

Greater Hume Shire Council Constitutional Referendum Saturday, 4 September 2021

In 2005, the proclamation constituting the Greater Hume Shire Council local government area determined that the area be undivided, i.e. no wards, the Council comprises nine councillors and the mayor be elected by the councillors.

At a by-election held on 25 June 2005, a Constitutional Referendum was held to consider the merits of re-introducing wards. At the time 75% of residents of the shire voted to reintroduce wards with the first election under wards held in September 2008.

In September 2020 Council resolved that a constitutional referendum be held again regarding wards in conjunction with the Local Government Election to be held on 4 September 2021.

Electors will be asked to answer “yes” or “no” to the following question:

1. Do you favour the removal of the current ward based system so that all electors vote for all nine councillors that represent the Greater Hume Council area?

If the removal of wards is supported by a majority of formal votes cast at the 2021 election, the 2024 local government elections would be conducted as an undivided area (without wards).

The following information is provided to electors in order to assist them in making an informed decision on the question to be asked at the referendum by listing the advantages and disadvantages of wards.

Advantages of No Wards (undivided area)

- Discourages parochialism between different parts of the one Council area.
- More likely to lead to the distribution of funds and resources based on the needs and priorities of the whole Council area instead of on the basis of wards.
- Only one electoral roll has to be prepared for elections instead of a separate roll for each ward.
- All the electors have the opportunity to choose all the members of their local council.

Disadvantages of No Wards

- There is a possibility of a majority of councillors living in the same part of the Council area.
- Funds and resources may not be evenly distributed across the whole Council area.
- Election costs are increased in the event of a by-election.
- Candidates need increased resources to campaign over the whole Council area.

Advantages of wards

- Ensures a geographical spread of representation, i.e. ensures that councillors come from different parts of the Council area
- A more equitable geographic spread of representation may make it more likely that funds and resources are distributed equitably throughout the whole Council area.
- Enables councillors to become more familiar with and responsive to issues in their particular area.
- In the event of a casual vacancy occurring, a by-election has to be held in the relevant ward only, reducing the cost to Council.
- Candidates need to only campaign in one ward instead of over the whole Council area.

Disadvantages of Wards

- May encourage parochialism between separate parts of the one Council area.
- May lead to the distribution of funds and resources on the basis of wards instead of the needs and priorities of the Council area as a whole.
- A separate electoral roll has to be prepared for each ward adding to the cost of elections.
- All the electors do not have the opportunity to choose all the members of their local Council.

Yes/No Case authorised by
Steven Pinnuck, General Manager
Greater Hume Shire Council, 39 Young St, HOLBROOK

Greater Hume Shire Council

Your Council, Your Vote

Local Government Elections and
Constitutional Referendum

Saturday, 4 September 2021

Save the date

2021 NSW Local Government elections

Saturday 4 September

Voting is compulsory

elections.nsw.gov.au/lge21
1300 135 736

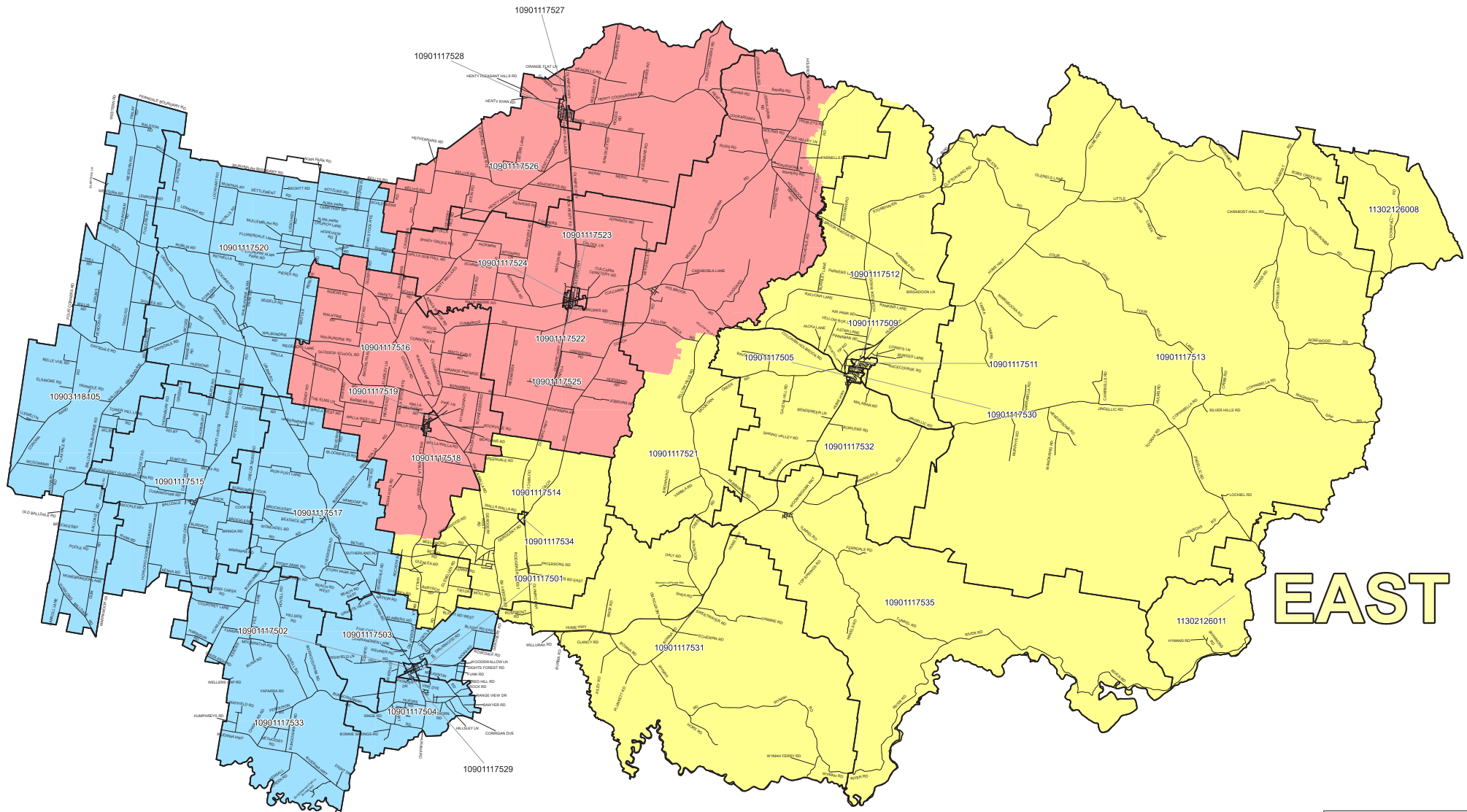


Greater Hume Council

Looking for more info?

<https://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/FAQs/Voter-FAQs>

NORTH



WEST

EAST

To check if you are on the electoral roll and what ward you vote in go to <https://bit.ly/2RrurDH>

Legend

- SA1 2016 Boundaries
- West Ward
- North Ward
- East Ward