

2020 Local government elections

Greater Shepparton City Council

Election Report





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(Victorian Electoral Commission)
April 2021

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Victorian Electoral Commission pays respect to Victoria's traditional owners and their elders past and present who have been custodians of this country for many thousands of years. Their living culture and their role in the life of Victoria is acknowledged by the VEC.

Letter of Transmittal

19 April 2021

Mr Peter Harriott
Chief Executive Officer
Greater Shepparton City Council
Locked Bag 1000
SHEPPARTON VIC 3630

Dear Mr Harriott

Pursuant to Regulation 83 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020, I submit this report to the Chief Executive Officer of Greater Shepparton City Council on the general election held in October 2020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warwick Gately'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'W' and 'G'.

Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner

Contents

Introduction	1	Appendix 7: Final list of candidates in ballot paper order	28
Key changes	2	Appendix 8: Daily breakdown of the general mail-out	34
Election dates	4	Appendix 9: Result information	35
About Greater Shepparton City Council	5	Appendix 10: Election participation statistics	36
Voters' roll	5		
Advertising and communication campaign	5		
Election Manager	7		
Election office	8		
Candidates	8		
Voting	9		
Results	10		
Election statistics	11		
Complaints	12		
Post-election activities	12		
Non-voter follow up	12		
Evaluating the VEC's services	13		
Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes	14		
Schedule 2: Certification statement	15		
Appendix 1: Breakdown of the voters' roll	16		
Appendix 2: Statutory advertising	17		
Appendix 3: Schedule of media releases and advisories	21		
Appendix 4: VoterAlert advisories	22		
Appendix 5: Voter engagement program and initiatives	26		
Appendix 6: Daily telephone enquiries	27		

Introduction

The Victorian local government general elections are held every four years as defined by the *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic) (LG Act)*. In 2020, general elections were held for 76 of the 79 Victorian councils¹ with Saturday 24 October marking election day. In accordance with section 263(1) of the LG Act, the Victorian Electoral Commission (**VEC**) is the statutory election service provider for the conduct of local government elections in Victoria.

This report provides information on the 2020 Greater Shepparton City Council general election including details of the end-to-end service delivery of electoral activities throughout the election timeline. This report also provides details of post-election items including compulsory voting enforcement.

About the Victorian Electoral Commission

The VEC is an independent statutory authority established under the *Electoral Act 2002 (Vic) (the Electoral Act)*. The VEC's principal functions are to conduct State elections, local government elections, certain statutory elections and polls, commercial and community elections, and to support electoral representation processes for local councils and the Electoral Boundaries Commission for State electoral boundaries. The VEC is also responsible for maintaining the Victorian register of electors and administering political funding and donation disclosure laws. The VEC has a mandated role to conduct electoral research, provide communication and education services, and inform and engage Victorians in the democratic process.

Warwick Gately AM is the appointed Electoral Commissioner and Liz Williams is the appointed Deputy Electoral Commissioner. The Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Electoral Commissioner report to the Victorian Parliament in relation to the VEC's operations and activities.

The Electoral Commissioner heads the VEC's Executive Management Group that comprises the Deputy Electoral Commissioner, the Executive Director, Corporate Services and seven Directors, each leading the main functional areas of the VEC. Each Director acts as subject matter experts within their legislative responsibilities under the LG Act and the Electoral Act.

The VEC has a dedicated local government election program which is managed by Katrina Collins and incorporates a range of programs, projects and activities that are supported through strategic planning, project management, and process mapping. The program is overseen by the VEC's Planning Group and has sponsorship from the Executive Management Group.

¹ The South Gippsland Shire Council was placed into administration in mid-2019. The Council's general election has been postponed until October 2021. Casey City Council and Whittlesea City Council were placed into

administration in early 2020. The Councils' general elections have been postponed until October 2024.

Key changes

Changes in legislation

The new LG Act received royal assent on 24 March 2020 and introduced a number of changes, some requiring immediate implementation and others to be implemented progressively. Those requiring immediate implementation had a significant impact on the 2020 local government election program.

Following the LG Act completing its passage through Parliament, the VEC implemented the necessary changes to the 2020 local government election program in response to the reforms as they applied to the elections.

The key changes from the LG Act are as follows:

Local government electoral structures	<p>The default electoral structure for all local councils is single-councillor wards, although some regional and rural local councils may be unsubdivided or divided into wards with equal numbers of councillors in each ward.</p> <p>The VEC is no longer responsible for conducting electoral representation reviews of all local councils in Victoria.</p> <p>An independent Local Government Electoral Representation Advisory Panel will review council electoral structures. The panel includes the Electoral Commissioner and other members appointed by the Minister for Local Government.</p>
Voting system	<p>The voting system (attendance or postal) is set by the Minister for Local Government.</p> <p>All local council elections are conducted according to the same voting system.</p>
Enrolment and voters' rolls	<p>Non-resident property owners need to apply to be enrolled (this change will be implemented in stages leading up to the 2024 local government elections).</p> <p>Amendments to the voters' roll are completed by the VEC only (excluding Melbourne City Council).</p>
Candidate qualifications	<p>It is compulsory for local government candidates to complete mandatory training prior to nominating for local government elections.</p>
Nominations/candidate statements	<p>When nominating, candidates are required to declare they have completed the mandatory Local Government Candidate Training.</p> <p>The maximum number of words for a candidate statement was increased to 300 (350 for the Melbourne City Council Leadership Team and Councillor Groups).</p>
Election staff	<p>The term 'Election Manager' replaced 'Returning Officer' making the term consistent with the <i>Electoral Act 2002</i>.</p>
Extraordinary vacancies	<p>The VEC will fix the timeline for local council by-elections (previously fixed by the Minister).</p> <p>Changes to the countback process which now draws on a broader pool of ballot papers to determine the successful candidate at a countback.</p>
Compulsory voting	<p>From the 2024 local government general elections onwards, it will be compulsory for everyone enrolled on a voters' roll to vote.</p>

The LG Act made other changes to the local government electoral landscape, including:

- operational and technical provisions for electoral matters are now prescribed in the Regulations rather than being contained in the LG Act.
- disputed election results are now heard by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (**VCAT**).

On 8 May 2020, the Minister determined² all of the 2020 general elections would be held by postal voting. As such, the VEC adjusted preparations in response to the Minister's determination.

In addition, new Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (**the Regulations**) came into operation on 13 July 2020.

Response to public health crisis: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In response to the coronavirus (**COVID-19**) global pandemic, a State of Emergency was declared in Victoria on 16 March 2020. While the VEC was well advanced in planning for the elections, some uncertainty arose due to speculation that the elections could be rescheduled.

Following the Local Government Minister's confirmation on 15 May 2020 that the 2020 local government elections would proceed, the VEC's operating model was adjusted to deliver a compliant election while meeting health, safety, social distancing and hygiene obligations to voters, election staff, councils, candidates and all other stakeholders.

On Wednesday 1 September 2020, the Governor in Council made amendments to the regulations to allow certain provisions to be varied in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the amendments allowed the VEC to determine an appropriate method for eligible candidates to lodge their nomination form and pay their nomination fee electronically; and to allow the Election Manager to determine the maximum number of scrutineers that may be present for any activity at any one time. The amended regulations commenced the day after

they were made and remain in place until 26 April 2021.

On 29 September 2020, the Governor in Council made further changes to the Regulations to provide greater clarity of mitigation options for any disruptions to the voting timeline, including delays across the postal network that could threaten the integrity of the elections. The changes allowed the Electoral Commissioner to alter the last day of voting and/or the extended postal vote receipt deadline if necessary, to maintain and protect election integrity.

The VEC developed a COVIDSafe Election Plan³ in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services which complemented the VEC's Service Plan. The COVIDSafe Election Plan outlined the VEC's actions and strategies to deliver safe and compliant local government elections.

The plan considered all electoral operations and activities and included changes such as (but not limited to):

- acquiring larger election office spaces to accommodate social distancing practices
- moving operations from face-to-face to online (when legislation permitted), for example:
 - the VEC's briefing meetings with individual councils
 - the candidate information sessions
- modifying the timeline for ballot paper extraction and counting activities
- modifying scrutineer practices.

The VEC acknowledges the collaboration and contributions of council officers in navigating the changes required to the program due to COVID-19.

² The Minister published this decision in the Government Gazette on 18 May 2020

³ 'VEC COVIDSafe election plan' - <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications/local-council-election-reports-and-plans>

Election dates

The key timelines that applied to the 2020 local government elections were as follows.

Deadline fixed by the VEC for council primary enrolment data	Monday 13 July 2020
Close of roll	4 pm Friday 28 August 2020
Opening of the election office to the public	Wednesday 16 September 2020
Certification of the voters' roll and opening of nominations	Thursday 17 September 2020
Close of nominations	12 noon Tuesday 22 September 2020
*Ballot draw	From 1 pm on Tuesday 22 September 2020
*Deadline for lodging candidate statements, photographs and questionnaires	12 noon Wednesday 23 September 2020
*General mail out of ballot packs to voters	Tuesday 6 October to Thursday 8 October 2020
*Close of voting	6 pm Friday 23 October 2020
Day prescribed as Election Day	Saturday 24 October 2020
*Close of extended postal vote receipt period	12 noon Friday 30 October 2020
Declaration of election results	No later than Friday 13 November 2020

*Dates with asterisks relate to contested elections only.

About Greater Shepparton City Council

Greater Shepparton City Council is comprised of nine councillors elected from an unsubdivided municipality.

The structure was last reviewed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* through an electoral representation review in 2015.



Figure 1: The electoral structure of Greater Shepparton City Council at the general election held on 24 October 2020.

Voters' roll

The VEC prepared the voters' roll for the election under section 8(2)(c) of the Electoral Act and in accordance with section 249 of the LG Act. The close of roll for the election was 4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020. Pursuant to section 249(4) of the LG Act, the VEC certified the voters' roll on Thursday 17 September 2020.

