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## **Governance and Administration Matters - 23 July 2019**

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### **ITEM 7.2                      Ward Boundaries**

**AUTHOR                      Office of General Manager**

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the report is to review Councils current ward boundaries prior to the 2020 local government elections in accordance with advice received from the NSW Electoral Commission.

Councillors would recall that a Briefing was provided on the current ward boundaries and Councillors were invited to provide suggestions to revise the ward Boundaries. A suggestion was received to amend the boundary between Bankstown and Roselands Wards which is discussed in the report.

#### **ISSUE**

To determine if any amendments are proposed for Council's ward boundaries prior to the 2020 local government elections.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council proceed with the ward boundary alteration proposal as detailed in the report.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## **POLICY IMPACT**

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The report has no implications for Council's policies.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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Should Council determine to commence the process of altering its ward boundaries, costs for preparing the Ward Boundaries Plan and public exhibition would be incurred. Such costs would be minor and could be met from existing budget allocations.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

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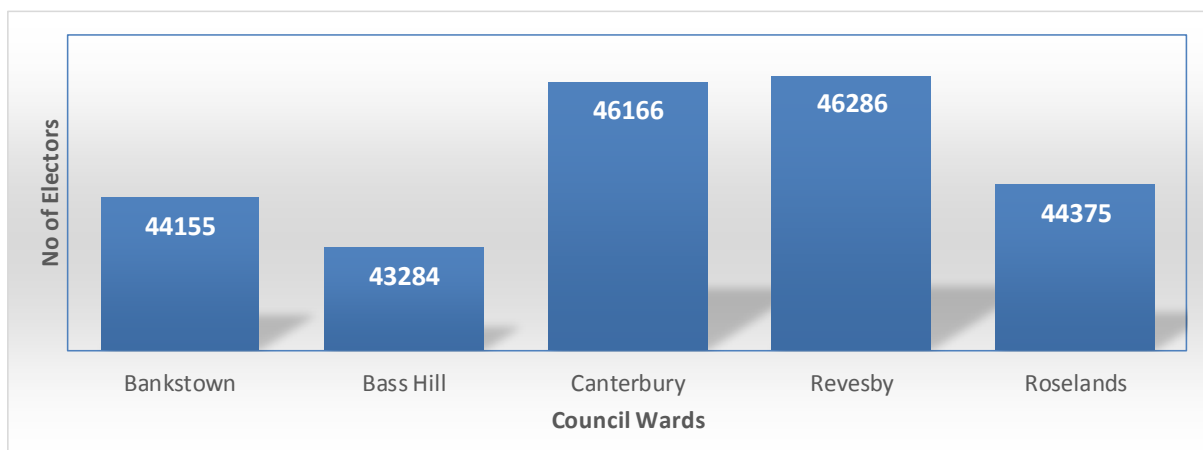
The report would impact a small number of electors that would need to be transferred between wards as a result of any boundary alteration.

## DETAILED INFORMATION

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Advice has been received from the NSW Electoral Commission that Councils seeking to change ward boundaries or change ward names prior to the 2020 Local Government elections, should commence the review process now.

Canterbury Bankstown Council is divided into wards and is therefore required by section 211 of the Local Government Act 1993 to keep the ward boundaries under review to ensure that a difference in elector numbers of no greater than 10% exists between wards. Council would be required to alter its ward boundaries if the number of electors between wards differed by more than 10%. The number of electors in each ward for Canterbury Bankstown Council is provided by the NSW Electoral Commission and is shown below:



The above chart shows that the variation in the number of electors between wards is 6.5% which is well within the 10% tolerance limit permitted by the Local Government Act.

