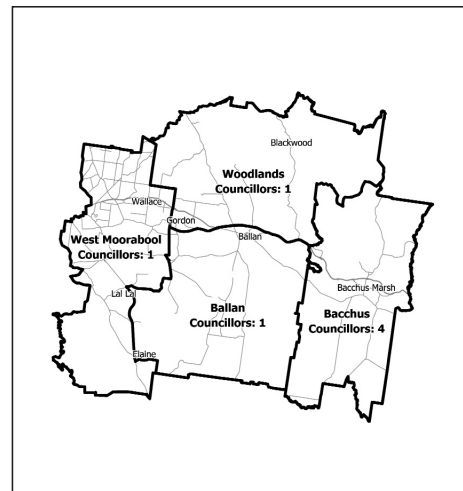
The hearing will be at the Council Chamber, Moorabool Shire Council offices, 15 Stead Street, Ballan. The hearing is open to the public, but only those people who have indicated in their submission that they would like to speak in support of their submission will be heard at the hearing.

Final report, Monday, 3 May 2004

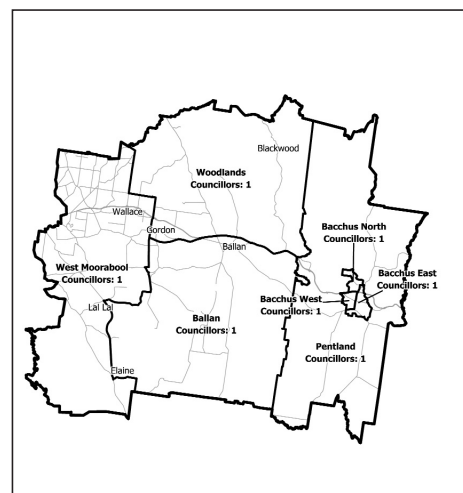
After considering submissions on the preliminary report and information provided at the public hearing, the VEC will prepare a final report making recommendations to the Minister for Local Government.

Further information 13 18 32 or visit www.vec.vic.gov.au

Preferred option - One four-councillor ward and three single-councillor wards



Alternative option - Seven single-councillor wards



Victorian Electoral Commission

Electoral Representation Review Moorabool Shire

Public hearing

A public hearing for the Moorabool electoral representation review will be held:

- When: 7.30 pm, Friday 16 April 2004
- Where: Council Chamber, Moorabool Shire Council Offices, 15 Stead Street, Ballan

The hearing is open to the public, but only those people who have indicated in their submission that they would like to speak at the hearing will be able to speak.

Further information

13 18 32 or visit www.vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission 

9.2 Information leaflet

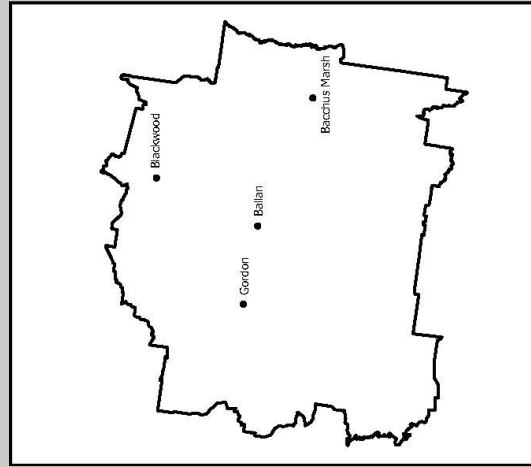
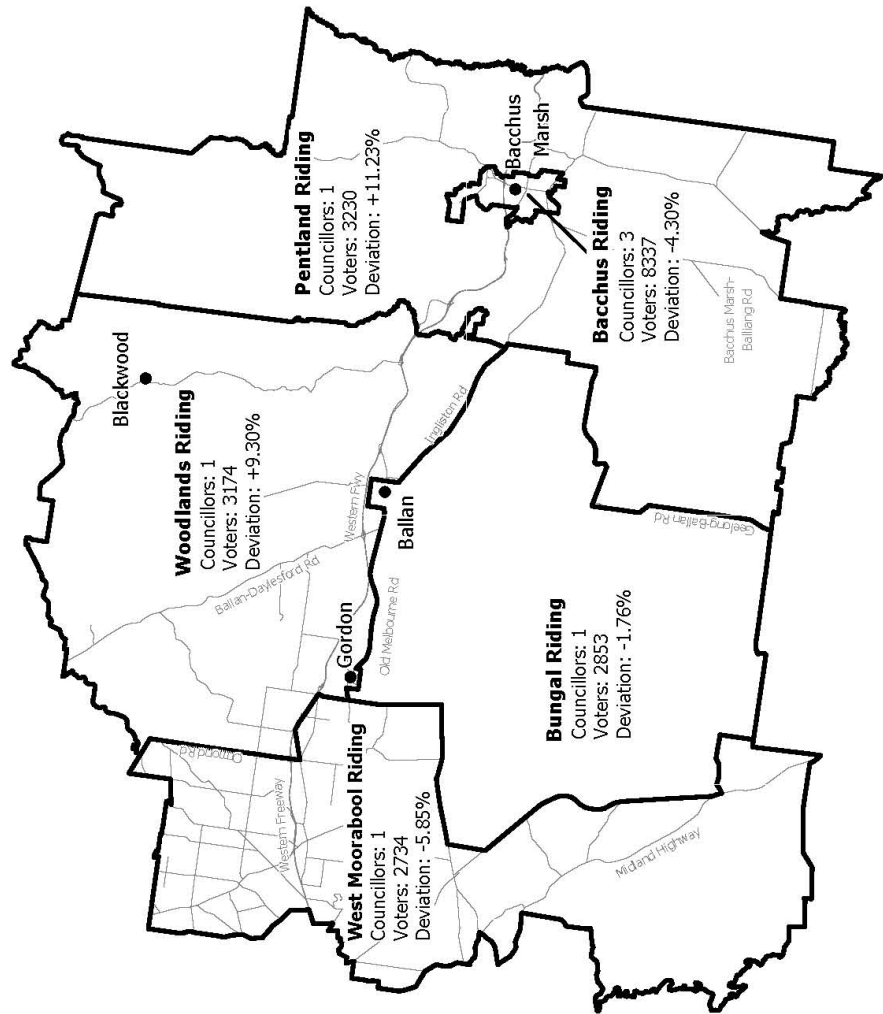
Current electoral structure of Moorabool Shire

