

August 2019

# Review of Ward Boundaries

## Community Discussion Paper



[newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au)



City of  
Newcastle





# Message from the Chief Executive Officer

As required under the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), the City of Newcastle (CN) has reviewed its ward boundaries. The review has found that the difference between the number of electors in each Ward is greater than 10%. Under the Act, CN must amend those Ward Boundaries so that the difference in the number of electors between the Wards is less than 10%.

This Discussion Paper has been developed to assist the community in considering proposed boundary changes which effectively reduce the difference in the number of electors between Wards to less than 10%.

Residents and businesses within the City of Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) are encouraged to review the Ward Boundary Plan and Discussion Paper and provide feedback on the option presented.

The City of Newcastle will consider all submissions received and then make a determination on Ward Boundaries. The revised Ward Boundary Plan will then be forwarded to the NSW Electoral Commissioner for use at the next local government elections in September 2020.

Public submissions will close at midnight on Thursday 10 October 2019. How to make a submission information is available on pages 14/15.

Notice of the public exhibitions and period for lodging of submissions will be advertised via the local newspapers, the CN's website, and social media.

Copies of the Ward Boundary Plan, Discussion Paper and Frequently Asked Questions are available at CN's Administration Centre, 282 King Street Newcastle, libraries, and available electronically via the website: [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay)

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact CN on 02 4974 2000 or email to [wardreview@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wardreview@ncc.nsw.gov.au)

# Background

At its meeting held 27 August 2019 the City of Newcastle (CN) resolved to place on public exhibition proposed amendments to the ward boundaries to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act).

CN currently has four (4) wards which elect three (3) Councillors each plus a popularly elected Lord Mayor resulting in 13 Councillors. Section 211 of the Act requires that CN review the ward boundaries. If during a Council term, CN becomes aware that the number of electors in one ward differ by more than 10% from the number of electors in any other ward in the LGA for a 12 month period, CN must as soon as practicable alter the ward boundaries to ensure that any discrepancy in the number of electors between each ward is less than 10%.

CN has become aware that the current electors in its wards have a variance of more than 10% (see Table 1). As such is required (under the Act) to amend the ward boundaries so that the resultant number of electors in each ward differ by less than 10%.

## Review Process

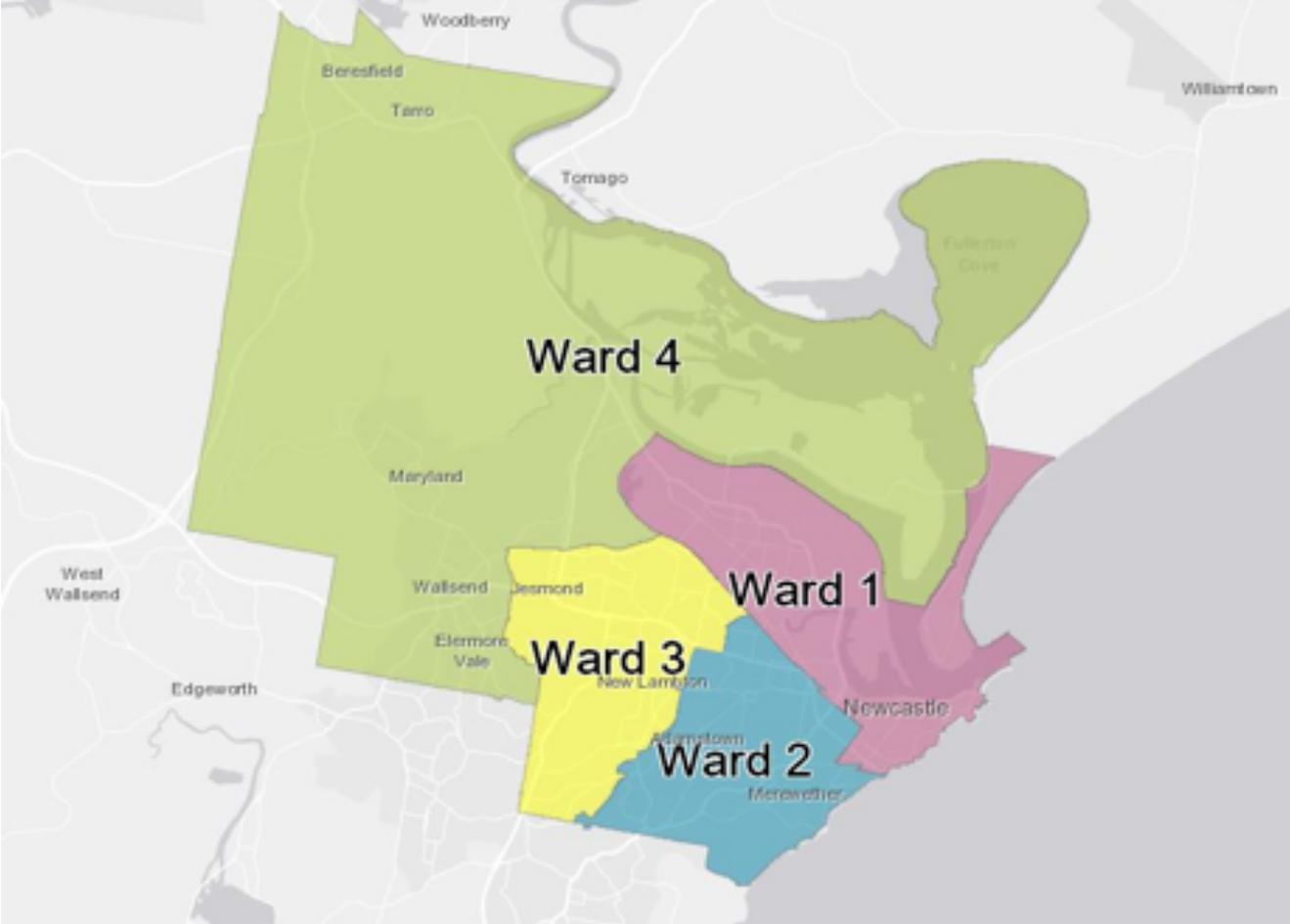
Section 210A of the Act deals with the process for proposals to amend ward boundaries. The review process involves a number of steps:

<b>Prior to Exhibition</b>	CN must consult with the Electoral Commissioner and the Australian Bureau of Statistics to ensure that as far as practical the proposed amendments to the ward boundaries correspond to the boundaries of the appropriate districts under the NSW Electoral Act 2017 and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Statistical Area Boundaries (census districts). In addition, the proposed boundaries must comply with Section 210 (7) of the Act.
<b>Public Consultation</b>	<p>The proposed Ward Boundary Plan (WBP) plus any other documents it considers appropriate or necessary to better understand the WBP and its implications must be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.</p> <p>Local public notice is to be given advertising that the proposed WBP is available for review, indicate where the WBP may be viewed and inviting submissions. The submission period is a minimum of six weeks from the initial notice.</p>
<b>Consideration and Decision</b>	Once the public submission period closes CN considers all submissions and relevant factors and the Council makes a decision.
<b>Implementation</b>	CN then forwards a copy of the amended WBP to the Electoral Commissioner and the Office of Local Government. The revised WBP is then applicable for the next Local Government elections (due in September 2020).

# Present Situation

City of Newcastle has four (4) wards which each elect three (3) Councillors, plus a popularly elected Lord Mayor resulting in 13 Councillors.

The map below indicates the current ward boundaries:



## Wards and Representation

Table 1 below indicates:

- the current electors within each ward as advised by the NSW Electoral Commissioner as at July 2019 compared to July 2007 and July 2013.
- the variance percentage between electors in each ward when compared to the ward with the highest number of electors as at July 2019.
- the number of Councillors per ward.
- the Councillor to Elector ratio indicating the average number of electors per Councillor in each ward as at July 2019.

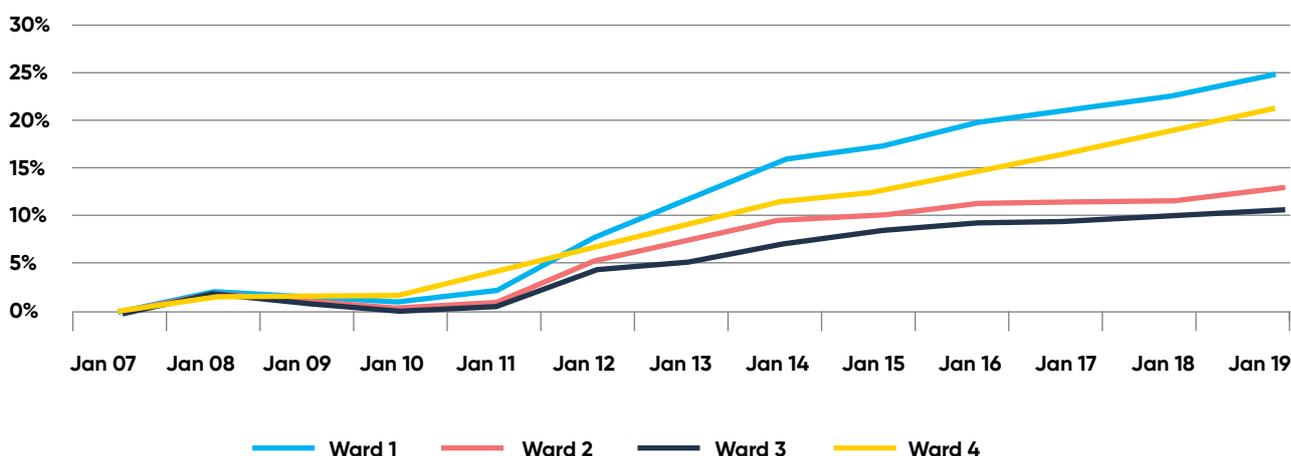
**Table 1: Comparison of Enrolled Electors in Each Ward**

