

Local council electoral structure review

# Preliminary Report

Brimbank City Council

October 2023

### Acknowledgement of Country

The electoral representation advisory panel acknowledges the Bunurong and the Wurundjeri peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters for which it is holding this review and pays respects to ancestors and Elders past, present and emerging. The panel acknowledges their custodianship for many thousands of years and their continuing living culture.

### Report approval

Version	Date approved	Approved by
1	10 October 2023	The Honourable Frank Vincent AO KC
1	10 October 2023	Ms Liz Williams PSM
1	10 October 2023	Mr Sven Bluemmel

### Version approval

Version	Date approved	Approved by	Brief description
1	13 October 2023	Program Sponsor	Final proofread and confirmed for publication

# Contents

<b>Executive summary</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Developing electoral structure models .....	4
Electoral structure models.....	4
Next steps.....	4
<b>Background</b> .....	<b>6</b>
About the 2023–24 electoral structure reviews.....	6
The electoral representation advisory panel.....	6
Public engagement .....	6
Developing recommendations.....	7
<b>About Brimbank City Council</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Profile .....	11
Current number of councillors and electoral structure .....	13
Last electoral structure review.....	13
<b>Preliminary findings and models</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Number of councillors .....	14
Electoral structure .....	15
Models for public feedback .....	19
Ward names .....	19
<b>Next steps</b> .....	<b>21</b>
Response submissions .....	21
Public hearing .....	22
Final report.....	22
<b>References</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Model maps</b> .....	<b>24</b>

## Executive summary

An electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government is reviewing the electoral structure of Brimbank City Council.

The purpose of the review is to advise the Minister on the appropriate number of councillors and electoral structure, including ward names, for the council.

Under Victoria's *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Brimbank City Council must now have a single-councillor ward electoral structure.

The panel is looking at:

- the appropriate number of councillors and wards for the council
- the location of ward boundaries
- appropriate ward names.

This report outlines the preliminary models the panel is presenting for public consultation, for the proposed new electoral structure of Brimbank City Council to meet the requirements of the Act.

More information about the background to the review is available on [page 6](#).

## Developing electoral structure models

The panel considered a range of factors when deciding on the models in this report, including:

- research and analysis
- voter growth or decline over time.

More information on the way the panel decided on the models is available on [page 7](#).

## Electoral structure models

After considering research and the requirements of the Act, the panel is presenting the following electoral structure models for public consultation:

- Model 1: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 11 councillors – 11 wards with one councillor per ward.
- Model 2: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 11 councillors – 11 wards with one councillor per ward, with different ward boundaries to Model 1.
- Model 3: a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 11 councillors – 11 wards with one councillor per ward, with different ward boundaries to models 1 and 2.

Details on these models, including maps, are available in [Appendix 1](#).

## Next steps

The panel is now seeking feedback on the preliminary electoral structure models. You can make a response submission to the preliminary models until 5 pm Wednesday 8 November 2023. If any response submitters wish to speak at a public hearing, the panel will hold an online



public hearing on Wednesday 15 November. Following this, the panel will present its final recommendation to the Minister on Wednesday 13 December 2023.

More information about the review process is available on the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

## Background

### About the 2023–24 electoral structure reviews

In October 2022, the Minister for Local Government formed 2 electoral representation advisory panels to review and provide advice on the electoral structures of 39 local councils, under section 16 of the Act. If the Minister accepts the electoral structure recommended by the panel, any changes are expected to take effect at the October 2024 local council elections.

The Act introduced several changes to local government representation, including the types of electoral structures local councils may have. All metropolitan, interface and regional city councils (including Brimbank City Council) must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

For Brimbank City Council, the panel is examining:

- the number of councillors and wards
- where the ward boundaries should be
- the name of each ward.

The Act requires electoral structures to provide fair and equitable representation and facilitate good governance. Each ward must have an approximately equal number of voters per councillor (within +/-10% of the average). While conducting the review, the panel also notes the role of a councillor as specified under section 28 of the Act.

### The electoral representation advisory panel

The panel conducting the electoral structure review of Brimbank City Council has 3 members:

- The Honourable Frank Vincent AO KC (Chairperson)
- Ms Liz Williams PSM
- Electoral Commissioner Mr Sven Bluemmel.

The purpose of the review is to advise the Minister on the appropriate number of councillors and electoral structure, including ward names, for the council. The panel is independent of councils and the VEC.

Under the Act, the VEC is not responsible for reviewing council electoral structures but must provide administrative and technical support to the panel. The Electoral Commissioner (or their nominated representative) must be a member of each panel.

## Public engagement

### Public information program

On behalf of the panel, the VEC conducts a public information and awareness program to inform the public about the Brimbank City Council electoral structure review. This includes:

- printed public notices in state-wide newspapers

- public information sessions to outline the review process and respond to questions from the community
- a media release to announce the start of the review
- information on social media channels
- website content on [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au), including:
  - current information on the review process
  - fact sheets for each council under review and a submission guide.

Brimbank City Council was also offered and took up the first but not the second of the following 2 optional methods to promote the reviews:

- social media advertisements targeted at the council area
- notifying voters in the council area subscribed to the VEC's VoterAlert service about the start of the review and release of the preliminary report.

### **Public consultation**

The panel now invites input to the electoral structure review of Brimbank City Council via:

- response submissions to this preliminary report
- an online public hearing for anyone who makes a response submission to speak to the panel and expand on their submission.

Public submissions are an important part of the review process and are considered alongside other factors addressed during the review. These are outlined below.

## **Developing recommendations**

The electoral structure models the panel is presenting in this preliminary report comply with the Act and were developed through careful consideration of:

- research and analysis conducted by the VEC support team, including geospatial and demographic data
- rates or patterns of population and voter change over time, and relevant forecasts of growth or decline based on forecast information provided by .id (informed decisions, a company specialising in demographics and forecasting).

### **Deciding on the number of councillors**

The Act allows local councils to have between 5 and 12 councillors, but neither the Act nor the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 specify how to determine the appropriate number of councillors. Therefore, the models put forward by the panel in this report are guided by the Act's intention for fairness and equity in voter representation.

In examining the appropriate number of councillors for Brimbank City Council, the panel considered the following criteria:

- the population and number of voters in the council area, compared to other councils with a similar population size and number of voters in the same category (for example, other comparable metropolitan, interface or regional city councils)
- patterns of population change and voter growth or decline in the council area over time
- the current and past numbers of councillors
- the representation needs of the communities of interest in the council area.

The panel's final recommendation will also consider any matters raised in public response submissions not already listed above.

Local councils with a larger number of voters will often have more councillors. Large populations generally have greater diversity, both in the type and number of communities of interest and issues relating to representation. However, the ideal number of councillors can also be influenced by the circumstances of each council, such as the:

- nature and complexity of services the council provides
- geographic size and topography of the area
- forecast population and voter growth or decline
- social diversity.