At certification, the voters' roll for the 2020 Greater Shepparton City Council general election included 46,242 enrolled voters.

Composition of the voters' roll

The LG Act specifies that the voters' roll for a local government election is formed by combining two separate lists of voters.

1. The Electoral Commissioner's list (EC list) – List of State electors that are enrolled within that local government area.
2. The Chief Executive Officer's list (CEO list) – List of council-entitled voters.

Refer to **Appendix 1** for a breakdown of the Greater Shepparton City Council general election voters' roll.

Amendments to the voters' roll

In accordance with section 250 of the LG Act, the VEC is able to amend any error or omission in the preparation, printing or copying of the voters' roll, or correct any misnomer or inaccurate description of any person, place or thing on the voters' roll. Following the passage of the LG Act, amendments to the voters' roll are to be certified by the VEC. All voters added to the roll were issued with a ballot pack. Where a voter was deleted from the roll after the mail-out of ballot material, the VEC had systems in place to ensure that returned ballot papers from the deleted voters could be identified and excluded from the extraction and count. Where roll amendments were required, the total number of voters on the roll was updated.

Following the close of roll, no amendments were required to the Greater Shepparton City Council voters' roll.

Advertising and communication campaign

State-wide advertising

The VEC delivered a state-wide advertising campaign to maximise public awareness and participation amongst all eligible voters. Campaign activities and consistent messaging were delivered across two phases – enrolment and voting – and through multiple traditional and emerging mediums, including radio, digital and social media, and offline/outdoor advertising.

Statutory advertising

The VEC published a series of statutory notices throughout the election as required by the LG Act. The notices included critical information relevant to each milestone of the election timeline.

For the 2020 statutory notices, Greater Shepparton City Council nominated the following newspaper for the statutory notices to appear in:

- Shepparton News

In 2020, the VEC established a new policy position for statutory advertising in alignment with the updated definition of ‘publish’ in the LG Act. The policy position included the following:

- all statutory and non-statutory election advertising would be published on the VEC website, and
- where available, all statutory and non-statutory election advertising would be published in local newspapers and/or other selected newspapers identified following consultation with the council.

Refer to **Appendix 2** for further information in relation to the statutory advertising.

VEC website

The VEC provided council specific information regarding the election on its website under the ‘2020 local council election’ page. The VEC website went live for the local government elections in early August 2020. Whilst some council specific data remained static during the election, the website was regularly updated with content relevant to the election and at each key milestone such as close of roll, nominations, voting and results.

Media liaison

An online media webinar was held on Friday 21 August 2020. The webinar could be downloaded or accessed at a later time for those who were unable to participate live. The media briefing summarised the planning and timeline for the 2020 local government elections, and also provided a specific update in relation to the availability of election results in light of COVID-19.

Media outlets were provided with a media information booklet that outlined the election timeline and key messages, and provided the VEC’s head office media contacts. The VEC’s communication team supported each Election Manager as the primary media spokesperson in relation to each election.

The VEC’s media liaison program principally featured staged media releases aimed to highlight key milestones during the election timeline, and capitalise on existing general news coverage. More information on the VEC’s media release schedule is available at **Appendix 3**.

Social media campaign

As part of its state-wide advertising campaign, the VEC used paid promotions on social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Snapchat and WeChat, targeting voters through audience segmentation.

This advertising was supported by a defined timeline of organic social media posts on the VEC’s channels, designed to cover each of the key messages of the communication campaign to further extend the reach to the community and promote conversation about the democratic process.

VEC VoterAlert advisories

Electors on the State enrolment register are able to sign up to the VEC’s free SMS or email alert service VoterAlert, to receive reminder messages pertinent to elections that affect them. They can subscribe to receive SMS messages only, email only, or both SMS and email.

During the general election, the VEC used its VoterAlert service to send the following direct messages to those State-enrolled voters on the roll for the election.

The messages were rolled out in the following schedule:

Wednesday 19 August to Wednesday 26 August 2020 – 30,645 VoterAlert messages were sent by SMS and email reminding voters to enrol or update their details by the close of roll.

Friday 9 October to Friday 13 October 2020 – 31,369 VoterAlert messages were sent by SMS and email advising that the VEC had commenced posting ballot packs.

Monday 19 October 2020 – 31,176 VoterAlert messages were sent by SMS and email reminding voters that it was the last week to post their ballot material back to the VEC.

In mid-October, the VEC commenced sending its final VoterAlert – a reminder to post ballot packs by the voting deadline. Whilst approximately 900,000 of the 1.8 million voters scheduled to receive an alert were contacted it was identified that an unanticipated high volume of calls was received by both the VEC and councils as a result of the alert. Therefore the VEC suspended the VoterAlert messages scheduled for the remaining 900,000 voters.

More information on the VEC's VoterAlert advisories is available at **Appendix 4**.

Voter engagement

The VEC delivered an extensive voter engagement program. The program sessions were implemented throughout Victoria and were specific to local demographics. Please refer to **Appendix 5** to view the full list of initiatives for the 2020 local government elections. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the VEC's programs traditionally offered through face-to-face education and engagement were redesigned to comply with health, safety, social distancing and hygiene obligations.

Blind and low vision services

Braille and large print ballot material was available to blind and low vision voters who had registered for these products by 5 pm on Tuesday 15 September 2020.

The VEC received and processed one request for large print ballot material for Greater Shepparton City Council. There were no requests for braille ballot material for this election.

Interpreting services

The VEC engaged the Victorian Interpreting and Language Services' Language Link to provide a telephone interpreting service for telephone enquiries from voters who had a first language other than English. The VEC advertised direct lines for 20 languages other than English and a general line for all other languages.

Telephone enquiry service

A local telephone enquiry service was provided at the election office from Wednesday 16 September 2020 until the close of voting, for enquiries regarding the election.

The local telephone enquiry service was supplemented by an overflow call centre at the VEC's head office. The overflow call centre received calls made directly to the VEC's head office line (131 VEC, 131 832 or +61 3 8620 1100 for callers outside of Australia) and diverted calls from the election office when the election office lines were at capacity. Additionally, email enquiries were received and processed through info@vec.vic.gov.au.

The types of calls that are typical during an election relate to:

- voting entitlements and compulsory voting obligations
- enrolment questions
- ballot pack had not been received
- ballot material was spoilt or destroyed, so replacement ballot material was required
- a voter advising that they were overseas or interstate
- queries regarding the content of the ballot pack.

A breakdown of the daily number of calls received by the telephone enquiry service and the overflow call centre in respect to the election is available at **Appendix 6**.

Election Manager

The VEC maintains a pool of trained senior election officials located across the state to fill election management roles for State and local government elections. Election-specific training is provided to senior election officials prior to each election management appointment.

The size of the election management team appointed for the conduct of an election is based on the size of the council. As required under the LG Act an Election Manager is appointed to conduct the election and is supported by one or

more Assistant Election Managers for larger councils, or a senior election official for smaller councils.

In accordance with section 3 of the LG Act, the Electoral Commissioner appointed Mick Bastian as the Election Manager for the 2020 Greater Shepparton City Council general election.

The appointed Assistant Election Managers were Robyn Waight and Victoria Parker.

Election office

The Election Manager was responsible for the establishment and management of the election office located at 207 High Street, Shepparton. The election office was provided by the VEC.

In accordance with the VEC's COVIDSafe election plan, the election office was open to the public by appointment only. The election office was available for appointments from Wednesday 16 September until Friday 23 October 2020 between 9 am and 5 pm. Opening hours were extended on Thursday 22 October (9 am to 8 pm) and Friday 23 October (9 am to 6 pm) to allow for final enquiries and the hand-delivery of ballots prior to the close of voting. Enquiries regarding the election were also managed by phone.

Candidates

Nominations for the election opened at 9 am on Thursday 17 September and closed at 12 noon on Tuesday 22 September 2020. Candidates were required to lodge their nomination forms in person at the election office. A \$250 nomination fee applied.

On Wednesday 9 September 2020, the Electoral Commissioner published a determination⁴ establishing a framework for prospective candidates who were prevented from attending the election office due to health directions regarding COVID-19 under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*. The determination outlined provisions for electronic lodgement of the nomination form and nomination fee for affected candidates.

⁴VEC 2020 Determination No.1 - Nominations from candidates impacted by COVID-19 Public Health Directions in respect to local government elections -

Candidate information

The VEC developed a suite of resources that were accessible to prospective candidates prior to the nomination period. From early September, candidates were able to access the VEC's information about the process of nominating and becoming a candidate for the election. The VEC's online *Candidate Helper*, accessible via the VEC website, went live on Thursday 3 September 2020. The *Candidate Helper* enabled candidates to pre-complete their nomination form and other forms online before lodging them with the Election Manager.

For the 2020 elections, the VEC's candidate information session was recorded and available for online streaming from the VEC website. The session was complemented by three state-wide interactive seminars consisting of a panel from the VEC's leadership and executive teams.

Nominations

At the close of nominations, 17 candidates had nominated for election to council.

The ballot draw to determine the order in which the names would appear on the ballot paper was held at the election office following the close of nominations using the VEC's computerised ballot draw application. See **Appendix 7** for the list of candidates in ballot draw order.

Candidate statements and photos

In accordance with Regulation 39 of the Regulations, candidates were able to lodge a 300 word statement and submit a recent photograph for inclusion in the ballot packs sent to voters. The deadline for the submission of candidate statements and photographs was 12 noon on Wednesday 23 September 2020.

See **Appendix 7.1** for a breakdown of submitted statements and photos, and **7.2** for the sample website version product.

Candidate questionnaires

In accordance with Regulation 43 of the Regulations, candidates were able to complete and lodge their answers to a set of prescribed questions in addition to a statement and

<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/about-us/legislation/determinations>

photograph. The Election Manager accepted questionnaire submissions lodged by 15 of the 17 candidates at the election.