Ward	Enrollments July 2007	Enrollments July 2013	Enrollments July 2019	Variance to Ward 4	Number of Councillors	Councillor Elector Ratio
1	25,428	28,473	31,745	-2.27%	3	10,582
2	24,466	27,265	28,619	-11.90%	3	9,540
3	25,077	26,267	27,638	-14.92%	3	9,213
4	26,888	29,261	32,484		3	10,828
<b>Total</b>	102,859	111,266	120,486		12	10,040

As can be seen from Table 1 above, the numbers of enrolled electors in Wards 1 & 4 has increased at a greater rate than Wards 2 & 3.

This is better illustrated in Figure 1 below, which shows the percentage growth in enrolled electors per ward since 2007. As Figure 1 shows, over the 12-year period, the percentage growth rate in Wards 1 & 4 is more than double that of Ward 3.

**Growth in Elector Numbers (2007 baseline)**



Points of note since July 2007 include:

- Since July 2007, the overall the number of electors has increased by 17,628
- In 2007 the difference between the largest ward (4) and the lowest ward (2) was 9%
- In 2013 the difference between the largest ward (4) and lowest ward (3) was 10.23%
- In 2019 the difference between the largest ward (4) and lowest ward (3) is 14.92%
- Between 2007 and 2019 the number of electors in Ward 1 has increased by 24.85%
- Between 2007 and 2019 the number of electors in Ward 2 has increased by 16.97%
- Between 2007 and 2019 the number of electors in Ward 3 has increased by 10.21%
- Between 2007 and 2019 the number of electors in Ward 4 has increased by 20.81%
- The higher growth rate in Ward 1 is likely to continue, with the projected further development in high density apartments within Ward 1
- Ward 4 is also likely to continue with a higher growth rate, due to further subdivisions being developed along the western corridor of Ward 4.



# Methodology for determining revised ward boundaries

In arriving at the proposed ward boundaries, the following guidelines were used

- Natural boundaries – wherever possible natural boundaries such as main roads, rail lines etc were used to arrive at a ward boundary
- Statistical Area Boundaries – wherever possible whole Statistical Area Level 1 Boundaries as used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics were transferred from one ward to another
- Future Growth – as the higher growth in Wards 1 & 4 is expected to continue it was necessary to reduce both these wards and increase Wards 2 & 3 to ensure that the new boundaries are able to be used for more than one election cycle
- Suburb boundaries – wherever possible suburbs remain wholly within a ward.

## Forecast data

The source for the forecast data is [www.forecast.id.com.au/newcastle](http://www.forecast.id.com.au/newcastle)

## Proposed Ward Boundary Amendments

Following the review of the Ward Boundaries, it is proposed to amend the boundary of each ward which will result in reducing the differences in electors between wards to less than 10%. The proposed amendments will result in Ward 3 becoming the largest ward and Ward 4 becoming the lowest. The reason for this is the expected growth in Ward 4 over the next decade whereas Ward 3 will continue to maintain population with a low-level increase over the next decade. Table 2 below indicates the resultant number of electors in each ward if the proposed amendments are adopted.

**Table 2: Comparison of Enrolled Electors in Proposed New Ward Boundary**

Ward	Enrollments July 2019	Variance To Ward 3	Number of Councillors	Councillor Elector Ratio
1	29,701	-6.48%	3	9,900
2	29,678	-6.55%	3	9,892
3	31,758		3	10,586
4	29,349	-7.59%	3	9,783
<b>Total</b>	120,486		12	10,040

Further detail on the proposed boundary changes for each Ward are detailed on the following pages. As can be seen the proposed changes will ensure that the proposed ward boundaries would not require amending for at least 2 election cycles.

# Ward 1

## Description of suggested boundary change

Currently Ward 1 contains the suburbs of Carrington, Cooks Hill, Islington, Maryville, Mayfield, Mayfield East, Mayfield North, Mayfield West, Newcastle, Newcastle East, Stockton, The Hill, Tighes Hill, Warabrook, Wickham and parts of Bar Beach, Newcastle West and The Junction.

Under the proposed boundary changes Ward 1 would contain Carrington, Islington, Maryville, Mayfield, Mayfield East, Mayfield North, Mayfield West, Newcastle, Newcastle East, Stockton, The Hill, Tighes Hill, Warabrook, Wickham and parts of Bar Beach, Cooks Hill and Newcastle West.

