



Councillor  
(as addressed)

The next Council Meeting will be held virtually, on Monday 19 July 2021, commencing at 7:30pm and your presence is requested.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steve Kozlowski', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steve Kozlowski  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Note:**

***Due to COVID-19 restrictions this meeting of Council is being streamed live on the internet and recorded. This meeting of Council can be viewed on Council's website via***

***<https://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Live-Council-Meetings>***

***The Public Gallery is currently closed to the public.***

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## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. Prayer
2. Acknowledgment of Country
3. Apologies
4. Declaration of Interests
5. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 28 June 2021.
6. Public Questions
7. Officers' Reports
  - Director Corporate Services
    1. Attendance Report 3
    2. Reports of Councillor Briefings 5
    3. Councillor Representation Reports 7
    4. Electoral Boundaries - Proposed State Electoral Boundaries 9
  - Director Strategy & Community
    1. Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey Results 2021 18
    2. Eastern Region Group (ERG) Strategic Plan 2021-2025 22
8. Documents for Sealing
9. Motions to Review
10. Late Item
11. Requests / Leave of Absence
12. In Camera
  - Director Corporate Services
    1. Tender Evaluation Report - Contract 20996 Bill Payment & Banking Services



**ATTENDANCE REPORT**

**ITEM 1**

**PURPOSE**

To provide an opportunity for Councillors to report on Council activities undertaken since the last Ordinary Meeting of Council and forthcoming ward activities.

**STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES**

The following directions contained in Maroondah 2040: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 1: 2021-2022) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community

Our Vision: Maroondah is an effectively empowered community that is actively engaged in Council decision making through processes that ensure their voice is heard and considered. Council provides strong and responsive leadership, ensures transparent processes and works with the community to advocate and champion their needs

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

8.1 Provide enhanced governance that is transparent, accessible, inclusive and accountable

**BACKGROUND**

Not Applicable

**ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

It is intended that the Mayor and Councillors be given the opportunity to present a verbal or written report updating Council on the activities they have undertaken in their role as Councillors and forthcoming ward activities.

**FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES**

Not Applicable

**ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES**

Not Applicable

**SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES**

Not Applicable

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

Not Applicable

**CONCLUSION**

It is appropriate that Councillors formally report to Council upon the activities they have undertaken in their role as Councillors.

**ATTENDANCE REPORT Cont'd**

**ITEM 1**

**ATTACHMENTS**

Not Applicable

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Not Applicable

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE REPORTS AS PRESENTED BY  
COUNCILLORS**

## **REPORTS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS**

## **ITEM 2**

### **PURPOSE**

To present the 'Public Record' of those Councillor Briefings which are attended by all Councillors and generally held on Monday evenings at Realm, usually two weeks prior to the formal Council Meeting, and to note the issues discussed.

### **STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES**

The following directions contained in Maroondah 2040: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 1: 2021-2022) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community

Our Vision: Maroondah is an effectively empowered community that is actively engaged in Council decision making through processes that ensure their voice is heard and considered. Council provides strong and responsive leadership, ensures transparent processes and works with the community to advocate and champion their needs

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

- 8.1 Provide enhanced governance that is transparent, accessible, inclusive and accountable

### **BACKGROUND**

As part of decision-making processes at Maroondah, it is essential that Councillors are briefed on a range of issues which come before Council for consideration. As a means of providing this information, Councillor Briefings are conducted.

Councillor Briefings are also attended by Council Officers, and sometimes other specific advisors, to provide Councillors with a detailed knowledge and understanding of issues under consideration to a level of detail that would inhibit timely decision-making, that would not be possible in an open Council meeting, where decision-making related debate is governed by strict meeting procedures.

A Councillor Briefing is a non decision making forum, and as per past good governance practice, is deemed to be a scheduled or planned meeting comprising a majority of Councillors (at least 5) and one (1) Council employee, for the purpose of discussing matters that are intended or likely to be:

- the subject of a decision of the Council; or
- subject to the exercise of a delegated function, duty or power of Council

Examples of a Councillor Briefings may include:

- On-site inspections,
- Consultative Meetings with residents, developers, consultants
- Meetings with local organisations, Government Departments, statutory authorities, and local politicians

**REPORTS OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS Cont'd****ITEM 2****ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

Councillor Briefings are generally held twice a month, on Monday evenings at Realm, usually two (2) weeks prior to, and on the night of a formal Council meeting.

The intent of this report is to present a 'Public Record' of those Councillor Briefings which are generally attended by all Councillors and typically held on Monday evenings, and to note the items discussed.

The 'Public Record' of the Councillor Briefing held on the 28 June 2021 and 5 July 2021 are attached for information.

**FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES**

Not Applicable

**ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES**

Not Applicable

**SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES**

Not Applicable

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

Not Applicable

**CONCLUSION**

Councillor Briefings are important forums for advice and discussion, on what are often complex issues facing the municipality, in the lead up to formal decisions being made by Councillors at Council Meetings. At Councillor Briefings, or outside them, Councillors also have the opportunity of requesting additional information to assist in the decision-making process.

It is appropriate that the 'Public Record' of those Councillor Briefings, which are attended by a majority of Councillors, i.e. at least five (5) Councillors and one (1) employee of Council, be noted.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. 2021 June 28 - Councillor Briefing Public Record
2. 2021 July 05 - Councillor Briefing Public Record

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Not Applicable

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE PUBLIC RECORD OF THE FOLLOWING COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS HELD ON THE 28 JUNE 2021 AND 5 JULY 2021**

**COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION REPORTS**

**ITEM 3**

**PURPOSE**

To receive and note the meeting minutes of the following committees:

- Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee meeting held on the 24 June 2021
- Eastern Transport Coalition meeting held on the 17 June 2021
- Maroondah Business Advisory Committee meeting held on the 15 June 2021
- Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee meeting held on the 18 May 2021

**STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES**

The following directions contained in Maroondah 2040: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 1: 2021-2022) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community

Our Vision: Maroondah is an effectively empowered community that is actively engaged in Council decision making through processes that ensure their voice is heard and considered. Council provides strong and responsive leadership, ensures transparent processes and works with the community to advocate and champion their needs.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

- 8.1 Provide enhanced governance that is transparent, accessible, inclusive and accountable

**BACKGROUND**

As part of Council's commitment to the principles and practice of good governance, it is appropriate that Councillors and the Community are formally updated on the actions and activities of the various organisations' bodies/advisory groups upon which it is represented.

**ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

Council is represented on numerous Boards and Organisations. Appointments are made annually by Council at the commencement of the new Mayoral term.

Crs Spears, Steane and Dib are Council's Representatives on the Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee.

Cr Graham is Council's Representative along with Cr Damante as Substitute Representative on the Eastern Transport Coalition.

Crs Spears, Steane and Damante are Council's Representatives on the Maroondah Business Advisory Committee

Crs Graham, Macdonald and Stojanovic are Council's Representatives on the Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee.

**COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION REPORTS Cont'd**

**ITEM 3**

**FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES**

Not Applicable

**ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES**

Not Applicable

**SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES**

Not Applicable

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

Not Applicable

**CONCLUSION**

It is appropriate that Councillors and the Community are formally updated on the actions and activities of the various organisations' bodies/advisory groups upon which Council is represented.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. 2021 June 24 - Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
2. 2021 June 17 - Eastern Transport Coalition Meeting Minutes
3. 2021 June 15 - Maroondah Business Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
4. 2021 May 18 - Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Not Applicable

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES**

1. **MAROONDAH DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2021**
2. **EASTERN TRANSPORT COALITION MEETING HELD ON THE 17 JUNE 2021**
3. **MAROONDAH BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2021**
4. **MAROONDAH ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2021**

**ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES - PROPOSED STATE  
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES**

**ITEM 4**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to note Council's support in relation to the proposed changes to State Electoral Boundaries and consider lodging a submission along these lines.

**STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES**

The following directions contained in Maroondah 2040: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 1: 2021-2022) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community

Our Vision: In 2040, Maroondah will be an empowered community actively engaged in local decision making, led by an innovative community inspired council that collaborates regionally and proactively champions local needs.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

8.11 Work in partnership to advocate for and champion the needs and aspirations of the community to Victorian and Australian levels of government, service providers and the business sector.

Priority Action 2021-2022:

Advocate on key local issues on behalf of the Maroondah community, including in the lead up to the State and Federal Government elections in 2022.

**BACKGROUND**

To ensure the number of electors within each State Government District and Region remains approximately the same over time, the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act 1982* requires that State electoral boundaries are adjusted. This formal process is called a 'redivision' and must take place after every second Victorian State general election.

The Electoral Boundaries Commission (EBC) has been conducting a redivision of electoral boundaries for both Houses of State Parliament to ensure that each vote in Victorian State elections has an equal value and that each elector is represented equally in the Victorian Parliament.

The process commenced on 16 December 2020 calling for Stage 1 submissions being accepted until 1 March 2021. Stage 1 public hearings were conducted between 29 March to 2 April 2021.

The proposed electoral boundaries were released on 30 June 2021 and the Stage 2 submission process commenced.

**ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES - PROPOSED STATE**  
**ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES Cont'd**

**ITEM 4**

**ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

The following information provides details relative to those proposed changes for the Districts (Legislative Assembly otherwise known as the Lower House of State Parliament) affecting the City of Maroondah.

**Proposed Changes:**

The key elements of the proposal/changes can be seen below. Current district maps are included for comparison.