The completed questionnaires were accessible to voters on the VEC website or by contacting the election office.

Voting

Redirection of ballot packs

The Regulations provide that a voter may – no later than the day the roll is certified (or a later date if specified by the Election Manager under Regulation 22(2)(f) of the Regulations) – make a request in writing to the Election Manager to have their postal ballot envelope redirected to another address. For the 2020 elections voters had until Thursday 17 September to submit requests for redirection.

The Election Manager received 26 requests for redirection of ballot packs for the election.

Early votes

A voter may request an early postal ballot envelope (early vote) prior to the general mail out of ballot packs. The Election Manager processes the request and issues the early vote if the request is assessed as reasonable. Requests for early votes could be processed from Wednesday 23 September 2020, the day after nominations closed, until the commencement of the general mail out of ballot packs on Tuesday 6 October 2020. Due to the timing of early votes, some early voters may not have had access to the candidate statements, photographs or questionnaires.

Due to the impact that COVID-19 restrictions had on election services for the 2020 elections, requests for early votes were managed by appointment.

The Election Manager issued 22 early votes for the election.

Mail-out of ballot packs

The VEC mailed 46,241 ballot packs between Tuesday 6 October and Thursday 8 October 2020. See **Appendix 8** for a breakdown of the packs mailed out on each day during the general mail-out noting that ballot packs were not mailed

to any voters that had passed away between the close of the roll and generation of the mail-out file.

This included 26 ballot packs that were redirected to alternative addresses for voters that had applied to redirect their ballot pack by Thursday 17 September 2020.

In accordance with Regulation 49(3) of the Regulations, no more than 35% of ballot packs were mailed or delivered to voters on any one day during the mail out period. All ballot packs were lodged with Australia Post under the priority paid delivery timetable.

The VEC liaised closely with Australia Post during the mail out period to confirm that ballot packs had been delivered to voters. The VEC received confirmation that all ballot packs had been delivered to delivery addresses by Wednesday 14 October 2020.

During the voting period, 1,044 ballot packs were returned to the election office by Australia Post as return-to-sender mail. Most of this mail was due to the addressee not residing at the address.

Election office counter services

In order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of voters and VEC personnel in the COVID-19 environment, the VEC did not provide an over-the-counter replacement or unenrolled vote service at election offices in the Metropolitan Melbourne region (including Mitchell Shire Council) for the elections. Similar restrictions were initially imposed on election offices in Regional Victoria and were relaxed in the final weeks of voting. Voters were advised to request replacement or unenrolled ballot material by phone, which was sent to them by post.

Unenrolled votes

Unenrolled votes are issued to people whose name cannot be found on the voters' roll but who claim they are entitled to vote at the election. The unenrolled ballot pack includes a declaration that is signed by the applicant and assessed by the Election Manager prior to either admitting or disallowing the vote.

The Election Manager issued 16 unenrolled votes and following relevant checks, two were admitted to the count.

Replacement ballot packs

Following the general mail-out of ballot packs, a voter who claimed that their ballot pack had not been received, or had been lost, spoilt or destroyed, could apply to the Election Manager for a replacement ballot pack. Requests for replacement ballot packs within metropolitan councils were processed and fulfilled at the election office then lodged at the local postal facility. In order to assist in the mail turnaround time for regional councils, the VEC established a centralised postal vote issuing service at head office. Replacement vote requests were processed at the election office and fulfilled and lodged with Australia Post from the VEC in Melbourne.

The Election Manager issued 1,282 replacement ballot packs during the voting period. Please refer to **Schedule 1** for further information on replacement ballot packs issued.

Return of ballot paper envelopes

Voters were provided with a priority reply-paid envelope for the return of their ballot paper envelope containing their completed ballot paper. The return mail was delivered to the election office from local postal facilities or mail distribution centres. Voters who chose to hand-deliver their vote to the election office were able to do so by placing their ballot paper envelope containing their completed ballot paper into ballot boxes located at the election office. The ballot boxes allowed voters to drop off their ballot envelopes without interaction with staff, therefore remaining compliant with a COVIDSafe election⁵.

As ballot paper envelopes were returned, they were progressively checked by the election management team to ensure they had been signed by the voter. Additionally, processes were in place to ensure that only one returned ballot from any one voter could proceed to the extraction and count.

The Election Manager received a total of 31,214 returned ballot paper envelopes by the close of voting at 6 pm on Friday 23 October 2020.

The Regulations provide that the Election Manager can accept returned ballot paper envelopes up until 12 noon on the Friday following the close of voting, if satisfied that the ballot

paper envelope was completed by the voter prior to the close of voting. The Election Manager accepted 8,710 ballot paper envelopes during the extended postal vote receipt period.

The total returned ballot paper envelopes for Greater Shepparton City Council was 39,924.

The Election Manager set aside 1,175 returned ballot paper envelopes that were not admitted to the extraction and counting process due to the voter not having signed the declaration envelope or, in the case of unenrolled declaration votes, an entitlement was not found for the person, or the declaration envelope was not returned with the vote.

Refer to **Schedule 1** for the total certified record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes for Greater Shepparton City Council.

Results

Extraction

A total of 38,749 ballot paper envelopes were admitted to the extraction process.

The extraction of ballot papers occurred at the the election office commencing on Monday 26 October 2020. The extraction of all admitted ballot paper envelopes was completed on Monday 2 November, following the close of the extended postal vote receipt period.

The extraction process involved separating the declaration flaps containing voters' details from each admitted ballot paper envelope, and then extracting the ballot papers from the envelopes. This two-stage process maintains anonymity and ensures the number of envelopes is tracked for ongoing reconciliation.

Any returned ballot paper envelopes found not to contain a ballot paper, or that contained more than one ballot paper, were required to be rejected and could not be counted. There were 67 returned ballot paper envelopes rejected during the extraction activity.

⁵ 'VEC COVIDSafe election plan' - <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications/local-council-election-reports-and-plans>

Following the extraction of ballot papers from the ballot paper envelopes, a total of 38,682 ballot papers proceeded to the count.

Computer count

Following the extraction of ballot papers admitted to the count for Greater Shepparton City Council, preferences on ballot papers were data entered into the VEC's computer counting application at the election office. The application distributes preferences using the proportional representation method once data entry of ballot paper preferences is complete. The computer count information session explaining the process was recorded and available for online streaming from the VEC website from Monday 19 October 2020. Results were calculated at the election office on Thursday 5 November 2020.

The provisional results were published to the VEC website as they became available. Results were updated as finalised⁶ once declarations had taken place.

For a breakdown of the first preference results, refer to **Appendix 9**.

Recounts

At any time before a candidate is declared as elected, a recount may be initiated by the Election Manager or requested in writing by a candidate stating the reasons for their request. Such requests are assessed by the Election Manager supported by the VEC and either accepted or declined.

The Election Manager did not receive any requests for a recount following the count for Greater Shepparton City Council.

Declaration of results

The declaration of results was scheduled later than at previous elections, due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on extraction and counting timelines. As per the Service Plan, the latest date for all results declarations to have been completed was Friday 13 November 2020.

The results of the 2020 Greater Shepparton City Council general election were declared at 4 pm on Thursday 5 November 2020 at the election office, 207 High Street, Shepparton.

The VEC website was updated following the declaration to reflect the elected candidates from the election.

Election statistics

Participation

Participation is measured by the number of marks on the roll as a percentage of the total enrolment and can vary from turnout. The overall participation rate in the Greater Shepparton City Council election was 85.86%, which is higher than the State average of 84.12% (excluding Melbourne City Council) and higher than the 78.84% rate at the 2016 Greater Shepparton City Council general election.

Analysis of voter participation for the different enrolment categories shows that participation is higher for voters who are enrolled on the EC's List (86.51%) compared to voters enrolled on the CEO's List (57.17%).

Refer to **Appendix 10** for further information on participation, including a breakdown by enrolment category.

Turnout

Voter turnout is measured by the number of formal and informal ballot papers counted in the election as a percentage of voters on the voters' roll for the election.

The overall voter turnout for the 2020 Greater Shepparton City Council general election was 83.65%. This is compared to the State average turnout of 81.47% (excluding Melbourne City Council). The voter turnout at the 2016 general election for council was 77.79%.

⁶ A preference distribution report can be found at [2020 council election results | Victorian Electoral Commission \(vec.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.2020council.election.results.vic.gov.au/).

Informality

The overall informal voting rate recorded at the 2020 Greater Shepparton City Council general election was 7.11%, compared with the State average of 4.76%. An informality rate of 11.99% was recorded at the Greater Shepparton City Council general election held in October 2016.

Complaints

Type of complaints

At local government elections, complaints generally fall into two broad categories:

1. The conduct of participants in the election.

Complaints about the conduct of candidates and other participants in the election, at times alleging a breach of the LG Act or local laws.

2. The administration of the election.

Complaints about the conduct of the election and services to voters.

The majority of complaints at the 2020 local government elections related to category one, often where the complainant alleged inappropriate or illegal action by another person or group associated with the election.

Complaints process

The VEC operates a streamlined complaints process during elections, developed in consultation with local councils and enforcement agencies. The process requires complaints to be lodged in writing, and they are then processed through the VEC's head office. For the 2020 local government elections, customers were able to provide feedback and complaints through an online submission form on the VEC's website.

Each complaint is evaluated and an appropriate course of action is determined. Complaints alleging a breach of the LG Act, for example, are forwarded to the Local Government Inspectorate (LGI). Complaints relating to local laws are referred to council. Complaints about the VEC's services or the behaviour or actions of VEC staff and election officials are the responsibility of the VEC. In these cases, the VEC investigates the matter and determines the most appropriate response. The VEC committed to responding to each complaint within five working days, however due to the unanticipated high volume of

complaints received this extended in some instances.

Complaints received

The VEC received four written complaints relating to the election for Greater Shepparton City Council. Two complaints were regarding the conduct of participants and two were regarding the administration of the election.