### **Deciding the electoral structure**

Under the Act, regional city, metropolitan and interface councils must now have single-councillor ward electoral structures.

When developing single-councillor ward models for Brimbank City Council, the panel considered these criteria:

- whether the structure would comply with section 15(2) of the Act (see below), and for how long it would likely comply
- the appropriate number of councillors, as outlined above
- whether meaningful and effective ward boundaries could be established and whether these would be easily identifiable to local communities
- the representation of communities of interest
- the voter distribution and physical features of the area, and the impact these may have on the shape and size of wards
- past elections for the council, including:
  - numbers of candidates nominating
  - incidences of uncontested elections
  - rates of informal voting.

The panel's final recommendation will also consider any matters raised in public response submissions not already listed above.

Under section 15(2) of the Act, subdivided structures must aim for an approximately equal number of voters per councillor in each ward. This means the number of voters represented by each councillor in a ward should be within +/-10% of the average number of voters per councillor for all wards.

During this review, the panel aims to recommend a structure that will comply with section 15(2) at the time of the 2024 local council elections and, if possible, also comply based on voter numbers at the time the review is conducted. The panel uses forecasts of population and voter change to assess compliance at the 2024 elections with as much accuracy as possible. In some cases, population change and other factors impacting voter numbers mean it is not possible to create compliant subdivided structures based both on voter numbers that were current at the time of the review and forecast voter numbers. In these instances, the panel prioritises compliance at the 2024 local government elections to ensure each vote will have approximately equal value at the 2024 election.

One of the factors that may impact compliance with section 15(2) is the number of current and forecast voters with ratepayer-based voting entitlements, also known as council-enrolled electors. Voters' rolls include both state-enrolled electors (the majority of the roll) and a smaller number of council-enrolled electors. The Act introduced changes to ratepayer-based entitlement categories, which come into full effect at the 2024 local council elections. The panel will take this change to the makeup of voters' rolls, and therefore compliance with section 15(2) of the Act, into consideration during this review.

### **Deciding on ward names**

The panel takes the following approach to naming wards:

1. The panel retains existing ward names if these are still relevant to the area covered by the ward.
2. When a new name is required, the panel bases this on features such as:
  - places (registered under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*) in the ward
  - compass directions
  - native flora or fauna.

### **Use of Aboriginal language**

The panel recognises that there should be meaningful consultation with local Aboriginal communities and groups before a ward is named using Aboriginal language. Meaningful consultation is a significant process that the panel is not able to undertake within the timeframes of the current review program.

The panel also recognises that many of the place names in current use across Victoria are based on Aboriginal language. As such, the panel may put forward new ward names using Aboriginal language if:

- it is the name of a place within a ward

- it is currently in common use

and

- the name is registered under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*.

Unregistered names using Aboriginal language have not been put forward by the panel as new ward names. While the panel supports the adoption of names based on Aboriginal language, this requires appropriate consultation.

Accordingly, for the panel to consider an Aboriginal language ward name that is suggested in a public submission to the review, the name submitted needs to comply with the above guidelines.

# About Brimbank City Council

## Profile

Brimbank City Council is the largest metropolitan council in Victoria by population and covers 123 km<sup>2</sup> between 20 and 40 km west of the Melbourne CBD. It is bordered by Hume City Council to the north mostly following the Maribyrnong River, Merri-bek, Moonee Valley, and Maribyrnong city councils to the east, Hobsons Bay and Wyndham city councils to the south, and Melton City Council to the west.

The Traditional Custodians of the land in Brimbank City Council are the Wurundjeri and Bunurong peoples.

## Landscape

Natural features, such as waterways, have shaped the council area's housing and other developments. The Maribyrnong River forms a part of the northern border and Kororoit Creek part of the western boundary.

The council area has a strong industrial and working-class history (Veltri 2008) and remains heavily urbanised, with large residential, industrial and commercial areas. Overall, 85% of the council area is urbanised, with smaller areas for parks, grazing, and rural residential use (DAFF 2021). Significant industrial zones remain in Sunshine and Keilor Park.

Suburbs and housing development have followed the northwest train line around Sunshine and through to St Albans, Taylors Lakes and Sydenham.

The biggest commercial area is in Sunshine and Sydenham has a large activity centre, including Watergardens Shopping Centre. Deer Park Village, Brimbank Central and St Albans also have major shopping precincts.

## Population and community

The population of the council area was 194,618 people at the 2021 Census, an increase of about 31,700 since 2001 (ABS 2001, 2022a). It is forecast to grow to nearly 230,000 people by 2040, mostly in the Sunshine and St Albans areas (.id 2023). The proportion of the population identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander is 0.4%, similar to the Greater Melbourne average of 0.7% (ABS 2022a).

The population of the council area is culturally diverse. In 2021, about 70% of people had both parents born overseas, compared to about 50% for Greater Melbourne. People who identified as having Vietnamese ancestry (16.9%) were the largest group and people identifying as having Australian and English ancestry were 12.6% and 11.6% respectively (about 10% less than for Greater Melbourne). Other large cultural groups include people with Chinese, Italian and Maltese ancestry (ABS 2022a, 2022b; .id 2023).

Religious affiliations with faiths such as Catholicism, Buddhism, and Islam are much higher than for Greater Melbourne (.id 2023).

There are areas of disadvantage in St Albans, Kings Park, Albanvale, and Sunshine West. The same levels of disadvantage are not present in large parts of the north such as in Taylors Lakes and parts of Keilor (ABS 2023).



## Current number of councillors and electoral structure

Brimbank City Council is currently divided into 4 wards with a total of 11 councillors:

- one ward with 2 councillors (Horseshoe Bend Ward)
- 3 wards with 3 councillors each (Grasslands, Harvester, and Taylors wards).



**Figure 1:** Diagram of current electoral structure of Brimbank City Council.

There are approximately 136,190 voters in Brimbank City Council, with an approximate ratio of 12,380 voters per councillor.

Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) for more information on Brimbank City Council.

## Last electoral structure review

The VEC conducted an electoral representation review of Brimbank City Council in 2011. This review was carried out under the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic), which was replaced by the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic).

After conducting the review, the VEC recommended that Brimbank City Council continue to consist of 11 councillors elected from 4 wards (one ward with 2 councillors and 3 wards with 3 councillors each).

Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) to access a copy of the 2011 representation review final report.

## Preliminary findings and models

### Number of councillors

After taking into consideration the requirements of the Act and the agreed criteria, the panel found 11 councillors to be an appropriate number for Brimbank City Council.

The panel considered the characteristics of Brimbank City Council in relation to similar metropolitan councils, including its population, the number and distribution of voters, and the size and geography of the council.

