



**ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION
REVIEW**

**WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL
PRELIMINARY SUBMISSION**

July 2019

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Review Framework

Electoral Representation Reviews occur at least every 12 years across the Victorian Local Government sector for all Councils.

The Representation Reviews are undertaken by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) and seek to determine:

- Number of Councillors appropriate for the municipality;
- For metropolitan Councils (as all are to have wards):
 - Number of wards;
 - Ward boundaries;
 - Number of Councillors representing each ward; and
 - Ward names (subsidiary and not the focus of the Review)

Submissions pertaining to Whitehorse are encouraged from both the public and Council with Preliminary Submissions closing on 31 July 2019. A Preliminary Report is then issued by the VEC listing options for a structure and response submissions are requested to these. A Final Report is issued in late October 2019.

At the time of this Representation Review single member Councillor wards or multi member Councillor wards are the only ward structure appropriate for a metropolitan Council. Multi member Councillor wards may be wards with a consistent number of Councillors ie 3 wards with 3 Councillors for a total of 9 Councillor or mixed wards with different number of Councillors ie 4 wards with 2 Councillors plus 1 ward with 3 Councillors for a total of 11 Councillors.

1.2 Local Government Bill 2019

On 17 June this year the Minister for Local Government announced the intention of the State Government to introduce the Local Government Bill 2019. One of the provisions of the Bill proposes to reduce the options for electoral structures across the sector (except for rural Councils) to solely single member wards. Implementation is to be by the 2024 election.

Clarification from the VEC on this announcement has confirmed that the current Review will proceed under the present legislative framework ie with all ward options “still on the table” and not proposed changes. Whitehorse has therefore decided to present within this Preliminary Submission the options Council has developed including a single member ward structure.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Submission Options

Whitehorse approached the review by adopting a “blank canvas” approach to it.

Rather than merely adopting a “steady as we go” approach with a revamped version of the current electoral structure (primarily to meet the voter variations between wards) all aspects of the review were open to being assessed. Details of the processes/methodology will be elaborated upon within the submission.

Council submits two options that it strongly favours for consideration by the VEC – both of which have 11 Councillors with a multi ward option.

Preferred Option

5 wards comprising of 4 wards represented by 2 Councillors and 1 ward represented by 3 Councillors.

Alternative Option

4 wards comprising of 3 wards represented by 3 Councillors and 1 ward represented by 2 Councillors.

Both of these options represent a distinct departure from the current structure of 10 Councillors – 5 wards represented by 2 Councillors.

Council is confident that either of the proposed options will enhance the ability of Whitehorse to provide effective representation and good governance for its community for the elections scheduled in 2020, 2024 and 2028 remaining compliant up to the next scheduled electoral review prior to the 2032 elections.

3 CURRENT STRUCTURE

3.1 History

Whitehorse City Council was created by an Order in Council (State Government) on 15 December 1994 in amalgamating the former City of Box Hill together with the former City of Nunawading. Appointed Commissioner oversaw the transition process for amalgamation and one of their prime roles was to adopt an electoral structure for the conduct of inaugural election of Councillors in March 1997.

The current structure of Whitehorse – 10 Councillors with 5 wards represented by 2 Councillors – was adopted by Commissioners and has basically remained unchanged since. One relatively minor alteration occurred in 1999 with a change in name of one of the wards from Blackwood Ward to Central Ward.

3.2 Assessment

Variances of voter numbers is a critical component of any review and any potential new structure. A tolerance of plus or minus 10% from the average of voters per Councillor is prescribed by the Local Government Act (LGA).

A review of the existing ward arrangements was undertaken and the results are indicated within Table 1. Both Elgar ward and Morak ward are only compliant for 2019 as the unavoidable impact of ongoing development and projected population movements coupled with voter enrolments for 2026 and 2031 cause the wards to be significantly outside of the prescribed tolerance levels. In short the existing structure would at best remain viable for only the 2020 election.

Council was therefore of the view that the current ward arrangements would be required to change to cater for the future needs of Whitehorse.

Table 1 – Current Ward Structure
Detailing Percentage Variations

Ward	Crs	Voters 2019	Variance 2019	Projected + Voters to 2026	Total Voters 2026	Variance 2026	Projected + Voters to 2031	Total Voters 2031	Variance 2031
Elgar	2	25,187	+ 7.00%	8,834	34,021	+ 22.68%	2,702	36,723	+ 25.13%
Central	2	23,433	- 0.45%	3,006	26,439	- 4.66%	1,114	27,553	- 6.11%
Springfield	2	24,610	+ 4.55%	2,633	27,243	- 1.76%	1,647	28,890	- 1.56%
Riversdale	2	22,917	- 2.67%	4,293	27,210	- 1.88%	1,142	28,352	- 3.39%
Morak	2	21,558	- 8.42%	2,191	23,749	- 14.36%	1,470	25,219	- 14.07%
Total	10	117,705		20,957	138,662		8,075	146,737	
Aver per Councillor		11,770			13,866			14,674	

The current ward boundaries are displayed in Appendix 3 of this submission

4 POTENTIAL OPTIONS

4.1 Possible Structures

Since late 2018 Council has developed a series of options that range from 9 Councillors through to 11 Councillors. These options – aside from the single member ward one - were “cherry picked” from ones conceived by either Whitehorse or the VEC for the 2007 Representation Review and updated with voter numbers for 2019 and projected voter populations for the years 2026 and 3031. They are:

- 9 Councillors – 3 wards x 3 Councillors – refer to Appendix 4
- 10 Councillors – 5 wards x 2 Councillors – refer to Appendix 5
- 11 Councillors – 4 wards (3 wards x 3 Councillors + 1 ward x 2 Councillors) – refer to Appendix 7
- 11 Councillors – 5 wards (4 wards x 2 Councillors + 1 ward x 3 Councillors) – refer to Appendix 8
- 11 Councillors – 11 single member wards – refer to Appendix 6

Each of these options are highlighted and analysed as per the Appendix reference within this submission.

5 Criteria for Assessment of Options

5.1 Ward Structure – Single Member or Multi Member?

Single member Councillor wards or a multi member Councillor wards are the only electoral structures currently appropriate for a metropolitan Council.

Whitehorse has always had a multi member Councillor ward structure. This is viewed as appropriate due to: the size of the municipality; the number of voters; more easily identifiable ward boundaries in being able to utilise features within the municipality such as main roads; accommodating communities of interest; and ability to cater more readily for changes to voter numbers.

After the 1997 elections and again in 2002 Whitehorse Council considered changes to its electoral structure from multi member Councillor wards to single member Councillor wards and both times rejected the proposal. Single member wards do offer the advantage of easy to identify Councillor responsibility for a ward; an easier to understand electoral system – simple preferential as opposed to quota preferential; and the ability to represent distinct communities of interest. The downside of single member Councillor wards is: the potential constant review of ward boundaries to cater for increases in voter population; and the greater the number of Councillors (and therefore wards) the more convoluted the boundaries can become and less clearly identifiable.

Further, experience across the sector tends to indicate that single member wards work more effectively with smaller number of Councillors and where voter population movements are evenly spread across a municipality. Whitehorse's population growth is forecast to heavily increase for the Box Hill Activity Centre.

