



2015-16

**Council  
Representation  
Reviews**

# **Guide for Submissions**

## **2015 Warrnambool City Council Electoral Representation Review**

*July 2015*

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## Contents

One vote, one value: why the review matters .....	4
Review timeline .....	5
Types of submission .....	6
Stage one: preliminary submissions.....	6
Stage two: response submissions .....	6
How to make a submission .....	7
Submission methods .....	7
Submission checklist .....	8
Issues to consider in your submission .....	9
Number of councillors.....	9
Structure of the municipality .....	11
Electoral structures and vote counting .....	13
Communities of interest.....	14
Ward boundaries .....	14
How recommendations are formed.....	16
Limitations of the review .....	16
Summary of 2004 review of Warrnambool City Council .....	17
Map: current boundaries and voter numbers .....	18
Warrnambool City Council at a glance.....	19
Statistical profile .....	21
Annex 1: Electoral structures of all Victorian councils .....	22
Annex 2: Sample submissions.....	29
Stage one: preliminary submission samples .....	29
Stage two: response submission samples .....	30

## One vote, one value: why the review matters

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is committed to the principle of 'one vote, one value', which is enshrined in the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act). This means that every person's vote counts equally. The Act requires the VEC to conduct electoral representation reviews before every third council election, approximately every 12 years. Unscheduled reviews can also take place when required.

Representation reviews are a key mechanism to ensure that all voters in a municipality have their concerns and interests fairly and equitably represented. The electoral representation review will examine:

- the number of councillors
- whether the structure of the municipality should be subdivided into wards or unsubdivided, and
- if subdivided:
  - the number of wards
  - what the ward boundaries should be
  - the name of each ward and
  - how many councillors should be elected for each ward.

Input from members of the public is a valued part of the review process. There are three main opportunities for you to have your say:

1. in a preliminary public submission
2. in a response submission to the preliminary report and
3. if you have requested to speak in your response submission, at a public hearing to be held in your local area.

This guide outlines the review process and the opportunities for public input, and provides important information about the issues that submissions may address. It also includes specific information about Warrnambool City Council and sample submissions to help you prepare your own submission.

## Review timeline

This timeline shows the major milestones in the review process. The opportunities for you to have your say have been highlighted in **bold**.

Wednesday 29 July	<b>Preliminary public submissions open</b> The VEC accepts <b>written submissions from the public</b> at the start of the review. All submissions are carefully considered and taken into account before the preliminary report is prepared. Advertisements are also placed in the <i>Herald Sun</i> and local newspapers notifying the public of the review.
Wednesday 5 August	<b>Public information session</b> A public information session will be held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 5 August in the Reception Room, Civic Centre, Warrnambool City Council, 25 Liebig Street, Warrnambool. Anyone interested in making a submission or with questions about the review process is urged to attend.
Wednesday 26 August	<b>Closing date for preliminary submissions</b> Preliminary submissions must reach the VEC by 5.00 pm on this date.
Wednesday 23 September	<b>Preliminary report released</b> The preliminary report outlines the options which provide fair and equitable representation. The report includes consideration of preliminary public submissions. The report is publicly available from the VEC by visiting <a href="http://vec.vic.gov.au">vec.vic.gov.au</a> or calling 131 832 and also for inspection at Council offices. <b>Response submissions open</b> The VEC accepts <b>written submissions from the public that respond to the recommendations contained in the preliminary report</b> . You can also nominate to discuss your response submission at a local public hearing.
Wednesday 21 October	<b>Closing date for response submissions</b> Response submissions must reach the VEC by 5.00 pm on this date.
Tuesday 27 October	<b>Public hearing</b> A public hearing is scheduled to be held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 27 October in the Reception Room, Civic Centre, Warrnambool City Council, 25 Liebig Street, Warrnambool. Members of the public who have nominated to discuss their response submission will be given <b>the opportunity to expand on their views</b> for up to 10 minutes. The hearing will not be held if there are no requests to speak.
Wednesday 18 November	<b>Final report published</b> Following the public hearing, the VEC considers all the evidence it has gathered and publishes a final report for the Minister for Local Government containing a recommended electoral structure. The report is publicly available from the VEC by visiting <a href="http://vec.vic.gov.au">vec.vic.gov.au</a> or calling 131 832, and also for inspection at Council offices. If the VEC's recommendation is accepted, it will take effect at the next general election in October 2016.

## Types of submission

Any person or group, including the Council itself, can make a submission to the VEC.

The VEC accepts submissions at two stages of the review process:

### Stage one: preliminary submissions

Preliminary submissions should address the number of councillors and the electoral structure of Warrnambool City Council. At this stage, the VEC welcomes suggested models that consider the issues outlined in the 'Issues to consider in your submission' section of this guide.

### Stage two: response submissions

Response submissions must address the models proposed by the VEC in the preliminary report. Generally, other models will not be considered at this stage.