Moorabool Shire currently has five ridings, with three councillors representing Bacchus Riding and one councillor representing each of the other ridings. Below is a map showing the current riding boundaries, the number of voters for each riding and the deviation from the average as at 14 January 2004.

Need more information?

Telephone the VEC on 13 18 32, or check our website at www.vec.vic.gov.au

Electoral Representation Review of the Moorabool Shire



Conducted by the

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

Why is this review being undertaken?

The Minister for Local Government has given notice under section 219C of the *Local Government Act 1989* that there is to be an electoral representation review of the Moorabool Shire. The Moorabool Shire Council has appointed the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to conduct the review.

What is the review about?

The aim of the review is to ensure fair and equitable representation for the voters of Moorabool Shire.

The review will consider:

- the number of councillors;
- the electoral structure of the Shire (whether the Shire should be unsubdivided or divided into ridings, how many ridings there should be, and how many councillors per riding); and
- the boundaries of the ridings (if the Shire is to be divided into ridings).

Do I have a say?

Consultation with the Moorabool community is an important part of the review. The VEC welcomes input from the public. Any person or group can make a submission to the VEC, and can also speak in support of their submission at a public hearing. The VEC will take public opinion into account in preparing its reports on the review.

The review process step by step

Step 1 Information Sessions

Wednesday, 11 February 2004

Ballan Council Chamber,
15 Stead Street, Ballan
– 5.30 pm

Bacchus Marsh Public Hall,
Supper Room, Main Street,
Bacchus Marsh – 7.30 pm

Anyone interested in making a submission should attend.

Step 2 Preliminary Submissions

Deadline:
Monday, 1 March 2004

Any person or group may make a submission to the VEC by mail, fax or email. Visit www.vec.vic.gov.au for more information.

Step 4 Submissions

Deadline:
Monday, 12 April 2004

Any person or group may make a submission to the VEC about the preliminary report.

Step 5 Public Hearing, Ballan Council Chamber

Wednesday, 21 April 2004

People will be able to speak in support of their submissions about the preliminary report.

Step 3 Preliminary Report

Monday, 22 March 2004

After considering public submissions, the VEC will release a preliminary report containing its preferred option(s).

Step 6 Final Report

Monday, 3 May 2004

The VEC will lodge a final report, containing its recommendations, to the Minister for Local Government. The report will be publicly available.

Media Release

Victorian Electoral Commission 

For immediate release

REPRESENTATION REVIEW GETS UNDERWAY

The electoral representation review for Moorabool Shire has begun. The review, conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), is concerned with the number of councillors for the Shire and the Shire's electoral structure.

The Victorian Electoral Commissioner, Mr Colin Barry, will speak at public information sessions next week. The information sessions will cover the process for the reviews, and anyone interested in making a submission should attend.

The details for the information sessions are:

Wednesday, 11 February (two sessions)

5:30 pm: Ballan Mechanics Institute, Inglis Street (Please note that the session will **not** be at the Council Chamber, as stated in a leaflet.)

7:30 pm: Bacchus Marsh Public Hall, Supper Room, Main Street

"All interested persons and organisations are welcome to participate in this review", said Mr Barry. "By making their views known through written submissions to the Victorian Electoral Commission, it will be possible for electors to help in shaping the future basis of electoral representation for their Shire".

Submissions do not have to be elaborate documents. A letter is perfectly acceptable, as long as it deals with the matters covered by the review.

Key dates for the Moorabool representation review are:

Monday, 1 March, at 5 pm – Deadline for preliminary submissions. Submissions can be mailed, faxed or emailed to the VEC.

Monday, 22 March – The VEC's preliminary report will be made public after consideration of the preliminary submissions received.

Monday, 12 April, at 5 pm – Deadline for submissions about the preliminary report.

Week commencing Monday, 19 April – Opportunity for those persons who have made submissions on the preliminary report to speak publicly in support of their views.

