

## ITEM 4 PROPOSED ALTERATION TO WARD BOUNDARIES - RESULTS OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION

At its meeting held 23 September 2019 Council considered a proposal to amend Council Ward boundaries pursuant to Section 211 of the Local Government Act 1993 [Act]. Council resolved in accordance with s210A of the Act, to place an amended set of Ward boundaries on public exhibition and a further report be provided to Council with the results of the public exhibition.

The public exhibition period closed on Tuesday 5 November 2019 and the results of that consultation are now reported to Council.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 In accordance with s210A of the Local Government Act 1993 the proposed Ward boundaries detailed in the report, and as shown in Attachment 1, be endorsed.
- 2 The endorsed Ward boundaries be forwarded to the NSW Electoral Commissioner with a request that the boundaries apply and be used for the local government elections to be held in September 2020.

### REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Michelle Martin, Governance + Risk Manager

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

### ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Proposed Ward Boundaries
- 2 Ward Boundary Review - Engagement Report

### BACKGROUND

Council is required to regularly review its Ward boundaries, and if the electors in one Ward differs by more than 10% from the number of electors in any other Ward, Council must alter its Ward boundaries to rectify the imbalance in the number of electors in each Ward.

The variation between the largest and smallest Wards for Wollongong City Council has been above 10% for several years and was above 10% at the end of the first year of this Term of Council. As such Council is required to alter its Ward boundaries to reduce the difference to below 10%.

Council recently placed an amended set of Ward boundaries on public exhibition with a view to submit the altered boundaries to the NSW Electoral Commissioner for adoption.

### PROPOSAL

A map of the proposed new Ward boundaries endorsed and placed on public exhibition is attached as Attachment 1. A summary of the significant changes to existing Ward boundaries proposed are described in detail below -

#### Move from Ward 1 to Ward 2

Description of area: Area bounded by Princes Highway, Memorial Drive and Bourke Street

SA1 to be moved: 1114436

Enrolled Electors: 355

Reason for change: To provide a straighter boundary between Wards 1 and 2

#### Move from Ward 3 to Ward 2

Description of area: Area bounded by Princes Motorway, Princes Highway, Charcoal Creek and the South Coast Rail line

SA1's to be moved: 1113447, 1114611, 1114612, 1114639, 1114640  
 Enrolled Electors: 1,322  
 Reason for change: To provide a straighter boundary between Wards 2 and 3 that follows the South Coast Rail Line for a significant distance

### **Move from Ward 2 to Ward 3**

Description of area: Area north of the Unanderra-Moss Vale Rail line and west of the Princes Hwy, and south of the following:  
 Factory Road, Normandie Place, Charcoal Creek, Blackman Parade, Graham Street, Waples Road, Sugarwood Place and Charcoal Creek west to the Unanderra-Moss Vale Rail line

SA1's to be moved: 1113404, 1113405, 1113407, 1113423, 1113433 to 1113438, 1113442, 1113443, 1113445, 1113448, 1113450

Enrolled Electors: 3,733

Reason for change: Ward 3 is significantly smaller than the other Wards at present, there is little scope for adjustment of the boundary between Wards 2 and 3 in the eastern part of the Ward due to the significant industrial lands in this area. The area between the Unanderra-Moss Vale Rail and Waples Road covers almost the entire suburb of Farmborough Heights and the adjusted boundary should be easy for most residents to identify which ward they reside in.

## **CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION**

Council placed the proposed Ward boundaries' amendments on public exhibition for a period of 42 days from 25 September to 5 November 2019.

The proposed Ward boundaries' changes were exhibited on Council's website and copies were available at the Council Administration Centre and all library branches for inspection. An article was also featured in the October edition of the Council Community Newsletter.

A total of 65 people visited the online exhibition of the proposal via council's "Have Your Say Wollongong" page. A total of 17 people viewed and downloaded the map of proposed ward boundaries. A total of 13 people downloaded the detailed maps of proposed changes. A summary report of the on-line consultation results is attached as Attachment 2. No community submissions were received during the consultation period.

## **PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT**

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 Goal 4 "We are a connected and engaged community".

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Governance and Customer Services' Service Plan 2019-20.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