Examples of public submissions made in previous reviews can be found in Annex 2 of this guide. However, it is important to note that your submission can be in any format and address any of the relevant issues in the proposed options.

### Public hearing

Response submissions should indicate whether the person making the submission wishes to speak at a public hearing in support of their submission. At this hearing, those who have nominated to discuss their submission will be given 10 minutes to speak. The hearing will not be held if there are no requests to speak.

## How to make a submission

All submissions, including those sent by post, must be received at the VEC by 5.00 pm on the day of the submission deadline, as detailed in the 'Review timeline' above.

The VEC can only accept submissions that include a full name, address and contact number.

All submissions will be published on the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) and made available for public inspection at the VEC office (Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne). The VEC will remove personal information such as address, contact number, and signature, if applicable, from all public copies. However, the full name and locality of submitters will be displayed.

See the 'Submission checklist' on the next page for a quick guide to the possible content of a submission.

### Submission methods

Submissions can be made via:



The online submission form at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)



Email at [warrnambool.review@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:warrnambool.review@vec.vic.gov.au)



Post to  
Victorian Electoral Commission  
Level 11, 530 Collins Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000



Fax to (03) 9629 8632

## Submission checklist

This checklist provides you with an idea of the range of issues you might consider in your submission. See the 'Issues to consider on your submission' section on the next page for an explanation of these steps.

*Before you send your submission:*

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Have you included your full name, address and a contact number?	
Do you understand that your submission will be made public, including your full name and locality?	

*If you are making a submission about the **number of councillors** (see page 9)*

Does your submission suggest a number of councillors between 5 and 12?	
If the number of councillors you have suggested varies substantially from numbers in similar municipalities, have you explained why?	

*If you are making a submission about the **electoral structure** (see page 11)*

Have you indicated whether you want the municipality to be subdivided or unsubdivided?	
Have you explained why your preferred structure would best suit the municipality?	

*If you think that the municipality should be **subdivided into wards** (see page 12)*

Have you indicated whether you want single-councillor wards, multi-councillor wards or a combination of both?	
Have you indicated where the ward boundaries should be located and provided reasons for these proposed boundaries?	
Have you considered the number of voters in the proposed wards?	
If you have suggested ward names, have you given reasons for those names?	

*If you are making a **response submission** to the preliminary report*

Does your submission address the options recommended in the preliminary report?	
Have you indicated whether or not you would like to speak about your submission at the public hearing?	

## Issues to consider in your submission

Your submission may address one or both of the following issues:

- the number of councillors (between 5 and 12), and
- the structure of the electorate (subdivided or unsubdivided).

You may make a submission in support of the current structure in the municipality, or in support of a different electoral structure and/or number of councillors. It is important that your submission provides reasons for your preferences.

This section provides an overview of issues for you to consider before making your submission.

### Number of councillors

When making a submission about the number of councillors, there are three important guidelines that the VEC follows that you need to bear in mind. These are that:

**1. The number of councillors is between 5 and 12.**

The Act allows for a municipality to have between 5 and 12 councillors. As the number of voters in each municipality varies significantly, and as populations change over time, the VEC applies the requirements for fairness and equity in a logical way—those municipalities that have a larger number of voters generally have a higher number of councillors.

**2. The number of voters represented by each councillor is fair and equitable across the municipality.**

If the municipality is divided into wards, the number of voters represented by each councillor must be within 10% of the average number of voters per councillor across the municipality. This is called the 'legislative equality requirement', which ensures the principle of 'one vote, one value'.

*EXAMPLE 1:* A subdivided municipality has 100,000 people eligible to vote and a total of 10 councillors. The ward boundaries for this municipality should be structured to ensure that each councillor represents the equivalent number of voters, approximately 10,000 (plus or minus 10%).

*EXAMPLE 2:* A municipality is subdivided into two wards, with 21,000 people eligible to vote and a total of seven councillors. Ward A has a voting population of 12,000 and Ward B has a voting population of 9,000. On this basis, Ward A should have four councillors, and Ward B should have three councillors. Each councillor then represents the equivalent number of voters (3,000).

The VEC also takes into account likely population changes to ensure ward boundaries provide equitable representation until the next review is conducted (reviews take place approximately every 12 years). Population and development forecasts for the municipality are provided in the 'Warrnambool City Council at a glance' section of this guide.

### **3. A consistent, State-wide approach is taken to the total number of councillors.**

When reviewing a council, the VEC is guided by its comparisons with municipalities of a similar size and category (metropolitan; metropolitan-rural fringe; regional urban; and rural). Please see the tables in Annex 1 for relevant data on the City of Warrnambool and similar municipalities.

The VEC also considers any special circumstances that may warrant the municipality having more or fewer councillors than similar municipalities. These might include:

- significant population growth within the municipality
- an especially mobile or transient population
- cultural and linguistic diversity within the community
- socio-economic disparities
- a large proportion of older residents who may have special interests and needs
- the number of non-residents and company nominees
- a wide geographic distribution of voters within a large municipality
- a large number of communities of interest (see 'Communities of interest' section).