Monday, 3 May – The VEC will lodge a final report, containing its recommendations, with the Minister for Local Government.

Mr Barry pointed out that the deadlines for lodgement of submissions are fixed. Late submissions cannot be accepted.

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9.3 Media release

Media Release

"The outcomes from this reviews will have a lasting impact on the Moorabool Shire. The new electoral arrangements, once approved by the Minister for Local Government, will apply at the next Shire Council elections", he said.

Any person who requires additional information can contact the VEC on telephone 13 18 32 or write to the VEC at Level 8, 505 Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic., 3000.

– ENDS –

For further media information:

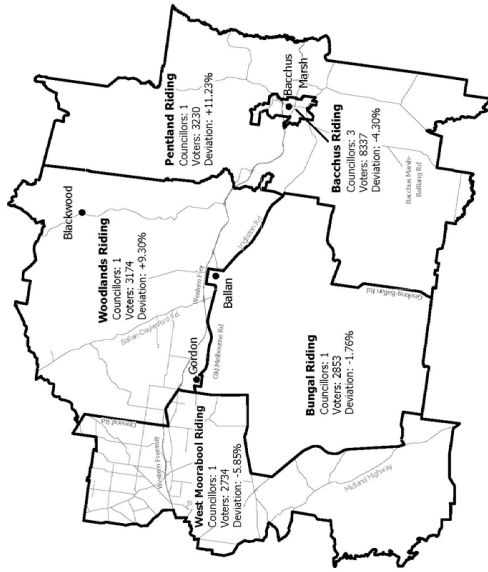
Paul Thornton-Smith
Victorian Electoral Commission
Tel: 9299 0732

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Media Release

Moorabool Shire

The map below shows the current riding boundaries and voter numbers for Moorabool Shire.



Media Release

Victorian Electoral Commission 

For release from Monday 22 March 2004

MOORABOOL ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW: PRELIMINARY REPORT RELEASED

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) today released its preliminary report on electoral representation for the Moorabool Shire. The VEC's preferred option is that the Shire be divided into four wards, with four councillors representing the Bacchus Ward and one councillor representing each of the other wards. An alternative option is also presented for public comment.

The report has been released and is available on the VEC's web site at www.vec.vic.gov.au. The report is also available at the Moorabool Shire Council offices, 15 Stead Street, Ballan and at the VEC, Level 8, 505 Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic., 3000.

People have until Monday, 12 April 2004 to lodge submissions with the VEC regarding the preliminary report.

People who wish to speak publicly in support of their submissions will have an opportunity to do so at a public hearing at the Council Chamber, Moorabool Shire Council offices, 15 Stead Street, Ballan on Tuesday, 20 April 2004.

A final report and recommendations from the VEC will be lodged with the Minister on Monday, 3 May 2004.

Any person who requires additional information can visit www.vec.vic.gov.au, contact the VEC on 13 18 32, or write to the VEC at Level 8, 505 Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic., 3000.

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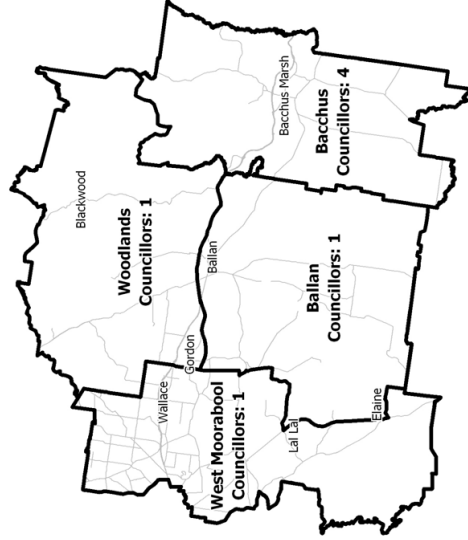
For further media information:

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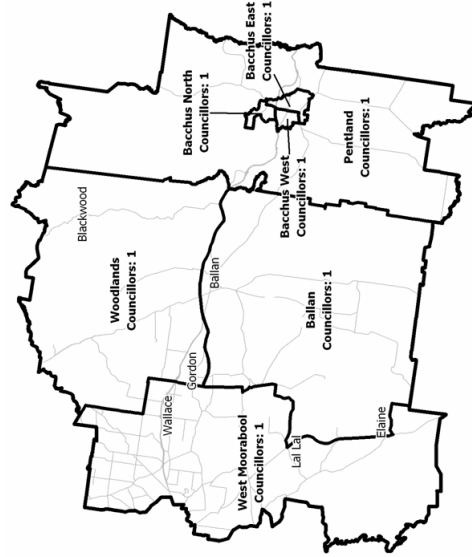
Media Fact Sheet