Post-election activities

Storage of election material

All records from the election will be kept by the VEC safely and secretly in accordance with Regulation 79 of the Regulations.

Refund of nomination fees

Nomination fees were refunded to eligible candidates on Thursday 10 December 2020. Eligible candidates included elected candidates or those who received at least 4% of the first preference vote. Any forfeited nomination fees were remitted to Council on 10 December 2020.

Courts and tribunals

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) is responsible for hearing disputes on the validity of an election under section 311 of the LG Act.

Applications for a review of the declaration of the results of an election must be lodged within 14 days of the election and can be made by a candidate in the election, 10 persons who were entitled to vote at the election, or the VEC.

There were no applications to the VCAT disputing the result of the Greater Shepparton City Council general election.

Non-voter follow up

In accordance with section 267 of the LG Act, the VEC has commenced its compulsory voting enforcement program. Any person who was required to vote at the election and failed to vote will be issued with an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice. Apparent non-voters have 28 days in which to respond.

People who do not respond to that notice, or do not provide a satisfactory response to the notice, may be issued with an Infringement Notice that will incur a penalty. Further follow-up by way of a Penalty Reminder Notice may also take place – this stage includes the original penalty and a Penalty Reminder Notice fee. Penalties collected on behalf of council will be reimbursed at the end of the Infringement and Penalty Reminder Notice stages.

Additionally, during the Infringement and Penalty Reminder Notice stages, non-voters may request for their matter to proceed directly to the Magistrates' Court.

Any such requests will be actioned at the conclusion of the Infringement and Penalty Reminder Notice stages. The VEC will lodge the file of any remaining non-voters with Fines Victoria at the conclusion of the Penalty Reminder Notice stage.

Evaluating the VEC's services

The VEC is committed to providing high quality election services to its local government clients. Through the VEC's formal feedback and debriefing program, the VEC is able to gauge its performance and seek advice for future local government election projects.

Feedback from councils

The VEC invited feedback from councils on its services in December 2020 and acknowledges the receipt of feedback provided by Greater Shepparton City Council. Additional feedback can be provided to the Program Manager for Local Government elections by emailing LGProgram2020@vec.vic.gov.au.

Internal debriefing program

After every electoral event, the VEC conducts an internal debriefing program which includes input from all areas across the VEC's workforce. Internal debriefing following the local government elections commenced in December 2020. In due course, the VEC will publish a consolidated report on its performance and key statistics from the elections. This report will be tabled in Parliament and available on the VEC website.

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Greater Shepparton City Council 2020 general election

BALLOT PAPERS PRINTED

Victorian Electoral Commission	52,000
Election Manager	20
Total	52,020

BALLOT PAPERS ISSUED

General mail out	46,241
Early and replacement votes	1,304
Unenrolled declaration votes	16
Spoilt	0
Sub total	47,561
Unused	4,459
Total	52,020

DECLARATIONS RETURNED

General mail out admitted to the extraction	37,685
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	1,062
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	2
Returned declarations unable to admit to extraction	1,175
Declarations returned to sender	1,044
Sub total	40,968
Declarations not returned	6,593
Total	47,561

Schedule 2: Certification statement

In accordance with Regulation 77, I certify that Schedule 1 of this report on the conduct of the 2020 Greater Shepparton City Council local government election is a true and correct account of the number of ballot papers issued, returned and not used in this election and declarations not returned.



Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner

Appendix 1: Breakdown of the voters' roll

Greater Shepparton City Council

Voters enrolled through an entitlement under section 241 of the LG Act	45,224
Voters enrolled through entitlements under sections 242 – 245 of the LG Act	1,018
Total	46,242

Appendix 2: Statutory advertising

Greater Shepparton City Council election Schedule of public notices

Close of roll notice (see Appendix 2.1 for example)

VEC Website	8 August 2020
Shepparton News	14 August 2020

Notice of election (see Appendix 2.2 for example)

VEC Website	31 August 2020
Shepparton News	4 September 2020

Voting details notice (see Appendix 2.3 for example)

VEC Website	28 September 2020
Shepparton News	2 October 2020

Reminder notice (see Appendix 2.4 for example)

VEC Website	12 October 2020
Shepparton News	16 October 2020


Notice of result (see Appendix 2.5 for example)

VEC Website	23 November 2020
Shepparton News	27 November 2020

Appendix 2.1: Close of roll notice for Greater Shepparton City Council

Greater Shepparton City Council postal election

Your council, your vote



You must be enrolled to vote

A general election will be held for Greater Shepparton City Council in October 2020. To be able to vote in the election, you must be enrolled by the close of roll at 4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020. Two categories of voters can be enrolled to vote in the Greater Shepparton City Council election: State-enrolled voters and Council-enrolled voters.

State-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

You are automatically enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 AND
- you live in the City of Greater Shepparton AND
- you are on the State electoral roll for your current address.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 AND
- you live in the City of Greater Shepparton and you are not on the State electoral roll OR
- you have lived at your current residential address within the City of Greater Shepparton for at least a month and have not yet updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

How do I enrol?

You can enrol online at vec.vic.gov.au

You can also download an enrolment form from the website.

All enrolment applications must be received by the Victorian Electoral Commission by the close of roll at 4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

How can I check my State enrolment?

You can check your enrolment details online at vec.vic.gov.au at any time, or call 1300 805 478.

Council-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

To be a Council-enrolled voter, you must be:

- 18 years of age or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 AND
- not a State-enrolled voter within the City of Greater Shepparton.

You are automatically enrolled for this election if you were enrolled as a non-resident owner at the most recent election for your local area. This includes any by-elections held since the last general election.

If your circumstances have changed since the most recent election and you are no longer a non-resident owner of that property, you will not be automatically enrolled for this election. Depending on your circumstances, you may still be eligible to apply to be enrolled as a Council-enrolled voter.

Who else can enrol & vote?

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you have purchased a rateable property in the City of Greater Shepparton since the last election or by-election and you are not automatically enrolled OR
- you are not an Australian citizen and you live in, and pay rates for, a property within the City of Greater Shepparton OR
- you pay rates on a property you occupy in the City of Greater Shepparton, for example you are a shop tenant and pay rates to the Council for the tenancy, and you have no other voting entitlement within the City of Greater Shepparton OR

- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates to Greater Shepparton City Council and you have no other voting entitlement within the City of Greater Shepparton.

How do I apply to be a Council-enrolled voter?

If you meet any of the mentioned criteria and wish to enrol, contact Greater Shepparton City Council on (03) 5832 9700 for a council enrolment form. Council enrolment forms must be received by the Council by the close of roll at 4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

How can I check if I am Council-enrolled?

You can check your enrolment details by contacting the Council on (03) 5832 9700.

Thinking about standing for election?

Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate for Greater Shepparton City Council, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Greater Shepparton City Council AND
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected AND
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

For further information, visit vec.vic.gov.au

Enrolment closes

4 pm Friday 28 August

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

• 汉语 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • ދިވެހި 9209 0193 Dari


• Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian


• 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • العربية 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish

• Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-n 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorized by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.


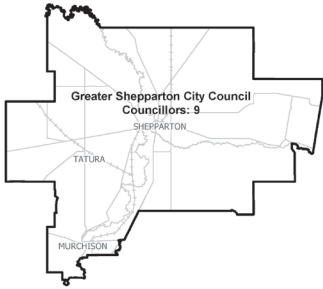
@electionsvic





Appendix 2.2: Notice of election for Greater Shepparton City Council

Greater Shepparton City Council postal election
Your council, your vote

Vote by post this October

Voting
Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Greater Shepparton City Council election from Tuesday 6 October 2020. Return your completed ballot material by mail ASAP or hand-deliver it to the Election Manager by the close of voting at 6 pm on Friday 23 October 2020.

If you will be away
If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Friday 28 August 2020, you can request for your ballot pack to be redirected by writing to:
Election Manager
Greater Shepparton City Council election
c/- Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Alternatively, you can email your request to:
redirections@vec.vic.gov.au

Please include the address for redirection. Each voter requesting redirection must sign their request. Requests for redirection must be received by **Thursday 17 September 2020**.

Large print and braille ballot papers
Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision—please register by **Tuesday 15 September 2020**. To register, call (03) 8620 1222 during business hours.

Request an early postal vote
To apply for an early postal vote, contact the Election Manager from **Wednesday 23 September 2020** on 1300 112 738 and make an application. You must provide a valid reason.

How to nominate as a candidate
Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate, you must:
• be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Greater Shepparton City Council AND
• be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected AND
• have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

To nominate, complete the nomination form and lodge it with the Election Manager together with the \$250 nomination fee. Nomination forms can be lodged by appointment during business hours from **Thursday 17 September 2020** until **12 noon on Tuesday 22 September 2020** at:
207 High Street, Shepparton

Visit vec.vic.gov.au for more information and to pre-complete your nomination form using the online Candidate Helper. The online Candidate Helper will be available from **Thursday 3 September 2020**.

If you use the online Candidate Helper, print your pre-completed form and make an appointment to lodge it with the Election Manager along with the nomination fee.

Call the Election Manager from **Wednesday 16 September 2020** on 1300 112 738 to make a nomination appointment.

Online candidate information session
Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the VEC's recorded candidate information session can be streamed online from **Thursday 3 September 2020** complemented by state-wide interactive candidate seminars based on the information video. To watch the information session or find out how to join an online interactive seminar, visit vec.vic.gov.au

Nominations close
12 noon Tuesday 22 September


State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

@electionsvic


For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
• 普通话 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • Dari 9209 0193 Dari
• Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • עברית 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ភ្នំ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian
• 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish
• Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-n 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.



Appendix 2.3: Voting details notice for Greater Shepparton City Council

Greater Shepparton City Council postal election
Your council, your vote



Check the mail for your ballot pack
Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from **Tuesday 6 October 2020**.
This is a postal election only.
If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Friday 16 October 2020**, please call 1300 112 738 during office hours to arrange a replacement.