## Structure of the municipality

Your submission may also address the structure of Warrnambool City Council, which can be:

- **unsubdivided**, with all councillors elected 'at large' by all of the voters in the municipality, or
- **subdivided into wards**, with one or more councillors elected by the voters in each ward.

If the municipality is subdivided, your submission may also address:

- the number of wards
- what the ward boundaries should be
- the name of each ward and
- how many councillors should be elected for each ward.

This section provides information about these different electoral structures.

### Unsubdivided councils

#### More positive features

Promotes the concept of a municipality-wide focus with councillors being elected by, and concerned for, the municipality as a whole, rather than parochial interests.

Gives residents and ratepayers a choice of councillors to approach with their concerns.

Each voter has the opportunity to express a preference for every candidate for the Council election.

Removes the need to define internal ward boundaries.

If a councillor resigns or is unable to complete their term, a replacement councillor is elected through a countback system, negating the need for a by-election.

#### Less positive features

May lead to significant communities of interest and points of view being unrepresented.

May lead to confusion of responsibilities and duplication of effort on the part of councillors.

Large numbers of candidates might be confusing for voters.

May lead to councillors being relatively inaccessible for residents in parts of the municipality.

May be difficult for voters to assess the performance of individual councillors.

If only a few candidates contest the general election, the countback system may elect a candidate who only polled a small percentage of the vote.

## Subdivided councils

There are three ways to divide a council into wards:

- single-councillor wards with just one councillor representing the ward
- multi-councillor wards with several councillors
- combinations of the two.

### Single-councillor wards

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#### More positive features

Councillors are more likely to be truly local representatives, easily accessible to residents and aware of local issues.

Major geographical communities of interest are likely to be represented.

#### Less positive features

Councillors may be elected on minor or parochial issues and lack a municipality-wide perspective.

Ward boundaries may divide communities of interest and may be difficult to define.

Voters may have a restricted choice of candidates in elections for individual wards.

Small populations in each ward may make ward boundaries more susceptible to change as a result of population growth or decline.

Where major groups support candidates in multiple wards, it is possible that one group can dominate the council.

### Multi-councillor wards

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#### More positive features

Can accommodate a large community of interest.

Focus on issues may be broader than in single councillor wards (though councillors may have a more local focus than in an unsubdivided municipality).

Councillors may be more accessible than in an unsubdivided municipality. Electors have a choice of councillors.

Councillors may share workloads more effectively.

Ward boundaries should be easy to identify and less susceptible to change as a result of population growth or decline than in single councillor wards.

#### Less positive features

Groups may form within the council leading to possible division between councillors.

Very specific local issues may not be addressed.

In very large wards, councillors may not be accessible for residents in parts of the ward.

Duplication may occur if councillors do not communicate or share their workloads.

### ***A combination of multi-councillor and single-councillor wards***

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#### **More positive features**

A large community of interest can be included within a multi-councillor ward and a smaller community of interest can be included within a single-councillor ward. This structure accommodates differences in population across a municipality, and allows small communities to be separately represented.

Clear ward boundaries are more likely.

#### **Less positive features**

Electors in single-councillor wards may expect their councillors will be more influential than their numbers suggest.

Different vote counting systems within the same municipality may seem inconsistent.

### **Electoral structures and vote counting**

According to law, the structure of the council determines the vote counting system. You may wish to consider the impact of these counting systems in making your submission.

In single-councillor wards, the preferential system applies, which means a candidate must achieve an absolute majority (50% plus one) of the formal votes to be elected, otherwise the outcome will be determined based on preferences.

In multi-councillor wards or in unsubdivided municipalities, proportional representation applies, and candidates are elected in proportion to their support within the electorate. The required quota of votes is reached by dividing the total number of formal votes by the number of vacancies plus one. Therefore, unlike the preferential vote counting system where only the candidate with the majority of votes is elected, other candidates representing groups or issues that have significant minority support may also be elected.

*EXAMPLE:* An unsubdivided municipality has seven councillor positions and therefore uses proportional representation. In this municipality, any candidate achieving greater than 12.5% of the vote will be elected.

Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au/Elections/CountingTheVotes.html](http://vec.vic.gov.au/Elections/CountingTheVotes.html) for more detailed information on the preferential and proportional counting systems.

## Communities of interest

Communities of interest are groups of people who share a range of common concerns or aspirations. They are different from ‘interest groups’ or ‘pressure groups’ that identify themselves based on a limited number of issues.

Communities of interest may occur where people are linked with each other geographically (e.g. a town or valley) or economically (e.g. people working in similar industries or mutually-dependent industries). Communities of interest may also appear where people share a number of special needs because of similar circumstances, such as new immigrants (who may not have strong English language skills, and require assistance with housing and finding employment); particular ethnic groups; retirees; or job seekers.

Communities of interest are an important consideration in electoral representation reviews as they have particular needs from their local council. In such cases, it is important the communities of interest have the opportunity to be fairly represented by their council. There are a number of ways to take account of communities of interest, depending on how they are distributed geographically.