Similar metropolitan councils to Brimbank City Council						
Local council	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Number of voters at 2020 election	Population (2021 Census)	Current total estimate of voters	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor
Melbourne City Council	38	137,164	149,615	146,930	9	16,325
Brimbank City Council*	123	133,409	194,618	136,190	11	12,380
Merri-bek City Council*	51	131,631	171,357	130,481	11	11,861
Boroondara City Council	60	126,619	167,900	125,020	11	11,365
Monash City Council*	82	120,823	190,397	120,771	11	10,979
Kingston City Council	91	118,779	158,129	119,474	11	10,861
Knox City Council	114	117,363	159,103	116,282	9	12,920
Darebin City Council	54	114,106	148,570	114,358	9	12,706
Whitehorse City Council	64	112,640	169,346	113,214	11	10,292

\*These local councils are undergoing an electoral structure review during 2023–24.

### Maintaining 11 councillors

Brimbank City Council currently has 136,190 voters represented by 11 councillors and covers an area of 123 km<sup>2</sup>. Other metropolitan councils with a similar number of voters usually also have 11 councillors. As only modest population change is forecast for the council, the panel considers it appropriate for the total number of councillors to remain unchanged. The panel did not feel there were any special circumstances or strong arguments for decreasing the number of councillors.

## Electoral structure

To identify the most appropriate electoral structure, various factors were considered. This included the requirements of the Act, the communities of interest in Brimbank City Council, the appropriateness of ward boundaries and which models offered the best potential for fair and equitable representation and consequently facilitate good governance.

In developing the preliminary models presented in this report, the panel considered a range of models. The strongest 3 models have been put forward for further public comment.

The panel proposes 3 models for the consideration of the Brimbank City Council community:

- a subdivided electoral structure of 11 single-councillor wards (Model 1)
- a subdivided electoral structure of 11 single-councillor wards, with different ward boundaries to Model 1 (Model 2)
- a subdivided electoral structure of 11 single-councillor wards, with different ward boundaries to models 1 and 2 (Model 3).

Diagrams of the preliminary models are included in [Appendix 1](#).

### **A single-councillor ward structure with 11 councillors (Model 1)**

Under this model, Brimbank City Council would adopt an 11-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act. Of the 3 models, Model 1 is considered the least stable, with a greater potential for wards to be outside the +/- 10% range by 2028 than for the other 2 models.

Model 1 most closely follows the existing multi-ward structure with clear boundaries, wards relatively even in size and many suburbs fully contained in individual wards.

The model keeps the external boundaries of the current Harvester Ward but divides the ward to create Derrimut, Kororoit Creek and Sunshine wards. Derrimut Ward is compact but contains parts of Derrimut and Sunshine West. Kororoit Creek and Sunshine wards are divided by the train line. Sunshine Ward is compact, uses clear features as ward boundaries and contains a large part of the Sunshine business district and industrial areas.

St Albans Ward covers a part of the current Horseshoe Bend Ward and is the same in all 3 models. It takes in about half of the suburb of St Albans and is well defined by the Metropolitan Ring Road, the central train line, Sunshine Avenue and Arthur Street.

The proposed Horseshoe Bend Ward covers the Maribyrnong River and surrounds. In the north, Sydenham and Organ Pipes wards cover much of the current Taylors Ward. Sydenham Ward's boundaries seem arbitrary but contain most of the area's commercial activities, including Watergardens shopping centre. Parts of Taylors and Grasslands wards are now in Kings Park Ward and the proposed Keilor Plains Ward covers parts of Taylors, Grasslands and Horseshoe Bend wards. Part of the current Grasslands Ward is divided into Deer Park and Jones Creek wards.

Drawbacks of Model 1 include Derrimut Ward, where there is limited connectivity between the Derrimut and Sunshine West communities. Some suburbs are split between wards, notably St Albans, which is split between St Albans Ward, Keilor Plains Ward, and Jones Creek Ward. While this is not ideal, St Albans has such a large population it cannot be accommodated within one ward. Similarly, the majority of Taylors Lakes is in Organ Pipes Ward, with about 10% in each of Sydenham and Horseshoe Bend wards.

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

Under this model, Brimbank City Council would adopt an 11-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act. This model is anticipated to remain within the +/-10% deviation range until the 2028 council elections.

Model 2 has clear boundaries and groups communities in the south relatively well. However, the model has some unclear boundaries in the north and splits some central suburbs across multiple wards.

In Model 2 the current Harvester Ward is split into 4, with parts of the current Grasslands Ward balancing out voter numbers. Mount Derrimut Ward has clear boundaries in Mt Derrimut and Station roads and Kororoit Creek. Cherry Creek Ward covers a large area because it includes an industrial zone. The Furlong Road boundary divides Cairnlea between wards, which is a possible drawback of the model.

Cherry Creek Ward groups the communities of Ardeer, Cairnlea, and Sunshine West but the Metropolitan Ring Road divides communities in the ward. The panel felt the boundary between Cherry Creek and Kororoit Creek wards to be arbitrary in places, with Kororoit Creek Ward including a section of housing to the west of Link Street. The remainder of the current Harvester Ward is covered by the proposed Sunshine Ward, which is identical to the ward in Model 1.

Model 2's Horseshoe Bend Ward is also identical to Model 1's. In the north, Kings, Copernicus and Organ Pipes wards cover the current Taylors Ward and small parts of the current Grasslands and Horseshoe Bend wards. Albanvale Ward includes the northern part of Deer Park, Albanvale and about half of Kings Park. Kings Ward covers the other half of Kings Park, along with Delahey and a section of Sydenham. The current Grasslands Ward is covered by a large section of the proposed Grasslands Ward.

Like in Model 1, the Sunshine central business district is split between 2 wards. Cherry Creek Ward covers the other half of Sunshine West, all of Ardeer, and half of Cairnlea. Grasslands Ward covers the northern part of Cairnlea and part of St Albans. St Albans Ward has the same boundaries across all 3 models.

The industrial zones in the council area are in Mount Derrimut, Cherry Creek, Kororoit Creek, Sunshine and Horseshoe Bend wards.

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

Under this model, Brimbank City Council would adopt an 11-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act. Model 3 is expected to remain within the required +/-10% deviation range at the 2028 council elections.

Model 3 generally keeps suburbs in wards and uses some easily identifiable boundaries. For instance, Melton Highway forms a boundary between Organ Pipes and Watergardens wards. The Old Calder Highway, Taylors Creek and the Maribyrnong River form boundaries between Organ Pipes Ward and Copernicus and Maribyrnong River wards.

Residents will be familiar with other boundaries, including the train line parallel to Sydenham and St Albans roads. This corridor is used as a boundary from the Metropolitan Ring Road in the south to where Hume Drive intersects Sydenham Road further north. It divides Grasslands and St Albans wards, and Kings and Copernicus wards. The Metropolitan Ring Road is also used as a strong boundary between several wards.

Model 3 keeps the Sunshine central business district in Sunshine Ward, unlike in the other 2 models. The Watergardens Ward contains the Watergardens shopping centre, with businesses to the north of the Melton Highway in the Organ Pipes Ward.