***Warrandyte District:***

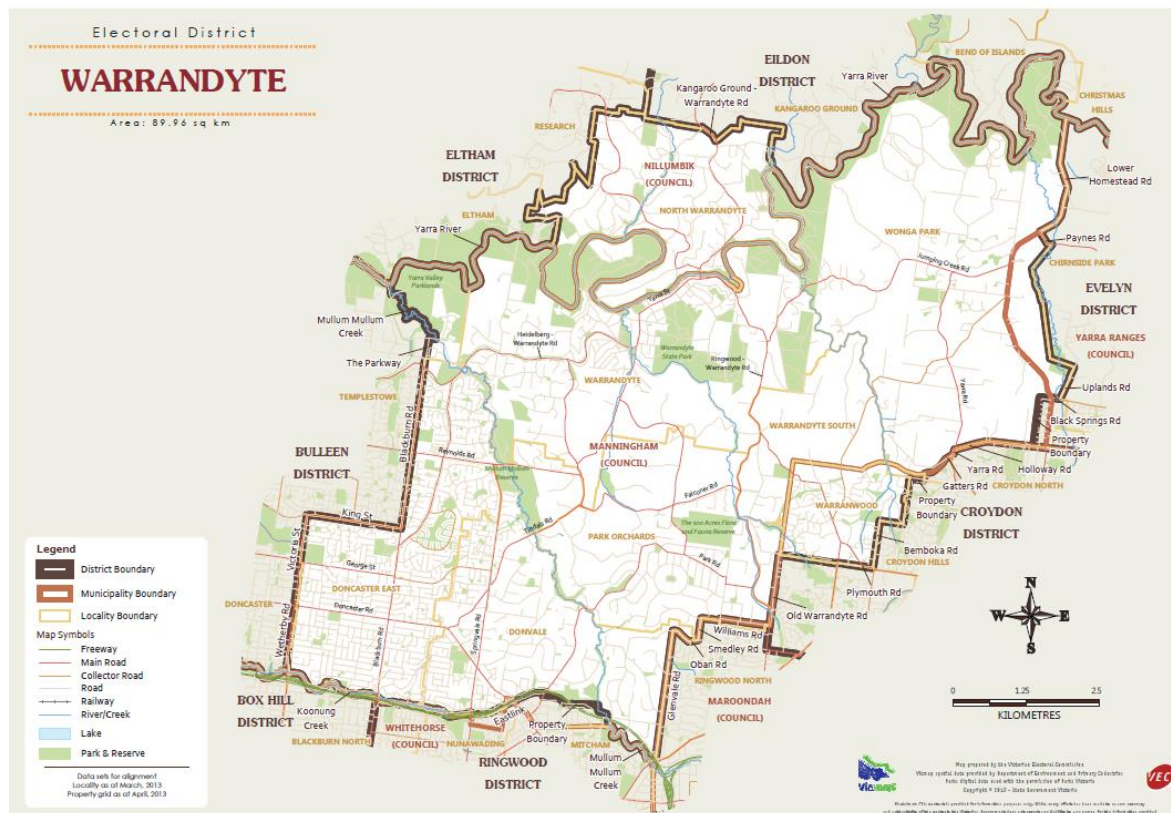
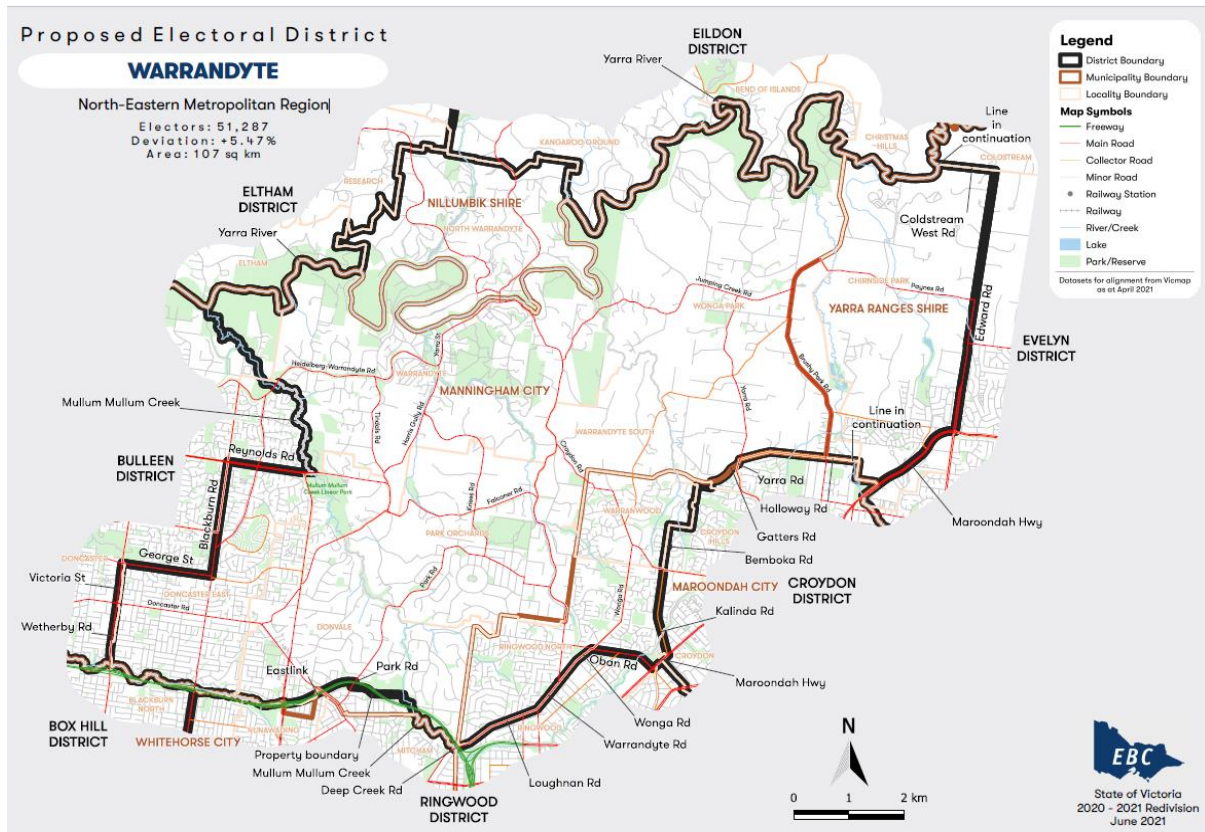
- Well under quota at 10.69% below the district average
- Balancing all views along with geography and communities of the district area, the EBC is proposing the following:
  - Extend Warrandyte east to gain 4,091 electors in Chirnside Park from the Evelyn District
  - The South-East to gain 4,241 electors from a part of Ringwood Nth and the remaining share of Park Orchards from the Croydon District
  - The South to include 4,853 electors also in Ringwood North from the Ringwood District.
- Noting that these changes would more than compensate for the loss of electors to the Bulleen District will bring the Warrandyte District well within the 5.47% quota above the District average whilst accommodating for future voter rates of decline.
- The EBC also considers that it is appropriate to retain Warrandyte North within the District given this was supported by the majority of submitters.



# ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES - PROPOSED STATE

## ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES Cont'd

ITEM 4

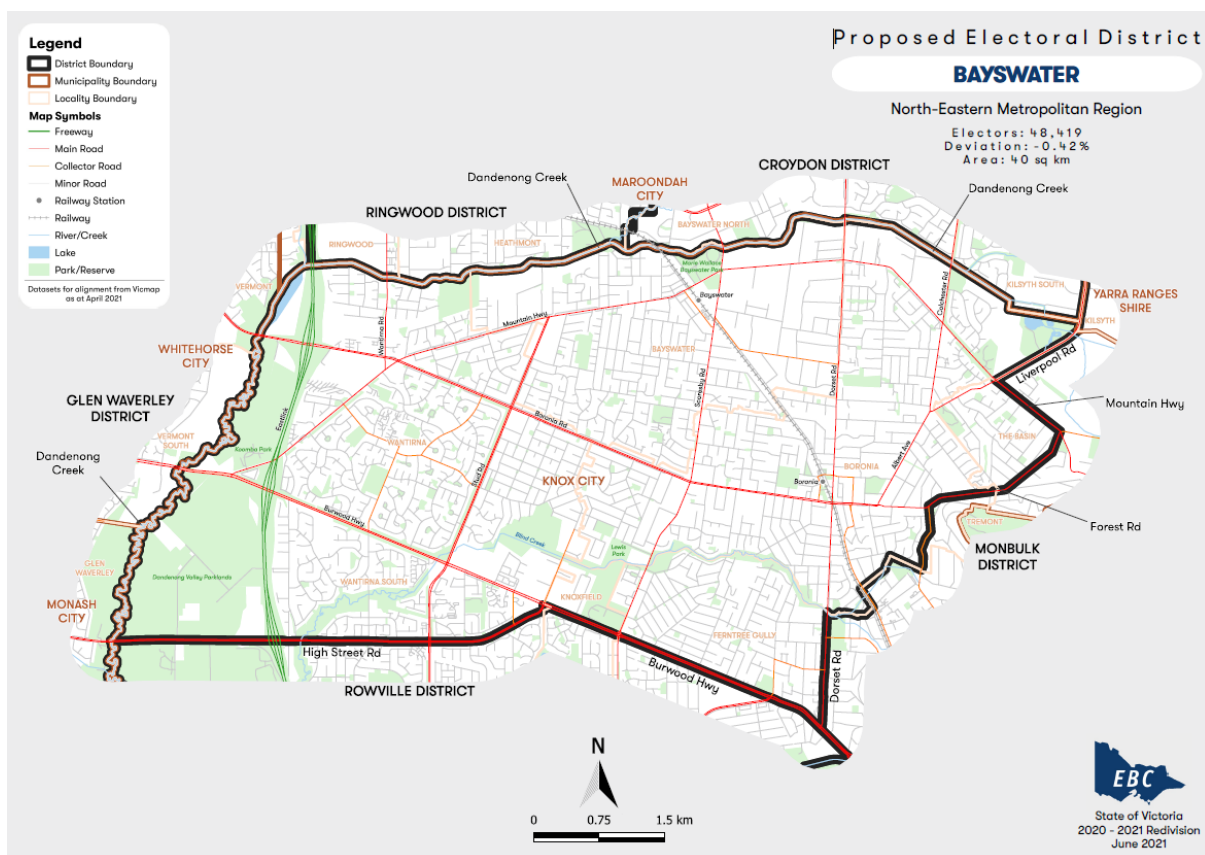


# ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES - PROPOSED STATE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES Cont'd

ITEM 4

## *Bayswater District:*

- In balancing the arguments presented in all submissions, the EBC proposes the retention of the Bayswater District.
- The abolition of Ferntree Gully would provide Bayswater with nearly half the elector numbers (21,680) it needs to achieve approximate equality.
- This leads to District boundaries shifting south.
- A small section of Boronia and all The Basin would be transferred to the Monbulk District due to numbers.
- The Bayswater locality would remain united within the District boundaries and, therefore, the EBC proposes no change to its name.



# ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES - PROPOSED STATE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES Cont'd

ITEM 4



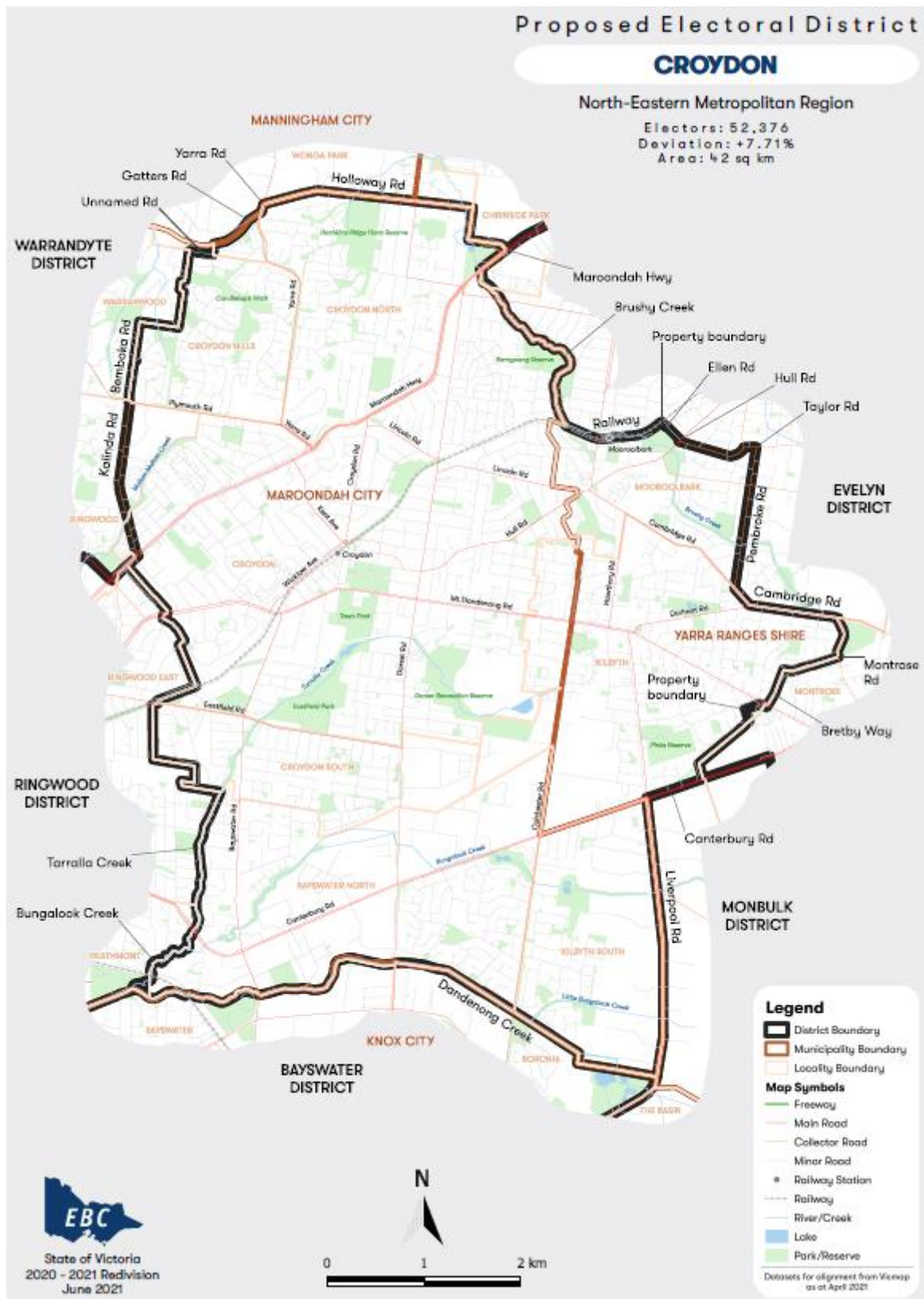
## Croydon District:

- Currently 10.44% of this District is below the quota and needs to expand to gain electors.
- The EBC proposes that a southward extension is the best option
- Proposing adjusting the District's boundaries, which currently run along major roads and a locality boundary to Dandenong Creek is coincident with the northern boundary of the Knox LGA.
- This impacts 8,434 electors who have transferred from the Bayswater District to Croydon District.
- Additional transfers of 3,649 electors from Monbulk will unite the Kilsyth locality in Croydon and 986 electors from Ringwood.
- Similarly, uniting Croydon South is also proposed. This will bring the Croydon District within the permitted tolerance at 7.74% above the average.



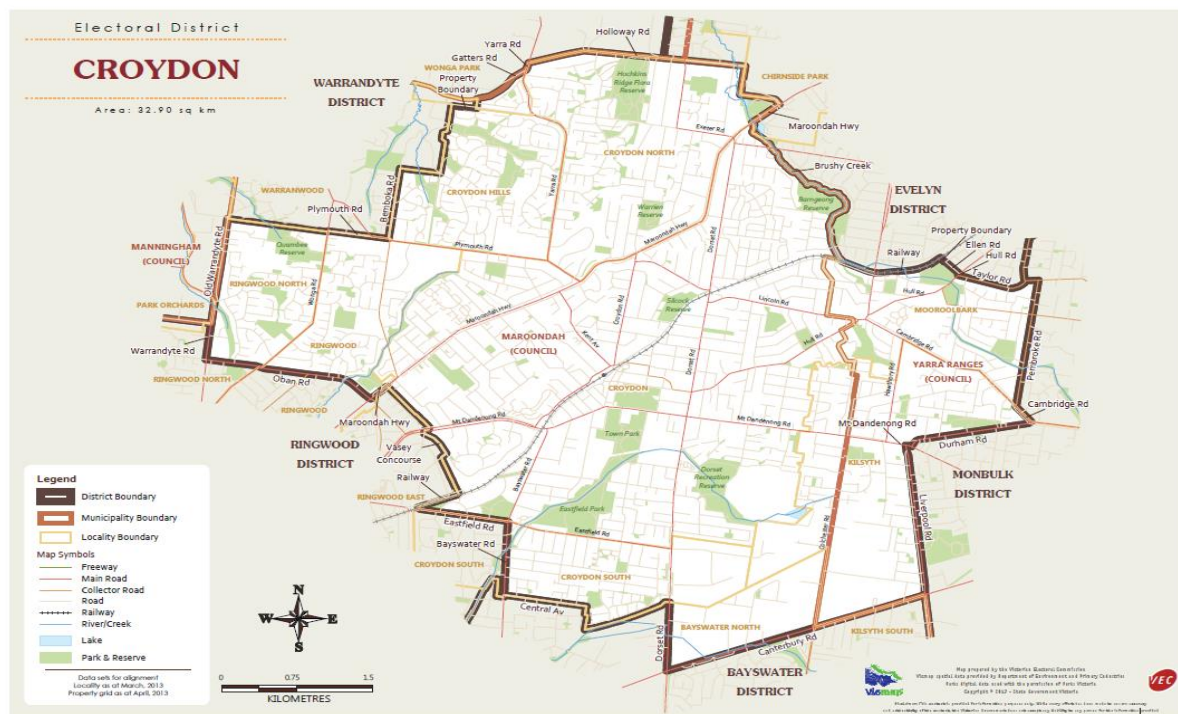
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES - PROPOSED STATE  
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES Cont'd