<b>If a community of interest...</b>	<b>Then fair representation may be achieved by:</b>
is in the same geographic area (e.g. a town)	creating a ward with boundaries reflecting that community of interest.
is widespread across the municipality (e.g. job seekers)	creating multi-councillor wards with proportional representation.
is one of a number of small communities of interest	combining the communities of interest via an unsubdivided structure, so that any elected councillor would be responsible to all of these groups.

## Ward boundaries

Ward boundaries must ensure that the statutory equality requirement is met—the number of voters represented by each councillor must be plus or minus 10% of the average number of voters per councillor across the municipality.

Because representation reviews are scheduled approximately every 12 years, population growth areas often need to be spread across a number of wards to ensure that the voter-councillor ratios remain acceptable during this time. Fewer wards mean a larger average number of voters per ward and a greater tolerance to population changes.

Boundaries should always take into account communities of interest and should follow clear lines (major roads, rivers, significant landmarks and existing locality boundaries where possible).

### **Ward names**

The VEC welcomes suggestions for ward names. The names must be relevant and specific to the ward to avoid any possible confusion with other wards. Some popular approaches include using:

- place names
- compass directions
- historic buildings
- natural features present in the ward
- names of pioneers and former prominent citizens
- Aboriginal names
- native flora or fauna.

## How recommendations are formed

The VEC is an impartial statutory authority and conducts the reviews independently of councils and the State Government.

Public submissions are an important part of the review process, but there are several other important considerations. The recommendation is not based on a 'straw poll' of the number of submissions supporting a particular option, but holistically takes into account:

- internal research specifically relating to the municipality under review
- the VEC's experience conducting previous electoral representation reviews of local councils and similar reviews for State elections
- the VEC's expertise in mapping, demography and local government
- careful consideration of all input from the public in written and verbal submissions received during the review and
- advice from consultants with extensive experience in local government.

### Limitations of the review

It is important to note that an electoral representation review cannot deal with the external boundaries of a municipality or decide whether a municipality should be divided or amalgamated with other municipalities.

In addition, a review cannot consider the vote counting system used in local council elections. The counting system is determined by the structure of the municipality—in single-councillor wards, the preferential system applies, and in multi-councillor wards or in unsubdivided municipalities, proportional representation applies. See the 'Electoral structures and vote counting' section above.

## Summary of 2004 review of Warrnambool City Council

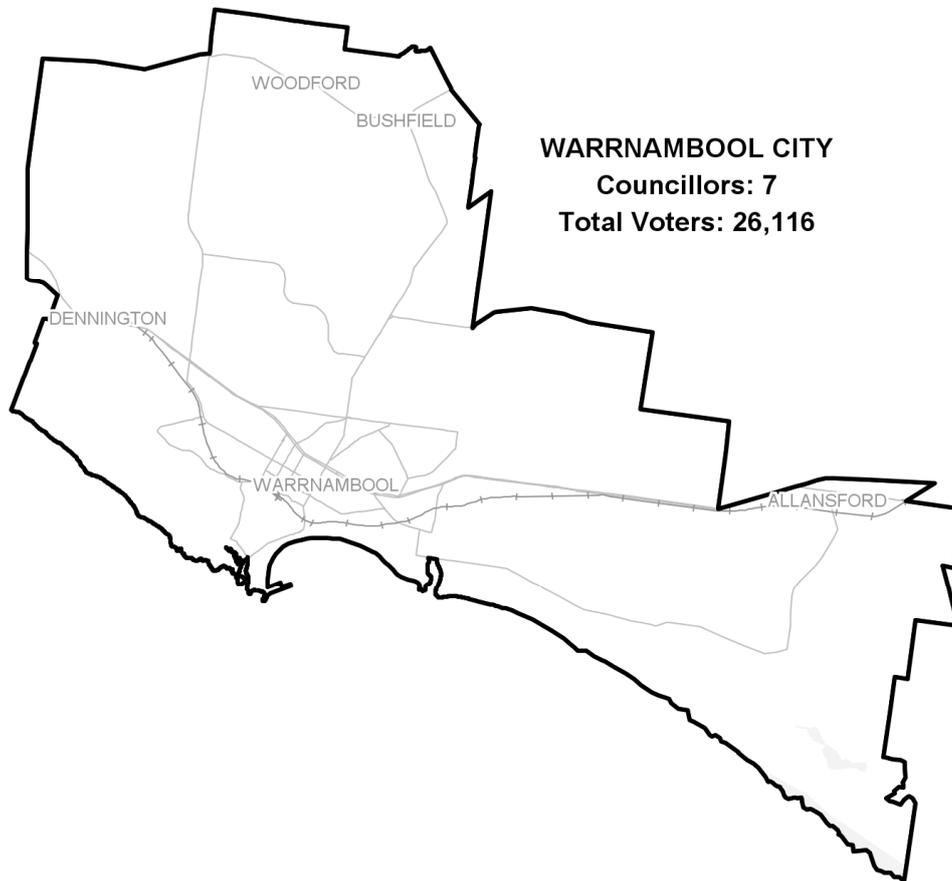
The last representation review of Warrnambool City Council took place in 2004. At the time of the review, Warrnambool City Council was represented by seven councillors in single-councillor wards. Following the review, the VEC recommended that the municipality change to consist of seven councillors elected from the municipality as a whole. While most submissions supported retaining seven councillors, there were mixed views on what the council structure should be. Half of the response submissions supported an unsubdivided structure, while the other half preferred retaining the single-councillor wards.