The major change proposed is the removal of The Junction.

## Map

The proposed boundary for Ward 1 is shown on the following map by a blue line. Where the current boundary differs from the proposed boundary this is indicated by a red line.



## **Projected Future Growth – Strategic Planning Influences**

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 (GNMP) identifies the Newcastle City Centre as a major catalyst area. The recent addition of increased higher density dwellings continues to grow the city centre population. A urban renewal corridor has been identified along Maitland Road from Newcastle West to Mayfield.

## **Projected Future Growth – Population Trends**

The city centre (Newcastle–Newcastle East–Newcastle West) is forecast to increase from 5,354 persons in 2019 aged 19 years and older to 7,791 persons aged 19 years and older by 2029.

This is an increase of 2,437 persons in the city centre over the next decade.

The forecast increase in people over 19 years during the next decade in other key locations across the ward is:

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Islington – Tighes – 252 persons

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Maryville –Wickham – 1,324 persons

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Mayfield – Mayfield East – 990 persons

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Mayfield West – Warabrook – 71 persons

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Cooks Hill will be static in population growth

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The expected forecast increase of people aged 19 years + is at least 5,074 people in the next decade.

## **Projected Future Growth – Impacts on Proposed Ward Boundary**

The population trends indicated above show that without amending the Ward boundary, Ward 1 will increase by 15.98%. The proposed changes will reduce the current number of electors by 6.44% for the 2020 Local Government Elections. However, given the projected growth expected in Ward 1 over the next decade it should grow by a minimum of 17.08% becoming the largest ward. As such the proposed ward boundaries for Ward 1 would not require amending for at least 2 election cycles.

# Ward 2

## Description of suggested boundary change

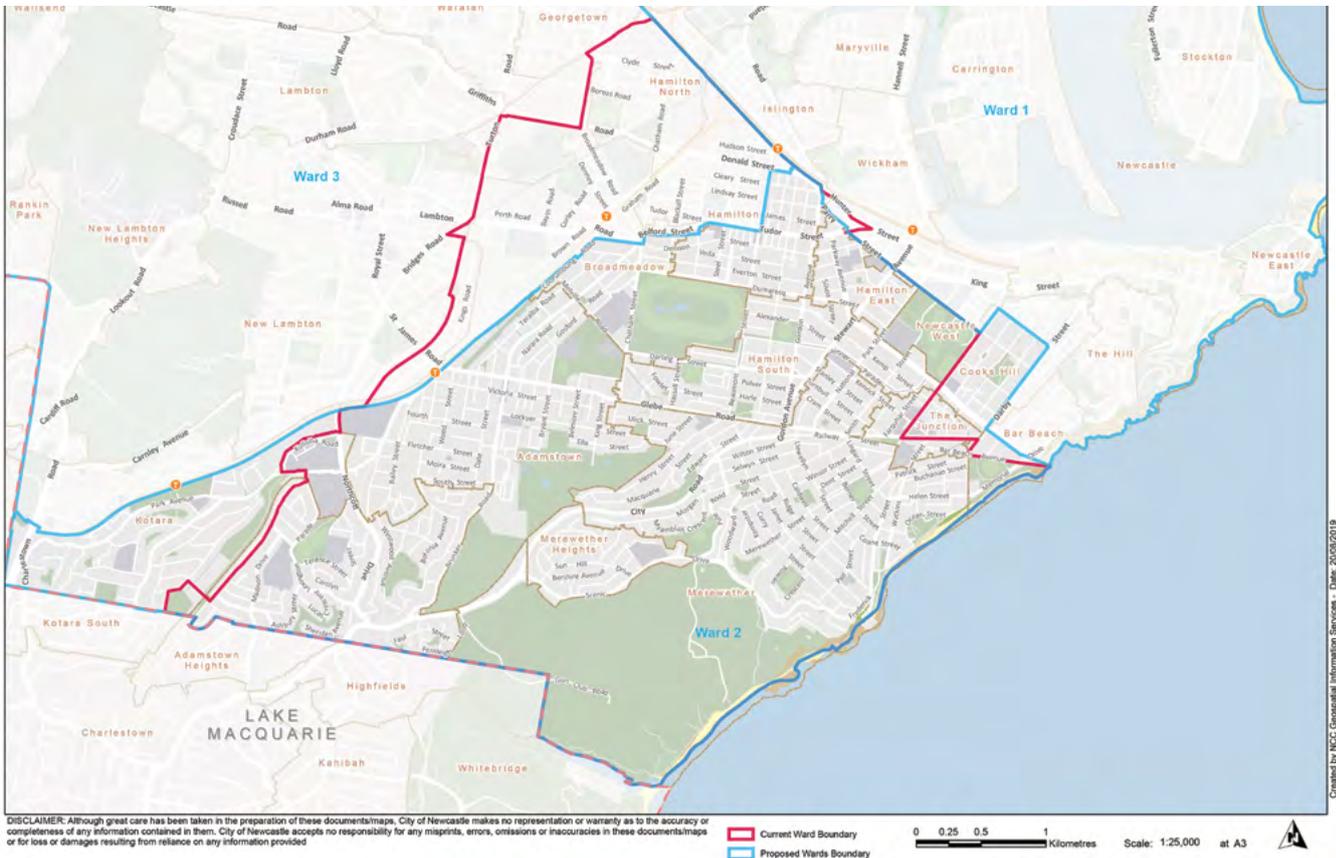
Ward 2 currently contains the suburbs of Adamstown, Adamstown Heights, Broadmeadow, Hamilton, Hamilton East, Hamilton South, Hamilton North, Merewether, Merewether Heights and parts of The Junction.