How to vote correctly
You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number ALL the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number EVERY BOX and only use each number once.

How to return your completed ballot paper
Follow the instructions on your ballot paper to complete your vote. To return your completed ballot paper, put it in the ballot paper envelope then use the reply-paid envelope provided or hand-deliver it during office hours to:
207 High Street, Shepparton

Voting is compulsory
Voting is compulsory for all voters who were on the State roll at 4 pm on **Friday 28 August 2020**.
You may be fined if you do not vote — this includes homeowners and tenants.
You are encouraged to vote, but you will not be fined if you don't vote, if:
• you live outside this local council area OR
• you are enrolled directly with the Council to be on the voters' roll for this election.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand-delivered by 6 pm* Friday 23 October

*Local mail clearance times vary. Ballot packs must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Don't risk a fine.


State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 1300 112 738

@electionsvic

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
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Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.



Appendix 2.4: Reminder notice for Greater Shepparton City Council

Greater Shepparton City Council postal election

Your council, your vote



Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday 6 October 2020.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Friday 16 October 2020**, please call 1300 112 738 during office hours to arrange a replacement.

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

How to return your completed ballot paper

Follow the instructions on your ballot paper to complete your vote. To return your completed ballot paper, put it in the ballot paper envelope then use the reply-paid envelope provided or hand-deliver it during office hours to:

207 High Street, Shepparton

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were on the State roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**.

You may be fined if you do not vote – this includes homeowners and tenants.

You are encouraged to vote, but you will not be fined if you don't vote, if:

- you live outside this local council area **OR**
- you are enrolled directly with the Council to be on the voters' roll for this election.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand-delivered by 6 pm* Friday 23 October

*Local mail clearance times vary. Ballot packs must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Don't risk a fine.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 1300 112 738

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

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• Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian


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• Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-n 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

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@electionsvic






Appendix 2.5: Notice of results for Greater Shepparton City Council

Greater Shepparton City Council election

Declaration of results



The following candidates were elected to the Greater Shepparton City Council at the general election held in October 2020:

- O'KEEFFE, Kim (1st elected)
- PRIESTLY, Robert (2nd elected)
- SALI, Shane (3rd elected)
- JAMES, Gregory (4th elected)
- ABDULLAH, Seema (5th elected)
- SUMMER, Fern (6th elected)
- DOBSON, Geoffrey Dennis (7th elected)
- BROPHY, Anthony John (8th elected)
- SPINKS, Sam (9th elected)


Further details about the results are available at vec.vic.gov.au


Mick Bastian
Election Manager
 Thursday 5 November 2020

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic





Appendix 3: Schedule of media releases and advisories

Greater Shepparton City Council Council-specific media releases and advisories

Enrol now for the Greater Shepparton City Council election	7 August 2020
Call for candidates for the upcoming Greater Shepparton City Council election	24 August 2020
Candidates announced for the Greater Shepparton City Council election	23 September 2020
Ballot packs mailed this week for Greater Shepparton City Council election	5 October 2020
Voting closes soon for the Greater Shepparton City Council election	12 October 2020
New councillors for Greater Shepparton City Council	6 November 2020

Statewide media releases and advisories

Victorians urged to enrol for upcoming council elections	7 August 2020
October local council elections to proceed under COVIDSafe election plan	19 August 2020
Last chance to enrol for Victorian council elections	21 August 2020
Enrolment closes tomorrow for October's council elections	26 August 2020
Nominations open soon for Victorian local council elections	31 August 2020
Council election information one click away on VEC website	4 September 2020
Accessing candidate information for the 2020 Victorian local council elections	14 September 2020
Victorian voters encouraged to sign up for free election reminders	16 September 2020
Nominations are in for the October council elections	23 September 2020
Authority granted for postal vote contingency	30 September 2020
Voting underway for Victoria's local council elections	5 October 2020
Mobile numbers not from VEC	12 October 2020
Local council elections voting deadline looms	19 October 2020
Strong voter response to local council elections	20 October 2020
Results timeline for Victorian local council elections (media advisory, not for publication)	21 October 2020
Final day of voting shows high voter turnout for council elections	23 October 2020
VEC won't risk public health for quick results in record turnout	28 October 2020
A win for democracy in a challenging year	13 November 2020
Didn't vote in the election? Please explain.	8 February 2021

Appendix 4: VoterAlert advisories

Appendix 4.1: SMS alerts

4.1.1 close of roll – sent from Wednesday 19 August to Wednesday 26 August 2020



Council elections will be held by post in October. Make sure you are correctly enrolled by 4pm 28 Aug. More info or unsubscribe at: <https://voteralert.vec.vic.gov.au/s/tohMhA5l>

4.1.2 mail out of ballot pack Friday 9 October to Friday 13 October 2020



VEC has posted a ballot pack to your enrolled address. Voting in council elections is compulsory. More info or unsubscribe at: <https://voteralert.vec.vic.gov.au/s/ufDvSR07>

4.1.3 reminder close of voting - Monday 19 October 2020



Council elections: voting closes 6pm Friday. Post your vote or return it to your election office ASAP. More info or unsubscribe: <https://voteralert.vec.vic.gov.au/s/usSUBkIM>

Appendix 4.2: Email alerts

4.2.1 Close of roll email

VoterAlert

2020 Local council elections

Hello,

Local council elections will be held in Victoria by post this October. It is important that you are correctly enrolled so you receive a ballot pack at your correct address.

Enrolment closes at 4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

If you haven't changed your postal address, residential address or name, there is no need to do anything.

Are your details up to date?

You can check your details online on the VEC's Check My Enrolment portal. Complete all fields, making sure you:

- enter your first and middle names in the 'Given names' field
- start to enter your suburb and pick it from the list suggested
- start to enter your street name only and pick it from the list suggested.

CHECK MY ENROLMENT

Do you need to update your details?

CHANGE MY DETAILS

Are you eligible to vote in another council?

In a council election, there are two types of enrolment: State enrolment and council enrolment.

You are receiving this message because you are State-enrolled.

But if you own property or pay rates in another council, you may be enrolled or eligible to enrol directly with that council.

Find out more: [Enrolling for council elections](#)

Do I have to vote at these elections?

Voting is compulsory for State-enrolled voters. Don't risk a fine!

If you are on the roll for Melbourne City Council, it is also compulsory for council enrolled voters to vote.

FIND OUT MORE

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Our mailing address is:
 Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
 This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll.

UNSUBSCRIBE

[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

4.2.2 Ballot Pack mailout email

Please do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. For any queries, [contact us](#).

VoterAlert



2020 local council elections

Hello

You are enrolled to vote in the 2020 local council elections in Council Name

Voting in this election will be by post. We posted you a ballot pack between Tuesday 8 and Thursday 9 October 2020.

Please follow the instructions in your ballot pack to cast your vote and mail it back to us as soon as possible. Voting closes at 6 pm on Friday 23 October 2020, but local mail clearance times may be earlier than the cut-off. We recommend you return your completed vote as soon as possible.

Didn't get a ballot pack?

If you don't get a ballot pack by Friday 16 October, call your local Election Office to request a replacement. You can find [Election Office contact details](#) on our website.

Are you away from your enrolled address?

If you are away from your enrolled address call your local Election Office to request a replacement ballot pack. You can find [Election Office contact details](#) on our website.

Do I have to vote?

Voting is compulsory for everyone on the State and Melbourne City Council voters' rolls. Don't risk a fine!

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ELECTION](#)

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Our mailing address is:

Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll.

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)



[VEC website](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Logout](#)

4.2.3 Last week to vote email

Please do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. For any queries, [contact us](#).



2020 local council elections

Disregard this email if you have already voted.

Hello

You are enrolled to vote in the 2020 local council elections in Council Name Council.

Voting closes 6 pm this Friday 23 October.

How to vote

As soon as possible, make sure you:

mail your completed ballot paper in the reply-paid envelope provided

OR

drop your completed ballot paper off at [your local Election Office](#).

Please note: voting closes at 6 pm on Friday 23 October. However, local mail clearance times vary and we recommend you return your completed vote as soon as possible.

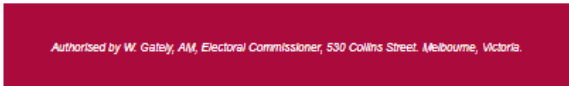
Didn't get a ballot pack?

If you haven't received a ballot pack, [check our website to understand your options](#).

Do I have to vote?

Voting is compulsory for everyone on the State and Melbourne City Council voters' rolls. Don't risk a fine!

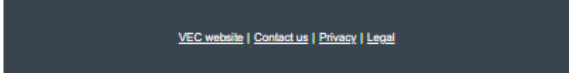
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ELECTION



Our mailing address is:
Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll.