ITEM 4



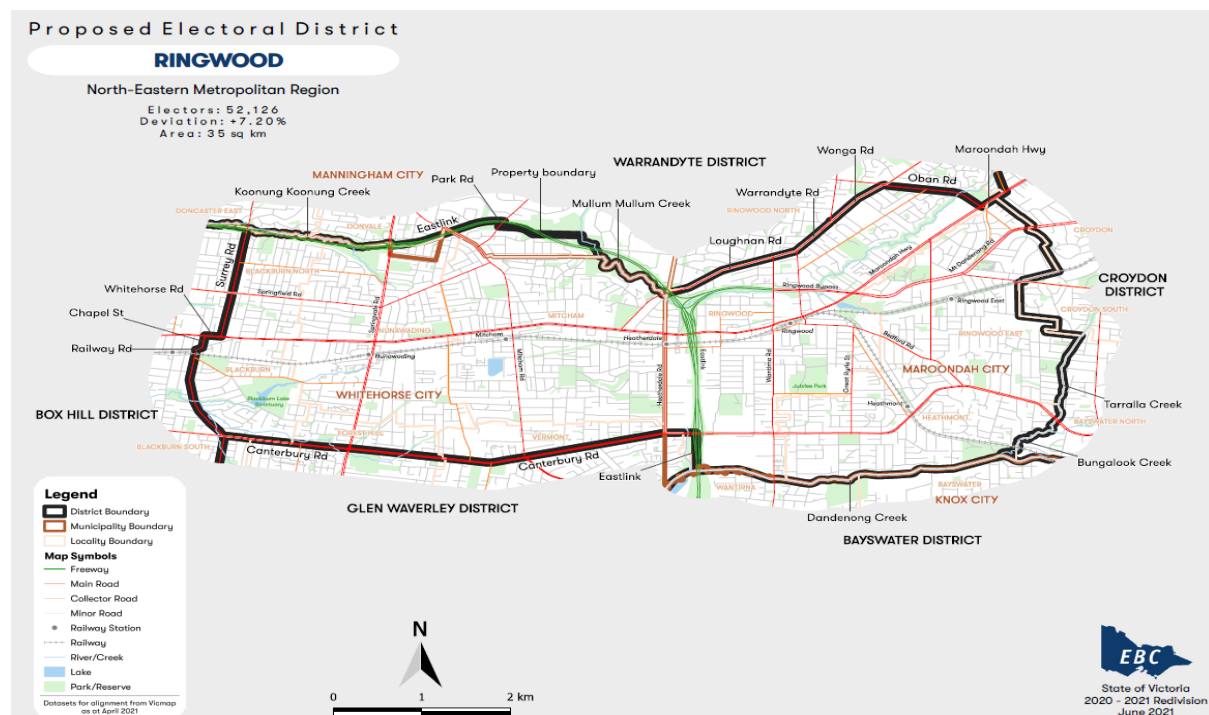
# ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES - PROPOSED STATE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES Cont'd

ITEM 4



## Ringwood District:

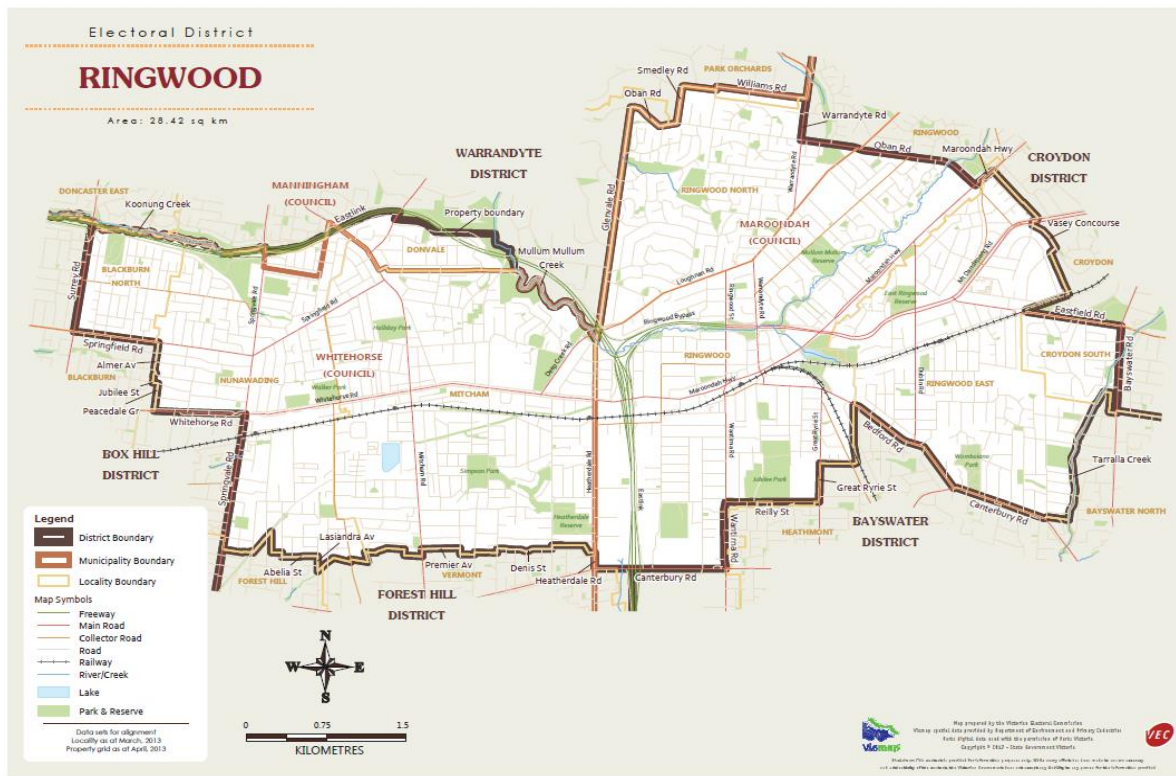
- Because of a number of these changes, Ringwood would be lifted to within quota and would be expected to remain so beyond 2026.
- Moreover, boundaries and the District shape of Ringwood would be improved, and the commercial centre would stay united within the District.





# ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES - PROPOSED STATE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES Cont'd

ITEM 4



## Forest Hill District:

- Abolishing Forest Hill District would allow Ringwood to gain 2,742 electors as the boundary shifts to the much clearer and more familiar Canterbury Road



**ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES - PROPOSED STATE  
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES Cont'd****ITEM 4****Next Steps:**

The EBC will take account of suggestions and objections and release the final boundaries on 28 October 2021. These boundaries will take effect at the 2022 State election. If Council is wanting to make a submission, it will be required to do so by the 30 July 2021.

**FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES**

The work undertaken for this Report is within Council's budget. Given it is primarily a State Government matter, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is funded by the State Government to undertake these Boundary and District Reviews.

**ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES**

Not applicable.

**SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES**

The VEC is charged with the responsibility to undertake equitable, fair elections for all Victorians and this Review undertakes this process with those experts who make these assessments and recommendations for determination.

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

The EBC is currently accepting submissions in response to the proposed boundaries from the public, political parties and others. Submissions must be lodged by 5pm on Friday 30 July 2021.