As noted the announcement in June this year by the State Government that by 2024 all Councils (except some rural ones) are to have single member wards meant Whitehorse needed to assess the viability of this option. An analysis of the option is provided later within this submission. One of the key findings from this analysis was that single member wards for Whitehorse would be compliant for a single electoral cycle only with changes to boundaries required for future elections.

Whitehorse therefore considers that overall a multi member Councillor wards will meet the current and future needs of Council and the community.

5.2 Number of Councillors

To assist in determining the number of Councillors appropriate for a municipality the VEC is guided by comparisons with other Councils of a similar size and category. Appendix 1 reproduces the table of metropolitan Councils provided within the VEC's publication *Local Council Representation Review – Submission Guide June 2019*. Note the table is sorted in ascending order via the column *Voters per Councillor*.

Whitehorse is placed currently in a "middle of the road position" with 11,771 voters per Councillor and thus placed 12 out of 22 Councils. If Whitehorse adopted a structure of 9 Councillors then the number of voters per Councillor increases significantly to 13,078 placing Whitehorse 17 out of 22. Correspondingly if a structure of 11 Councillors was adopted then the figure drops to 10,700 that is placed 10 out of 22.

Boroondara City Council with a similar area and population to Whitehorse has completed the Representation Review process in June 2019 and the VEC have recommended an increase in Councillor numbers from 10 to 11. Both Darebin and Knox have identical voter numbers but due to only having 9 Councillors are 19 and 20 respectively on the table. It would appear highly likely that both these Councils will receive an increase in the number of Councillors when their review process is conducted.

Overall these factors for Whitehorse tend to point towards a structure of 11 Councillors to cater for future population and voter growth. Evaluation is therefore critical as to how any potential structure meet the requisite voter percentages between wards; especially with regard to future voter population growth.

5.3 Statutory Requirement - Percentage Variation of Voters

A key statutory requirement for all electoral structures is to ensure that the number of voters represented by each Councillor is within 10% of the average number of voters per Councillor for Whitehorse.

For all options within this submission an extensive statistical analysis was completed for the number of voters as at 2019, 2026 and 2031. A table highlighting the variations is provided within the appendices for each option.

5.4 Basis for Voter Numbers

The VEC produced a Voters Roll at February 2019 for Whitehorse and provided Council with a file that captures all the SA1s areas (the smallest statistical areas used by the ABS for the collection census data) with elector numbers, and this was superimposed over a map of the municipality.

In this way Council was able to devise ward options even though it involved a laborious manual process to do so, literally by counting the voter numbers within the SA1's for any ward option. Regretfully, the VEC would not release their Boundary Builder application until the opening of public submissions on 3 July 2019. This proved too late for Council to use given its resources to do so and also Council processes for consideration of options. It is recognised that modelling done with Boundary Builder would be more accurate than modelling with SA1 numerical figures. In spite of this Council is convinced that the voter numbers for options will compare quite favourably against the electronic mode of developing ward boundaries.

5.5 Population Increases and Estimated Additional Voters

An electoral structure should be able to cater for increases in voter populations for at least 3 elections. Any adopted structure is to be used for Council elections in 2020, 2024 and 2028 and still should be applicable up to the next scheduled review prior to the 2032 elections.

To ensure that potential structures could meet this requirement Council utilised the services of the firm *id forecasting* for the capture of population forecasts up to 2031. In order to derive an estimated voter figures (as opposed to population increases) voter numbers for the years 2008, 2012 and 2016 were compared to respective population levels for the set years. This produced a % of voters to total population factor and an average of these factors over the 3 set years derived a figure of 71.9%. The additional forecasted population increases were therefore multiplied by 71.9% and so determines the estimated additional voters.

The two tables reproduced within Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 highlight the increases and estimated number of voters for 2026 and 2031. A further matter to be taken into consideration was population figures being tabulated by suburb requiring a further percentage split via suburb overlaid across any ward options.

5.6 Communities of Interest

Communities of interest are an important consideration of reviews as communities will have unique needs and it is important that they are reflected fairly by any new structure. Whitehorse contends that the boundaries for any proposed options do on the main reflect communities and this is particularly so for the 11 Councillor multi ward options.

In designing any ward option a major challenge was not to divide the Box Hill Activity Centre given its projected rapid population/voter increase for the next 5 years resulting in any option having a negative variance level of voter numbers at 2019 to cater for future increases.

Alternative Option 11 Councillors & 4 Wards – refer to Appendix 7.

Structure encompasses communities of interest :-

- North West Ward communities of Box Hill; Box Hill North, Mont Albert, Mont Albert North, part of Blackburn and a sliver of Surrey Hills
- South West Ward communities of Box Hill South, majority of Surrey Hills, Burwood and part of Burwood East
- North East Ward communities of Blackburn North, Nunawading, Mitcham, part of Blackburn, and part of Forest Hill.
- South East Ward communities of Blackburn South, Vermont, Vermont South, part of Forest Hill and part of Burwood East.

Preferred Option 11 Councillors & 5 Wards – refer to Appendix 8.

Structure encompasses communities of interest :-

- Elgar Ward communities of Box Hill; Box Hill North, Mont Albert, Mont Albert North, Surrey Hills and part of Box Hill South
- Riversdale Ward communities of Burwood, part of Box Hill South, majority of Blackburn South and part of Burwood East
- Central Ward communities of Blackburn, Blackburn North, part of Nunawading and part of Forest Hill.
- Springfield Ward communities of Mitcham, part of Nunawading, part of Forest Hill and part of Vermont
- Morack Ward communities of Vermont South, part of Forest Hill, part of Vermont, part of Burwood East and a sliver of Blackburn South.

Refer to *Appendices 2 & 3* for voter population movements that are projected up to 2031.

5.7 Ward Names

Ward names may be based on Indigenous names, natural features such as a lake; place names, compass directions, historic buildings, pioneers or prominent citizens; or native flora and fauna.

Though are not a critical component of the Representation Review ward names are deemed to be useful in identifying the area represented by the ward. Current ward names are viewed as still being appropriate for Whitehorse as they have broad acceptance by the community and reflect both Indigenous and historical names.

- Elgar Ward - named after Henry Elgar an early settler whom purchased a large special survey parcel of land in 1841. Elgar Road and Elgar Park named after him.
- Riversdale Ward – named after a 100 acre parcel of land created in 1850
- Central Ward – replaced the name Blackwood in 1999 by Council reflecting its geographic location in the centre of the municipality
- Springfield Ward – name reflects an early road in the region. The first mention of Springfield Road occurs in 1869 due to it servicing a small pottery and an independent church.
- Morack Ward - Koori name meaning “a place of hills”. The name was extended to Morack Road and also the golf course in 1950.

For the 11 single member ward option – refer to Appendix 6 - no ward names were allocated so that an appreciation of the size, configuration and compliance of the ward could be assessed.

5.8 One Vote One Value

The VEC publication *Local Government Representation Review - Submission Guide* espouses the principle of one vote one value where every vote counts equally and such forms the cornerstone of the review process. Provisions with the Act prescribe the % variation between the wards and this assists in upholding the principle by ensuring that voter numbers between the wards remain within a range from the average number of voters for the ward – highlighted in Tables 2 & 3 by the column % Variation.