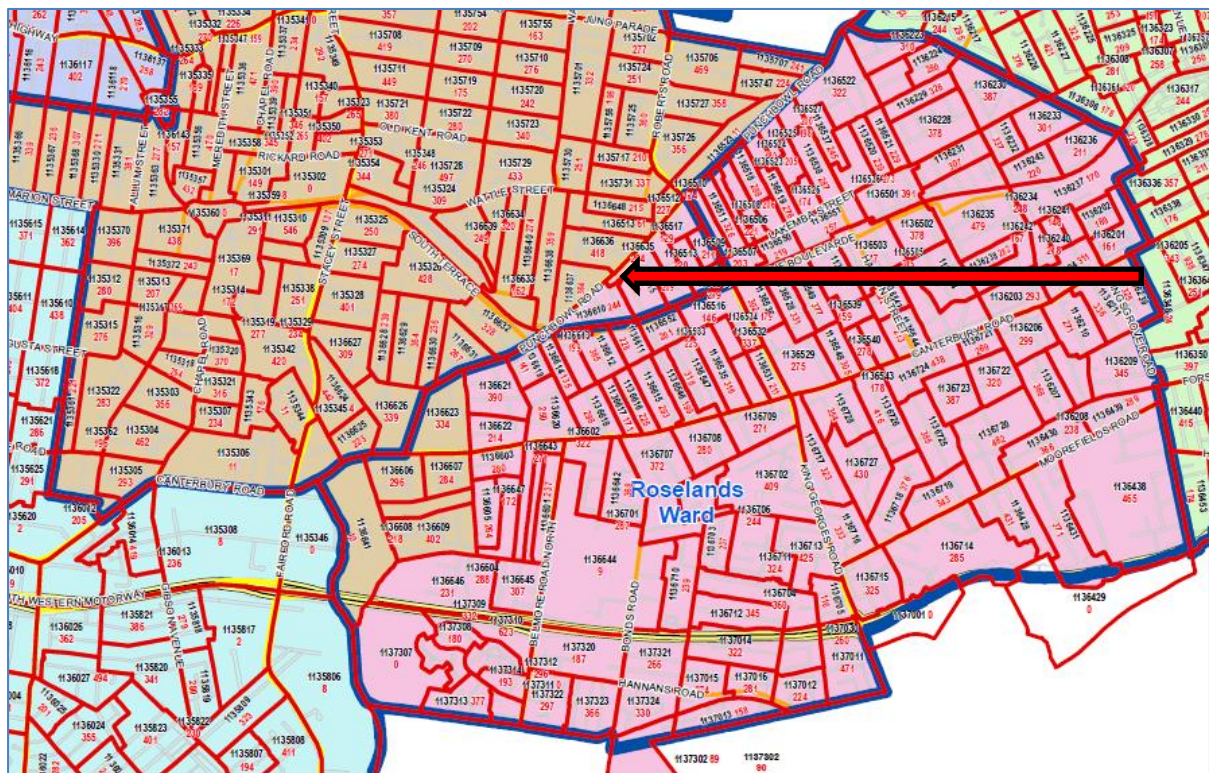
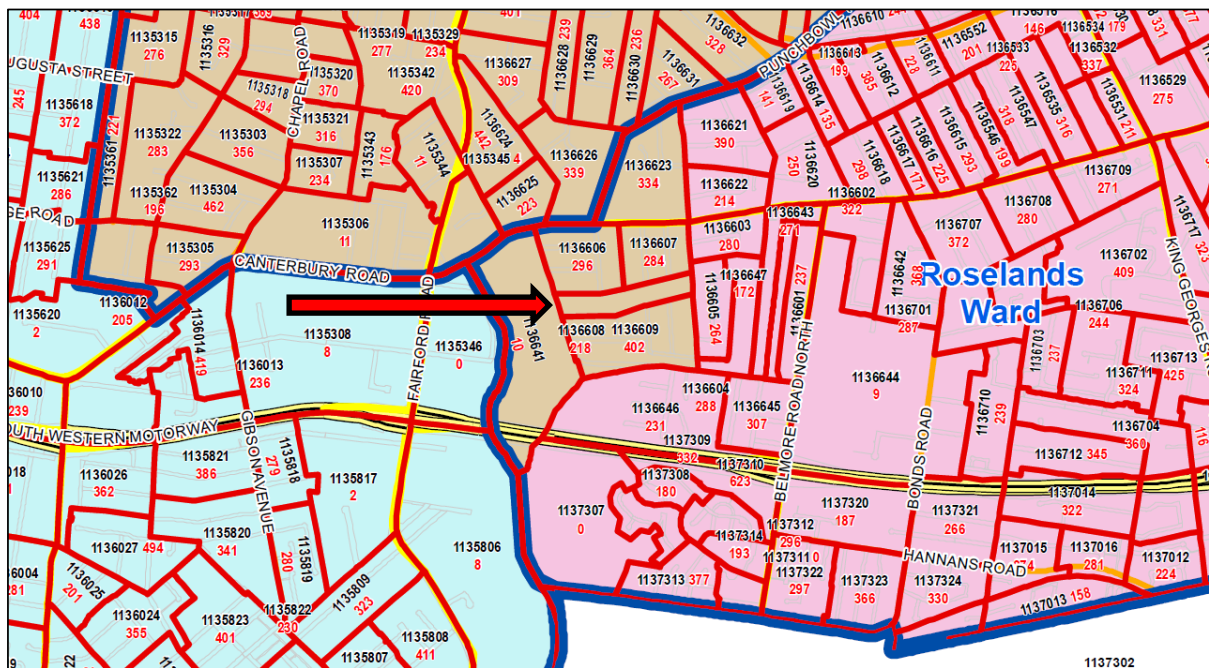
Councillors in 2018 were provided with a Briefing on current ward boundaries and the statutory process for altering ward boundaries. Councillors were also provided with a map showing the current ward boundaries and given the opportunity to make suggestions to alter the ward boundaries that would not breach the 10% variation in the number of electors between wards and would provide benefits such as:

- Achieve a more appropriate basis of representation; or
- Align ward boundaries along geographical and/or significant infrastructure (such as major roads, waterways etc).

A proposal was subsequently received to alter the ward boundary between Bankstown and Roselands wards at the following two points:

- Punchbowl Road/Wiggs Road/McLaughlin Oval
- Punchbowl Road/Urunga Parade/The Boulevard

The proposed alteration to the ward boundary is shown in the following maps.



The proposed boundary amendment will

- align part of the ward boundary with Punchbowl Road (a major arterial road), effectively restoring the boundary to that of the former Canterbury Council area. This will assist/reduce confusion for residents around the area.
- have minimal effect on the number of electors in each ward; electors in Roselands Ward will increase by 89 with a corresponding decrease in electors in Bankstown Ward
- Not affect the current variation of 6.5% of electors in each Ward

Should Council wish to proceed with the proposed boundary amendment, it will need to meet the statutory process for amending ward boundaries as detailed in the Local Government Act. In summary, the process is as follows:

- Prepare a draft Ward Boundaries Plan showing the proposed boundary alteration
- Consult with NSW Electoral Commission and Australian Statistician
- Exhibit the draft plan and call for submissions
- Following consideration of submissions, Council can resolve to either
  - Implement the Ward Boundaries Plan
  - Discontinue the process
- Should Council resolve to implement the Plan, the General Manager must give public notice of the Plan
- The NSW Electoral Commission must also be advised of Council's decision

The NSW Electoral Commission has advised that submissions to alter ward boundaries for the 2020 election must be received by 9 December 2019. Therefore should Council resolve to alter its ward boundaries, it must complete the above process prior to 9 December 2019.