MAPS OF RECOMMENDED OPTIONS FOR THE MOORABOOL SHIRE

PREFERRED OPTION: ONE FOUR-COUNCILLOR WARD AND THREE SINGLE-COUNCILLOR WARDS

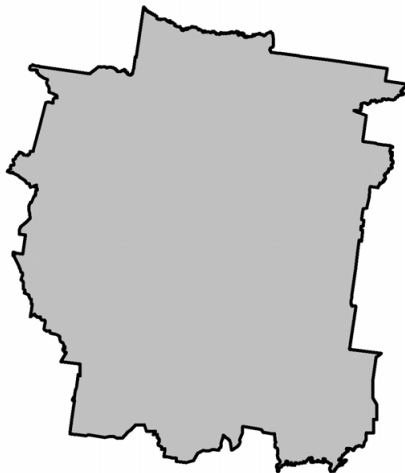


ALTERNATIVE OPTION: SEVEN SINGLE-COUNCILLOR WARDS



Electoral representation review for the Moorabool Shire Council

Guide for submissions



Conducted by the
Victorian Electoral Commission
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Website: www.vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission 

9.4 Guide for submissions

Why this review is being undertaken

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires regular, independent electoral representation reviews of Councils. Electoral representation reviews must be conducted by an Electoral Commission, to ensure that reviews are carried out at arms length from the Councils.

This system of electoral representation reviews came into effect at the end of 2003 as a result of amendments to the Local Government Act. Previously, councils reviewed their own electoral representation arrangements.

The first representation review under this system takes place at a time specified by the Minister for Local Government by a notice in the Government Gazette. Future reviews will occur before every second Council election – that is, about every eight years.

On 15 December 2003, the Minister for Local Government gave notice under section 219C of the Local Government Act that there was to be an electoral representation review of the Moorabool Shire. The Moorabool Shire Council has appointed the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to conduct the review.

What is the review about?

The aim of the review is to ensure fair and equitable representation for the voters of the Moorabool Shire.

The review is considering:

The number of councillors;

The electoral structure of the Shire (whether the Shire should be unsubdivided or divided into ridings, how many ridings there should be, and how many councillors per riding); and

The boundaries of the ridings (if the Shire is to be divided into ridings).

The review cannot deal with the external boundaries of the Shire, or such matters as whether the Shire should be divided into two separate shires or amalgamated with another shire.

The review process

Notice, 3 February 2004

A notice detailing the process for the review and calling for submissions has been placed in the *Moorabool Leader*.

Leaflet

A leaflet outlining the purpose and process of the review has been posted to Moorabool Shire electors.

Information sessions, Wednesday, 11 February 2004

Information sessions on the review process are being held at:

5.30 pm at the Ballan Mechanics Institute, Inglis Street; and

7.30 pm at the Bacchus Marsh Public Hall (Supper Room), Main Street.

Anyone with an interest in making a submission is advised to attend.

Preliminary submissions

Any person or group, including the Council, may make a preliminary submission to the VEC. Submissions should address matters relating to the number of Councillors and the electoral structure for the Shire, so as to provide fair and equitable representation for the voters of the Shire.

Submissions do not have to be elaborate documents; a short letter would be perfectly acceptable as long as it addresses matters within the scope of the review.

Submissions can be sent to the VEC in the following ways:

posted to Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000;

faxed to 9629 8624; or

emailed to moorabool.review@vec.vic.gov.au.

Submissions must include the name, address and telephone contact number of the person making the submission.

Once lodged, submissions will be available to the public at:

the VEC at Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne; and

the VEC website www.vec.vic.gov.au.

Preliminary submissions must be received at the VEC by **5.00 pm, Monday, 1 March 2004**.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Preliminary report, Monday, 22 March 2004

After the VEC has considered all preliminary submissions, it will prepare a preliminary report containing the preferred option(s) for the number of councillors and the electoral structure, and, if it is proposed that the Shire is to continue to be divided into ridings, the boundaries of those ridings.

Copies of the preliminary report will be available from the VEC website, www.vec.vic.gov.au, by contacting the VEC on 13 18 32, and at the Moorabool Shire Council offices, 15 Stead Street, Ballan.

When the preliminary report is released, a notice in the *Moorabool Leader* will specify how people can make a written submission in response to the report.

Submissions on the preliminary report

Any person or group, including the Council, may make a submission to the VEC about the preliminary report. These submissions can be sent to the VEC in the same ways as the

preliminary submissions, and will also be available to the public at the VEC and the VEC website.

Submissions on the preliminary report should indicate whether the person making the submission wishes to speak at a public hearing in support of their submission.

Submissions on the preliminary report must be received at the VEC by **5.00 pm Monday, 12 April 2004**. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Public hearing, week commencing Monday, 19 April 2004

There will be a public hearing for people who want to speak in support of their submissions on the preliminary report.

Final report, Monday, 3 May 2004

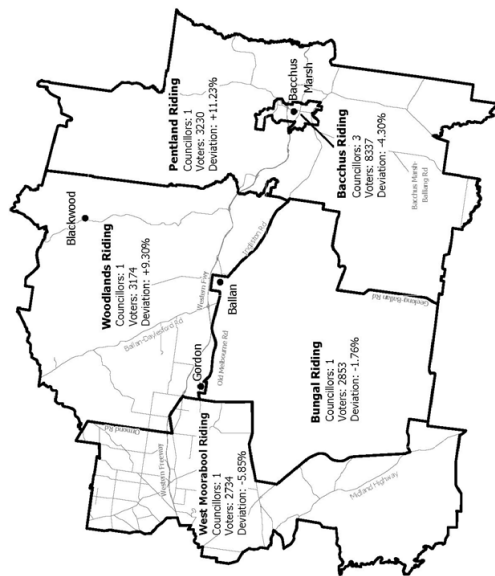
After considering any written submissions relating to the preliminary report, and information provided at the public hearing, the VEC will prepare a final report making recommendations to the Minister for Local Government. Copies of the final report will be forwarded to the Moorabool Shire Council. The final report will be available for inspection at the Shire offices and at the VEC during normal office hours and on the VEC website, www.vec.vic.gov.au.