Table 2 Preferred Option – 5 Wards (4w x 2CrS + 1w x 3CrS)

Ward	CrS	Voters 2019	% Variation	No Voters to Elect a C'cillor	Voters 2026	% Variation	No Voters to Elect a C'cillor	Voters 2031	% Variation	No Voters to Elect a C'cillor
Elgar	3	30,437	- 5.2	7,610	39,513	+ 4.5	9,875	42,267	+ 5.6	10,567
Central	2	20,960	- 2.1	6,917	24,378	- 3.3	8,045	25,779	- 3.4	8,507
Springfield	2	22,015	+ 2.9	7,265	24,069	- 4.5	7,943	25,391	- 4.8	8,379
Riversdale	2	22,604	+ 5.6	7,460	26,783	+ 6.2	8,838	27,935	+ 4.7	9,218
Morak	2	21,689	+ 1.4	7,157	23,919	- 5.1	7,893	25,365	- 4.9	8,370
Total	11	117,705			138,662			146,737		
Aver per Councillor		10,700			12,606			13,340		
Range				693			1,432			1,406

Table 3 Alternative Option – 4 Wards (3w x 3 CrS + 1 w x 2 CrS)

Ward	CrS	Voters 2019	% Variation	No Voters to Elect a C'cillor	Voters 2026	% Variation	No Voters to Elect a C'cillor	Voters 2031	% Variation	No Voters to Elect a C'cillor
North West	3	30,440	- 5.2%	7,610	40,291	+ 6.5%	10,072	43,416	+ 8.5%	10,854
North East	3	33,403	+ 4.0%	8,350	37,651	- 0.4%	9,413	39,785	- 0.6%	9,946
South West	2	21,121	- 1.3%	6,970	25,367	+ 0.6%	8,371	26,484	- 0.8%	8,740
South East	3	32,741	+ 2.0%	8,185	35,353	- 6.5%	8,838	37,052	- 7.5%	9,263
Total	11	117,705			138,662			146,737		
Aver per Councillor		10,700			12,606			13,340		
Range				575			1,701			1,591

Recent reviews of electoral structures have expressed concerns regarding multi member wards with varying number of Councillors between the wards. It is contended that as the percentage to elect a Councillor varies with the number of vacancies to be filled, that the value of one vote varies between the wards. In the 11 Councillor options of both 5 and 4 wards one of the wards varies in the number of Councillors elected from the remaining. For instance in the 5 ward option one ward is proposed to be represented by 3 Councillors with the remaining 4 wards represented by 2 Councillors. To elect a candidate for a ward returning 2 Councillors they need to poll 33% of the vote while a ward returning 3 Councillors a candidate needs to poll 25% of the vote.

The shaded columns in Tables 2 and 3 indicate the number of votes to elect a candidate in addition to the range of votes over the years – 2019, 2026 and 2031. There is little between the two options with the Preferred Option in Table 2 having a slightly larger differential for 2019 but this flattens over the next two periods. In Table 2 the sole ward with 3 Councillors has a consistently higher number of votes for a candidate to be elected (quota) whereas in Table 3 it is the sole ward returning 2 Councillors having a consistently lower quota.

Overall the range and variations for both options are tolerable and have little to no adverse impact on the principle of one vote one value.

6 OPTIONS

6.1 Non Favoured Options

9 Councillors with 3 wards x 3 Councillors

Considered that the number of Councillors is insufficient for the future needs of Whitehorse and rates poorly when compared with other Councils – see Appendix 1 – Table Electoral Structure Metropolitan Councils. For 9 Councillors the number of voters per Councillor ratio increases significantly to 13,078 that equates to 17th out of 22 metropolitan Councils.

10 Councillors with 5 wards x 2 Councillors

An updated version of the current Council structure. This option was able to absorb the projected voter increases however by 2031 had exceeded the % variance level for voters in one ward. The major difficulty for this option was the projected ratio of voters per Councillor for the years 2026 and 2031, 13,866 & 14,673 respectively. When applied to the Table Electoral Structure Metropolitan Councils they are 21st and the largest ratio, both of which make this option non viable. It is therefore considered that a different structure would best suit the needs of Whitehorse into the future.

11 Councillors – Single Member Ward Option

Pros for single member wards are: i) easy to identify Councillor responsibility for a ward; ii) easier to understand electoral system – simple preferential as opposed to quota preferential; and iii) the ability to represent distinct communities of interest.

Cons are i) potential constant review of ward boundaries to cater for increases in voter population; ii) the greater the number of Councillors (and therefore wards) the more convoluted the boundaries can become and less clearly identifiable; and iii) cost of conducting a bi election for a ward (new election) as opposed to a countback election (use votes cast at immediate past election) to fill a vacancy should one occur during the 4 year term. .

Experience throughout the sector tends to indicate that single member wards work best with a relatively low number of councillors coupled with an even increase in voter population across the municipality. Whitehorse's projected spike in voter population for and abutting the Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre (MAC) results rapidly in a non-compliant ward structure as highlighted by the table in Appendix 6.

If the State Government proceeds with mandating a single member ward for all metropolitan Councils then boundaries for Whitehorse would require altering every 4 years prior to an election.

6.2 Favoured Options

Both of these options are able to cater for the increases in projected population growth for Whitehorse between now and the scheduled election in 2032. They have been able to do so as the Box Hill Activity Centre - the area with the largest increases in voter population - is within a ward that has 3 Councillors for both options. This provides a base number of voters of 30,000 + and can assimilate more readily rapid increases in voters when compared to wards with 2 Councillors.

Alternative Option

11 Councillors with 4 wards (3 wards x 2 Councillors + 1 ward x 3 Councillors)

This option is an alternative option - to the preferred one – and it would also be suitable for Whitehorse as: i) it has a smaller number of wards; ii) caters for voter population increases iii) boundaries though not all main roads are still easy to identify; and iii) caters for communities of interest – eg incorporates the Box Hill Activity Centre in one ward.

Preferred Option

11 Councillors – 5 wards (4 wards x 2 Councillors + 1 ward x 3 Councillors)

This is the preferred option of Council for a number of important factors: i) has the most easy to identify boundaries in that all boundaries are main roads ii) makes it easy for residents to identify their Councillor iii) most closely replicates the current ward structure and saves confusion amongst residents; iv) caters for communities of interest – eg incorporates the Box Hill Activity Centre in one ward; and v) is more robust to all other options with the % variation of voters between the ward and projected increases in voters.

It is worth highlighting that none of the wards under this option exceeds (either + or -) a 6.5% variation from 2019 to 2031 and is superior in this regard to any other option.

7 CONCLUSION

Whitehorse adopted an open and analytical approach to the Representation Review. It explored several structural options beyond merely retaining the current structure despite it having served Whitehorse with almost no changes since 1997.

Options for 9 Councillors and also updating the current 10 Councillor option were not favoured to see Whitehorse up to the next Representation Review before the 2032 elections. Both options when compared on the basis of voters represented by Councillors to other metropolitan Councils – refer Appendix 1 - saw Whitehorse either mid table or towards the bottom end with a large range of voter numbers. . Further the revamped current 5 ward structure was only marginally able to absorb the voter increase and by 2031 had exceed the % variance level for voters in one ward.

Council considers that an 11 Councillor multi ward option would be the most appropriate for Whitehorse for the future. Its Preferred Option is for 5 wards and its Alternative Option is for 4 wards. Both provide Council with structures that conform to the prescribed variance between the wards for 2019, 2026 and 2031.