**CONCLUSION**

On this basis, Maroondah City Council supports the proposed boundary changes as the number of Districts that encompass the municipality would reduce from 5 to 3. This aligns with Council's preference to ensure that communities of interest are not split, or portions of the community are not disadvantaged through dislocation from natural/behavioural centres of attraction. This also aligns with the preference for Maroondah not to be fragmented into the future and ensuring ease of municipality coverage for processes of consultation and focused advocacy.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. EBC Proposed Victorian Electoral Boundaries - June 2021 - Full report

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Not Applicable

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE REPORT RELATING TO THE STATE REVIEW AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES AND ENDORSE MAKING A COUNCIL SUBMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION  
SURVEY RESULTS 2021**

**ITEM 1**

**PURPOSE**

To highlight the 2021 results of the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey conducted by an independent market research organisation on behalf of the Victorian Government.

**STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES**

The following directions contained in Maroondah 2040: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 1: 2021-2022) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community

Our Vision: In the year 2040, Maroondah will be an effectively empowered community that is actively engaged in Council decision making through processes that ensure their voice is heard and considered. Council provides strong and responsive leadership, ensures transparent processes and works with the community to advocate and champion their needs.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

- 8.1 Provide enhanced governance that is transparent, accessible, inclusive and accountable
- 8.2 Ensure responsible and sustainable management of Maroondah's resources, assets, infrastructure and natural environment
- 8.4 Foster a Council culture of innovation, cooperation, commitment, communication and continuous improvement that positions Maroondah as a leader in local government

Priority Action 2021-2022:

Not applicable

**BACKGROUND**

Each year Local Government Victoria (LGV) coordinates and auspices a state-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey. The main objectives of the survey are to assess the performance of Council across a range of measures and to identify opportunities for improved or more effective service delivery. The survey also provides local government authorities with a means to fulfil some of their statutory reporting requirements (via the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework) whilst also acting as a feedback mechanism to Local Government Victoria.

In 2021, 66 of the 79 Councils throughout Victoria participated in the survey, with a minimum of 400 interviews undertaken within each participating municipality.

The survey was undertaken from 10 February to 10 March 2021. Part of this survey period coincided with a period of lockdown restrictions in Greater Melbourne associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION  
SURVEY RESULTS 2021 Cont'd**

**ITEM 1**

An indexed mean is used and adjusted to a base to allow comparison with other Councils. It is important to note that the survey questions are standardised across the state which means that their wording may not always reflect the localised focus of service delivery.

The survey questions only provide limited contextual information which could mean that respondents provide ratings based on services, activities or issues that are beyond Council's direct area of influence.

**ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

Council's 2021 results are relatively consistent when compared to results averaged out over the past five years. Council's performance on a range of indicators has also improved over the past 12 months.

Council's overall performance continues to be rated in line with the average rating for councils in the Metropolitan group and is rated statistically significantly higher (at the 95% confidence interval) than the state-wide average for councils.

Some of the relative changes to Council's core and service measure results for 2021 are likely to have been impacted by the changes to service delivery arising from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Results for both core measures and service measures are outlined in the two tables below.

Some highlights include:

- The rating for 'Councils overall performance' (65) is four points higher than the state-wide average (61);
- The rating for 'overall direction of Council' (55) is two points higher compared to the state-wide average (53);
- The rating for 'making decisions in the interest of the community' (60) is four points higher compared to the state-wide average (56);
- The rating for 'Condition of sealed roads' (67) is ten points higher compared to the state-wide average (57).and
- The rating for 'Recreational facilities' (79) is eight points higher compared to the state-wide average (71). and
- The rating for 'Waste management' (74) is five points higher compared to the state-wide average (69).
- The rating for 'Emergency and disaster management' (72) is five points higher compared to Council's 2020 result (67).

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION  
SURVEY RESULTS 2021 Cont'd**

**ITEM 1**

Core measures

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b><i>Maroondah Past 5 years average</i></b>	<b><i>Maroondah 2021 result</i></b>	<b><i>Metro Melbourne 2021 average</i></b>	<b><i>Statewide 2021 average</i></b>
Overall performance	66	<b>65</b>	67	61
Value for money (new measure)	60	<b>60</b>	62	54
Community consultation	56	<b>55</b>	59	56
Advocacy	57	<b>56</b>	56	55
Customer service	74	<b>72</b>	74	70
Overall Council direction	56	<b>55</b>	55	53
Making decisions in the interest of the community	59	<b>60</b>	61	56

Service measures

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b><i>Maroondah Past 5 years average</i></b>	<b><i>Maroondah 2021 result</i></b>	<b><i>Metro Melbourne 2021 average</i></b>	<b><i>Statewide 2021 average</i></b>
Informing the community	61	<b>60</b>	62	60
Condition of sealed roads	67	<b>67</b>	68	57
Condition of local streets and footpaths	62	<b>63</b>	65	59
Traffic management	58	<b>60</b>	59	59
Enforcement of local laws	64	<b>64</b>	66	64
Family support services	68	<b>69</b>	67	66
Elderly support services	67	<b>67</b>	66	69
Disadvantaged support services	62	<b>64</b>	64	63
Recreational facilities	78	<b>79</b>	75	71
Appearance of public areas	72	<b>73</b>	74	73
Arts centres and libraries	78	<b>74</b>	73	73
Community and cultural activities	70	<b>64</b>	66	65
Waste management	74	<b>74</b>	72	69
Business and community development and tourism	64	<b>63</b>	60	61
Council's general town planning policy	56	<b>59</b>	56	55
Environmental sustainability	63	<b>61</b>	64	62
Emergency and disaster management	68	<b>72</b>	70	71

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION  
SURVEY RESULTS 2021 Cont'd****ITEM 1****FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES**

Not Applicable

**ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES**

Not Applicable

**SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES**

Not Applicable

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is one of many engagement methods used by Council to track its performance and community perceptions of its service delivery.

It is expected that the Victorian Government will repeat administration of the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey in 2022 to understand community perceptions of sector performance across the range of core and service measures. Results are anticipated to be provided to Council in June 2022.