Mount Derrimut Ward covers the Paramount industrial area and other industrial zones in the council area's south-west. Sunshine West Ward contains most of the industrial zones in the council area's south-east, with the remainder in Sunshine Ward. Maribyrnong River Ward also covers significant industrial zones.

One drawback of Model 3 is that parts of the suburb of St Albans are divided across 4 wards. Half is in St Albans Ward, about 20% in Grasslands Ward and another 20% in Copernicus Ward.

### **Summary**

In summary, introducing single-councillor wards represents a large electoral structure change for Brimbank City Council. Achieving models that divide communities into appropriate wards while also accounting for population growth and ensuring they comply with the +/-10% requirement can be challenging.

In developing the models, the panel sought to keep localities and their communities together. However, many localities need to be split simply because they have too many voters to make a single ward. Similarly, because residents would be familiar with existing ward boundaries there was a general desire to use them.

Model 1 was based on the current electoral structure and further divided into a total of 11 wards. It has many clear boundaries, although the panel felt the split between Sydenham and Kings Park wards seems arbitrary. Links between Derrimut and Sunshine West were also considered poor due to the Metropolitan Ring Road intersecting the ward. Of the 3 models, Model 1 was the least likely to remain within deviation at the 2028 election, making a ward boundary review more likely prior to the 2028 council election.

The panel considered Model 2 effective at keeping communities of interest together in wards, especially in the southern part of the council where strong boundaries are typically used. However, in Cherry Creek Ward the Metropolitan Ring Road is crossed and means the southern part of the suburb of Cairnlea is in the same ward as the western half of Sunshine West and Ardeer. Model 2 also has some arbitrary division between Organ Pipes and Kings wards.

Model 3 used freeways and waterways where possible as strong and clear boundaries. The model captured the southern communities well, while maintaining a Sunshine district bound by the freeway. The model is most likely to comply with the Act to the 2028 council election. However, there are some issues with the model, including the shapes of some wards, which residents might not identify with. Another is the connections between the communities of Sunshine and Keilor Park in Maribyrnong River Ward.

## Models for public feedback

The panel considers all models outlined below to be the single-councillor ward electoral structures with the best potential to offer fair and equitable representation for voters in Brimbank City Council and consequently facilitate good governance. Please see [Appendix 1](#) for detailed maps of these models.

### Model 1

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

Ward names: Deer Park Ward, Derrimut Ward, Horseshoe Bend Ward, Jones Creek Ward, Keilor Plains Ward, Kings Park Ward, Kororoit Creek Ward, Organ Pipes Ward, St Albans Ward, Sunshine Ward, Sydenham Ward.

### Model 2

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

Ward names: Albanvale Ward, Cherry Creek Ward, Copernicus Ward, Grasslands Ward, Horseshoe Bend Ward, Kings Ward, Kororoit Creek Ward, Mount Derrimut Ward, Organ Pipes Ward, St Albans Ward, Sunshine Ward.

### Model 3

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

Ward names: Albanvale Ward, Copernicus Ward, Grasslands Ward, Kings Ward, Maribyrnong River Ward, Mount Derrimut Ward, Organ Pipes Ward, St Albans Ward, Sunshine Ward, Sunshine West Ward, Watergardens Ward.

## Ward names

The panel has suggested ward names to identify the wards in each model and invites comments from the community on these names as part of submissions responding to the preliminary report. The basis of the ward name recommendations for each model are described below.

### Model 1

Deer Park Ward, Derrimut Ward, Jones Creek Ward, Keilor Plains Ward, Kings Park Ward, Kororoit Creek Ward, Organ Pipes Ward, St Albans Ward, Sunshine Ward, and Sydenham Ward have names that are new and are based on natural features, built features, roads, rivers, lakes or localities found within each ward.

Horseshoe Bend Ward is the existing name of one ward under the current electoral structure.

## **Model 2**

Albanvale Ward, Cherry Creek Ward, Copernicus Ward, Kings Ward, and Mount Derrimut Ward have names that are new and are based on natural features, built features, roads, rivers, lakes or localities found within each ward. As above.

Grasslands Ward is the existing name of one ward under the current electoral structure. As above.

## **Model 3**

Maribyrnong River Ward, Sunshine West Ward, and Watergardens Ward have names that are new and are based on natural features, built features, roads, rivers, lakes or localities found within each ward. As above.

The panel will review ward name suggestions received during the response submission stage when forming the final advice to the Minister for Local Government on the electoral structure of the council. Suggested ward names should comply with the panel's approach to naming wards (see [Deciding on ward names](#) and [Use of Aboriginal language](#)). All ward name suggestions received during the response submission stage will be provided to the Minister for consideration at the conclusion of the electoral structure review.






## Next steps

### Response submissions

Any person or group, including the local council under review, can make a response submission to the electoral representation advisory panel. In your submission you should address the models proposed by the panel in this preliminary report.

You can make a submission:

	<p><b>Online</b></p> <p>Visit <a href="https://vec.vic.gov.au">vec.vic.gov.au</a> to make a submission online.</p> <p>You will need to make an account to use the online Public Submission Tool and can save a draft submission to finish later.</p>
	<p><b>By email</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:Brimbank.erapsubmissions@vec.vic.gov.au">Brimbank.erapsubmissions@vec.vic.gov.au</a></p>
	<p><b>By post</b></p> <p>Electoral Representation Advisory Panel  c/o Victorian Electoral Commission  Level 11, 530 Collins St  Melbourne VIC 3000</p>

The panel must receive all response submissions before 5 pm on Wednesday 8 November 2023. If you post your submission, make sure it has enough time to reach the panel before the deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted.

#### Required information

For your submission to be considered, you must include your:

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

To protect the integrity and transparency of the review process, the panel will not consider submissions without this information. If you are submitting as a group or organisation, you must include the name of a nominated contact person who is authorised to submit on behalf of your group.

On behalf of the panel, the VEC will handle information provided by submitters in accordance with the privacy policy available at [vec.vic.gov.au/privacy](https://vec.vic.gov.au/privacy)

## Public access to submissions

To ensure transparency in the electoral structure review process, your submission will be published on the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au). The VEC will remove your signature and contact details, including residential and postal addresses, from all public copies but must publish your full name (or group name) and locality (suburb or town).

Please note that any submission content that is potentially defamatory, offensive, obscene or that includes the personal information of people or organisations who are not a party to the submission may also be redacted before publication.

## Public hearing

If you make a response submission, you can also ask to speak at an online public hearing to support your submission and expand on your views.

The online public hearing is scheduled for:

Time: 10 am

Date: Wednesday 15 November 2023

The panel encourages participation in the public hearing. If you wish to speak at the public hearing, you **must** indicate this in your response submission. The public hearing will not be held if there are no requests to speak.