As noted within this submission the key for both options was to ensure that the community of interest of the Box Hill Activity Centre - commercial and residential - was maintained in one ward. Each of the 11 Councillor multi ward options achieved this desired outcome.

In summation Council's preferred option of 11 Councillors with 5 wards provides boundaries that are easy to identify – all being main roads - and makes identifying representation for residents easy. Additionally out of all the options outlined within this submission it is superior with regard to the required statutory % variances and further maintains the basic shape of the current structure avoiding confusion with major changes to boundaries. In short this option provides the optimum structure for Council to provide and continue to deliver services and good governance to the Whitehorse Community.

Council trusts that the Victorian Electoral Commission will recognise that appropriate options have been assessed for Whitehorse and that the preferred option – 11 Councillors with 5 wards - will serve Council and the community well from 2020 to 2032.

Council looks forward to the next stage of the Representation Review Process with the release of the VEC Options Paper.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Electoral Structure Metropolitan Councils

Source VEC 2019

Municipality	Area km2	Pop - 2016 Census	Voters Last Review	Current Est of Voters	No of Councillors	Voters per Councillor	Electoral Structure	Wards Nos	Wards Structure
Yarra	20	86,657	65,512	81,669	9	9,074	Multi - Const	3	3wx3
Greater Dandenong	130	152,050	93,970	101,846	11	9,259	Mixed Wards	4	3wx3 + 1wx2
Maribyrnong	31	82,288	52,543	65,202	7	9,315	Mixed Wards	3	2wx2 + 1wx3
Maroondah	61	110,376	77,739	87,817	9	9,757	Multi - Const	3	3wx3
Hobsons Bay	65	88,778	63,363	69,683	7	9,955	Mixed Wards	3	2wx2 + 1wx3
Manningham	114	116,255	85,748	89,624	9	9,958	Multi - Const	3	3wx3
Port Phillip	20	100,863	85,439	93,106	9	10,345	Multi - Const	3	3wx3
Stonnington	25	103,832	77,494	93,754	9	10,417	Multi - Const	3	3wx3
Moonee Valley	44	116,671	88,394	94,682	9	10,520	Multi - Const	3	3wx3
Monash	81	182,618	120,779	123,695	11	11,245	Mixed Wards	4	1wx2 + 3wx3
Bayside	36	97,087	67,702	78,937	7	11,277	Mixed Wards	3	1wx3 + 2wx2
Whitehorse	64	162,078	111,384	117,705	10	11,771	Multi - Const	5	5wx2
Glen Eira	38	140,875	97,582	106,440	9	11,827	Multi - Const	3	3wx3
Moreland	51	162,558	109,744	132,790	11	12,072	Mixed Wards	3	2wx4 + 1wx3
Frankston	131	134,143	95,979	109,662	9	12,185	Multi - Const	3	3wx3
Brimbank	123	194,319	127,517	135,931	11	12,357	Mixed Wards	4	3wx3 + 1wx2
Darebin	53	146,719	96,334	117,261	9	13,029	Multi - Const	3	3wx3
Knox	114	154,110	116,335	118,678	9	13,186	Single Member	9	9wx1
Boroondara	60	167,231	125,742	133,357	10	13,336	Single Member	10	10wx1
Kingston	91	151,389	105,316	122,333	9	13,593	Multi - Const	3	3wx3
Banyule	63	121,865	90,094	99,094	7	14,156	Single Member	7	7wx1

Nb Table is sorted via the column **Voters per Councillor**. Melbourne City has been excluded as that has its own unique characteristics.

Appendix 2 A – Table 1 - Projected Population Movements and Estimated Additional Voters

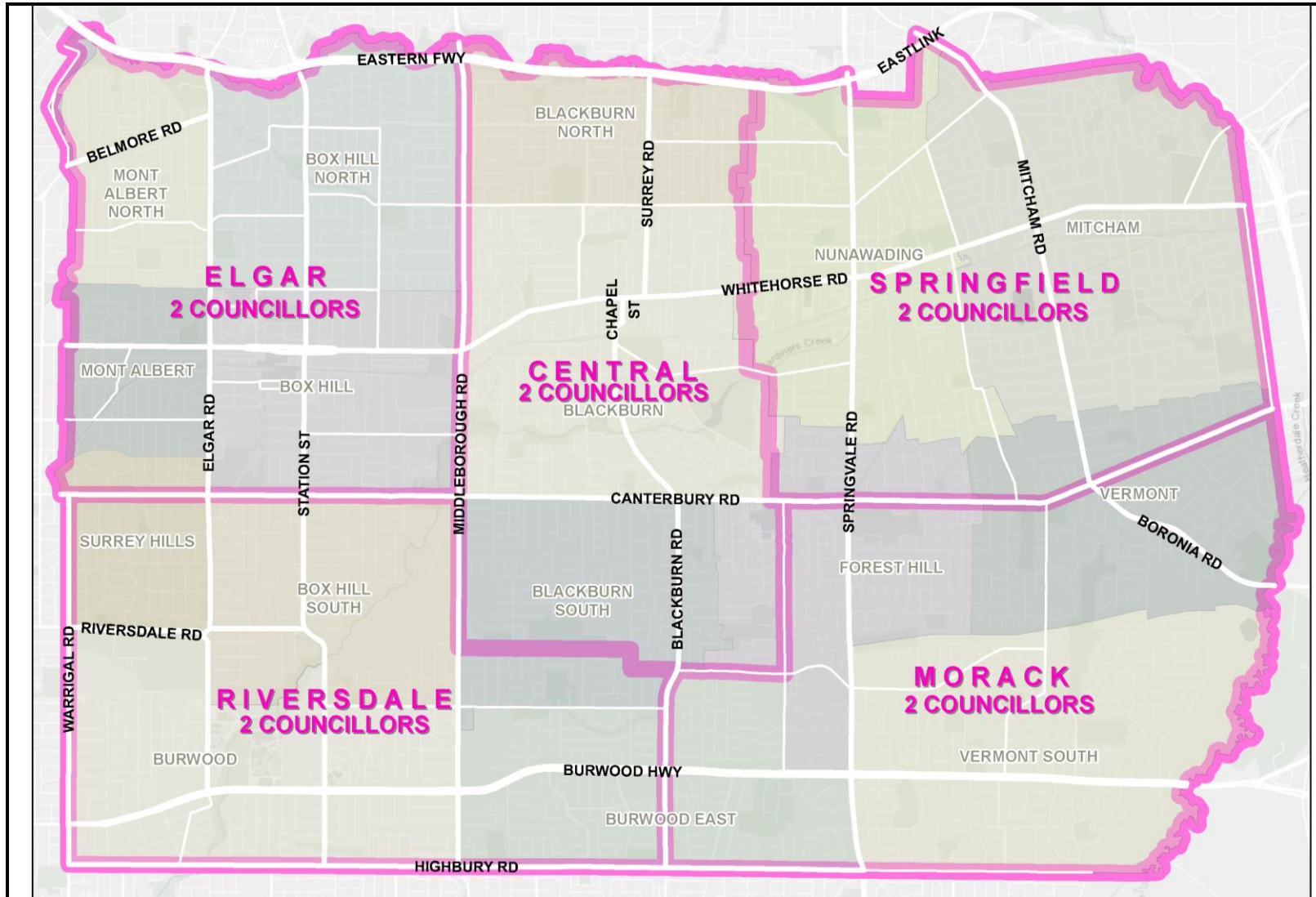
POPULATION PROJECTION DATA 2016 to 2031 (Provided by *.id forecasting*) and Projected Additional Voters