UNSUBSCRIBE

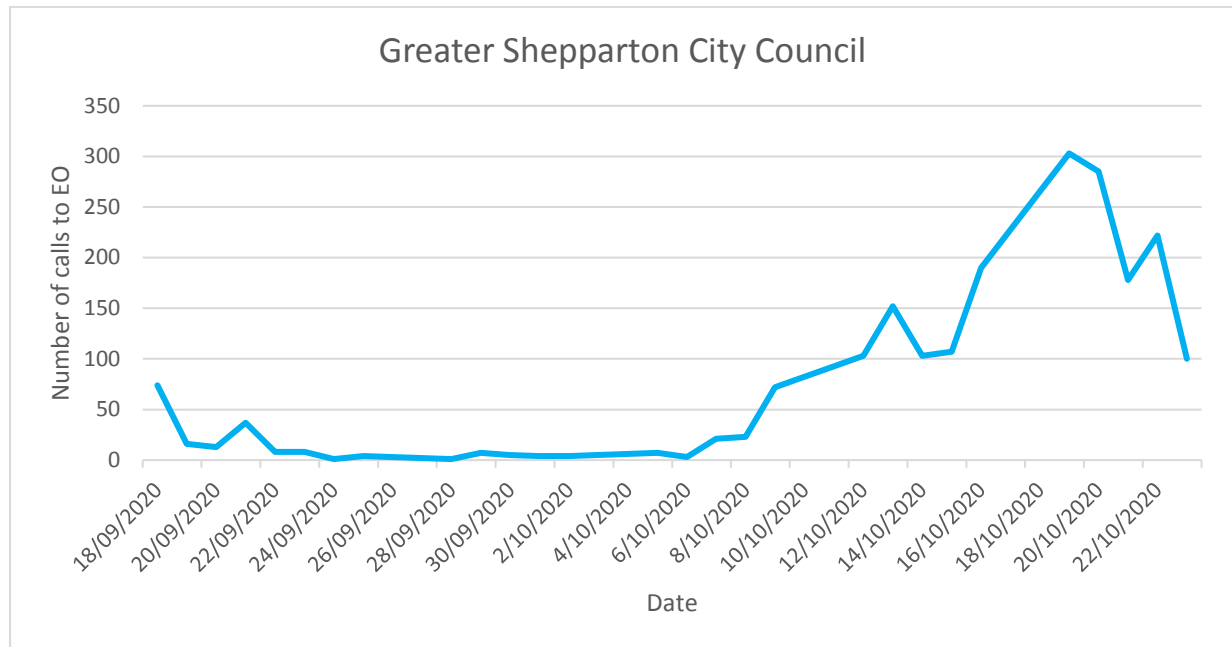


Appendix 5: Voter engagement program and initiatives

Program	Program Details
Be Heard Democracy Ambassador program	This program normally provides face-to-face electoral education sessions and was adapted to an online delivery model, providing peer-led electoral education to residents in specialist disability services and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. A total of 47 sessions were provided to people with disabilities and a total of 80 sessions were provided to CALD communities through councils and community organisations hosting online sessions.
Myth busting campaign.	This offline campaign addressed myths around enrolling and voting for those experiencing homelessness or with unstable housing. Four myths were dispelled and displayed on billboards and street posters, in metropolitan Melbourne areas with high populations of people experiencing homelessness. During the enrolment period, no-fixed-address enrolment forms were distributed with 4,500 meals to those suffering financial hardship, through a sponsorship with StreetSmart. This partnership included social media and Electronic Direct Mail distribution to StreetSmart's database of homeless services and community partners. A 1800 freecall number was also established to support those with financial hardship to provide support for enrolling and voting. This phone number was advertised on posters distributed through homelessness agencies, drug and alcohol services and services providing COVID-19 testing in hotels.
CALD in-language social media videos.	This project produced a series of three videos in 10-12 different languages which provided electoral information on how to enrol, how to vote by post, and how to respond to an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice. These were widely distributed and shared through the VEC's social media platforms and community networks.
Aboriginal short videos.	This project produced five videos in collaboration with Reconciliation Victoria. Two videos featured Aboriginal Elders and other leading Aboriginal community members discussing the value and ways to engage with local council elections. A further three videos, using culturally relevant animation, explained what services councils are responsible for, how to vote and the role of a councillor. These were shared through Aboriginal community channels and organisations.
DemGraphics young people co-designed social media project.	This project involved conducting research to identify barriers to enrolling and voting with a diverse group of young people. This information was then used to pilot a social media campaign in selected councils to encourage engagement in the elections for those aged 18-29.
Easy English tutor guide and worksheets.	These were produced for people with low English proficiency and designed as a co-read product where a person supports the learner through the worksheets. The tutor guide and worksheets were based on the VEC's Easy English guides for local council elections and were available for download from the VEC's website in PDF and Word formats.

Appendix 6: Daily telephone enquiries

The following graph shows the number of telephone calls recorded by the election office telephone enquiry service including those received by the VEC’s overflow call centre and tagged as relating to Golden Shepparton City Council during the 2020 local government elections.



Appendix 7: Final list of candidates in ballot paper order

The candidates, in ballot paper order, were as follows:

Greater Shepparton City Council election

O'KEEFFE, Kim

TURNER, Allan

HAYDAR BIG, Zahra

DOBSON, Geoffrey Dennis

JAMES, Gregory

ABDULLAH, Seema

PRIESTLY, Robert

SPINKS, Sam

ADEM, Dinny

SUTTON, Shelley Anne

BOCK, Andrew

BROPHY, Anthony John

JAMES, Royden

LADSON, Ben

NEFF, Steve

SALI, Shane

SUMMER, Fern

Appendix 7.1: Candidate statements and photographs

Greater Shepparton City Council election

Total number of candidates at close of nominations	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate statement	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate photograph
17	16	17

Appendix 7.2: Candidate statement leaflet for Greater Shepparton City Council election

Don't Risk a Fine

VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020

Your ballot paper is attached to this leaflet.
Complete and return as soon as possible.
See the ballot paper envelope for voting instructions.

VOTING IN THIS ELECTION IS BY POST ONLY

Your completed ballot material must be posted or in the hands of the Election Manager on or before **6.00 pm on Friday 23 October 2020.**

Local mail clearance times may vary. Ballot material must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Late votes cannot be included in the count. Alternatively, you may hand-deliver your envelope during business hours to:


207 High Street
Shepparton

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES
Completed candidate questionnaires are available at vec.vic.gov.au or alternatively from the Election Manager.

COMPULSORY VOTING PROVISIONS APPLY
You have received this ballot pack because you are enrolled for this election. Voting is compulsory if you were on the Victorian State electoral roll for this council on Friday 28 August 2020.

Further information on voting entitlements can be found at vec.vic.gov.au

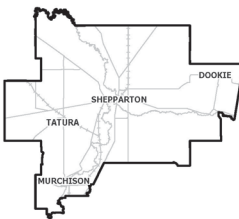
You may receive an Apparent Failure To Vote Notice if you complete and return your ballot material after the close of voting.



GREATER SHEPPARTON

2020 Council Election

VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020




Greater Shepparton City Council




THIS IS A POSTAL ELECTION ONLY.

Voting is compulsory for residents.

For further information visit vec.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 112 738

 **Victorian Electoral Commission**

Printed on 100% Australian made recycled stock

<p><small>NOTICE: The contents of candidate statements are provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about candidate statements should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Election Manager.</small></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>O'KEEFFE, Kim</p> </div> <p>More than ever we need strong committed leadership. I have worked hard for the people of the Greater Shepparton region this past 4 years. Newly elected in 2016 I committed to the role of Deputy Mayor followed by two years as the Mayor. There is still so much more I want to achieve and so much more to be done. Combining my business experience, passion dedication, hard work, and love for the region will ensure the region is well represented. I strongly support a Rate Review as it has been 2013 since the last full Rate Review, so this is well over due. Homelessness must be addressed as a priority. We need to lobby for a Drug and Rehabilitation facility, investment in Health, Rail, increased Education opportunities to keep young people and jobs in our region and lobby for water security. I support the next stage of free parking (on street) in the CBD, completion of the Shepparton Sports precinct with the upgrade of the Shepparton Sports Stadium, increased opportunities in Tourism and Economic Development and to support the needs of our small towns. I also support tip vouchers and a hard rubbish collection. My husband Brendan and I have both ran our own small businesses, raised our two girls and invested our lives in a community we believe in and love. I am currently the Salons Group National Education and Marketing Manager. A board member of Fairley Leadership. My volunteering includes 20 years for the Look Good Feel Better program for Women with cancer, a volunteer for Foodshare and People Supporting People for the Homeless. I believe in an inclusive and united community. I am approachable and here to listen. I have made a difference in the community and I will continue to make a difference on council.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p>	<p><small>NOTICE: The contents of candidate statements are provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about candidate statements should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Election Manager.</small></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>TURNER, Allan</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">No Statement Submitted</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p><small>NOTICE: The contents of candidate statements are provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about candidate statements should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Election Manager.</small></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>HAYDAR BIG, Zahra</p> </div> <p>For the last twelve years my family and I have called Greater Shepparton our home. My children were born here and attending St. Brendans Primary School. I was appointed as School Councillor at St Georges Rd Primary School in 2019. I received the Nomination Award of 2020 International Women's Day by Greater Shepparton City Council. For the past ten years, working in the local community allowed me to understand this strong and growing community. My wider range of experiences include working as a Case worker at Australian Red Cross, recently a Community Hub Leader at Gowrie St Primary School where I worked in partnership with the local services such as: City Council, Primary Care Connect, Goulburn Valley Health and other places. Working together, we completed many projects which made positive impacts on the wider Community also helped me to understand the local issues/barriers, at the moment the main one is COVID19 pandemic. During and post COVID19 my missions are working with the City Council, the Initiatives and the local members, addressing important matters regarding in the region as your opinions are important. Matters like: City Council High Rates, the debate of Greater Shepparton Super School, improvement of Sport Facilities, Business, Education, Health Services, Environment, Economic growths and more. Also by your higher vote and my related experiences I can support the council and the initiatives to encourage our younger generation to remain in the region, achieve their goals and serve the local community. In 2011 I completed the Certificate Four of Community Services, currently studying the Diploma. It is first I am standing for Greater Shepparton City Council for a culture of mutual honesty, independency, responsiveness and inclusiveness for everyone in the region. By your higher vote for me we can make a brighter future. Vote No 1: Zahra Haydar Big</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p>
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DOBSON, Geoffrey Dennis

In line with community expectations, I will seek a total review of the current ratings strategy, with an aim to provide rate relief over the next 4 years. My 20 years of corporate and community experience in presenting responsible financial policies combined with my independent approach to decision making will be complemented by my focussed approach when determining the review, not only during the Covid 19 recovery period, but also beyond. State and Federal funding of infrastructure will provide future opportunities and Councillors will need to be agile in our thinking to take advantage of those opportunities as the pandemic is minimised. I will continue Council's approach to environmental initiatives, in particular, I will heavily advocate for the East Bank Lake Project to deliver a state of the art water improvement program to provide irrigation to nearby parks and sporting facilities. This project will also deliver community spaces and a beautification entry to Shepparton. There are 2 commercial parcels of land in Moorooona which are strategically located to future rail and freeway routes. Both parcels should now have master plans developed, water, sewerage and power supplies programmed and offered to private and government investment groups such as freight and logistic centres, research centres and major manufacturing bodies. The Murchison Nursing Home requires immediate attention by Council to be an advocate for its re-instatement and ongoing development. Tatura requires additional land identified for an orderly and strategic expansion. I will advocate for Greater Shepparton City Council to develop a Decentralisation Policy to provide a blueprint for encouraging businesses and governments to relocate within the municipality and to take advantage of the changing way of doing business for metropolitan based organisations. Experience, independence and a focus on the issues at hand will be my principles to good governance.