Implementation

The Minister for Local Government will consider the VEC's recommendations and make a determination. The determination will take effect at the next Council election.

Current structure of Moorabool Shire

Moorabool Shire currently has five ridings, with three councillors representing Bacchus Riding and one councillor representing each of the other ridings. The map shows the current riding boundaries, the number of voters for each riding and the voter deviation from the average. These voter statistics will be used as the basis for the review.



Matters to consider when preparing submissions

How many Councillors should there be?

Section 10(1) of the Local Government Act requires that a Council is to consist of not fewer than 5 Councillors and not more than 12 Councillors.

A report issued by the Local Government Division in 1995, "Setting New Internal Boundaries for Councils Holding Elections in 1997" (which is still used by the Local Government and Regional Services Division), advised that in determining the number of councillors, the following factors should be considered:

- total voter numbers and their geographic distribution;
- equity of representation;
- the likely workload of councillors;
- Council business requirements, such as the allocation of portfolio responsibilities; and
- the costs associated with a larger rather than a smaller number of councillors.

The table at the end of this guide puts Moorabool in context. The table shows, for each council in Victoria, the geographical size of the council, the latest number of voters, the number of councillors, the number of voters per councillor and the council's electoral structure. The table can be used for comparative purposes.

The number of councillors should enable representation for the various communities of interest across the Shire. Councillors should be accessible to their constituents. Another factor to be considered is the workload of councillors. Councillor workload is affected by such matters as volume of business, diversity and complexity of issues, distances to be travelled and the number of separate communities of interest to be serviced.

The number of councillors can also affect how effectively and efficiently a council operates. The current average annual cost of one councillor at Moorabool Shire is approximately \$15,000. This is equivalent to 0.01% of the Shire's total annual operating budget. The possible features of a small or a large number of councillors can be portrayed as follows:

	Positive Features	Less Positive Features
Small number of councillors	Council works cohesively and efficiently. Reduced cost.	Councillors are less representative and accessible. Increased workload deters people from becoming councillors.
Large number of councillors	Council is representative of communities of interest. Councillors are readily accessible. Reasonable workload for councillors. Diversity of views enriches council decision-making.	Council becomes unwieldy and divided. Increased cost.

Should the Council be divided into ridings or be unsubdivided?

A council can either be unsubdivided, with all councillors elected “at large” by all the voters, or it can be subdivided into a number of wards or ridings. Of Victoria’s 79 councils, 13 are unsubdivided. An example is the Ararat Rural City Council.

Moorabool Shire is currently divided into five ridings, with three councillors representing Bacchus Riding and one councillor representing each of the other ridings.

This review will consider all possible models of representation, taking into account the submissions received during the public consultation process.

The possible features of an unsubdivided council can be portrayed as follows:

Positive Features	Less Positive Features
Promotes the concept of a Shire-wide focus, with councillors being elected by and concerned for the Shire as a whole, rather than parochial interests.	Can lead to significant communities of interest and points of view being unrepresented.
Gives residents and ratepayers a choice of councillors to approach with their concerns.	Can lead to councillors being relatively inaccessible for residents of parts of the Shire.
Each voter has the opportunity to express a preference for every candidate for the Council election.	Can lead to confusion of responsibilities and duplication of effort on the part of councillors.
Removes the need to define internal riding boundaries.	Large numbers of candidates can be confusing for voters.
Results in a simple, less expensive voters’ roll for elections as compared with separate voters’ rolls for individual ridings.	

Options for division into ridings

If the Council is to be divided into ridings, there are three options:

- Single-member ridings;
- Multi-member ridings; and
- Combinations of single- and multi-member ridings.

Single-member ridings

More than half (43) of Victoria’s councils have single-member wards or ridings. A local example is the City of Ballarat, which has 9 single-member wards.

The possible features of single-member ridings can be portrayed as follows:

Positive Features	Less Positive Features
Councillors are more likely to be truly local representatives, easily accessible to residents and aware of local issues.	Councillors may be elected on minor or parochial issues and lack a perspective of what is to the benefit of the Shire as a whole.
Every community of interest is likely to be represented.	Riding boundaries may divide communities of interest, and may be difficult to define.
It is less likely that one particular point of view or sectional interest will dominate the Council.	Voters may have a restricted choice of candidates in elections for individual ridings.
	There may be problems if a councillor is not performing effectively or is clashing with some electors, as electors for that riding have no alternative councillor to approach.
	Small populations in each riding may make riding boundaries susceptible to change caused by demographic shifts.
	Population changes can lead to unequal workloads for councillors until riding boundaries are reviewed.
	Separate voters’ rolls must be prepared for individual ridings, which is more complex and costly than in an unsubdivided Council.
	Some voters may be confused if they have multiple voting entitlements through owning or occupying property in more than one riding.