Area	2016	2026	Net Population Movement 2016 to 2026	Est. additional Electors @ 71.9% of Pop	2031	Net Population Movement 2026 to 2031	Est. additional Electors @ 71.9% of Pop
Whitehorse	169,641	198,791	29,150	20,959	210,027	11,236	8,075
Blackburn	14,522	17,533	3,011	2,165	18,787	1,254	901
Blackburn North	7,769	8,547	778	559	8,658	111	80
Blackburn South	11,229	11,514	285	205	11,655	141	101
Box Hill	11,970	21,959	9,989	7,182	25,015	3,056	2,197
Box Hill North	12,489	13,623	1,134	815	14,055	432	310
Box Hill South	8,869	9,521	652	469	9,669	148	106
Burwood	12,900	16,293	3,393	2,440	16,682	389	280
Burwood East	10,772	13,964	3,192	2,295	15,797	1,833	1,318
Forest Hill	11,074	11,983	909	654	12,388	405	291
Mitcham	16,859	18,395	1,536	1,104	19,375	980	704
Mont Albert	4,951	5,783	832	598	5,959	176	126
Mont Albert North	5,946	6,240	294	211	6,328	88	63
Nunawading	12,061	13,824	1,763	1,268	14,931	1,107	796
Surrey Hills	5,536	5,710	174	125	5,745	35	25
Vermont	10,443	10,897	454	326	11,276	379	272
Vermont South	12,251	13,004	753	541	13,707	703	505

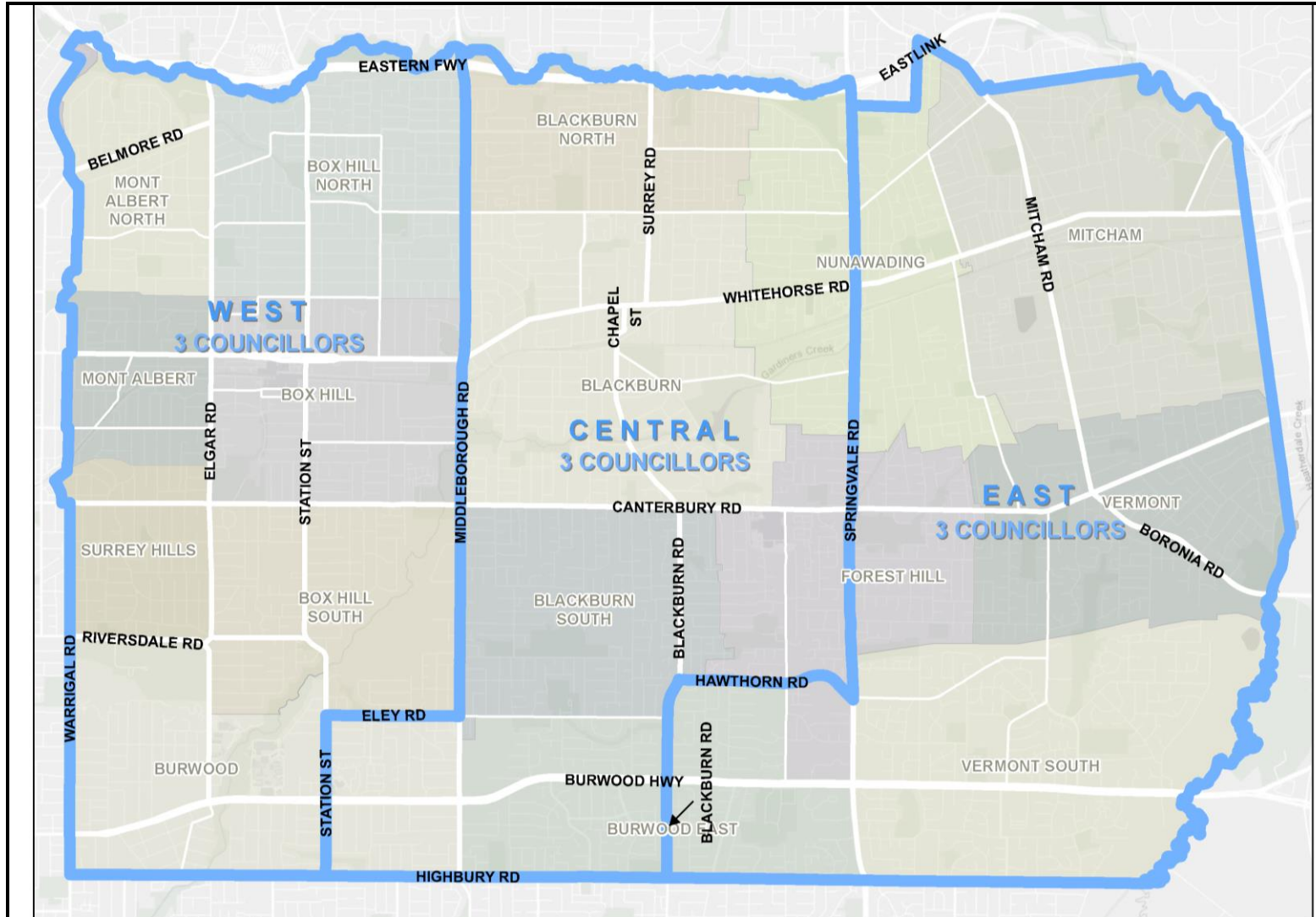
**Appendix 2 B – Table 2 Projected Voters
Enrolments By Suburb (15/2/19 to 30/6/31)**

Ward	Total Voters @ 12/2/2019	Additional voters to 30/6/26	Total Voters @ 30/6/2026	Additional voters to 30/6/31	Total Voters @ 30/6/2031
Blackburn	10,540	2,165	12,705	901	13,606
Blackburn North	5,401	559	5,960	80	6,040
Blackburn South	7,816	205	8,021	101	8,122
Box Hill	7,894	7,182	15,076	2,197	17,273
Box Hill North	8,336	815	9,151	310	9,461
Box Hill South	5,935	469	6,404	106	6,510
Burwood	7,915	2,440	10,355	280	10,635
Burwood East	7,376	2,295	9,671	1,318	10,989
Forest Hill	7,819	654	8,473	291	8,764
Mitcham	12,271	1,104	13,375	704	14,079
Mont Albert	3,785	598	4,383	126	4,509
Mont Albert North	4,225	211	4,436	63	4,499
Nunawading	8,338	1,268	9,606	796	10,402
Surrey Hills	4,247	125	4,372	25	4,397
Vermont	7,177	326	7,503	272	7,775
Vermont South	8,630	541	9,171	505	9,676
Total	117,705	20,957	138,662	8,075	146,737

