

Ward Boundary Review

July 2023



Background

Port Stephens is divided into 3 Wards: East, Central and West Wards.

The Wards are made up of an elector population of 59,255 with the numbers split across each ward as follows:

East 18070;

Central 21371 and

West 19814.

Please note: these elector numbers are dated from 20 June 2023 and may change each month.

We're required to monitor the number of electors within each Ward to help ensure numbers of voters are balanced across each ward. Should the number of electors in one ward differ by more than 10% from the number of electors in any other ward a ward boundary adjustment may be required.

This difference for Port Stephens currently sits at about 18% and we're now currently reviewing the ward boundaries to ensure the elector numbers are balanced across the local government area and that there is appropriate representation across the wards.

Proposed changes

The changes to the ward boundaries will affect 863 residents across West and Central wards. The proposed changes are:

- The suburb of Boat Harbour will move from Central Ward to East Ward.
- The area including part of Harvest Road and Waterview Close, Medowie will move from West Ward to Central Ward.

Please see the map overleaf.

Have your say

If you have any questions please attend our community engagement session at Birubi Point Hall, 1A Fishermans Bay Road, Anna Bay on Thursday 3 August 2023, please drop in anytime between 3:30 to 5:30pm. No appointment is necessary.

Submissions are invited and can be lodged until Friday, 1 September 2023. Please quote PSC2022-04021.

Further information can be found on Council's website www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is Council conducting this review?

Section 2112 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to keep the ward elector numbers under review. If Council becomes aware that the elector numbers in one ward differs by more than 10 per cent from the numbers of electors in any other ward, then Council must seek to make changes. The difference currently sits at about 18%.

What would happen if Council didn't introduce changes to the ward boundaries?

Council must take action otherwise it would be in breach of the Local Government Act and may be subject to action by the Office of Local Government.

Who will this review affect?

The changes to the ward boundaries will affect around 863 residents across West and Central Wards. There will be no changes in terms of resident movement in East Ward.

1. The suburb of Boat Harbour will move from Central Ward to East Ward.
2. The area including part of Harvest Road and Waterview Close, Medowie will move from West Ward to Central Ward.

Will I have the opportunity to provide Council with my views of the proposed changes?

Yes. All residents, including those affected, are invited to make submissions.

We are also conducting a drop in community engagement at Birubi Point Hall, 1A Fishermans Bay Road, Anna Bay 3 August 2023, 3:30-5:30pm to help answer any questions.

Who is consulted as part of the changes?

Council will engage with the residents of Port Stephens and consult with the Electoral Commission NSW, the Office of Local Government and the Australian Statistician.

When would the new ward boundaries come into effect?

The changes would come into effect following approval of the NSW Electoral Commissioner, following public exhibition. Once approved, the new boundaries would take effect at the September 2024 local government election.

Who do I contact for further information?

Council's Governance Section Manager can provide further information on the proposal by telephoning 4988 0255 or email council@portstephens.nsw.gov.au

What is the proposed timeframe?

11 July 2023

Council endorsement to proceed

21 July 2023 to 1 September 2023

Public exhibition period - submissions invited

September 2023

Council to consider public submissions

5 October 2023

Submit changes to Electoral Commission NSW

September 2024

New Ward boundaries apply