Under the proposed boundary changes Ward 2 would contain the suburbs of Adamstown, Adamstown Heights, Hamilton East, Hamilton South, Merewether, Merewether Heights, The Junction and parts of Bar Beach, Broadmeadow, Cooks Hill, Hamilton, Kotara and Newcastle West.

The major changes proposed involve the removal of Hamilton North and the addition of parts of The Junction and Kotara.

## Map

The proposed boundary for Ward 2 is shown on the following map by a blue line. Where the current boundary differs from the proposed boundary this is indicated by a red line.



## **Projected Future Growth – Strategic Planning Influences**

The GNMP 2030 identifies Kotara as a future catalyst area with mixed use and high density residential. Brunner Road Adamstown is an urban renewal corridor with some higher density residential already either built or in progress.

## **Projected Future Growth – Population Trends**

The forecast increase in people over 19 years during the next decade in other key locations across the ward is:

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Bar Beach – The Junction – 128 persons

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Merewether – Merewether Hs – 180 persons

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Hamilton South Hamilton East – 181 persons

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Adamstown – 612 persons

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Kotara – 142 persons

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The expected forecast increase of people aged 19 years + is at least 1,225 people over the next decade.

## **Projected Future Growth – Impacts on Proposed Ward Boundary**

The population trends indicated above show that without amending the Ward boundary, Ward 2 will increase by a minimum of 4.39%. The proposed changes will increase the current number of electors by 3.70% for the 2020 Local Government Elections. However, given the projected growth expected in Ward 2 over the next decade it should grow by a minimum of 4.23%. This would be a concern except as growth corridors have been added to Ward 2 it is expected that the boundaries will not require amending for at least 2 election cycles.

# Ward 3

## Description of suggested boundary change

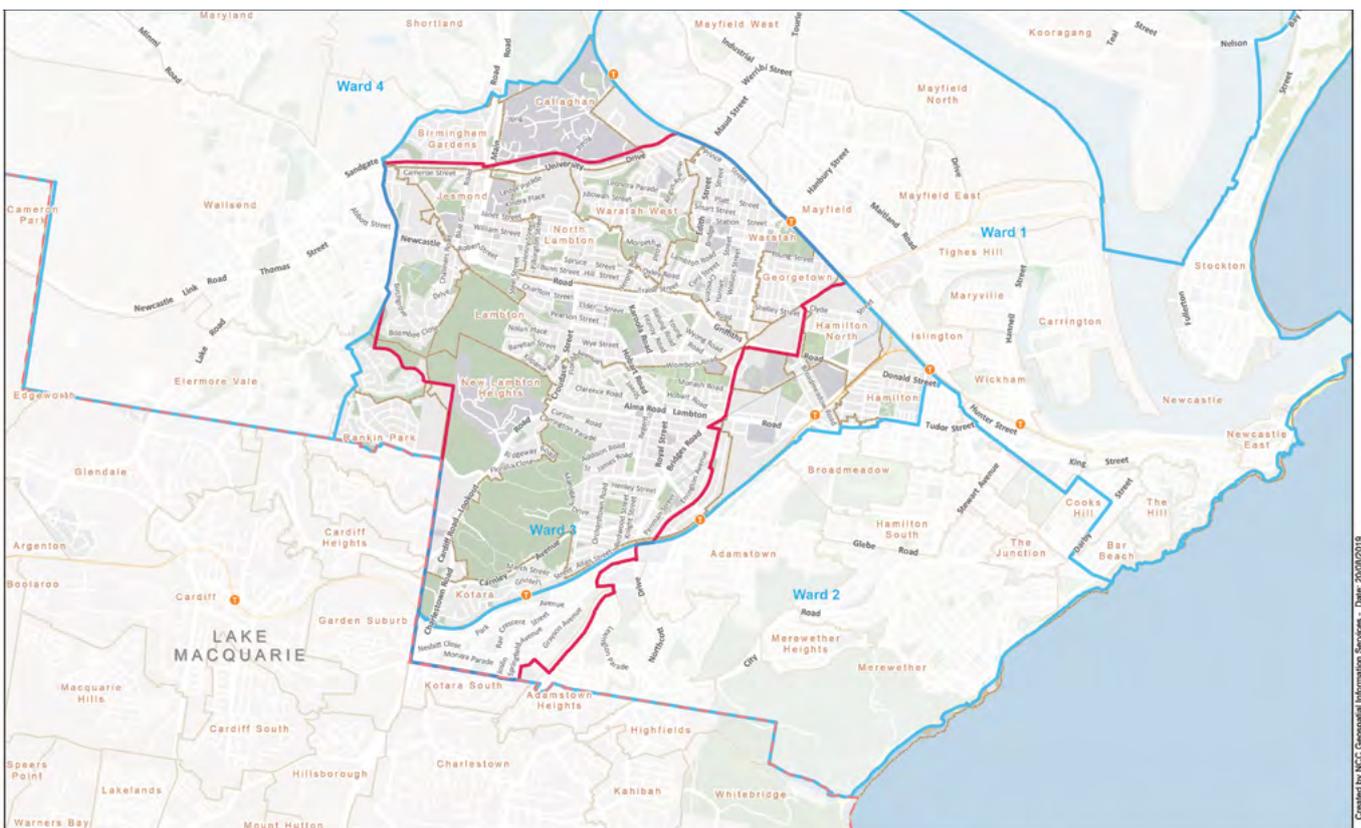
Ward 3 currently contains the suburbs of Georgetown, Jesmond, Lambton, New Lambton, North Lambton, Waratah and parts of Broadmeadow, Adamstown Heights, Birmingham Gardens, Callaghan, Wallsend, Elmore Vale, New Lambton Heights, Kotara and Waratah West.

