

Circular Details	Circular No 19-24 / 30 September 2019 / A658288
Previous Circular	N/A
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / Governance staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information

Ward boundary and name changes

What's new or changing?

- Councils must review their ward boundaries and notify the NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) of any finalised changes to ward boundaries and/or names before **9 December 2019**.

What this will mean for your council

- Under section 211 of the *Local Government Act 1993* councils that are divided into wards must keep ward boundaries under review to ensure the difference in elector numbers between wards does not exceed 10%. For information on how the variation is to be calculated, please consult the attachment to this Circular.
- Before altering ward boundaries, councils must:
 - consult the NSWEC and the Australian Statistician; and
 - prepare and publicly exhibit a plan detailing any proposed alteration (the ward boundary plan).
- After public exhibition, councils must also notify the NSWEC of the final changes.

Key points

- Local government ordinary elections are to be held on **12 September 2020**.
- Councils must:
 - consult with the NSWEC prior to exhibiting a new boundary plan; and
 - notify the NSWEC after new boundaries are finalised.
- The NSWEC maintains a website to assist councils review ward boundaries and provide guidance on the process for consulting with it.
- Councils must publicly exhibit the ward boundary plan for at least 28 days and consider any submissions made during the 42-day consultation period.
- The closing date for councils to notify the NSWEC of final ward boundary and name changes for the next ordinary elections is **9 December 2019**.

Where to go for further information

- For more information consult the NSWEC's website [here](#) or contact Bronwyn Butland at NSWEC on 9290 5928 or bronwyn.butland@elections.nsw.gov.au.



Tim Hurst
Deputy Secretary
Local Government, Planning and Policy

2
Attachment

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

For example: Local Government Area with 4 wards, with a total of 10,000 electors in the Area:

Ward 1 = 2,630 electors
Ward 2 = 2,367 electors
Ward 3 = 2,553 electors
Ward 4 = 2,450 electors
Total = 10,000 electors

The difference between wards 1 and 2 (greatest and least numbers of electors) = 263, or 10% of 2,630.

In the above example, the arrangement does not result in a variation of more than 10% between the number of electors and each ward of the Area. If, however, the variation becomes greater than 10%, councils are required to alter their ward boundaries in compliance with section 211 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.