Multi-member ridings

Eleven of Victoria’s councils have multi-member wards or ridings. A local example is Corangamite Shire, which has five two-member wards.

A multi-member riding structure results in fewer but larger ridings than a single-member riding structure.

The possible features of multi-member ridings can be portrayed as follows:

Positive Features	Less Positive Features
This structure supports the accommodation of a whole community of interest (such as a sizeable town) within a riding.	
Focus on issues may be broader than for single-member ridings (though councillors may be more locally focussed than in an unsubdivided council).	Very local issues may be overridden.
Councillors may be more accessible than in an unsubdivided council	Groups within the council based on multi-member ridings may form, leading to division.
Electors have a choice of councillor to approach.	In very large ridings, councillors may not be accessible for residents in parts of the riding.
Councillors can more effectively share workloads.	Duplication or gaps may occur if councillors do not communicate or share their workload effectively.
Riding boundaries are likely to be easy to identify and less susceptible to change than for single-member ridings.	
	It is easier for candidates to be elected as part of a voting ticket than as individuals.

Combination of single- and multi-member ridings

Twelve of Victoria's councils have a mixture of single- and multi-member ridings, including Moorabool Shire, which has one three-member riding and four single-member ridings.

The possible features of a combined system can be portrayed as follows:

Positive Features	Less Positive Features
A large community of interest can be included within a multi-member riding, and a smaller community of interest can be included within a single-member riding. This accommodates differences in population across a shire, and allows small communities to be separately represented.	Electors in single-member ridings may expect that their councillors will be more influential than their numbers suggest.
Clear riding boundaries may be more likely.	The different voting systems for single- and multi-member ridings may cause confusion.

Voting systems

The voting system is an important factor affecting election outcomes.

In single-member ridings the voting system is **preferential**.

Under the preferential system:

a candidate must achieve an absolute majority (50% plus one) of the formal votes to be elected;

if a candidate obtains an absolute majority of the first-preference votes, that candidate is elected;

if no candidate obtains an absolute majority of first-preference votes, preferences have to be distributed;

the candidate with the lowest number of first-preference votes is declared to be a defeated candidate, and that candidate's votes are distributed to the remaining candidates according to the second preferences on the ballot papers;

the process of excluding the lowest candidate and distributing that candidate's preferences to the remaining candidates continues until one candidate has an absolute majority of votes, and is declared elected.

Under this system, the way in which voters allocate their preferences can be just as important as where they place their first-preference votes. Candidates advise voters (through how-to-vote cards and candidate statements) about how to order their preferences, and negotiate with other candidates about the order of preferences. In some cases, candidates have had informal "running mates" to help with the flow of preferences to them.

In unsubdivided councils and multi-member ridings the voting system is **proportional representation**, following legislative change at the end of 2003. The basis of proportional representation is that candidates are elected in proportion to their support.

Under the proportional representation system:

to be elected, a candidate must obtain a "quota", which is calculated by dividing the total number of votes by one more than the number of vacancies, and then adding one (for example, in an election for 3 vacancies with 800 votes cast, the quota would be 201);

when a candidate receives more votes than a quota, the surplus votes are distributed to the continuing candidates at a reduced value, calculated by dividing the surplus votes by the total votes for the candidate. (For example, if a candidate achieved 300 votes and the quota was 201 votes, the candidate's surplus would be 99, and ballot papers would be transferred to the remaining candidates at a value 99 divided by 300.);

when all surplus votes have been distributed and there are still vacancies to be filled, preferences are distributed from the lowest-scoring candidates until a candidate has a quota.

This system means that any candidate who obtains a quota, either through first-preference votes or through the flow of preferences, is elected. In effect, candidates representing all large minorities are likely to be represented as well as candidates representing majorities.

In practice, this system encourages candidates to group together and advise their supporters to follow a ticket in their preferences. However, such a group is unlikely to win all the vacancies in a riding or unsubdivided council unless it has overwhelming support.

How should riding boundaries be drawn?

If Moorabool Shire is to remain divided into ridings, the riding boundaries must comply with legal requirements. Section 219D of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires that:

- the number of voters represented by each Councillor must be within 10% of the average number of voters represented by all Councillors; and
- the ward boundaries must provide a fair and equitable division of the municipal district.

Where there are multi-member ridings or wards, the number of voters represented by each councillor for such ridings is taken to be the total number of voters for the riding divided by the number of councillors for the riding. For instance, there are 3 councillors and 8,337 voters for Bacchus Riding in Moorabool Shire. The number of voters represented by each councillor for Bacchus Riding is 8,337 divided by 3, which equals 2,779.

Riding boundaries **must** meet the approximate equality requirement set by the Local Government Act. In Moorabool Shire at present, the number of voters in Pentland Riding is 11.23% above the average. If Moorabool Shire were to retain the current structure, the number of voters for all ridings would have to be brought back within the 10% tolerance by changing the current riding boundaries.

