

**Ward boundary review - Bass Coast Shire Council - Response Submission**  
**Natalie Crestani - Cowes - 16 February 2024, 12:06 pm**

**From:** Nat C [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 February 2024 12:06 PM  
**To:** Submissions - Bass Coast Shire ward boundary review 2024  
**Subject:** Local Council Ward boundary Review

**Importance:** High

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Hello, this is my submission regarding the Local Council Ward boundary Review for the Bass Coast. I live at Sunderland Bay and am a permanent resident. My number is [REDACTED] if you need any further information.

Could we please join Sunderland Bay/Surf Beach and surrounding with the Island Ward please. All the postcodes/areas on Phillip Island should all be part of the same ward. Sunderland Bay's/Surf Beach's local issues are specific and distinct to Grantville's issues for example. They should NOT be in the same ward. The representing Councillors for what is called 'Westernport Ward' usually does not live on the Island, and is not properly across the issues here regularly (not the Councillor's fault but I am certain they would agree they are too stretched representing such a massive area that is so differing).

Natasha Crestani  
[REDACTED] Cowes VIC 3922  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Council review on wards

**Local council ward boundary review**

**About Bass Coast Shire Council**

The Traditional Custodians of land in the Bass Coast Shire area are the Wembaung people.

Bass Coast Shire Council is located about 150 km south-west of Melbourne. Covering an area of approximately 600 km<sup>2</sup>, the Bass Coast landscape is defined by large areas of sand dunes and extensive coastal areas.

The council area stretches from Aphel Bay in the north to Phillip Island in the south, with major recreational and holiday locations in Torquay, Cape Paterson and Inverloch in the east. The council is bounded by Westernport Bay, Corinna Shire, South Gippsland Shire and Bass Strait.

In 2022 the population was 41,798, residing in five population centres of Woodhead, Cowes, Inverloch, Surf Beach, Grantville, as well as numerous smaller townships and rural communities.

Bass Coast has a high number of seasonal visitors. The 2021 census reported nearly 50% of houses are unoccupied, with even higher rates recorded for some areas such as Cowes on Phillip Island (at about 50%).

From the 2021 census, 22.7% of residents were born outside Australia with the top responses being England, New Zealand, Netherlands, Italy, and Ireland. 6.8% of households spoke a language other than English at home.

**Current structure**

Bass Coast Shire Council is divided into 8 wards with 2 councillors per ward. There are 8 councillors in total.

**About the review**

A council is subject to a review, the number of voters in each ward should be within 10% of the average across all wards to comply with the Local Government Act 2024 (LGA).

Changes to the population, location of housing areas, and other circumstances can impact the number of voters in wards.

A representative who holds 1/3 of the Act, the Minister for Local Government, has asked the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to review the ward boundaries for Bass Coast Shire Council.

Following ward boundaries (and in some cases, an increased number of local council councillors):

- meeting voter interests
- providing better services
- ward boundaries meeting

As a local councillor your council will follow these guidelines. You can have your say at the upcoming ward boundary submissions.

It is an open submission to the community about:

- an outline of the reasons if you can't attend a ward boundary submission.

**Last review**

The VEC conducted an electoral equalisation review of Bass Coast Shire Council in 2015.

Visit the VEC website at [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au) to access a copy of the 2015 review final report.

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