Under the proposed boundary changes Ward 3 would contain the suburbs of Birmingham Gardens, Callaghan, Georgetown, Hamilton North, Jesmond, Kotara, Lambton, New Lambton, New Lambton Heights, North Lambton, Waratah, Waratah West and parts of Broadmeadow, Elmore Vale, Hamilton, Kotara, Rankin Park and Wallsend.

The major changes proposed involve the addition of Hamilton North, Birmingham Gardens and Callaghan as well as parts of Rankin Park and Elmore Vale.

## Map

The proposed boundary for Ward 3 is shown on the following map by a blue line. Where the current boundary differs from the proposed boundary this is indicated by a red line.



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0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres Scale: 1:38,000 at A3

Created by NCC Geospatial Information Services - Date: 20/09/2019

### **Projected Future Growth - Strategic Planning Influences**

Ward 3 will continue to maintain population with a low-level increase over the next decade. Ward will include:

Broadmeadow, a GNMP 2030 catalyst area which will include increased future medium density housing opportunities. Includes the northern side of Tudor St, an urban renewal corridor.

### **Projected Future Growth – Population Trends**

The forecast increase in people over 19 years during the next decade in other key locations across the ward is:

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Broadmeadow – Hamilton North – 534 persons

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Georgetown- Waratah – 311 persons

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The expected forecast increase of people aged 19 years + is at least 845 people over the next decade.

### **Projected Future Growth – Impacts on Proposed Ward Boundary**

The population trends indicated above show that without amending the Ward boundary, Ward 3 will increase by a minimum of 3.06%. The proposed changes will increase the current number of electors by 14.91% resulting in Ward 3 being the largest Ward for the 2020 Local Government Elections. However, given the projected growth expected in Ward 3 over the next decade it should grow by a minimum of 2.66%. By making Ward 3 the largest Ward to counter the impact of this low growth it is expected that the boundaries will not require amending for at least 2 election cycles.