**Appendix 3 – Current Ward Structure
10 Councillors and 5 Wards (5w x 2CrS)**



**Appendix 4 – 9 Councillors & 3 Wards
Non Favoured Option – (3w x 3Cr)**



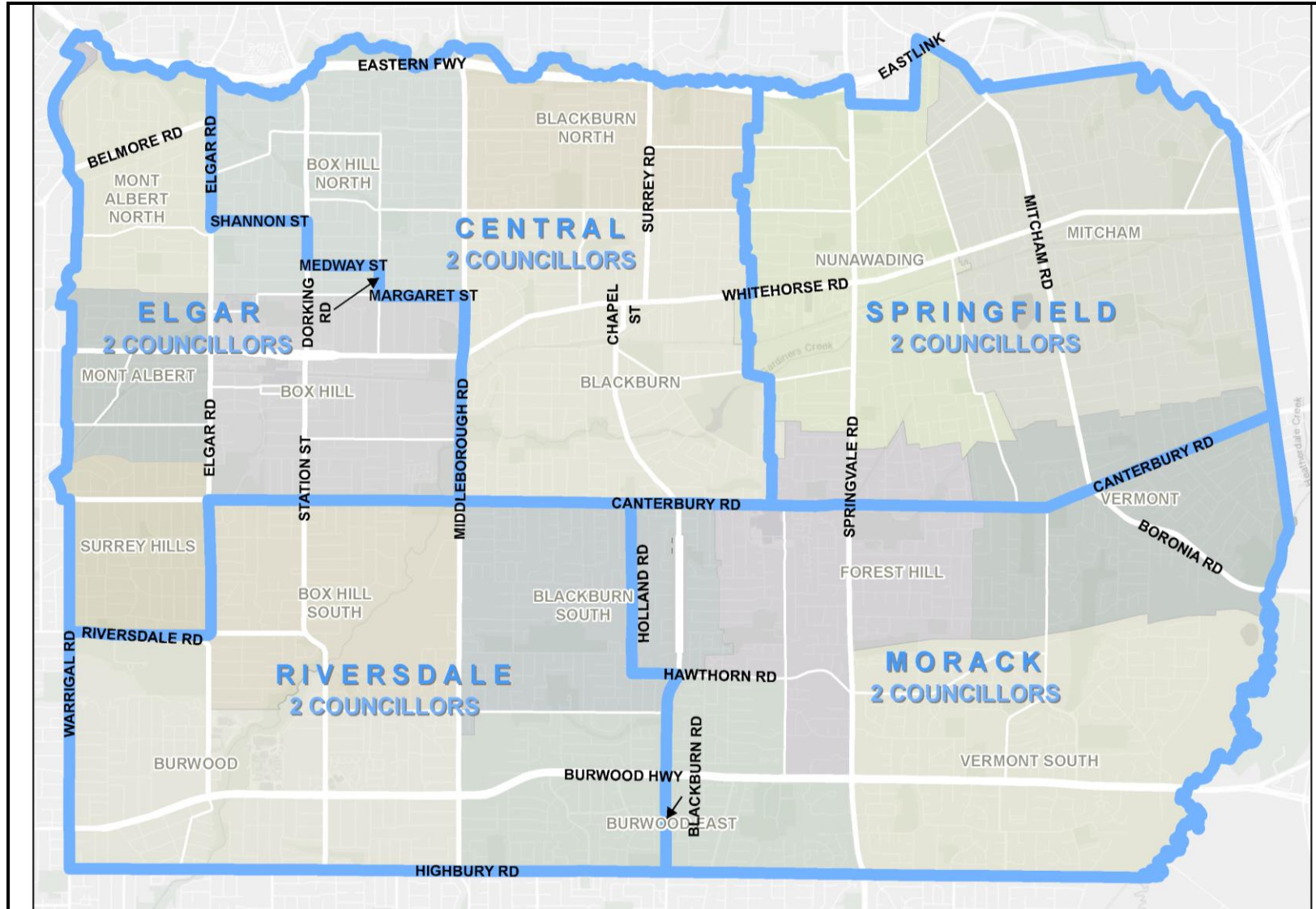
9 Councillors and 3 Wards – (3 w x 3 Crs) Cont.

Ward	Councillors	Total Voters @ 12/2/19	Variance	Projected + voters to 2026	Total Voters @ 30/6/26	Variance	Projected + voters to 2031	Total Voters @ 30/6/31	Variance
West	3	38,869	-1.0%	10,766	49,635	+ 7.4%	2,984	52,619	+ 7.6%
Central	3	39,403	0%	6,204	45,607	- 1.3%	2,456	48,063	- 1.7%
East	3	39,433	0%	3,987	43,420	- 6.0%	2,635	46,055	- 5.8%
Total	9	117,705		20,957	138,662		8,075	146,737	
Average per Councillor		13,078			15,407			16,304	

Notes

- Representation per Councillors is too high in comparison to other Metropolitan Councils. 13,078 that would place Whitehorse currently 17 out of 22 metropolitan Councils.
- Monash Council of a slightly higher voter number has currently 11 Councillors. Boroondara has completed its review and is recommended to increase from 10 to 11 Councils. It has the same population and area size as Whitehorse but higher voter number.
- All variations are within tolerance level.

**Appendix 5 – 10 Councillors & 5 Wards
Non Favoured Option – (5w x 2Cr)**



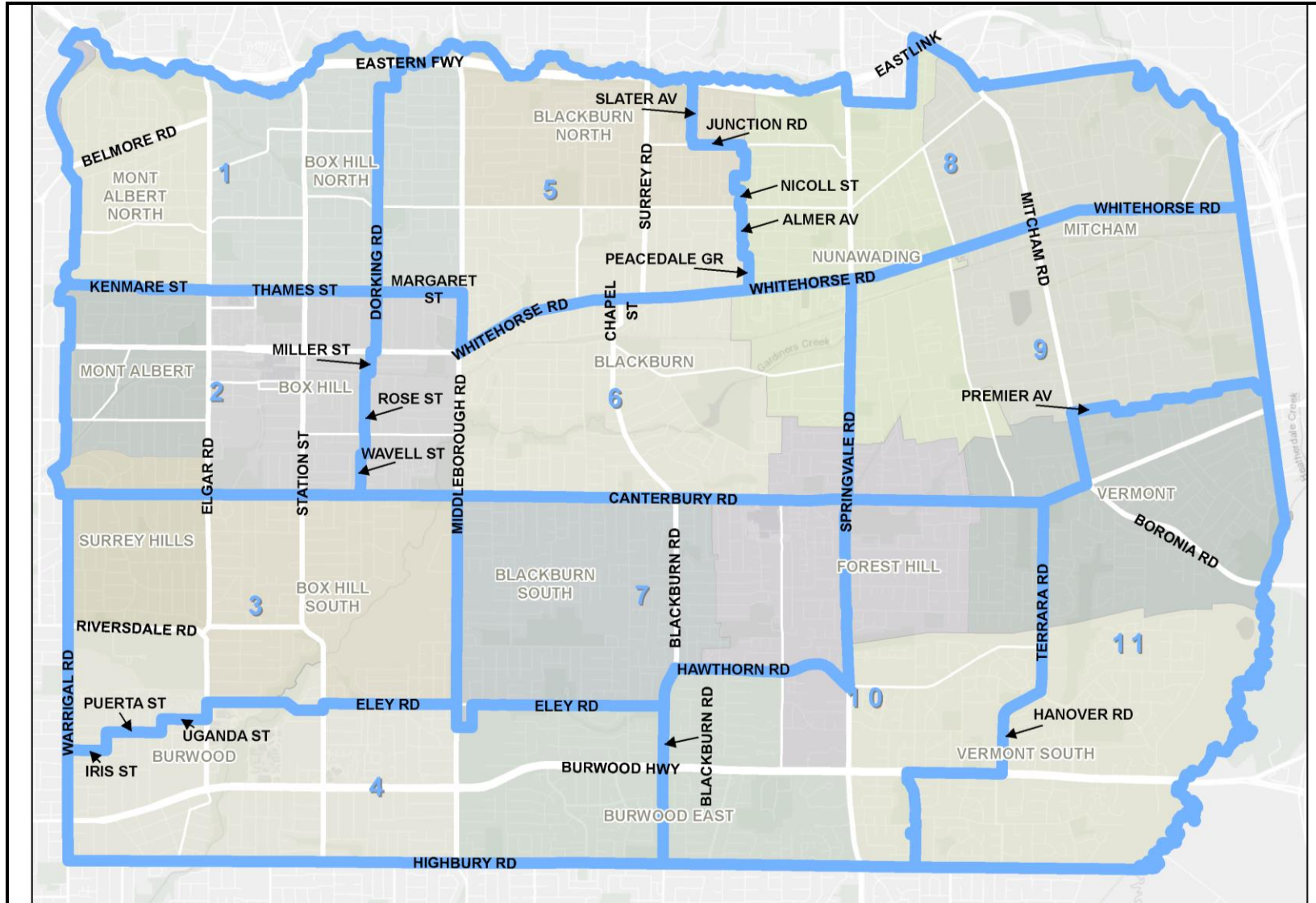
10 Councillors and 5 Wards – (5 w x 2 Crs) Cont.