Anyone can attend a public hearing, but you will only be able to speak if you asked to in your response submission. If you ask to speak, the VEC will contact you to arrange a time for you to speak at the hearing. You will have 10 minutes to address the public hearing panel, which will include at least 2 of the review panel members. The members of the public hearing panel may ask you questions.

Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) for more information on public hearings.

## Final report

Following the public hearing, the review panel will consider all evidence gathered and prepare a final report for the Minister for Local Government containing a recommendation for the number of councillors and the electoral structure for the local council.

The final report is scheduled to be provided to the Minister on Wednesday 13 December 2023. The Minister will consider the final reports, including any determination to make the reports publicly available. Any change to the electoral structure of Brimbank City Council following on from this review is expected to apply at the October 2024 local council elections. Under the Act, the final council electoral structure will be set by an Order in Council published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

## References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2001) [2001 Census All persons QuickStats, Brimbank \(LGA\)](#), ABS, accessed 1 September 2023.

—(2022a) [2021 Census All persons QuickStats, Brimbank \(LGA\)](#), ABS, accessed 1 September 2023.

—(2022b) [2021 Census All persons QuickStats, Greater Melbourne](#), ABS, accessed 1 September 2023.

—(2023) [Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas \(SEIFA\), Australia, Suburbs and Localities, Indexes, SEIFA 2021](#), ABS, accessed 1 September 2023.

Brimbank City Council (2023) [Brimbank Community Profile](#), Brimbank City Council, accessed 1 September 2023.

DAFF (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (2021) [Catchment scale land use profile dashboard – Local government areas](#), DAFF, accessed 1 September 2023.

Electoral Act 2002 (Vic)

Geographic Place Names Act 1998 (Vic)

.id (informed decisions) (2023) [City of Brimbank population forecast](#), .id, accessed 1 September 2023.

Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)

Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)

Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (Vic)

Veltri, D. (2008) [eMelbourne: Sunshine](#), The University of Melbourne, accessed 1 September 2023.

## Appendix 1: Model maps

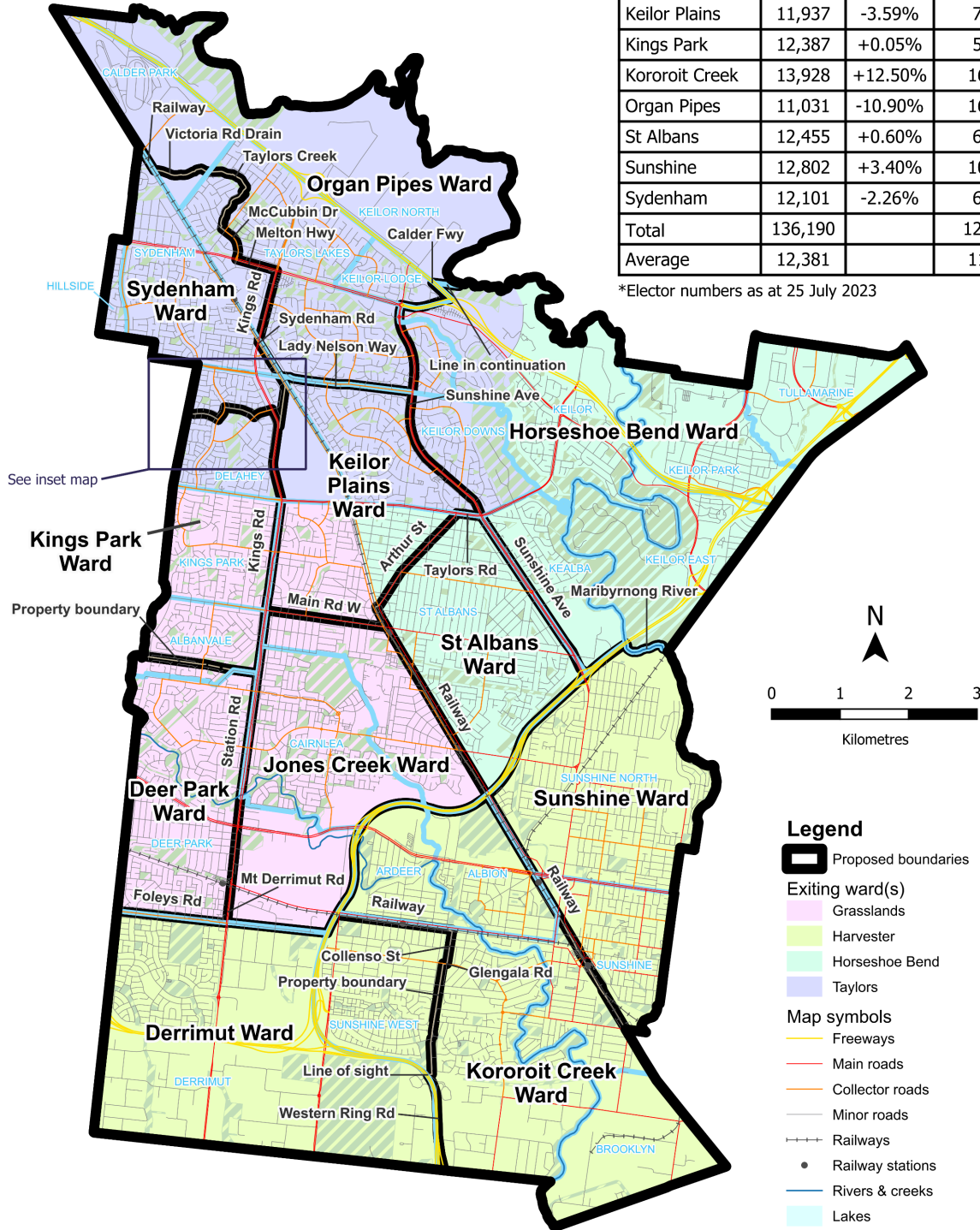
The following maps are included in this report:

Map	Page
Model 1 – a single-councillor ward structure with 11 councillors – 11 wards with one councillor per ward.	25
Model 2 – a single-councillor ward structure with 11 councillors – 11 wards with one councillor per ward (with boundaries different to Model 1).	28
Model 3 – a single-councillor ward structure with 11 councillors – 11 wards with one councillor per ward (with boundaries different to Model 1 and Model 2).	31