In addition to public submissions, the VEC also took into account the geographical make-up of the municipality. The VEC found that the municipality was not well-suited to single wards, as the voter-to-councillor ratio required to meet the 'one vote, one value' principle would mean artificially dividing suburbs and communities of interest. The VEC also found that the homogenous social profile of the municipality meant it was well-suited to an unsubdivided structure.

The VEC also noted that as many as three wards had been uncontested in the 1999 council elections. The unsubdivided structure was presented as a preferable model for providing voters with a choice of candidates at each election.

### Map: current boundaries and voter numbers

The map below details the current boundaries and voter numbers as at 4 May 2015. Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au/reviews/warrnamboolrr.html](http://vec.vic.gov.au/reviews/warrnamboolrr.html) to access more detailed maps and a copy of the 2004 review final report.



## Warrnambool City Council at a glance

The City of Warrnambool is located along the south-west coast of Victoria, bounded by Moyne Shire inland and the Great Ocean Road on the southern coast. The municipality covers an area of 121 square kilometres; much of the land is used for rural agriculture, particularly dairy farming. Population growth; management of cultural and environmental heritage; and attracting investment to meet growing demand in existing industries have been identified as key drivers of change in the municipality, in line with neighbouring parts of Victoria's south coast region.<sup>1</sup>

The municipality has a population of 33,501.<sup>2</sup> Almost 85% of the municipality's population lives in the city of Warrnambool. The remaining 15% are spread throughout a number of smaller settlements in the municipality. The number of voters is currently estimated to be 25,850. The council area has a population density of approximately 277 people per square kilometre, and approximately 3,693 voters per councillor.

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### Current population estimates in major towns

Warrnambool	28,413
Dennington	1,557
Allansford	1,413
Bushfield	586
Woodford	408

The municipality has a median age of 38, which is younger than the median age of 43 for rural and regional Victoria generally. Between 2006 and 2011, the City of Warrnambool's population increased by 5.4%, at an average rate of just over 1% per year.<sup>3</sup> Around 34% of the population is 50 years or over, which is slightly lower compared to the regional percentage of 38%. While Warrnambool has traditionally been popular as a retirement destination, it has also recently experienced growth in the number of people aged between 20 and 39 years.<sup>4</sup> The younger workforce (aged 25–34) is slightly higher in the Warrnambool municipality than the average for in regional Victoria.<sup>5</sup> The Warrnambool municipality has moderate population mobility. Between 2006 and 2011, approximately 39% of residents changed address (moving within Australia or overseas).

Just over 7% of the municipality's population was born outside Australia, with predominantly English, Irish and Scottish ancestry. There is also a small percentage of residents with German,

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<sup>1</sup> Victorian Government and local Councils, *Great South Coast: Draft Regional Growth Plan*, 2013, p.15.

<sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Estimated Resident Population*, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Profile.id, *Warrnambool City: Community Profile 2011 Census Results*, p.12.

<sup>4</sup> Warrnambool City Council, *Warrnambool Council Plan 2013-17*, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Profile.id, *Warrnambool City: Community Profile 2011 Census Results*, p.10.

Dutch, Italian and Greek ancestry, and 3% of people speak a language other than English at home. These statistics are lower than for regional Victoria generally.

Applications for Registered Aboriginal Party status over parts of Warrnambool and surrounding areas have been made by the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the Kuyang Maar Aboriginal Corporation.<sup>6</sup> Up to 1.5% of the population in the municipality identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

The Warrnambool City Council area has a 65% labour force participation rate, and marginally lower unemployment rate than Victoria as a whole. Health care is one of the largest industries in the area, and Warrnambool provides medical services to the surrounding coastal region. Social assistance, retail trade, agriculture, forestry, fishing, construction and accommodation services are also significant employers. Warrnambool's income distribution reflects that of rural and regional Victoria in general, with a relatively high proportion of low-income earners (39%) and a low proportion of high-income earners (8%).

Warrnambool is considered the principal service centre for south-west Victoria and has experienced gradual growth since the early 1990s.<sup>7</sup> A freight rail corridor runs from Warrnambool to Melbourne and Geelong, and the city hosts campuses of Deakin University and South West TAFE. Other major features of the city and municipality are the popular tourist attractions of the Great Ocean Road; coastal and wildlife reserves; and the Hopkins and Merri Rivers, as well as local heritage sites of Flagstaff Hill maritime village and Warrnambool Garrison.

