



Greater
Hume
Council

Proposal To Alter Ward Boundaries

Under section 211 of the Local Government Act 1993, a council must keep ward boundaries under review. If a review is undertaken and the difference between the number of electors of the highest ward and the lowest ward is greater than 10%, the ward boundaries must be altered.

A council must also consult with the NSW Electoral Commission and the Australian Statistician before altering ward boundaries and publicly exhibit the proposal.

Currently the variance between Greater Hume Council's ward boundaries is greater than 10%.

Currently, ward elector numbers are as follows:

Ward	Number
East	2,560
North (Lowest)	2,354
South (Highest)	2,697
Total	7,611

Note: Ward numbers have an extraction date of 27 June 2019.

On a percentage basis this is a variance of 343/2697 or 12.71%, 2.71% above the 10% tolerance level.

Councillors received a briefing on two options at a workshop held on Wednesday 5 June 2019 prior to a formal report being submitted to the July meeting of Council held at Holbrook on Wednesday 17 July 2019.

At the July meeting, Council resolved to put forward Option 2 as the proposed option, refer image showing existing ward boundaries and proposed Option 2 ward boundaries.

Proposed Option

Ward	Number
East	2,569
North (Highest)	2,618
South (Lowest)	2,424
Total	7,611

Note: The proposal also includes altering the name of South Ward to West Ward

Highest ward - North 2,618 electors

Lowest ward – South 2,424 electors

Variance of 194 electors

On a percentage basis this is a variance of 194/2618 or 7.41% which is well below the 10% tolerance level.

Key attributes of the proposed option

- More significant change of boundaries and moves away from the Culcairn/Hume shire boundaries.
- Walla township to move from South to North Ward
- Part of Statistical Area (SA) 1-09-0111-75-16 (an area to the east of Walla Walla) from South Ward to North Ward
- Walla Walla and surrounding residents will now be in the same Ward as previously they were split between North and South Wards.
- Part of SA 1-09-03-11-81-05 and all of SA 1-09-01-11-75-20 from North Ward to South Ward
- The area to the west of Gerogery West and through Glenellen remains in East Ward
- South Ward to be renamed West Ward.

Advantages

- Better aligns with SA boundaries in a number of areas.
- Moves away from the Culcairn/Hume shire boundaries.
- North Ward (slowest growing Ward) has the largest number of electors.
- South Ward (fastest growing Ward) has the lowest number of electors.

Disadvantages

- Would require South Ward to be renamed; West Ward
- The northern area of the redrawn ward does not have a community of interest with the southern area (although a similar position could be taken in East Ward).
- Areas around Gerogery West and Glenellen remain in East Ward.

Based on growth from 2008 until the current time, it is anticipated that the preferred would remain within the 10% elector variance for the 2020, 2024 and 2028 elections.

Council has resolved to hold a constitutional referendum at the 2020 local government elections to consider whether the Council area should continue to be divided into wards.

Regardless the existing ward boundaries will still be required to be reviewed and altered to ensure compliance with section 211 of the Local Government Act 1993 for the 2020 local government elections.

Under the Local Government Act, 1993 is required to undertake the following **actions**:

1. In accordance with section 210A (b) Council publicly exhibit a plan detailing the proposed boundary alterations.
2. The proposed Ward Boundary proposal exhibited at all Customer Service Centres and receive submissions for a period of 42 days commencing on Monday 29 July 2019.

3. Following the closure and consideration of submissions a further report be submitted to the September 2019 meeting of Council for determination.

Submissions on the proposed ward boundary alterations will be received up to 5pm on Monday 9 September 2019. You can comment via the Have Your Say portal on Council's website or by post to P O Box 99, Holbrook, or via email to mail@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au