# Ward 4

## Description of suggested boundary change

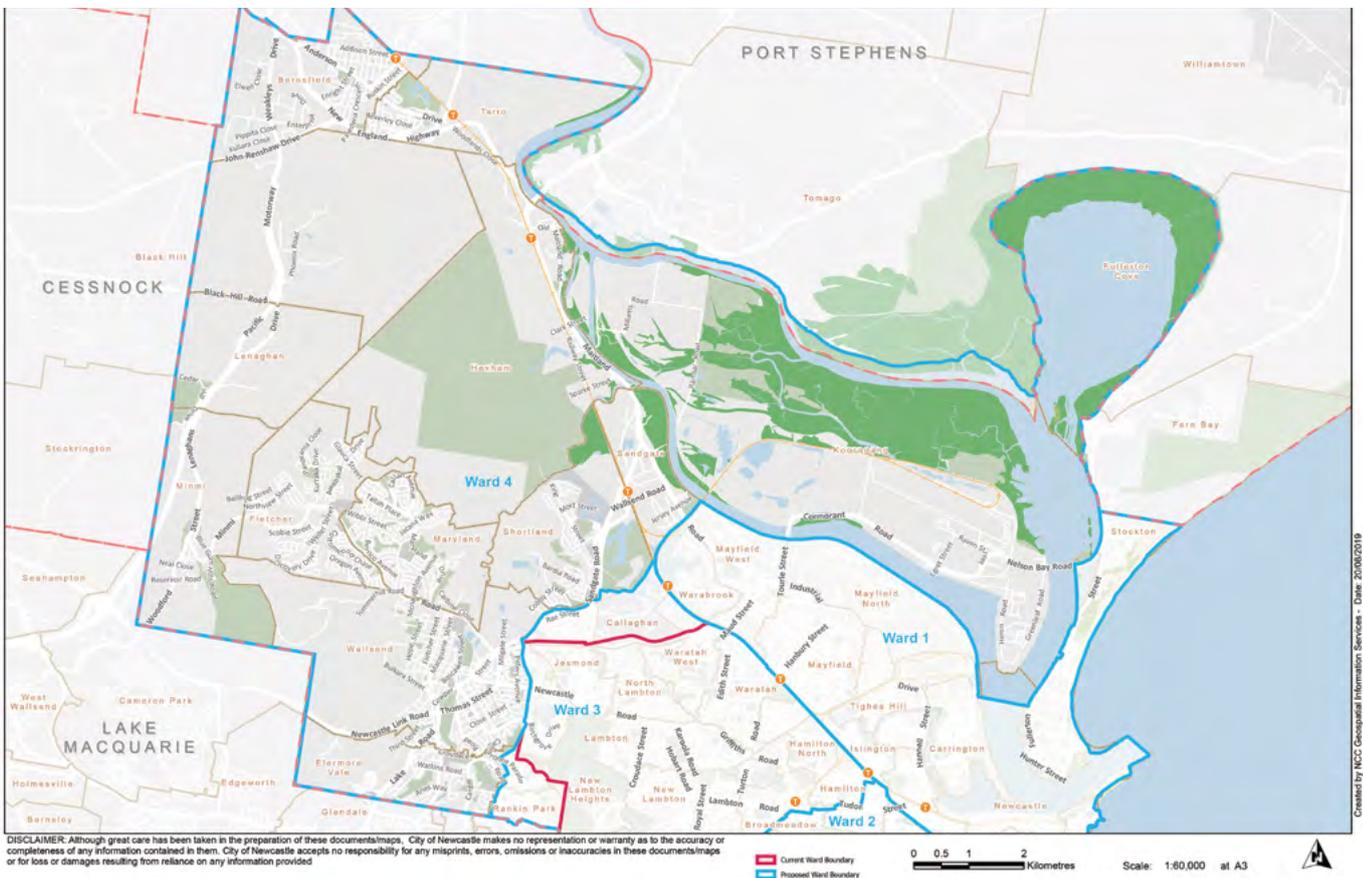
Ward 4 currently contains the suburbs of Beresfield, Elmore Vale, Fletcher, Hexham, Kooragang, Lenaghan, Maryland, Minmi, Sandgate, Shortland, Tarro and parts of Birmingham Gardens, Callaghan, Waratah West, Wallsend, Rankin Park and Black Hill.

Under the proposed boundary changes Ward 2 would contain the suburbs of Beresfield, Black Hill, Fletcher, Hexham, Kooragang, Lenaghan, Maryland, Minmi, Sandgate, Shortland, Tarro and parts of Elmore Vale and Wallsend

The major changes proposed involve the removal of Birmingham Gardens and Callaghan.

## Map

The proposed boundary for Ward 4 is shown on the following map by a blue line. Where the current boundary differs from the proposed boundary this is indicated by a red line.



### **Projected Future Growth – Strategic Planning Influences**

The Northern Estates (Coal & Allied) Concept Plan as approved identified the potential for 3,300 dwellings and an anticipated population of over 10,000 people. Development approval processes have commenced for residential subdivisions.

The GNMP 2030 identifies Beresfield as a catalyst area for freight and logistics.

### **Projected Future Growth – Population Trends**

Residential areas continue to develop, particularly in the Fletcher – Minmi area greenfield area and infill areas around Wallsend and Elmore Vale. The forecast increase in people over 19 years during the next decade in other key locations across the ward is:

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Fletcher – Minmi – 2,116 persons

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Wallsend – 1,213 persons

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Elmore Vale- Rankin Park – 1,397 persons  
(predominantly in Elmore Vale)

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The expected forecast increase of people aged 19 years + is at least 4,726 people over the next decade.