4

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JAMES, Gregory

Free Tip Vouchers, Free CBD parking, Free once a year curbside hard rubbish pick up, Fix up our rate system, More hospital parking, Incentify business investment as this creates jobs, Our rivers are the jewel in our crown lets embrace and showcase them. Ensure all towns get their fair share of rates spending, Create safer pedestrian crossings, Fix homelessness, Install traffic lights at the Shepparton IGA / McDonalds and Graham Street / Numurkah Roads intersections. Get big trucks out of the Moorooona and Shepparton CBD's and Create more domestic violence shelters. I've listened to you and these are the very things you've told me you seek from Council. With your vote, together we can deliver Greater results for Greater Shepparton.

5

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ABDULLAH, Seema

I stand for inclusion, action and experience. I stand for the people of Greater Shepparton. In a year that has been very hard for everyone, I have strived to lead Greater Shepparton through the current Pandemic with a united, positive and constructive approach. As your Councillor and Mayor, I have worked hard to make sure that Council swiftly responds to the needs of our community. However, beyond the Pandemic, there are still big issues needing work: water security for our region, bringing more jobs and additional social & community services to our people, better and more frequent trains and public transport, Shepparton Stadium redevelopment, improved roads, early childhood education and support for children & families and affordable housing - to name but a few. All these are on my agenda and I am committed to make them happen. I also strongly support an annual Rates review to ensure community needs and concerns are met. I will represent all sectors of the community including our small towns, indigenous community, ethnic minorities, older people, people with disabilities and the LGBTIQ+ community. I strongly believe in women's empowerment and taking action to remove current barriers in several aspects of women's lives. I will ensure that Council's programs and policies are reflective of the social and economic needs of women so that they are not excluded or disadvantaged. Professionally I am a qualified Project Manager, have an MBA and a Masters in Information Systems from the London School of Economics and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Born in Pakistan, I moved to Shepparton in 2009 due to my husband's work as a surgeon and made Shepparton our home. We have two children: both at University. With your support I will work even harder for Greater Shepparton's prosperity and socio-economic growth.

6

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PRIESTLY, Robert

Growing up on a farm in Greater Shepparton gave me a good grounding, taught me to treat people fairly and highlighted the importance of hard work. This gave my brother and I the foundations to expand our small local business into a regional employer of 320 people. I have been fortunate to be involved in several initiatives including Committee for Greater Shepparton, Biggest Ever Blokes Lunch and the GV Health Redevelopment Advisory Committee. I enjoy gathering the facts, analysing issues, listening to others and bringing people together to collaborate to achieve positive outcomes. My initiatives include: 1) Launching a major review of Council expenditure, budgeting, planning and accountability processes 2) Waste to energy project 3) Derelict building strategy 4) Expand the network of bike paths to Tatura, Murchison, Toolamba and Dookie 5) Energise the CBD with more service, accommodation, and activity businesses to replace the missing retail 6) Youth strategy aimed at retaining, educating, employing and attracting youth 7) Council to better advocate on water policy and river health. 8) Tourism strategy review. Full details of initiatives at robpriestly.com. I will make sure our local government processes work in favour of our rate payers and my business experience means I know how to drive down costs. Lower costs means lower rates. Without discipline and experience, promises to cut rates are empty. Almost half of our regions community live outside Shepparton and Moorooona. Our small towns deserve their fair share of investment and services. Our Councillors must model behaviour of the highest standard because they represent our community. The only reward I am interested in is our community's progress. Vote 1 Robert Priestly for a positive future.

7

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SPINKS, Sam

I am a 31-year-old single parent with a positive and hardworking attitude to life, and a firm belief that actions are stronger than words. As the Greens-Endorsed Candidate for Greater Shepparton City Council, my vision is to see a Greater Shepparton that is strong on tackling climate change, fights against gender inequality, respectfully advocates First Nations and LGBTIQ+ rights, and creates safe and empowering spaces for our children. I have always had family in the area and after living in Melbourne I chose to make Shepparton our home. While completing my degree in community and sustainable development, I participated in the Greater Shepparton Community Leadership Program and placed three street libraries in our towns. I work in community engagement with Primary Care Connect, and for the past two years, I have worked to increase social inclusion in our communities. I am also a member of GV Pride and a volunteer with Meals on Wheels. I want to create an inclusive, accessible and liveable Greater Shepparton that leads the way for its people and its future. If elected, my key focus areas will be: 1) Improving access to services including public transport and affordable housing. 2) Supporting our community groups and spaces. 3) Tackling the climate emergency. As a region of high calibre businesses, passionate service providers and resilient communities I know we can become a leader in these areas and more. Please contact me at sam.spinks@vic.greens.org.au. Vote [1] Sam Spinks for a strong voice for community wellbeing and our environment.

8

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ADEM, Dinny

My name is Dinny Adem, a life long resident and current Deputy Mayor of Greater Shepparton. I live with my wife Rita on the same rural property in Shepparton East that my family purchased almost a hundred years ago. We have two daughters Halisa and Jennifer and three grandchildren, Eva, Scarlet and Orlando. Greater Sheppartons economy is more dynamic and diverse than ever, yet underpinning it all is our agricultural and horticultural industries. Serving on Council for the past six years, two as Mayor, I have been passionate in actively promoting our agricultural and horticultural products to the world. If elected I will continue my advocacy and support resolutions for the exponential growth of the fifth largest city in Victoria. Our farm based businesses are at the heart of our economy yet are being threatened by irrigation water availability and prices. This along with rural land use planning policy is also threatening generational farming and by extension the very existence of our smaller rural communities. If elected I will continue to fight for our farmers and the environment alike by supporting climate change initiatives that reduce our carbon emissions, yet stimulate not devastate our economy. Equally diverse are the wonderful people of our community, from newly arrived immigrants to long established locals, we all face similar personal and financial challenges during this unprecedented time of Covid 19. To provide relief, I will utilise my experience on Council to continue lobbying for a substantive examination of Council services to identify and prioritise where and how expenditure may be reduced to break the perennial cycle of rate increases. If a new sports stadium, affordable housing, drug rehabilitation facilities and better educational and service delivery outcomes for our smaller town residents matter to you, then vote 1 Dinny Adem.

9

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SUTTON, Shelley Anne

I am the rates fixer! With your vote I will action cheaper rates and greater value. I will seek more free parking, lets welcome shoppers and in turn new businesses. I have 4 years experience as your Councillor and I know what it takes to get things done and with your vote I will continue to make our whole region even greater. Our region is now the envy of regional Australia. I will also continue advocating for the removal of all parking meters to bring the CBD alive again. I have already achieved Free Timed Off Street Parking. Rates are on my radar for the next term, our rates are much higher compared to similar sized municipalities, I will make it a priority to review why. We have excellent staff at Council who are mindful of the financial pressure rates place on residents, but to have independent experts look into our finances, investigate with a fresh set of eyes and provide advice where savings can be made is a process I will pursue. With new train services on the horizon I will continue to promote decentralization from Melbourne to bring significant opportunities to the Greater Shepparton region and will work with council to seek government incentives to promote the relocation for businesses and residents. With a growing population in Mooroopna and Tatura I will also promote for further Secondary education to be available in these towns. If re-elected I will continue to advocate for our community to make Greater Shepparton the place to be.

10

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BOCK, Andrew

I'm standing for Council because I want to represent the people of Greater Shepparton - from Dookie to Waranga, Murchison to Tallygaroopna - and every town or locality in between. I want to see our communities, businesses, families and individuals prosper. We can achieve this through modest initiatives like Silo Murals, Mental Health First Aid and Hard Waste reform. By pursuing commerce over rate rises, low-risk investments and prolific grants applications. Through genuine transparency in Council, assertive lobbying of governments and community education. If I'm elected, you're unlikely to appreciate every decision I make. However, you can be confident that I've listened to every voice and considered every perspective put to me, regarding each matter brought to Council. I aim to be a Councillor that judges each motion on it's merit - not who proposed it, or what council officers suggest, a Councillor that uses Social Media to constantly consult with the community regarding their views, needs and wants and a Councillor that makes measured decisions - such as my proposed 2% efficiency dividend to all Council departments, rather than a blind rate cut or freeze that may affect services. The most important thing this election is that your voice is heard, via your informed vote and that our community gains a Council willing to work for the people it was elected to represent. For more information about myself and my campaign, visit andrewbockindependent.com.au. You can also contact me directly via andrewbockindependent@gmail.com or search Andrew Bock - Independent on Facebook. Happy voting!