# Brimbank City Council Model 1 11 single-councillor wards

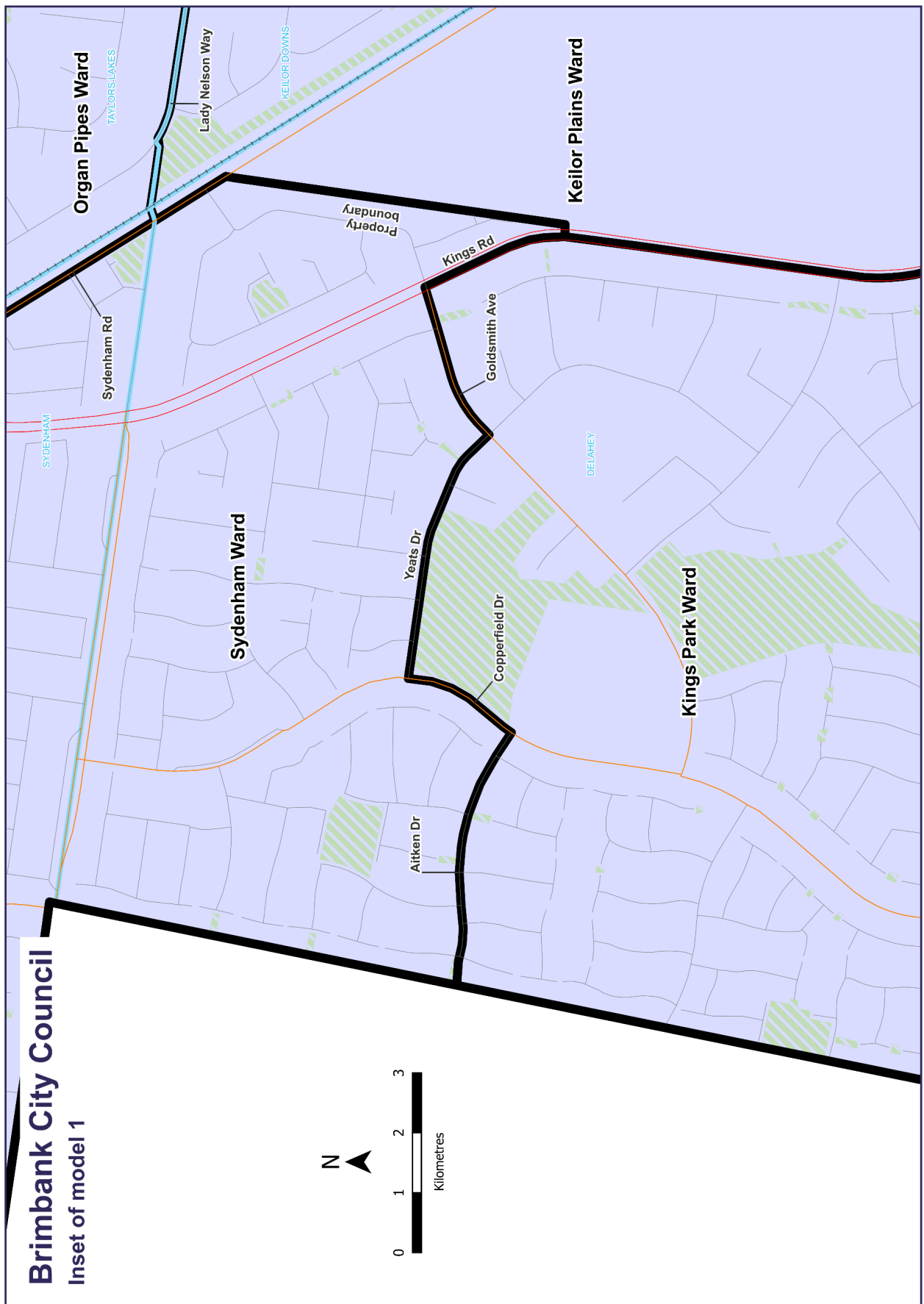
Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Deer Park	12,327	-0.44%	6.2
Derrimut	12,207	-1.40%	16.3
Horseshoe Bend	12,717	+2.71%	21.9
Jones Creek	12,298	-0.67%	10.5
Keilor Plains	11,937	-3.59%	7.3
Kings Park	12,387	+0.05%	5.7
Kororoit Creek	13,928	+12.50%	16.1
Organ Pipes	11,031	-10.90%	16.3
St Albans	12,455	+0.60%	6.4
Sunshine	12,802	+3.40%	10.4
Sydenham	12,101	-2.26%	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,190</b>		<b>123.4</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>12,381</b>		<b>11.2</b>

\*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023



Data use:  
Layers for alignment:  
© State of Victoria (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action)

Disclaimer: This content is provided for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and authenticity of the content, the Victorian government does not accept any liability to any person for the information provided.



## Data for Model 1

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area# (square kms)
Deer Park	12,327	-0.44%	6.2
Derrimut	12,207	-1.40%	16.3
Horseshoe Bend	12,717	+2.71%	21.9
Jones Creek	12,298	-0.67%	10.5
Keilor Plains	11,937	-3.59%	7.3
Kings Park	12,387	+0.05%	5.7
Kororoit Creek	13,928	+12.50%	16.1
Organ Pipes	11,031	-10.90%	16.3
St Albans	12,455	+0.60%	6.4
Sunshine	12,802	+3.40%	10.4
Sydenham	12,101	-2.26%	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,190</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>123.4</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>12,381</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>11.2</b>

\*Elector numbers at 25 July 2023

#Ward area (square kms) and total council area is measured at level of accuracy required for electoral boundaries. This may vary slightly from other data sources (for example, ABS).



