

## SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

Meeting Date 25 July 2023

Item Number. 106

**SUBJECT:** Review of the Ward Boundaries for the 2024 Local Government Elections

---

**FILE NUMBER:** 19/05151

---

**PREVIOUS ITEMS:** 105 - Information Report - Ward Boundary Review - Services Committee - 11 Jul 2023

---

**REPORT BY:** Bradley Cutts, GENERAL MANAGER

---

### RECOMMENDATION:

That in order to meet the closing date of 5 October 2023 for Councils to notify the NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) of final ward boundary and name changes, Council publicly exhibit the proposed ward boundary plan for at least 28 days and consider any submissions made during the 42-day consultation period for the Parks Ward and the Fairfield/Cabravale Ward for the next ordinary elections to be held on 14 September 2024 in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act.

---

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

<b>AT-A</b>	Fairfield Council's current Ward Boundary Plan (Main Roads version) with Polling Places 2021 election	1 Page
<b>AT-B</b>	Fairfield Council's current Ward Boundary Plan (20 June 2023 SA1 boundaries), with proposed Mt Pritchard area to change highlighted and outlined	1 Page
<b>AT-C</b>	Fairfield Council's proposed Ward Boundary area to change from Fairfield/Cabravale to Parks ward plan (20 June 2023 SA1 boundaries)	1 Page
<b>AT-D</b>	Fairfield Council's proposed Ward Boundary area to change from Fairfield/Cabravale to Parks ward plan (Main Roads version)	1 Page
<b>AT-E</b>	Proposed Ward Boundary plan for Fairfield City Council (20 June 2023 SA1 boundaries)	1 Page
<b>AT-F</b>	Proposed Ward Boundary Plan for Fairfield City Council (Main Roads version)	1 Page
<b>AT-G</b>	Public Notice version proposed Ward Boundary Changes for Fairfield City Council (Main Roads version)	1 Page

---

### CITY PLAN

This report is linked to *Theme 5 Good Governance and Leadership* in the Fairfield City Plan.

---

---

**SUMMARY**

Local Government ordinary elections are to be held on 14 September 2024. Councils must review their ward boundaries and notify the NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) of any changes to the ward boundaries before 5 October 2023 under section 277A of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021.

Under Section 211 of the Local Government Act 1993, councils which are divided into wards are required to keep those ward boundaries under review to ensure that a difference in elector numbers of no greater than 10% exists between wards. Fairfield Council determined that a variance of 10.89% currently exists between the 2 wards. The Council consulted with the NSWEC and used the NSW Electoral Commission website, which provides monthly enrolment statistics for each council and ward (20 June 2023 was used by Fairfield Council). In addition, under Section 211 of the Local Government Act 1993, councils which are divided into wards are required to keep those ward boundaries under review to ensure that:

- Number of electors in each ward does not vary by more than 10% (Section 210(7) of the Act).
- Where possible, avoid splitting suburbs, town centres/principle shopping centres and communities of interest.
- Where possible, Census Collector districts should not be split.
- Where possible, have well defined features as boundaries such as creeks and major roads.

Using these principles, Fairfield City Council considered the most suitable option to move the ward boundary to balance the electors was the suburb of Mount Pritchard. This is because:

- Main roads of Elizabeth Drive, Cabramatta Road and Cumberland Highway and the Cabramatta Golf course provide well defined boundary features easily identified by voters
- Fairfield Council also used the Geographic Information System (GIS) layers for the new SA1 boundaries from the 20 June 2023 roll extract provided by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). The proposed changes to ward boundaries by Fairfield Council does follow the boundaries of SA1 areas, except for one SA1 (1-2702-1509-30) that is split by Cabramatta Road.
- The Fairfield/Cabravale ward has the most growth recently resulting in 10.89%, more voters at 20 June 2023. This proposal moves 5,401 voters into the Parks ward from the Fairfield/Cabravale ward, making the Parks ward 5.9% higher in voters. If the growth in the Fairfield/Cabravale ward continues, by starting the Parks ward with 5.9% higher voters means that the variance will be 'trending towards zero' by the election to be held on 14 September 2024.