Ward	Councillors	Total Voters @ 12/2/19	Variance	Projected + voters to 2026	Total Voters @ 30/6/26	Variance	Projected + voters to 2031	Total Voters @ 30/6/31	Variance
Elgar	2	21,760	- 7.6%	8,271	30,031	+ 8.3%	2,470	32,501	+ 10.7%
Central	2	22,668	- 3.7%	3,384	26,052	- 6.1%	1,232	27,284	- 7.0%
Springfield	2	24,610	+ 4.5%	2,627	27,237	- 1.8%	1,647	28,884	- 1.6%
Riversdale	2	23,289	- 1.1%	4,291	27,580	- 0.5%	1,169	28,749	- 2.0%
Morack	2	25,378	+ 7.8%	2,384	27,762	0%	1,557	29,319	- 0.1%
Total	10	117,705		20,957	138,662		8,075	146,737	
Average per Councillor		11,770			13,866			14,673	

Notes

- Current structure updated with voter figures resulting in re-casting of boundaries
- Elgar ward only just manages to cater for the estimated population increase and ultimately exceeds the tolerance levels
- Not robust enough to cater for future needs both population and also number of Councillors

Appendix 6 – 11 Single Member Ward Option 11 Councillors – Non Favoured Option



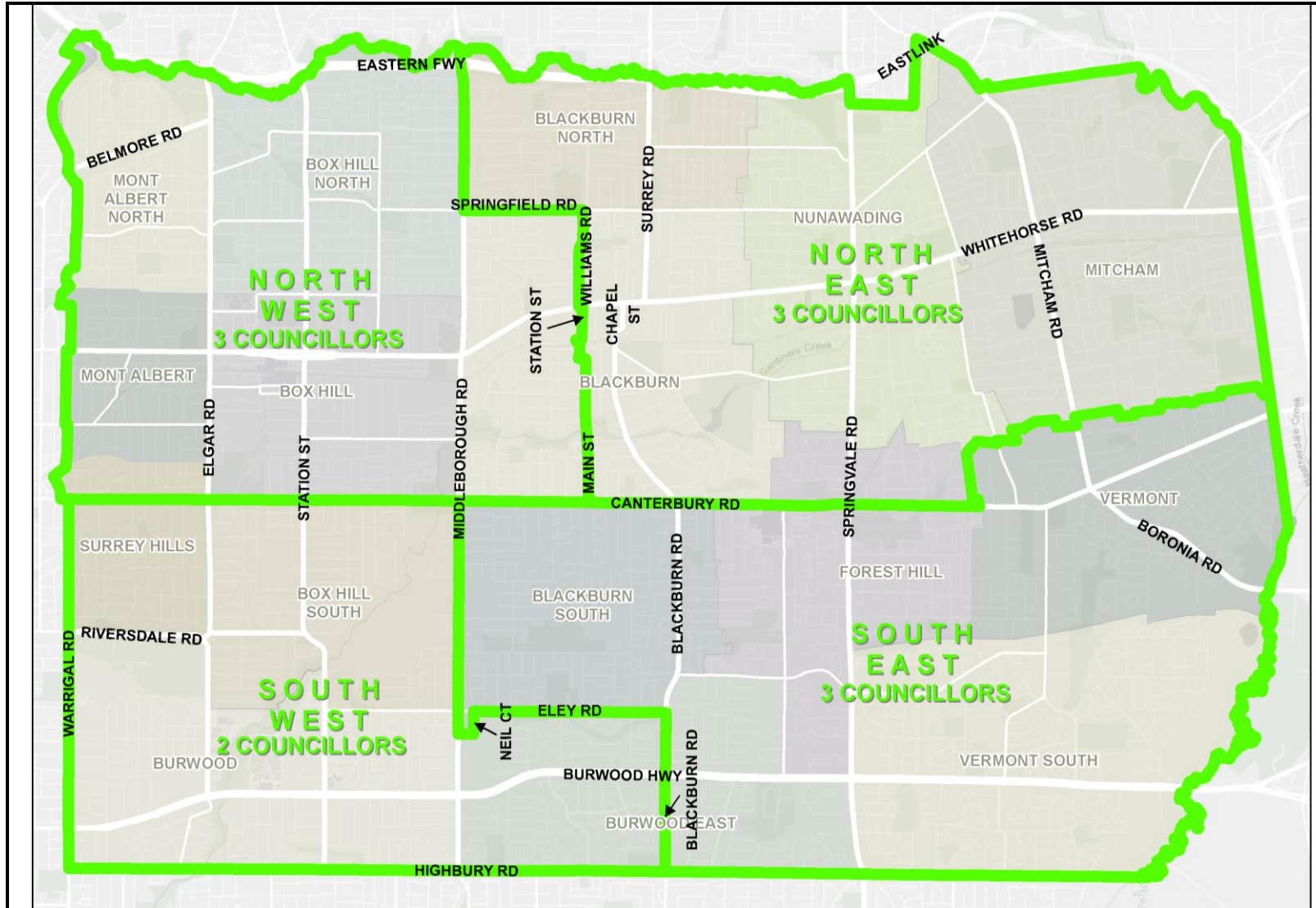
11 Councillors – Single Member Ward Option Cont.