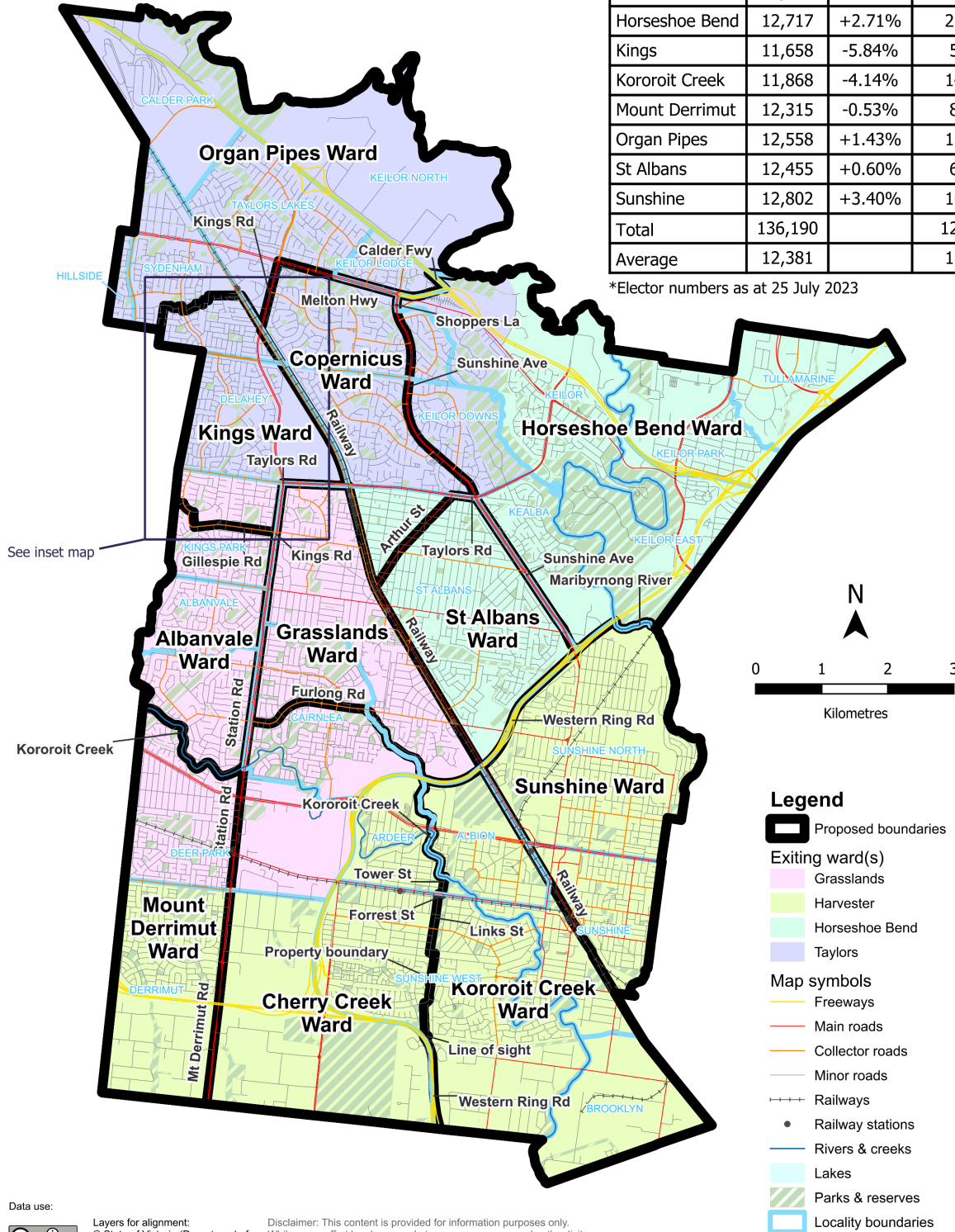
# Brimbank City Council

## Model 2

### 11 single-councillor wards

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Albanvale	11,386	-8.04%	5.7
Cherry Creek	13,004	+5.03%	18.3
Copernicus	12,562	+1.46%	6.9
Grasslands	12,865	+3.91%	7.4
Horseshoe Bend	12,717	+2.71%	21.9
Kings	11,658	-5.84%	5.9
Kororoit Creek	11,868	-4.14%	14.2
Mount Derrimut	12,315	-0.53%	8.6
Organ Pipes	12,558	+1.43%	17.7
St Albans	12,455	+0.60%	6.4
Sunshine	12,802	+3.40%	10.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,190</b>		<b>123.4</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>12,381</b>		<b>11.2</b>

\*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023



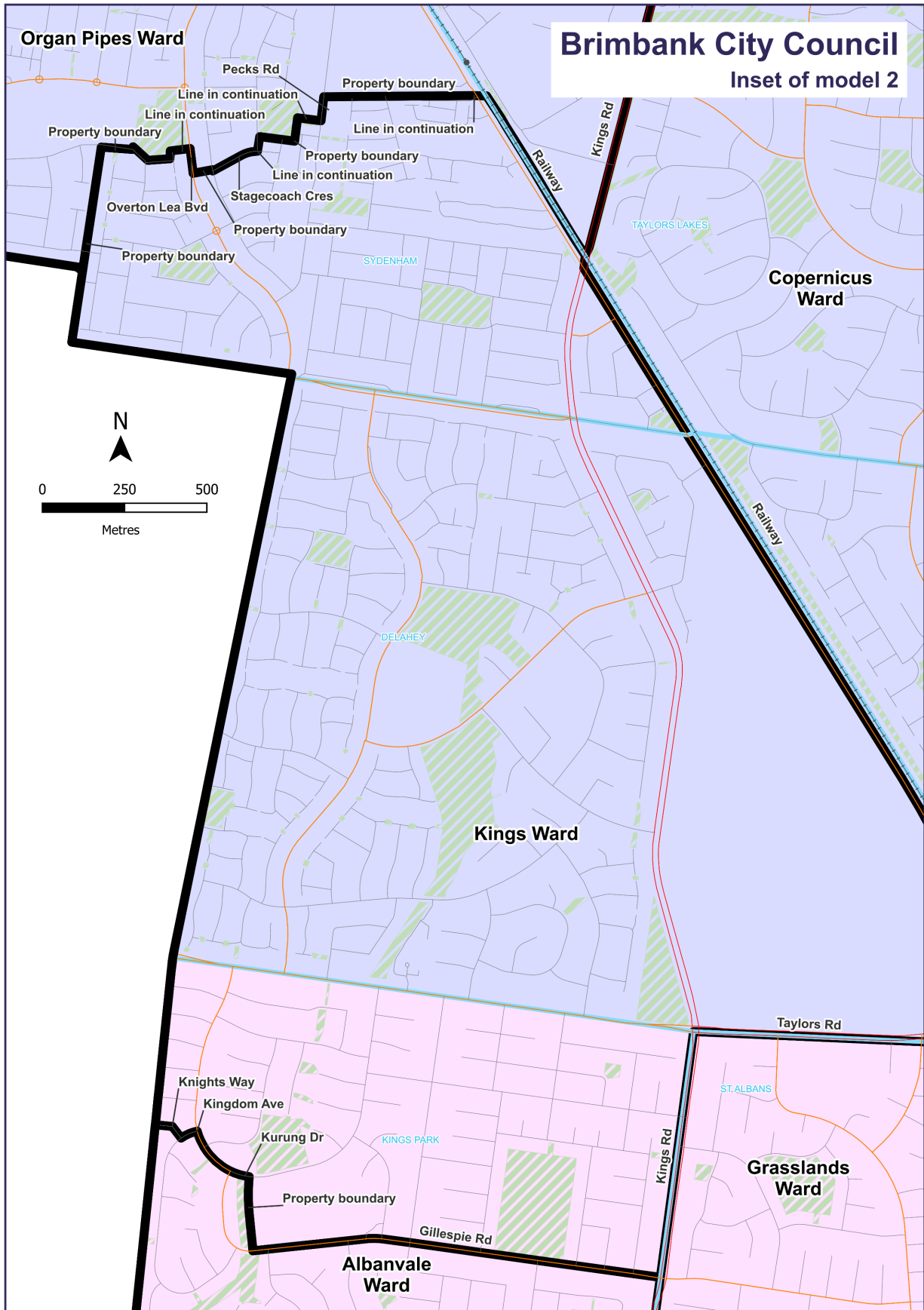
Data use:



Layers for alignment:  
© State of Victoria (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action)

Disclaimer: This content is provided for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and authenticity of the content, the Victorian government does not accept any liability to any person for the information provided.