The Local Government Act does not prescribe any more details to define what constitutes a fair and equitable division of the Shire. However, the following criteria are useful in considering and then deciding on proposed riding boundaries:

- the boundaries should take account of communities of interest;
- the boundaries should follow clear lines, such as major roads, rivers and other natural features;
- as far as possible, the boundaries should follow census collector district (CCD) boundaries. This will assist in providing the Council with demographic information, and will also facilitate voters' roll administration; and
- the boundaries should take account of likely population changes, by setting the number of voters in ridings with high growth potential somewhat below the average, and the number of voters in ridings with little growth potential somewhat above the average. The approach will help ensure that the boundaries stay within the 10% tolerance for a longer period, avoiding the need for frequent redrawing of boundaries.

What should ridings be called?

There is a variety of possible approaches to the naming of ridings, including:

Place names: This is largely the current approach in Moorabool Shire, where several ridings are named after a locality in that riding. This approach is useful where riding boundaries closely align with localities. However, it can lead to smaller localities within a riding feeling overlooked, and may cause confusion if the locality that a riding is named after cuts across a riding boundary:

Compass directions: This is the current approach in Corangamite Shire, where the wards are Central, North, South Central, South and West. It is straightforward. It is of most use where the location of the wards is closely aligned to compass directions;

Names of historic buildings: This is a way of celebrating the Shire's heritage;

Names of natural features: Using the names of natural features such as hills or streams can be a way of identifying ridings without the complications of locality names. The features would need to be well known and relevant to the particular ridings;

Names of pioneers and former prominent citizens: This is a way of recognising important former residents. It is most appropriate when the person is closely associated with the area covered by the riding;

Aboriginal names: This is a way of recognising the Shire's Aboriginal heritage. However, the use of Aboriginal names could be seen as being tokenistic if the names are not relevant to areas within the Shire.

TABLE: PROFILES OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS - 2004

Metropolitan (including outer metropolitan)					
Council	Area (km ²)	Number on roll	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure
Banyule	63	91,639	7	13091	Single member wards
Bayside	37	68,043	9	7560	Single member wards
Boroondara	60	124,245	10	12425	Single member wards
Brimbank	123	119,791	9	13310	Single member wards
Casey	389	130,368	11	11852	Single member wards
Darebin	53	100,680	9	11187	Single member wards
Frankston	130	90,611	7	12944	Single member wards
Glen Eira	39	96,259	9	10695	3 three member wards
Greater Dandenong	130	94,605	11	8600	Single member wards
Hobsons Bay	64	63,775	8	7972	4 two member wards
Hume	503	97,985	9	10887	Single member wards
Kingston	91	105,796	7	15114	Single member wards
Knox	118	110,006	9	12223	Single member wards
Manningham	113	86,847	8	10856	4 two member wards
Maribyrnong	31	48,844	7	6978	Single member wards
Maroondah	61	77,585	7	11084	Single member wards
Melbourne	37	64,000	9	7111	Unsubdivided
Melton	528	37,818	7	5403	Single member wards
Monash	81	122,865	8	15358	Single member wards
Moonee Valley	44	92,217	7	13174	Single member wards
Moreland	31	98,732	10	9873	Single member wards
Mornington Peninsula	721	136,358	9	15151	Single member wards
Millumbik	430	43,736	9	4860	Single member wards
Port Phillip	20	73,812	7	10545	Single member wards
Stonnington	26	78,148	9	8683	Single member wards
Whitehorse	64	112,858	10	11286	5 two member wards
Whittlesea	490	84,676	9	9408	Single member wards
Wyndham	540	67,813	7	9688	Single member wards
Yarra	70	59,589	9	6621	1 single member ward, 4 two member wards
Yarra Ranges	2,464	105,900	9	11767	Single member wards
Average (median)	76	91,928	9	10872	

Regional Cities, Rural Cities and Boroughs					
Council	Area (km ²)	Number on roll	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure
Ararat	3,701	9,586	7	1369	Unsubdivided
Ballarat	739	66,468	9	7385	Single member wards
Benalla	2,354	11,785	7	1684	Single member wards
Greater Bendigo	2,995	77,069	7	11010	Single member wards
Greater Geelong	1,275	155,034	12	12920	Single member wards
Greater Shepparton	2,420	39,740	7	5677	Unsubdivided
Horsham	4,253	14,614	7	2088	Unsubdivided
Latrobe	1,405	58,131	9	6459	Single member wards
Mildura	22,092	36,333	9	4037	Unsubdivided
Queenscliffe	11	4,131	7	590	Unsubdivided
Swan Hill	6,106	14,586	7	2084	1 single member ward, 3 two member wards
Wangaratta	3,628	21,525	8	2691	6 single member wards, 1 two member ward
Warrnambool	121	23,777	7	3397	Single member wards
Wodonga	434	23,373	5	4675	Unsubdivided
Average (median)	2,387	23,575	7	3717	

