



Circular Details	Circular No 23-05 / 5 June 2023 / A855318
Previous Circular	19-24 – Ward boundary and name changes
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Governance staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Response to OLG / Council to Implement

Ward boundary and name changes

What's new or changing

- Councils must review their ward boundaries and notify the NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) of any changes to ward boundaries and/or names by **5 October 2023**.

What this will mean for your council

- Under section 211 of the *Local Government Act 1993* councils that are divided into wards must keep ward boundaries under review to ensure the difference in elector numbers between wards does not exceed 10%. The attachment to this Circular provides further information regarding the calculation of the 10% variation to elector numbers within wards.
- Before altering ward boundaries, councils must:
 - consult the NSWEC and the Australian Statistician; and
 - prepare and publicly exhibit a plan detailing any proposed alteration (the ward boundary plan).
- Under section 277A of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* ward boundary and name changes must be made by **5 October 2023** to be in effect for the **14 September 2024** ordinary elections unless the Electoral Commissioner otherwise approves in special circumstances.

Key points

- Local government ordinary elections are to be held on **14 September 2024**.
- The last date for councils to make ward boundary alterations and name changes is **5 October 2023**.
- The NSWEC maintains a website to assist councils to review their ward boundaries and provide guidance on the process for consulting with it. The website is available [here](#).
- Councils must publicly exhibit the ward boundary plan for at least 28 days and consider any submissions made during the 42 day consultation period.

Where to go for further information

- More information is available on the NSWEC's website [here](#).
- Contact Data Analytics and Geospatial Services Team (Manager, Omar Altaie) at the NSW Electoral Commission on 9290 5999 or via email redistribution@elections.nsw.gov.au.

Brett Whitworth Deputy Secretary, Local Government

Office of Local Government
5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4199 TTY 02 4428 4209
E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au W www.olg.nsw.gov.au ABN 20 770 707 468

Attachment

To ascertain if there is a difference greater than 10% in the number of electors between wards, councils need to determine the percentage variation between the numbers of electors between wards.

The most efficient way to ascertain if there is a variation of greater than 10% is as follows:

1. Find the difference between the ward with the most electors and the ward with the fewest electors
2. Divide that difference by the number of electors in the smallest ward (that is, the ward with the fewest electors)
3. If the result is more than 10%, follow the ward boundary alteration processes

For example: a Local Government Area where the largest ward has 10,000 electors, and the smallest ward has 9,000 electors:

- Ward A: 10,000 electors (largest ward)
- Ward B: 9,000 electors (smallest ward)
- Ward C: 9,400 electors
- Ward D: 9,600 electors

Difference between Ward A and Ward B: $10,000 - 9,000 = 1,000$

Difference as a percentage of Ward B (smallest ward): $1,000/9,000 = 0.111$ **(11%)**

In the above example, there is a variation of more than 10% between the number of electors in two wards of the Area. As the variation is greater than 10%, the council is required to alter its ward boundaries in compliance with section 211 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.