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<sup>6</sup> Victorian Government, *Statewide Aboriginal Parties and Registered Aboriginal Party Applications at December 2014*, 2014.

<sup>7</sup> Profile.id, *Warrnambool City: Community Profile 2011 Census Results*, p.7.

## Statistical profile

	City of Warrnambool	Rural/regional Vic*
<b>Size</b>		
Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	121	217,604
Population <sup>#</sup>	33,501	1,368,500
Population density (people/km <sup>2</sup> )	275.2	6.3
<b>Forecast population annual growth rate 2011-2031 (%)<sup>^</sup></b>	1.4	1.3
<b>Forecast population 2031<sup>^</sup></b>	40,895	1,742,200
<b>Voters<sup>†</sup></b>		
Current estimate of voters	25,850	1,230,967
Voter density (voters/km <sup>2</sup> )	277	5.7
Average number of voters per councillor	3,693	3,127
<b>Population profile</b>		
Born overseas (%)	7.3	10.6
Language other than English spoken at home (%)	3	5.3
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (%)	1.5	1.5
Residents who moved between 2006 and 2011 (%)	40.2	38.0
Median age	38	41.6
<b>Age groups (% of total population)</b>		
0-17 years	24.3	23.5
18-34 years	29.1	18.6
35-49 years	19.7	19.8
50-69 years	22.7	25.9
70+ years	11.6	12.3
<b>Economic profile</b>		
Workforce participation (% of population aged 15+)	65.5	58.2
Unemployment rate (% of workforce)	4.9	5.2
High income earners—\$1,500 gross or more per week (%)	8.1	7.5
Low income earners—\$399 gross or less per week (%)	39.7	39.6
<b>Major industries (% of workforce)</b>		
Health care and social assistance	15.1	13.1
Retail trade	13.9	11.6
Manufacturing and construction	10.4	19.3
Education and training	9.3	8.2
Accommodation and food services	8.9	6.8

All data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2011 Census unless indicated.

\* 'Rural/regional Victoria' comprises 48 regional urban and rural municipalities outside of Greater Melbourne.

<sup>#</sup> ABS, *Estimated Resident Population*, 2013.

<sup>^</sup> Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, *Victoria in Future 2014*, 2014.

<sup>†</sup> Data derived by Victorian Electoral Commission from State and Council voter rolls (as at January 2015).

## Annex 1: Electoral structures of all Victorian councils

The tables below are sorted by current estimates of voters in descending order for each category (metropolitan; metropolitan rural/fringe; regional urban; and rural areas).

### Metropolitan

Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (2011 Census)	Number of voters at last review	Current estimate of voters <sup>#</sup>	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure
Brimbank	123	182,735	127,157	130,919	11	11,902	3 x three-councillor wards 1 x two-councillor ward
Boroondara	60	159,184	121,009	124,670	10	12,467	10 x single-councillor wards
Monash	82	169,280	120,779	121,963	11	11,088	1 x two-councillor ward 3 x three-councillor wards
Moreland	51	147,421	109,744	117,830	11	10,712	2 x four-councillor wards 1 x three-councillor ward
Knox*	114	149,300	108,716	115,518	9	12,835	9 x single-councillor wards
Kingston	91	142,425	105,316	114,844	9	12,760	3 x three-councillor wards
Melbourne	37	93,627	104,929	114,656	9 <sup>^</sup>	12,740	Unsubdivided
Whitehorse	64	151,334	111,384	113,729	10	11,373	5 x two-councillor wards
Darebin	54	136,474	96,334	105,532	9	11,726	3 x three-councillor wards
Frankston	130	126,458	95,979	101,894	9	11,322	3 x three-councillor wards
Glen Eira	39	131,013	97,582	100,887	9	11,210	3 x three-councillor wards
Greater Dandenong	130	135,605	93,970	98,219	11	8,929	3 x three-councillor wards 1 x two-councillor ward
Banyule	63	118,306	90,094	94,043	7	13,435	7 x single-councillor wards
Moonee Valley*	43	107,443	80,507	87,392	9	9,710	3 x three-councillor wards

*continued...*

**Metropolitan cont.**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Area (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Population (2011 Census)</b>	<b>Number of voters at last review</b>	<b>Current estimate of voters<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Number of voters per councillor</b>	<b>Electoral structure</b>
Manningham	113	111,300	85,748	87,039	9	9,671	3 x three-councillor wards
Stonnington	26	93,145	77,494	84,207	9	9,356	3 x three-councillor wards
Port Phillip*	21	91,372	69,718	83,629	7	11,947	7 x single-councillor wards
Maroondah	61	103,839	77,739	82,917	9	9,213	3 x three-councillor wards
Bayside	37	90,476	67,702	73,333	7	10,476	2 x two-councillor wards 1 x three-councillor ward
Yarra	19	74,090	65,512	71,291	9	7,921	3 x three-councillor wards
Hobsons Bay	64	83,868	63,363	65,547	7	9,364	2 x two-councillor wards 1 x three-councillor ward
Maribyrnong	31	71,635	52,543	57,610	7	8,230	2 x two-councillor wards 1 x three-councillor ward