### **Projected Future Growth – Impacts on Proposed Ward Boundary**

The population trends indicated above show that without amending the Ward boundary, Ward 4 will increase by a minimum of 14.55%. The proposed changes will reduce the current number of electors by 9.65% resulting in Ward 4 being the smallest Ward for the 2020 Local Government Elections. However, given the projected growth expected in Ward 4 is expected to grow by a minimum of 16.10% it should become the second largest ward over the decade. By making Ward 4 the smallest Ward it allows the large growth to be absorbed and ensure that the boundaries will not require amending for at least 2 election cycles.

# Public Submissions

## Public Consultation

Under the Act CN must undertake public consultation before amending its ward boundaries. Below are details of the key dates, the period of public exhibition and for public submissions, the places where the Ward Boundary Plan and any supporting documents may be inspected and contact details

## Key Dates

**27 August 2019** – Council resolves to place the revised Ward Boundary Plan on public exhibition.

**29 August 2019** – Public exhibition and submission period commences.

**10 October 2019** – Public exhibition and submission period closes 42 days later.

**23 October 2019** – Submissions assessed and report prepared for Council consideration.

**26 November 2019** – Council considers submissions; makes final decision and submits revised Ward Boundary Plan to Electoral Commissioner.

## Contacts

If you have any questions regarding the Ward Boundary Review please contact Joe Vescio on 02 4974 2000 or email [wardreview@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wardreview@ncc.nsw.gov.au)

## Availability of Ward Boundary Plan and Supporting Documentation

Copies of all documents relating to the Ward Boundary Review are available on Councils website:  
[www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay)

In addition, hard copies are available for inspection at the City of Newcastle Administration Centre, 282 King Street Newcastle and the Libraries.

The web site also has an interactive map allowing people to enter their address and it will indicate the ward they are currently in and whether it is proposed to move them to another ward.

## Making a Submission

City of Newcastle welcomes comment on the Review of Ward Boundaries. Written submissions may be made in one of the following ways:

### Online

Via the online form available at [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay)

### Email

To: [wardreview@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wardreview@ncc.nsw.gov.au)  
Subject: Submission – Ward Boundary Review – Attention Joe Vescio

### Post to:

Chief Executive Officer  
City of Newcastle  
Attention: Joe Vescio  
PO Box 489  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300  
Subject: Submission – Ward Boundary Review

## Closing Date for Submissions

Submissions close at midnight on Thursday 10 October 2019.

# Appendix 1 Relevant Sections of Local Government Act 1993

## 210 Division of areas into wards

1. The council may divide its area into divisions, called "wards".
2. The council may abolish all wards.
3. The council may alter ward boundaries.
4. The council may name or rename a ward.
5. A council must not divide an area into wards or abolish all wards unless it has obtained approval to do so at a constitutional referendum.
6. A by-election held after an alteration of ward boundaries and before the next ordinary election is to be held as if the boundaries had not been altered.
7. The division of a council's area into wards, or a change to the boundaries of a ward, must not result in a variation of more than 10 per cent between the number of electors in each ward in the area.

## 210A Consultation, public notice and exhibition of proposals regarding ward boundaries

1. Before dividing a council's area into wards or altering a council's ward boundaries, the council must:
  - a. consult the Electoral Commissioner and the Australian Bureau of Statistics to ensure that, as far as practicable, the proposed boundaries of its wards correspond to the boundaries of appropriate districts (within the meaning of the Electoral Act 2017 ) and census districts, and to ensure that the proposed boundaries comply with section 210 (7), and
  - b. prepare and publicly exhibit a plan detailing the proposed division or alteration (the "ward boundary plan").
2. The council must give public notice of the following:
  - a. the place at which the ward boundary plan may be inspected,
  - b. the period for which the plan will be exhibited (being a period of not less than 28 days),

- c. the period during which submissions regarding the ward boundary plan may be made to the council (being a period of not less than 42 days after the date on which the ward boundary plan is placed on public exhibition).
3. The council must, in accordance with its notice, publicly exhibit the ward boundary plan together with any other matter that it considers appropriate or necessary to better enable the plan and its implications to be understood.
4. Any person may make a submission to the council regarding the ward boundary plan within the period referred to in subsection (2) (c).
5. The council must consider submissions made in accordance with this section.

## 211 Ward boundaries

1. The council of an area divided into wards must keep the ward boundaries under review.
2. If:
  - a. during a council's term of office, the council becomes aware that the number of electors in one ward in its area differs by more than 10 per cent from the number of electors in any other ward in its area, and
  - b. that difference remains at the end of the first year of the following term of office of the council, the council must, as soon as practicable, alter the ward boundaries in a manner that will result in each ward containing a number of electors that does not differ by more than 10 per cent from the number of electors in each other ward in the area.
3. Nothing in subsection (2) prevents a council that has become aware of the discrepancy referred to in subsection (2) (a) from altering its ward boundaries before the end of the first year of the following term of office of the council.