Regional Shires					
Council	Area (km ²)	Number on roll	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure
Alpine	4,837	11,074	5	2215	Unsubdivided
Bass Coast	865	37,113	7	5302	Single member wards
Baw Baw	4,030	30,399	9	3378	Single member wards
Buloke	8,006	6,804	9	756	3 three member wards
Campaspe	4,519	30,525	7	4361	5 single member wards, 1 two member ward
Cardinia	1,282	36,473	7	5210	Single member wards
Central Goldfields	1,532	11,415	5	2283	Single member wards
Colac Otway	3,449	20,433	7	2919	2 single member wards, 1 two member ward, 1 three member ward
Corangamite	4,356	13,962	10	1396	5 two member wards
East Gippsland	20,942	36,769	8	4596	2 four member wards
Gannawarra	3,736	9,949	7	1421	3 single member wards, 2 two member wards
Glenside	6,212	18,506	9	2056	Single member wards
Golden Plains	2,705	13,192	9	1466	Single member ridings
Hepburn	1,470	13,783	5	2757	Single member wards
Hindmarsh	7,520	5,430	6	905	3 two member wards
Indigo	2,046	11,457	7	1637	Unsubdivided
Loddon	6,694	8,570	6	1428	Single member ridings
Macedon Ranges	1,743	30,189	9	3354	Single member wards
Mansfield	3,887	9,141	5	1828	4 single member wards, 1 two member ward
Mitchell	2,864	21,955	7	3136	5 single member wards, 1 two member ward
Moira	4,057	20,599	9	2289	3 three member wards
Moorabool	2,110	20,328	7	2904	4 single member ridings, 1 three member riding
Mount Alexander	1,528	15,377	7	2197	Single member wards
Moyne	5,853	13,883	10	1388	5 two member ridings
Murrindindi	3,987	13,725	6	2288	Single member ridings
Northern Grampians	5,903	11,080	9	1231	1 three member ward, 1 six member ward
Pyrenees	3,432	7,211	7	1030	Single member ridings
South Gippsland	3,297	28,548	9	3172	7 single member wards, 1 two member ward
Southern Grampians	6,800	13,195	7	1885	Unsubdivided
Strathbogie	3,304	9,080	7	1297	Single member wards

Council	Area (km ²)	Number on roll	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure
Surf Coast	1,560	21,943	9	2438	3 single member wards, 2 three member wards
Towong	6,670	5,264	5	1053	Unsubdivided
Wellington	11,007	37,709	9	4190	Unsubdivided
West Wimmera	9,116	4,322	5	864	Unsubdivided
Yarriambiack	7,163	7,251	9	806	3 single member wards, 2 three member wards
Average (median)	3,987	13,783	7	2197	

9.5 List of persons and organisations making submissions

(Full details of submissions are available on the VEC web site www.vec.vic.gov.au)

Preliminary submissions

Glenda Barron

Allan Comrie

Anthony van der Craats

John Cutler

Eddie Davis

Gillian Davis

Myrna Frost

G E Gregson

Judith de Groot

Russell Hendry

R A Hewat

Graham Hooper

Cindy Hutchinson

Delwyn Leggatt

Heather Linsdell

W Madigan

Graeme and Wendy Minns

Robert Nielsen

Joan Parkhill

Proportional Representation Society of Australia Victoria-Tasmania Branch

Barry Riley

Peter Russell

Kevin Spencer

M Trask

Michael Tudball

Victorian Farmers Federation Ballan Branch

Response submissions

Denis Alford

Bacchus Marsh Town Centre Revitalization Group

Bacchus Marsh Village Shopping Centre

Ballan Branch Victorian Farmers Federation

Ballan Sub-Branch RSL

Balliang Public Hall and Recreational Reserve Committee of Management

Barrie Bardsley

W Barry

Greg Basten

Lelsey Batchelor
Richard & Allison Bayly
Andrew Billingham
William Birch
Blackwood-Barrys Reef Landcare Group
W Blade
P Bourke
David Bowles
Basil Britt
Karl Britt
Sheila Britt
Joe Broad
Business@Bacchus Marsh
Margaret Cahir
Ian & Wendy Chennell
Allan Comrie
S Conroy
Anthony van der Craats
Darren Craig
Geoff & Judy Craig
Harry & Rita Craig & Elsie Dukelow
Phil Crowe
Leigh Cruickshank & Peter Reid
Mike Currington
John Cutler
Belinda Dellios
Graham Dent
Dusan Devcic
Anne Dolphin
B Drenth
Tina Duffy
Dace Duks
Colin Evans
Michael & Amber Farrugia
Tony & Liz Farrugia
Doug Fegent
Margaret Fegent
Robert Fennell
Jennifer Fiddian
Ron Geurts
Rhonda Gifford

Marriane & Steven Golding
M Gosnold, P Russell & D McAuliffe
James Greenshields
George Gregson
Judith de Groot
Merle Guthrie
G F Hamm
Graeme Hastings
Lorinna Denise Hastings
Philip Hastings
Maree Heffernan
Elizabeth Hehir
Anita Henry
R A Hewat
Pru Hilder
Robyn Hill
P Hodge
Graham Hooper
Alma Huggins
Roy Huggins
Chris & Marion Ingram
Norma Jarvis
J Jenz
Shirley Joslin
H Kaindl
R Kelly
Bruce Kendall
Bruce & Margaret Kerr
Terry Kingcott
Philip Kinghorn
Tom Kingston
Rona Lawrance
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Lorraine Lipson
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