**Metropolitan/rural fringe**

Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (2011 Census)	Number of voters at last review	Current estimate of voters <sup>#</sup>	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure
Casey	409	252,382	165,057	183,392	11	16,672	5 x two-councillor wards 1 x single-councillor ward
Mornington Peninsula	724	144,608	144,733	150,891	11	13,717	3 x single-councillor wards 2 x three-councillor wards 1 x two-councillor ward
Wyndham	542	161,575	104,278	128,254	11	11,659	2 x four-councillor wards 1 x three-councillor ward
Whittlesea	490	154,880	110,011	128,052	11	11,641	2 x four-councillor wards 1 x three-councillor ward
Hume*	504	167,562	112,157	123,512	11	11,228	1 x three-councillor ward 2 x four-councillor wards
Yarra Ranges*	2,466	144,541	103,926	112,200	9	12,467	9 x single-councillor wards
Melton*	528	109,259	60,054	84,699	7	12,100	1 x three-councillor ward 2 x two-councillor wards
Cardinia	1,282	74,176	53,794	63,201	9	7,022	1 x two-councillor ward 1 x three-councillor ward 1 x four-councillor ward
Nillumbik	432	60,342	45,659	47,068	7	6,724	7 x single-councillor wards

**Regional urban**

Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (2011 Census)	Number of voters at last review	Current estimate of voters <sup>#</sup>	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure
Greater Geelong*	1,248	210,875	159,993	177,363	12 <sup>†</sup>	14,780	12 x single-councillor wards
Greater Bendigo	3,000	100,617	78,399	83,641	9	9,293	3 x three-councillor wards
Ballarat*	739	93,501	64,361	76,304	9	8,478	3 x three-councillor wards
Latrobe	1,426	72,396	53,817	55,234	9	6,137	2 x two-councillor wards 1 x four-councillor ward 1 x single-councillor ward
Greater Shepparton*	2422	60,449	40,176	44,309	7	6,330	Unsubdivided
Mildura*	22,083	50,979	34,944	39,120	9	4,347	Unsubdivided
Wodonga*	433	35,519	24,094	28,574	7	4,082	Unsubdivided
Warrnambool*	121	32,029	24,274	25,850	7	3,693	Unsubdivided
Wangaratta*	3,645	26,815	20,274	22,122	7	3,160	Unsubdivided
Horsham*	4,267	19,279	14,610	15,863	7	2,266	Unsubdivided
Benalla	2,353	13,647	10,937	11,558	7	1,651	Unsubdivided
Ararat	4,211	11,183	9,141	9,103	7	1,300	Unsubdivided

**Rural**

Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (2011 Census)	Number of voters at last review	Current estimate of voters <sup>#</sup>	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure
Bass Coast*	865	29,614	38,488	42,595	7	6,085	7 x single-councillor wards
Wellington*	10,817	41,440	37,914	42,533	9	4,726	Unsubdivided
East Gippsland	20,940	42,196	38,318	40,819	9	4,535	Unsubdivided
Baw Baw*	4,031	42,864	29,772	37,107	9	4,123	3 x two-councillor wards 1 x three-councillor ward
Macedon Ranges	1,748	41,860	33,175	35,611	9	3,957	3 x three-councillor wards
Surf Coast	1,553	25,870	29,535	31,582	9	3,509	2 x two-councillor wards 1 x single-councillor ward 1 x four-councillor ward
Mitchell	2,862	34,637	26,057	29,402	9	3,267	3 x three-councillor wards
Campaspe	4,519	36,365	28,118	29,363	9	3,263	2 x three-councillor wards 3 x single-councillor wards
South Gippsland	3,297	27,208	27,654	28,249	9	3,139	3 x three-councillor wards
Moorabool	2,111	28,124	21,487	25,005	7	3,572	3 x single-councillor wards 1 x four-councillor ward
Moira	4,047	28,124	22,307	23,910	9	2,657	Unsubdivided
Colac Otway	3,438	20,345	19,198	19,919	7	2,846	Unsubdivided
Golden Plains	2,703	18,770	14,228	17,231	7	2,462	Unsubdivided
Glenelg	6,218	19,575	16,333	16,899	7	2,414	Unsubdivided
Mount Alexander	1,530	17,591	15,410	16,044	7	2,292	4 x single-councillor wards 1 x three-councillor ward
Hepburn	1,473	14,367	13,649	15,131	7	2,162	2 x two-councillor wards 3 x single-councillor wards

continued...