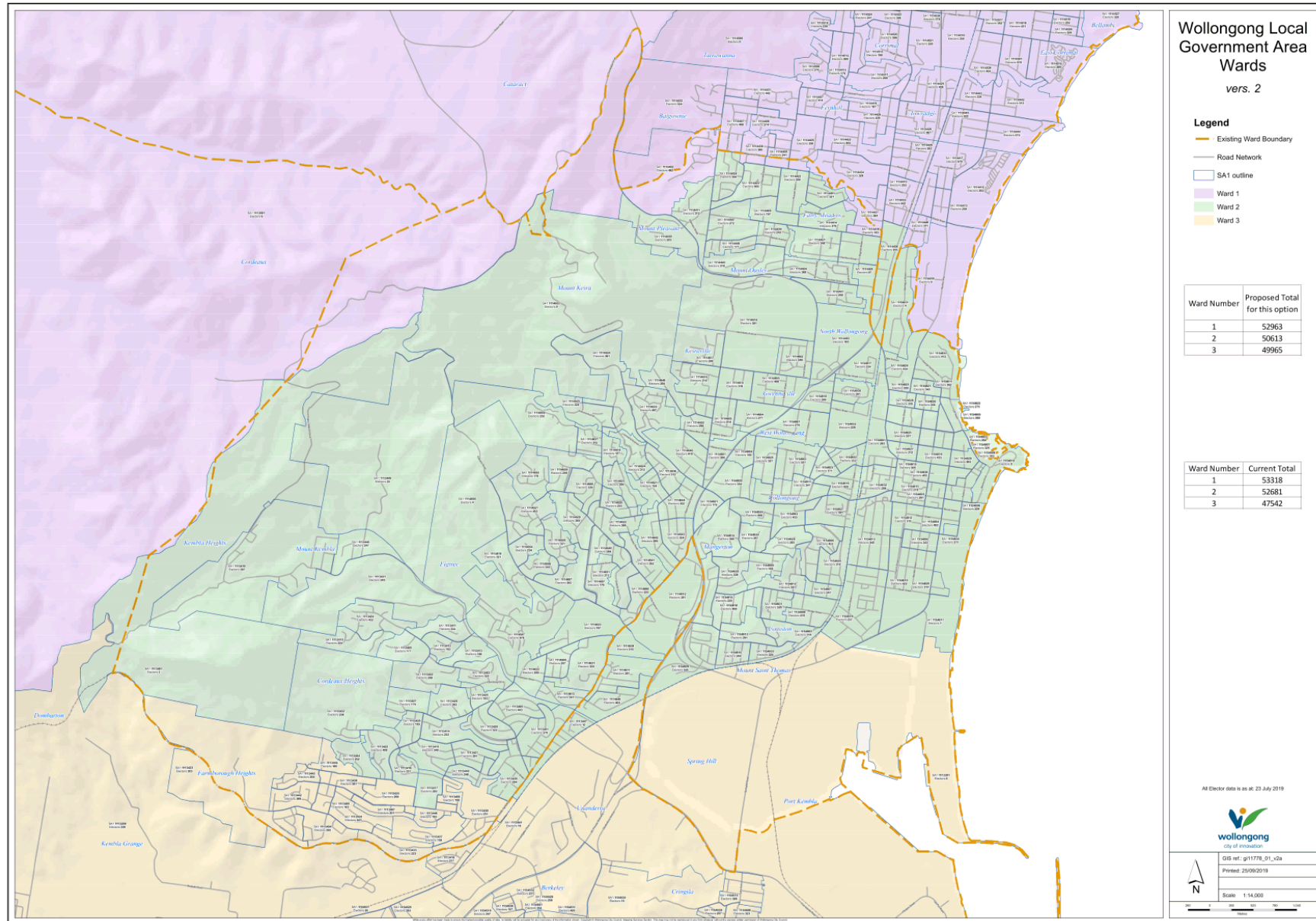
Disproportionate Ward size creates a risk to the principle of an equal vote for eligible electors. The 10% variance cap is put in place to acknowledge that numbers of electors in each Ward fluctuates, but that equality in Ward size is a key feature of electoral system. Council will be in breach of s211 of the Local Government Act 1993 if it does not alter its Ward boundaries prior to the next Council election.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

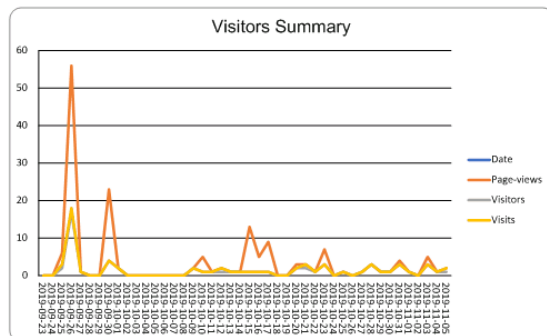
There are no direct costs associated with the application process to submit an altered Ward Boundary proposal to the NSW Electoral Commission. The process can be resourced utilising existing resources and budgets of the Governance and Customer Service Division.

## CONCLUSION

An adjustment to Council's Ward boundaries is required in accordance with s211 of the Local Government Act 1993. The proposed Ward boundaries are designed to allow for anticipated higher future growth rates in Wards 2 and 3 to ensure that the proposed boundaries will not require re-adjustment for a considerable length of time.



<b>Project Report:</b>	<b>Ward Boundary Review</b>	07-Jun-2013	to	05-Nov-2019
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Project Highlights	
Total Visits	65
New Registrations	1
Video views	0
Photo Views	0
Document Downloads	39

#### Admin Notes

ENGAGED PARTICIPANTS	1			INFORMED PARTICIPANTS	25	AWARE PARTICIPANTS	58
Engaged Actions Performed	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous	Informed Actions Performed	Participants	Aware Actions Performed	Participants
Contributed on Forums	0	0	0	Viewed a video	0	Visited at least one Page	58
Participated in Surveys	1	0	0	Viewed a photo	0		
Contributed to Newsfeeds	0	0	0	Downloaded a document	21		
Participated in Quick Polls	0	0	0	Visited the Key Dates page	0		
Posted on Guestbooks	0	0	0	Visited an FAQ list Page	9		
Contributed to Stories	0	0	0	Visited Instagram Page	0		
Asked Questions	0	0	0	Visited Multiple Project Pages	23		
Placed Pins on Places	0	0	0	Contributed to a tool (engaged)	1		
Contributed to Ideas	0	0	0				

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY							
Forum Topics	0	Guestbooks	0	Places	0	News Feeds	0
Qandas	0	Quick Polls	0	Stories	0	Survey Tools	1
				Ideas			
				0			

Tool Type	Engagement Tool Name	Tool Status	Visitors	Contributors		
				Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
SurveyTools	Feedback on Ward Boundary Review	published	2	1	0	0

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY									
DOCUMENTS	4	PHOTOS	0	VIDEOS	0	FAQS	1	KEYDATES	1

Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Downloads/Views
Document	Proposed Ward Boundaries	17	17
Document	Current Ward Boundaries	9	9
Document	Detailed Map of changes to Ward 1 - Ward 2 boundary	8	9
Document	Detailed Map of changes to Ward 2 - Ward 3 boundary	4	4
FAQ	faqs	9	9
Key Dates	Key Date	0	0