**CONCLUSION**

In summary, Council's overall performance continues to be rated in line with the average rating for councils in the Metropolitan group and is rated statistically significantly higher (at the 95% confidence interval) than the state-wide average for councils. Council will continue to use the results from the Survey to inform its service delivery to the Maroondah community.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Not Applicable

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Not Applicable

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE 2021 RESULTS FROM THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT  
AUSPICED LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY**

**EASTERN REGION GROUP (ERG) STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025**

**ITEM 2**

**PURPOSE**

To present the Eastern Region Group of Councils (ERG) Strategic Plan for the 2021-2025 period for Council endorsement. The Strategic Plan was endorsed by the ERG at its meeting on 25 June 2021.

**STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES**

The following directions contained in Maroondah 2040: Our Future Together and the Council Plan 2021-2025 (Year 1: 2021-2022) provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose of this report.

Outcome Area: A well governed and empowered community

Our Vision: In 2040, Maroondah will be an empowered community actively engaged in local decision making, led by an innovative community inspired Council that collaborates regionally and proactively champions local needs.

Key Directions 2021 – 2025:

- 8.11 Work in partnership to advocate for and champion the needs and aspirations of the community to Victorian and Australian levels of government, service providers and the business sector
- 8.12 Foster local and regional partnerships with individuals, community groups, businesses, service providers, agencies and all levels of government

Priority Action 2021-2022:

Not applicable

**BACKGROUND**

The Eastern Region Group of Councils (ERG) comprises six local government authorities of eastern Melbourne - Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges.

The ERG recognise that collective advocacy and partnership approaches are key to addressing challenges which appear on a regional scale. ERG councils collaborate and partner on shared priorities through advocacy, integrated planning, shared services and joint procurement to benefit the communities of the region.

The collective vision for the ERG is to be a catalyst for collaborative action and a trusted voice on regionally significant matters. The mission is to work together to make lives better, create better places and deliver better performance across all councils.

In recent months, the ERG Councils have worked together to develop a strategic plan for the 2021-2025 period on major issues of mutual benefit and / or regional need.

Key partners involved in the development of the Strategic Plan have included Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors and CEO's of the six Councils together with Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, the Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance, the Eastern Transport Coalition,

**EASTERN REGION GROUP (ERG) STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025 Cont'd****ITEM 2**

Melbourne's Eastern Region Economic Development Group as well as various groups of council officers.

A prioritisation approach for regional action has been based on the following criteria:

- Is it a big issue for the region (impacting / benefitting all councils)?
- Will this lead to better community outcomes?
- Is it achievable – will we make a difference?
- Will we create shared value for ERG councils?
- Will we reduce duplication / competition?

**ISSUE / DISCUSSION**

Across the Eastern Metropolitan Region, the challenges of COVID-19 have strengthened the connection of communities to their local area. This localised connection emphasises the importance of the 20 minute neighbourhood concept in driving future priorities and actions for the ERG over the 2021-2025 period.

Some of these priorities include: access to services, access to safe footpaths and trails, and increasing job choices closer to home. Progress towards these priorities are considered central to achieving the ERG vision of a connected, healthy, sustainable and prosperous region.

The ERG Strategic Plan for the 2021-2025 period is framed around five key regional outcomes:

- Our communities - More resilient and cohesive, communities who enjoy an improving quality of life, with better health and wellbeing and great access to services.
- Our environment - A region known for its environmental stewardship and regional responses to sustainability (water, waste, energy and emissions), with spaces for people and nature, and where healthy ecosystems support healthy people and growing economies.
- Our economy - Diverse local employment opportunities support an adaptable workforce, ready for the jobs of the future who enjoy a connected, competitive, diverse and prosperous future.
- Our buildings and infrastructure - Our buildings and infrastructure promote social cohesion, support equality of opportunity, resource efficiency and health in a region that's easy to get around and where active or public transport is preferred for short distances.
- Our operations - Our mission is to work together to make lives better, create better places and deliver better performance across all councils. The ERG is a catalyst for collaboration and a trusted voice on regionally significant matters.

**EASTERN REGION GROUP (ERG) STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025 Cont'd****ITEM 2**

To address challenges related to these outcomes over the next four years, a total of 18 priority actions have been identified for the ERG to pursue over the 2021-2025 period:

- Regional economic development & investment attraction strategy
- Transforming movement around the East
- Regional Sport & Recreation Infrastructure Strategy 2021- 2030
- Advocacy - election, targeted and opportunistic
- Accelerate joint procurement
- Reconciliation Advisory Group and Action Plans
- Eastern Region Land Use Framework Plan
- Promote trails for tourism, health and movement
- Housing needs and site identification
- Regional road, rail & bus priorities
- Council smart data used
- Deliver shared services incl. 'back of house', joint procurement, transformation
- Support sustainable living and business - focus on waste
- Reduce energy use and GHG emissions
- Review and update Strategic Plan
- Council Elections 2024
- Council Plans 2025
- ERG operational activities

More details on the outcomes, objectives and priority actions may be found in the attached ERG Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

**FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES**

As highlighted in the ERG Strategic Plan.

**ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES**

As highlighted in the ERG Strategic Plan.

**EASTERN REGION GROUP (ERG) STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025 Cont'd****ITEM 2****SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES**

As highlighted in the ERG Strategic Plan.

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

Key partners involved in the development of the Strategic Plan have included Mayors and CEO's of the six Councils together with key regional groups. Broader community engagement has not been undertaken.

**CONCLUSION**

The Eastern Regional Group of Council has developed a Strategic Plan for the 2021-2025 period framed around a partnership response to challenges associated with five key regional outcomes. The priority actions place an emphasis on collaboration through joint procurement and shared services, and integrated planning to support economic development and improve community outcomes.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. ERG Strategic Plan 2021-2025

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Not Applicable

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT COUNCIL ENDORSES THE ERG STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025**