**Rural cont.**

Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (2011 Census)	Number of voters at last review	Current estimate of voters <sup>#</sup>	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure
Swan Hill	6,115	20,449	14,386	14,518	7	2,074	1 x four-councillor ward 3 x single-councillor wards
Moyne	5,482	15,955	12,420	14,299	7	2,043	Unsubdivided
Murrindindi	3,879	13,058	13,727	14,091	7	2,013	7 x single-councillor wards
Corangamite*	4,408	16,376	13,985	13,267	7	1,895	4 x single-councillor wards 1 x three-councillor ward
Southern Grampians	6,655	16,359	13,151	13,213	7	1,888	Unsubdivided
Indigo*	2,040	15,178	11,553	13,032	7	1,862	Unsubdivided
Alpine*	4,788	11,881	11,198	11,569	7	1,653	Unsubdivided
Central Goldfields	1,533	12,496	11,017	11,114	7	1,588	3 x single-councillor wards 1 x four-councillor ward
Northern Grampians	5,728	11,845	10,540	10,925	7	1,561	2 x single-councillor wards 1 x two-councillor ward 1 x three-councillor ward
Mansfield	3,844	7,893	9,429	10,363	5	2,073	3 x single-councillor wards 1 x two-councillor ward
Strathbogie	3,303	9,486	9,268	9,628	7	1,375	3 x single-councillor wards 2 x two-councillor wards
Gannawarra*	3,735	10,336	9,263	8,996	7	1,285	2 x single-councillor wards 1 x two-councillor ward 1 x three-councillor ward
Loddon	6,696	7,459	7,669	7,567	5	1,513	5 x single-councillor wards
Pyrenees	3,435	6,669	7,120	7,264	5	1,453	5 x single-councillor wards

*continued...*

**Rural cont.**

Municipality	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (2011 Census)	Number of voters at last review	Current estimate of voters <sup>#</sup>	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor	Electoral structure
Yarriambiack*	7,326	7,088	6,998	6,116	7	874	2 x two-councillor wards 1 x three-councillor ward
Buloke	8,000	6,384	6,149	5,887	7	841	2 x two-councillor wards 1 x three-councillor ward
Towong*	6,675	5,891	5,482	5,520	5	1,104	Unsubdivided
Hindmarsh*	7,524	5,798	5,306	5,003	6	834	3 x two-councillor wards
Queenscliffe	9	3,000	4,245	4,237	5	847	Unsubdivided
West Wimmera*	9,108	4,251	4,279	3,917	5	783	Unsubdivided

\* The municipality is undergoing an electoral representation review by the VEC during 2015–16.

# Voter estimate calculated after the January 2015 merge of the State electoral roll and Council-only electors as at the 2012 council elections.

^ Councillors other than the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor.

† Councillors other than the Mayor.

## Annex 2: Sample submissions

Any person or group can make a submission to the VEC. There are many matters to be considered when determining the electoral structure of a municipality and you might like to take all issues into account or just focus on one issue you wish to bring to the attention of the review.

The sample submissions below should be considered as examples only to assist you in preparing your own submission. Submissions discussing or proposing ward boundaries can include maps or diagrams, but this is not required. Remember, there are no right or wrong ways to develop your submissions—just be sure your submission is limited to the scope of the review and includes reasons for your preferences.

### Stage one: preliminary submission samples

#### **Sample 1**

The current number of councillors is appropriate for the council under review, and is sufficient to provide fair and equitable representation for locals. The number of councillors is consistent with comparable regional municipalities, and there are no major forecasts in population growth or increased communities of interest that would justify more councillors.

In terms of electoral structure, I strongly support the continuation of the unsubdivided structure. In 2004, before the Council was unsubdivided, there were seven single-member wards. One of the key issues with this structure was a tendency toward there not being a whole-of-Shire development agenda. Having five councillors who look after the needs of the entire Shire has greatly improved strategic planning and development for all areas of the Shire.

#### **Sample 2**

The council currently has five councillors, which is not enough to serve the current population—increasing to seven councillors would be more representative. Similarly, an electoral structure that includes multi-wards or is unsubdivided would allow for greater representation for the public. The current structure comprises five single-councillor wards. My experience has been that when a councillor is overworked or not interested in an issue, going to a councillor outside the ward is the only option.

There are also a significant number of communities of interest that exist across the council area, including residents engaged in environmental issues, planning and development and public transport access. A proposed ward structure is included with my submission.

## Stage two: response submission samples

### **Sample 1**

I support the preferred option outlined in the preliminary report that recommends increasing the number of councillors from seven to nine, and changes the electoral structure to include three wards, each with three councillors. This electoral structure reflects the growing population of the council area, and the three wards will ensure that all voters are fairly represented in the electorate. I don't wish to propose ward name changes. I don't wish to speak at the public hearing.

### **Sample 2**

I do not agree with the preferred option outlined in the preliminary report, which recommends creating two two-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward—rather than the current seven single-councillor wards. I believe this does not accurately reflect the communities of interest in the council area, which are determined largely by location. Each ward represents a unique part of the council area and voters know which councillor to go to. I believe this would be lost under the proposed structure. I would like to speak at the public hearing in support of my submission.

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