## Data for Model 2

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area# (square kms)
Albanvale	11,386	-8.04%	5.7
Cherry Creek	13,004	+5.03%	18.3
Copernicus	12,562	+1.46%	6.9
Grasslands	12,865	+3.91%	7.4
Horseshoe Bend	12,717	+2.71%	21.9
Kings	11,658	-5.84%	5.9
Kororoit Creek	11,868	-4.14%	14.2
Mount Derrimut	12,315	-0.53%	8.6
Organ Pipes	12,558	+1.43%	17.7
St Albans	12,455	+0.60%	6.4
Sunshine	12,802	+3.40%	10.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,190</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>123.4</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>12,381</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>11.2</b>

\*Elector numbers at 25 July 2023

#Ward area (square kms) and total council area is measured at level of accuracy required for electoral boundaries. This may vary slightly from other data sources (for example, ABS).

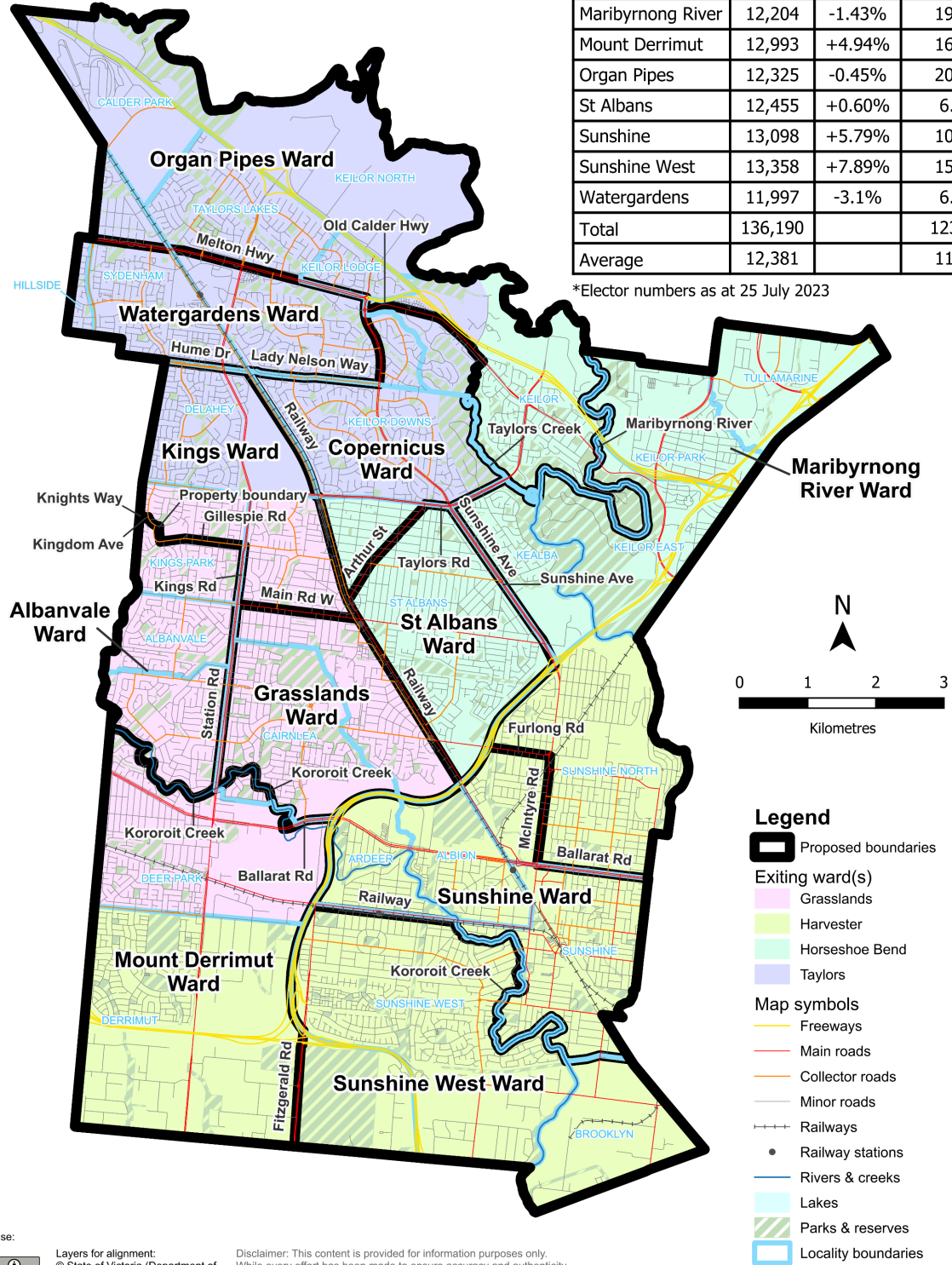
# Brimbank City Council

## Model 3

### 11 single-councillor wards

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Albanvale	11,386	-8.04%	5.7
Copernicus	11,703	-5.48%	7.5
Grasslands	11,671	-5.73%	7.5
Kings	13,000	+5.00%	6.9
Maribyrnong River	12,204	-1.43%	19.2
Mount Derrimut	12,993	+4.94%	16.5
Organ Pipes	12,325	-0.45%	20.8
St Albans	12,455	+0.60%	6.4
Sunshine	13,098	+5.79%	10.8
Sunshine West	13,358	+7.89%	15.5
Watergardens	11,997	-3.1%	6.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,190</b>		<b>123.4</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>12,381</b>		<b>11.2</b>

\*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023



Data use:



Layers for alignment:  
© State of Victoria (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action)

Disclaimer: This content is provided for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and authenticity of the content, the Victorian government does not accept any liability to any person for the information provided.

## Data for Model 3

Ward	Electors*	Deviation	Area# (square kms)
Albanvale	11,386	-8.04%	5.7
Copernicus	11,703	-5.48%	7.5
Grasslands	11,671	-5.73%	7.5
Kings	13,000	+5.00%	6.9
Maribyrnong River	12,204	-1.43%	19.2
Mount Derrimut	12,993	+4.94%	16.5
Organ Pipes	12,325	-0.45%	20.8
St Albans	12,455	+0.60%	6.4
Sunshine	13,098	+5.79%	10.8
Sunshine West Ward	13,358	+7.89%	15.5
Watergardens Ward	11,997	-3.10%	6.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,190</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>123.4</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>12,381</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>11.2</b>

\*Elector numbers at 25 July 2023

#Ward area (square kms) and total council area is measured at level of accuracy required for electoral boundaries. This may vary slightly from other data sources (for example, ABS).

Forecast information referred to in the text of this report is based on forecasts prepared by .id – informed decisions [id.com.au](http://id.com.au). .id and its licensors are the sole and exclusive owners of all rights, title and interest subsisting in that part of the report content where .id are identified. Some of .id content is a derivative of ABS Data, which can be accessed from the website of the Australian Bureau of Statistics at [abs.gov.au](http://abs.gov.au), and licensed on terms published on the ABS website.





