Local Council Representation Review

THE REVIEW

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is conducting an electoral representation review of Greater Dandenong City Council.

The review examines:
- whether the Council has the appropriate number of councillors
- whether the Council should be unsubdivided, with councillors elected from the whole Council, or subdivided into wards
- if subdivided, the number of wards, ward boundaries and the number of councillors per ward.

Representation reviews are an important part of democracy and your input is valuable. As a local, you know your council area better than anyone. This is your chance to let us know your thoughts about how well your community is represented.

CURRENT STRUCTURE

Greater Dandenong City Council currently consists of eleven councillors elected from four wards (three three-councillor wards and one two-councillor ward).

GREATER DANDENONG CITY COUNCIL

The City of Greater Dandenong is located south-east of Melbourne. Major suburbs include Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park. Greater Dandenong has a large industrial region and one of Melbourne’s largest retail and commercial centres. Greater Dandenong has higher proportions of labourers, technicians and trade workers, and machinery operators. Health care and social assistance is a growing industry.

The median age of residents in the City of Greater Dandenong is 35 years.

Ethnic diversity is a distinguishing characteristic in the City of Greater Dandenong and over half of the City’s population was born overseas. The most common origins being Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. After English, the most common languages spoken at home are Vietnamese, Khmer, Punjabi, Mandarin and Cantonese.

Incomes in the City of Greater Dandenong are lower than Victoria generally. The unemployment rate is also higher. In recent years residents of the City have been increasingly enrolling in higher education.

The City of Greater Dandenong is among the fastest growing metropolitan local council areas in Victoria or Australia. The City’s population is expected to grow annually by about 1.3% by 2031.

The Kulin Nations are the traditional custodians of the land now known as the City of Greater Dandenong.

LAST REVIEW

The last electoral representation review of Greater Dandenong City Council took place in 2008. The VEC’s final recommendation was for Greater Dandenong City Council to change to consist of eleven councillors elected from four wards (three three-councillor wards and one two-councillor ward).

Visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au to access a copy of the 2008 review final report.

SUBMISSION GUIDE

Download a submission guide from the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au for more information on the review process and to help you make your submission.
Review process

19 June

Preliminary submissions open
WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2019

19 June

Information session
7.00 PM WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2019
Greater Dandenong Civic Centre,
Level 2, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong
An information session will be held for anyone wanting to find out more about the review process.

17 July

Preliminary submissions close
5.00 PM WEDNESDAY 17 JULY 2019
Submissions must be received by the VEC by 5.00 pm on this day. Late submissions will not be accepted.

14 Aug

Preliminary report
WEDNESDAY 14 AUGUST 2019
The VEC releases a preliminary report including one or more options for the electoral structure. Response submissions open from this date.

11 Sept

Response submissions close
5.00 PM WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2019
Submissions must be received by the VEC by 5.00 pm on this day. Late submissions will not be accepted.

18 Sept

Public hearing
6.00 PM WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2019
Greater Dandenong Civic Centre,
Level 2, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong
A public hearing will be held for anyone who requests to speak about their response submission. The public hearing will not be held if there are no requests to speak.

9 Oct

Final report
WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2019
The VEC submits a final report to the Minister for Local Government including the recommendation for the electoral structure.

HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

You can make a submission to the review via:

- the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au
- email to dandenong.review@vec.vic.gov.au
- post to
  Victorian Electoral Commission
  Level 11, 530 Collins Street
  Melbourne VIC 3000

To be considered, submissions must include your:
- full name
- residential or postal address.

All submissions are published on the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au. Your name and locality will be published but your full address and contact details will be removed.

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

☐ I have included my full name and address
☐ I know that my submission will be published, including my full name and locality
☐ I have read the submission guide

PRELIMINARY SUBMISSION

☐ I have included the number of councillors that I want (between five and 12) and why
☐ I have said whether I want an unsubdivided or subdivided structure and why
☐ If I want a subdivided structure, I have considered the ward boundaries

RESPONSE SUBMISSION

☐ I have responded to the options in the preliminary report
☐ I have said whether I want to speak about my submission at the public hearing

131 832 vec.vic.gov.au For information in your language, call (03) 9209 0112
The VEC is committed to the principle of ‘one vote, one value’, which is described in the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act). This means that every person’s vote counts equitably.

If the local council area is subdivided into wards, the number of voters represented by each councillor in each ward must be within plus-or-minus 10% of the average number of voters per councillor across the local council.

The map above includes the number of voters in the City of Greater Dandenong, each ward and the ward’s current deviation from the average number of voters per councillor across the local council. During the review, the VEC takes into account likely population changes (growth or decline) to ensure the electoral structure will provide equitable representation until the next review (reviews take place approximately every 12 years).

If you make a submission online, you can use the Boundary Builder tool to build your preferred ward boundaries. The tool uses current voter numbers to tell you the deviations of the wards you make. This means you can make sure your proposed structure currently meets the requirements of the Act.
+Voter numbers by locality

Greater Dandenong City Council
TOTAL VOTERS: 101,846*

*Voter numbers as at 15 Feb 2019

Map prepared by
Victorian Electoral Commission VEC

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