Ward	Crs	Voters 2019	Variance	Projected + Voters to 2026	Total Voters @ 30/6/26	Variance	Projected + Voters to 2031	Total Voters @ 30/6/31	Variance
1	1	9,904	-7.54%	765	10,669	-15.44%	274	10,943	-18.04%
2	1	10,368	-3.52%	5,725	16,093	+27.32%	1,691	17,784	+32.99%
3	1	10,466	-1.74%	957	11,423	-9.00%	170	11,593	-12.73%
4	1	10,655	-0.64%	3,289	13,944	+10.43%	947	14,891	+11.46%
5	1	11,411	+7.28%	1,581	12,992	+3.60%	513	13,505	+1.75%
6	1	11,100	+2.15%	3,681	14,781	+15.91%	1,342	16,123	+19.59%
7	1	11,114	+3.00%	473	11,587	-8.81%	220	11,807	-12.18%
8	1	10,925	+1.99%	1,295	12,220	-3.15%	788	13,008	-2.58%
9	1	10,609	+0.86%	1,078	11,687	-5.84%	672	12,359	-5.98%
10	1	10,477	-1.46%	1,536	12,013	-4.17%	943	12,956	-2.37%
11	1	10,676	-0.37%	577	11,253	-10.85%	515	11,768	-11.89%
Total	11	117,705		20,957	138,662		8,075	146,737	
Aver per Councillor		10,700			12,606			13,340	

Notes

- Structure is compliant with % variations of voters for the 2020 election only.
- Voter Population Projections - 2026 up to 5 wards are no longer compliant with the % deviation. 2031 up to 7 wards are no longer compliant.
- Require to be reviewed after each election cycle of 4 years.
- Boundaries are frequently residential streets as opposed to main roads.

**Appendix 7 – Alternative Option – 11 Councillors & 4 Wards
(3w x 3CrS + 1w x 2CrS)**



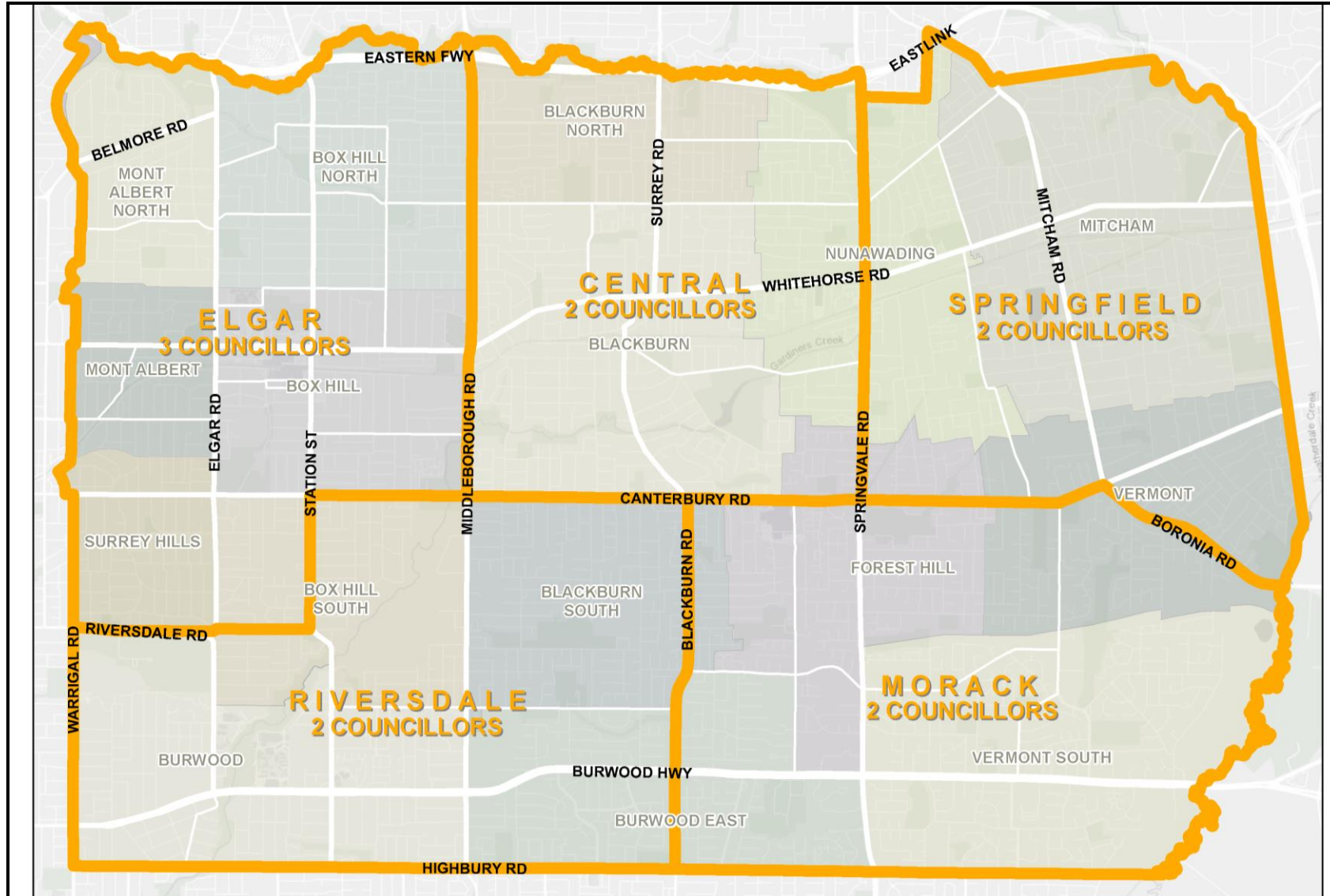
11 Councillors and 4 Wards – (3w x 3CrS + 1w x 2CrS) Cont.

Ward	Councillors	Total Voters @ 12/2/19	Variance	Projected + voters to 2026	Total Voters @ 30/6/26	Variance	Projected + voters to 2031	Total Voters @ 30/6/31	Variance
North West	3	30,440	- 5.2%	9,851	40,291	+ 6.5%	3,125	43,416	+ 8.5%
North East	3	33,403	+ 4.0%	4,248	37,651	- 0.4%	2,134	39,785	- 0.6%
South West	2	21,121	- 1.3%	4,246	25,367	+ 0.6%	1,117	26,484	- 0.8%
South East	3	32,741	+ 2.0%	2,612	35,353	- 6.5%	1,699	37,052	- 7.5%
Total	11	117,705		20,957	138,662		8,075	146,737	
Average per Councillor		10,700			12,605			13,340	

Notes

- All wards within voter tolerance levels from 2019 through to 2031.
- Box Hill Activity Centre within one ward.

**Appendix 8 – Preferred Option – 11 Councillors & 5 Wards
(4w x 2CrS + 1w x 3CrS)**



11 Councillors and 5 Wards – (4w x 2CrS + 1w x 3CrS) Further Option Cont.

Ward	Councillors	Voters 2019	Variance	Projected + Voters to 2026	Total Voters @ 30/6/26	Variance	Projected + Voters to 2031	Total Voters @ 30/6/31	Variance
Elgar	3	30,437	- 5.18%	9,076	39,513	+ 4.49%	2,754	42,267	+ 5.62%
Central	2	20,960	- 2.06%	3,418	24,378	- 3.31%	1,401	25,779	- 3.38%
Springfield	2	22,015	+ 2.87%	2,054	24,069	- 4.54%	1,322	25,391	- 4.83%
Riversdale	2	22,604	+ 5.62%	4,179	26,783	+ 6.23%	1,152	27,935	+ 4.71%
Morak	2	21,689	+ 1.35%	2,230	23,919	- 5.12%	1,446	25,365	- 4.92%
Total	11	117,705		20,957	138,662		8,075	146,737	
Aver per Councillor		10,700			12,606			13,340	

Notes

- Elgar Ward comprises 3 Councillors with Riversdale Ward 2 Councillors.
- Boundaries are all main roads so easily identifiable wards and representation for residents.
- Projected populations increases. No ward exceeds 6.5% variation from 2019 to 2031.