11

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BROPHY, Anthony John

Its time for change. The community is frustrated and disappointed with the current council. Now more than any other time we need a new team of dedicated, diverse and highly skilled Councillors to see us through the post-COVID period and to develop a genuine game plan that is achievable and not just words. Greater Shepparton is on the cusp of something very exciting with so much to offer. There are many issues to address, some of which are: An independent rates review on residential, commercial and agricultural land; a more developed waste management strategy; a state-of-the-art sports stadium that will bring additional sporting competitions to the region; a locally led business recovery where Council as a percentage of business buys and employs locally. A planning department with a mindset that rolls out the red carpet and not the red tape when it comes to business and residential applications; an implementation of an integrated affordable housing strategy that also addresses homelessness and critically a plan by Council that focus on our youth, education and clearer pathways for their future. I have lived, worked and volunteered in Greater Shepparton virtually all my life. My experience working for three senior Federal Members of Parliament, my retail and services industry background, my development of regional leaders and my roles with the youth in education has given me the skills and solid foundations needed in the role of Councillor. I have a vast network and an understanding of what is needed to strengthen and grow Greater Shepparton. I have the experience, vision and enthusiasm required. We need sustainable and concerted economic development, and imperatively water security. We need better Council engagement with business, farmers and residents. So now its time for change, and with your vote I can be the change we need!

12

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JAMES, Royden

Everyone Counts and Every 1 for Royden James counts. Having lived in the Greater Shepparton area for over 28 years, in Tatura, Shepparton and Murchison, I have a deep understanding of the region and its communities. I worked in local government for 35 years with many of those years as a Chief Executive Officer and in senior management. 16 of those years were in the Greater Shepparton area. I know how complex local government is. I understand local government finances and have extensive experience in local government rating systems. I know how local government works. I have lived in country towns all my life and have been actively involved in all of them, either as a competitor playing football or tennis, helping with the running of the clubs, in service clubs and in the last year few years with Murchison Community Care and the DP Jones Nursing Home. This recent experience made me realise the power of local activism; what can be achieved in a small town if you are prepared to stand up. The towns and rural areas of Shepparton are wonderful places to live, work and bring up a family and I want to be a voice for all those communities. However, I will not be a Councillor only for the small towns and rural areas. I believe that a strong and vibrant Shepparton, the hub, will enable the smaller towns and villages to grow and prosper. As a Councillor I will be concentrating on 3 objectives; having the elected Council and management working as a united team, building on the bold vision for Greater Shepparton and true leadership to realise that vision. I want strong and vibrant small towns who can say with pride we are part of Greater Shepparton.

13

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LADSON, Ben

G'day, my name is Ben Ladson and I'll have a yarn with anyone. I'm standing for Greater Shepparton City Council because I am disgusted with the continuous rate increases forced on residents and businesses. As a husband, father, teacher, business owner of Gamer's Resort at 135 Maude St Shepparton, and volunteer at multiple charities and sporting clubs, I am committed to seeing Greater Shepparton prosper. The ever increasing, disproportionate rates make the cost of living for everyone harder, especially in a lower socio-economic community with already significant disadvantage. It discourages people to move to and invest in the area when comparing rates with other areas. During this pandemic, some of us have tightened our purse strings, but not our current council, who have continued to charge rates in full unlike some other councils, on top of forcing yet another rate increase, despite many new residential estates adding additional revenue to the coffers. Some other key focuses are passing a site for a drug rehabilitation facility, supporting sporting club reopenings, advocating for the bypass funding, addressing homelessness, advocating for mental health support, improved train services including late night services on weekends and faster trains, public safety in high traffic areas including Hawdon St and the Kialla West crossing, providing shared paths for Goulburn Valley Grammar School and NDC Emmaus Campus, providing safe public toilets, establishing a designated bike pump track, be more transparent and listen with the community, the list goes on. Please read each candidate statement on this card and see who else wants to reduce rates. If elected, I am ready to work with the incoming councillors to find and implement cost cutting measures in the budget. If there's not at least 5 councillors elected who want to reduce rates, sit back and watch rates continue to go up.

14

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NEFF, Steve

Steve Neff i Care About our community Do You ? I have a motto that inspires me what we do for ourselves dies with us, what we do for others remains immortal. Steve was born in Shepparton and has lived his life here and has the knowledge and the understanding of our local community. Steve has been married for many years and has raised three adult children and has five grandchildren. Steve has been a volunteer for many years at Life Line Australia as a crisis support worker which involves answering the telephone calls from those who are in distress and need support and a person to listen to them. This requires Steve to use such skills as trust, communication, empathy, listening, cooperation, teamwork, compassion and confidentiality. Steve has been heavily involved in community organisations for many years. Steve has been supporting local charities as his ongoing role of President of Christmas for those alone. Steve is well known throughout the community as Santa at Harvey Norman, a role he enjoys because it has brought so much joy to others for many years. Steve has also volunteered his time for many local schools, kindergartens, local businesses and the Goulburn Valley Hospital Shepparton. During his volunteer work Steve helps spread the joy of Christmas cheer for those who cant be with their families at that time of the year. Steve's vision for the future of Greater Shepparton is to see the town prosper and grow to allow us all to embrace our diverse community in order to promote equality for all. Steve wants to promote Greater Shepparton to ensure that it is a safe and harmonious place to live, work and to see the growth of local businesses to create employment opportunities for our young people call me to discuss further Steve 0400314858

15

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SALI, Shane

Im Shane Sali and here is why Im running as a candidate to be Your Voice for Greater Shepparton. It starts with my plan and here it is. Local businesses go to the top of the tender list, this keeps our money here, which creates jobs today, tomorrow and into the future. Lets fast track planning and building permits to encourage development across our region. Exports deliver 2.5 billion dollars into our economy - we can grow this, lets take our products and services to the world. Advance all sports to even greater heights, our sports precinct is the envy of regional Australia. Connect tourists to our key attractions and events. Secure the greatest value for your rates, lets leverage our assets to give more back to our community. Greater Shepparton is my home town. I was born here, schooled here, began my career here, I play football here and Im raising my family here. Im a father of two wonderful boys and my wife Lirie and I operate fashion stores here. I have the skill set to work with others by bringing proactive and positive people together to make sure we can continue to grow our local economy. Council is a big business and now more than ever we need to be bold and innovative to give you the best value for your rates. Business creates a community and as business grows, it advances the services, facilities and events that equates to an appealing and attractive lifestyle. More business means more jobs and more opportunity for today, tomorrow and for generations into the future. But whats Most important as a Councillor, we need to listen to our community. With your vote Ill be your voice at the Council table. Together, we can do this! Connect with me: Facebook, Instagram, shanesali.com.au

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SUMMER, Fern

I am Fern Summer and my priority is helping Greater Shepparton become the best it can be. We have so much unique potential and need to improve on our strengths. Let us celebrate our volunteers, keep our local tradies busy, support our local health workers and recognise the needs of young families. If re-elected, I intend to clean up this town by advocating for tip tickets/hard rubbish collections, pushing to establish more off-leash dog parks in smaller towns like Murchison and Tatura, encouraging more food van trading, exploring a dirt-bike jump-friendly zone for our kids and by fighting for our share of Federal and State funding. I am excited about opening the Moove Museum at Emerald Bank and retaining Spring Nats as a cultural icon for this region. In terms of personal ability, I have a proven track record of experience, engagement and effectiveness in Local Government since being first elected in 2012. My day job is nursing at a Moorroopna medical clinic, and I regularly enjoy listening to the needs of residents. I believe we get the best outcomes when differing viewpoints combine in robust debate, so I am not afraid to challenge recommendations put to us by the organisation. Speaking up takes courage, but it is essential for a healthy democracy. Finally, I represent those who dont necessarily have a voice at the Council table. As your public servant, I will do my best to make your voice heard.

Appendix 8: Daily breakdown of the general mail-out

Greater Shepparton City Council election			
6 October 2020	7 October 2020	8 October 2020	Total
15,722	15,722	14,797	46,241

Appendix 9: Result information

Greater Shepparton City Council election

Count summary

Enrolment:	46,242
Formal votes:	35,931
Informal votes:	2,751 (7.11% of the total votes)
Voter turnout:	38,682 (83.65% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
O'KEEFFE, Kim	6,754	18.80%
TURNER, Allan	399	1.11%
HAYDAR BIG, Zahra	821	2.28%
DOBSON, Geoffrey Dennis	1,021	2.84%
JAMES, Gregory	3,080	8.57%
ABDULLAH, Seema	2,873	8.00%
PRIESTLY, Robert	5,404	15.04%
SPINKS, Sam	1,230	3.42%
ADEM, Dinny	1,038	2.89%
SUTTON, Shelley Anne	674	1.88%
BOCK, Andrew	657	1.83%
BROPHY, Anthony John	1,258	3.50%
JAMES, Royden	894	2.49%
LADSON, Ben	1,089	3.03%
NEFF, Steve	344	0.96%
SALI, Shane	5,387	14.99%
SUMMER, Fern	3,008	8.37%

Successful candidates

O'KEEFFE, Kim (1st elected candidate)
PRIESTLY, Robert (2nd elected candidate)
SALI, Shane (3rd elected candidate)
JAMES, Gregory (4th elected candidate)
ABDULLAH, Seema (5th elected candidate)
SUMMER, Fern (6th elected candidate)
DOBSON, Geoffrey Dennis (7th elected candidate)
BROPHY, Anthony John (8th elected candidate)
SPINKS, Sam (9th elected candidate)

Appendix 10: Election participation statistics

Note: Participation is measured by the number of marks on the roll as a percentage of total enrolment and can vary from turnout (total ballot papers counted as a percentage of total enrolment).

Greater Shepparton City Council election			
Enrolment category	Participation as a percentage of voters enrolled in each category for 2020 Greater Shepparton City Council general election	Comparator for 2016 Greater Shepparton City Council general election	Statewide postal election comparator for 2020 LG elections (excl. Melbourne City Council)
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	86.51%	80.87%	86.27%
aged 18 to 69 years old on election day	85.51%	80.80%	85.48%
aged 70 years and over on election day	90.83%	81.20%	90.14%
Voters enrolled through sections 243 - 245 of the LG Act	57.17%	39.74%	60.96%
Council total	85.86%	78.84%	84.12%

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