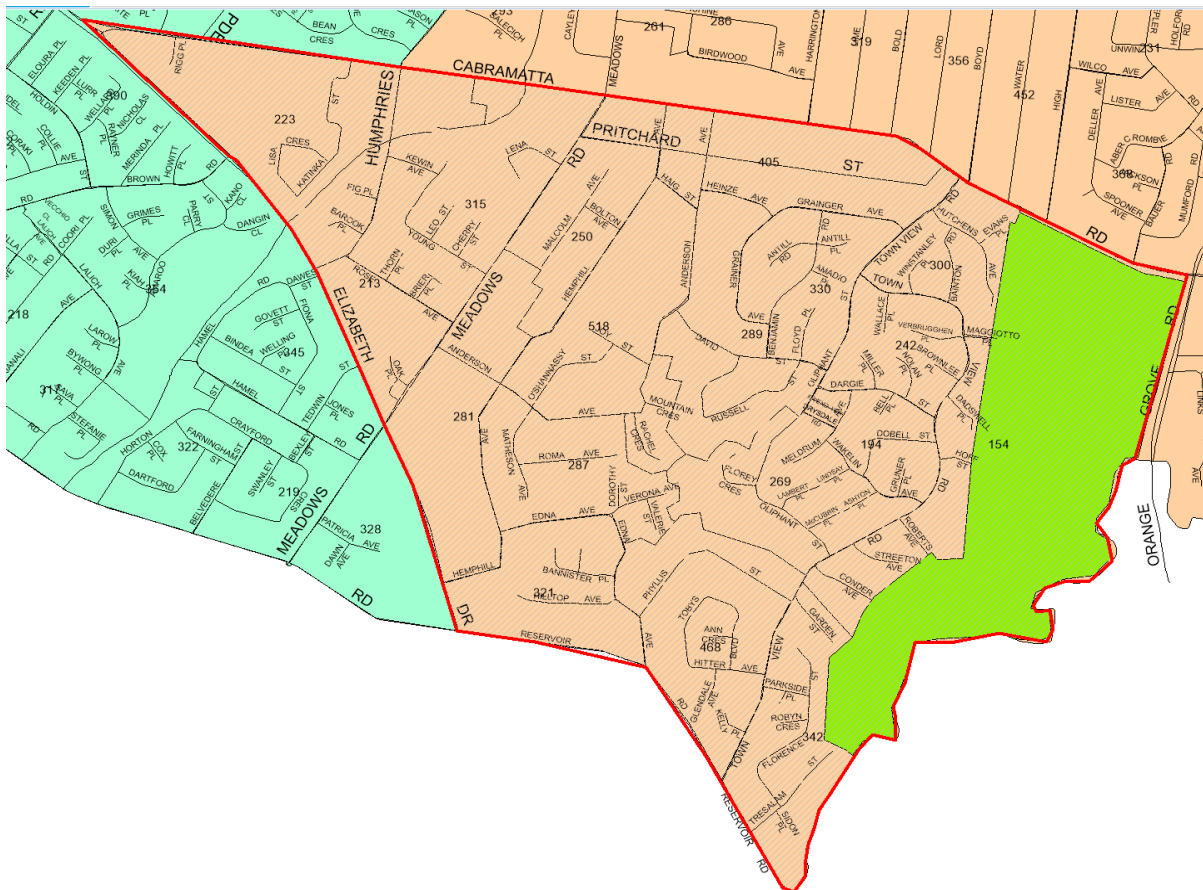
Please find attached:

## SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

Meeting Date 25 July 2023

Item Number. 106

- Attachment A - Fairfield Council's current ward boundary plan (Main Roads version) with polling places 2021 election
- Attachment B - Fairfield Council's current ward boundary plan (20 June 2023 SA1 boundaries), with proposed Mt Pritchard area to change highlighted and outlined
- Attachment C - Fairfield Council's proposed ward boundary area to change from Fairfield/Cabravale to Parks ward plan (20 June 2023 SA1 boundaries)
- Attachment D - Fairfield Council's proposed ward boundary area to change from Fairfield/Cabravale to Parks ward plan (Main Roads version)
- Attachment E - Proposed ward boundary plan for Fairfield City Council (20 June 2023 SA1 boundaries)
- Attachment F - Proposed ward boundary plan for Fairfield City Council (Main Roads version)
- Attachment G - Public Notice version proposed Ward Boundary Changes for Fairfield City Council (Main Roads version)



### Consultation & Timing

Councils must publicly exhibit the ward boundary plan for at least 28 days and consider any submissions made during the 42-day consultation period. Refer Attachment G - Public Notice version proposed Ward Boundary Changes for Fairfield City Council (Main Roads version).

## SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

Meeting Date 25 July 2023

Item Number. 106

Council has consulted with the AEC in accordance with the Local Government Act, and they need to formalise an approval for the ward boundary changes to be placed on exhibition for community feedback.

The ward boundary map will be placed on public exhibition. Residents can view the map:

- on Council's website – [www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au/wardboundaries](http://www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au/wardboundaries)
- in hard copy at Council's Administration Centre, 86 Avoca Road Wakeley and at any of Council's libraries at Bonnyrigg, Cabramatta, Fairfield, Wetherill Park and Smithfield.

The community will be invited to have their say on the proposed new ward boundaries via:

- online – [www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au/wardboundaries](http://www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au/wardboundaries)
- email – [mail@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au)
- mail – PO Box 21 Fairfield 1860

The communication will be extensive to ensure that the community have an opportunity to consider the ward boundary changes. The Proposed Ward Boundary Changes will be publicised through a number of channels during the consultation period including social media, local news stories resulting from a media release, City Life, and website pages. It will also include Facebook posts and Twitter posts.

### Next Steps

- Council must consider submissions made (Section 210A(5) of the Act). Once the ward boundaries are finalised, the General Manager must give notice of that fact. The notice is to be given:
  - (a) By on Council's website – [www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au)
  - (b) In writing displayed at the office of Council, and
  - (c) In writing delivered or sent to the Electoral Commission (Clause Section 277 (1) & (2) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation* 2005 (NSW) (the Regs).
- Council will receive a decision from the Electoral Commissioner and presumably the Australian Statistician that the ward alterations have been approved. The Act provides that a proclamation of the Governor can include a provision for or with respect to the alteration of ward boundaries, however it is not mandatory (Section 213 of the Act).
- If, as a result of the changes to the ward boundaries, there are any wards that are new or that have altered boundaries, the notice must also include a written description of, and a map showing, the boundaries of the new wards or boundaries as so altered (Clause 277(3) of the Regs).

## SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

Meeting Date 25 July 2023

Item Number. 106

### CONCLUSION

In order to meet the closing date of 5 October 2023 for Councils to notify the NSWEC of final ward boundary and name changes, Council publicly exhibit the proposed ward boundary plan for at least 28 days and consider any submissions made during the 42-day consultation period for the Parks Ward and the Fairfield/Cabravale Ward for the next ordinary elections to be held on 14 September 2024 in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act.

---

---

Bradley Cutts

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Services Supplementary Reports - 25 July 2023

File Name: **SSR25072023\_2.DOCX**

\*\*\*\*\* END OF ITEM 106 \*\*\*\*\*