

2020 Local government elections

Southern Grampians Shire Council

Election Report





© State of Victoria

(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 Michael Tudball
Chief Executive Officer
Southern Grampians Shire Council
Locked Bag 685
HAMILTON VIC 3300

Dear Mr Tudball

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warwick Gately', with a stylized, cursive script.

Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner

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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 Southern Grampians Shire 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 Southern Grampians Shire Council

Southern Grampians Shire Council is comprised of seven councillors elected from an unsubdivided structure.

The electoral structure was last reviewed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* through an electoral representation review in 2019.

Subsequent to the review, in April 2020 the structure of Southern Grampians Shire Council was determined by the Minister to remain as unsubdivided in accordance with the new LG Act.



Figure 1: The electoral structure of Southern Grampians Shire 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 Southern Grampians Shire Council general election included 13,058 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 Southern Grampians Shire 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 Southern Grampians Shire 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, Southern Grampians Shire Council nominated the following newspaper for the statutory notices to appear in:

- Hamilton Spectator.

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 – 7,500 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 – 7,685 VoterAlert messages were sent by SMS and email advising that the VEC had commenced posting ballot packs.

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 and no requests for braille ballot material for Southern Grampians Shire Council.

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 Leanne Huf as the Election Manager for the 2020 Southern Grampians Shire Council general election.

The appointed Assistant Election Manager was Susan Bell.

Election office

The Election Manager was responsible for the establishment and management of the election office located at 140 Thompson Street, Hamilton. 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.

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, 15 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 photograph. The Election Manager accepted questionnaire submissions lodged by all candidates at the election.

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

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

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 four 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 six early votes for the election.

Mail-out of ballot packs

The VEC mailed 13,058 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 four 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, 242 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 14 unenrolled votes and following relevant checks, one was 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 244 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 9,984 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 1,630 ballot paper envelopes during the extended postal vote receipt period.

The total returned ballot paper envelopes for Southern Grampians Shire Council was 11,614.

The Election Manager set aside 321 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 Southern Grampians Shire Council.

Results

Extraction

A total of 11,293 ballot paper envelopes were admitted to the extraction process.

The extraction of ballot papers occurred at the Martin J Hynes Auditorium, 5 Market Place, Hamilton commencing on Monday 26 October. 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 19 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 11,274 ballot papers proceeded to the count.

Computer count

Following the extraction of ballot papers admitted to the count for Southern Grampians Shire 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 Martin J Hynes Auditorium, 5 Market Place, Hamilton 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 Southern Grampians Shire 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 Southern Grampians Shire Council general election were declared at 12 noon on Thursday 5 November 2020 at The Art Gallery, 107 Brown Street, Hamilton.

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 Southern Grampians Shire Council election was 88.47%, which is higher than the State average of 84.12% (excluding Melbourne City Council) and higher than the 83.05% rate at the 2016 Southern Grampians Shire 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 (89.65%) compared to voters enrolled on the CEO's List (67.25%).

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 Southern Grampians Shire Council general election was 86.35%. 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 81.68%.

Informality

The overall informal voting rate recorded at the 2020 Southern Grampians Shire Council general election was 5.79%, compared with the State average of 4.76%. An informality rate of 4.52%

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

was recorded at the Southern Grampians Shire 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 two written complaints in relation to the election of Southern Grampians Shire Council, both of which related to category two, 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 Southern Grampians Shire 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 Southern Grampians Shire 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

Southern Grampians Shire Council 2020 general election

BALLOT PAPERS PRINTED

Victorian Electoral Commission	16,000
Election Manager	20
Total	16,020

BALLOT PAPERS ISSUED

General mail out	13,058
Early and replacement votes	250
Unenrolled declaration votes	14
Spoilt	0
Sub total	13,322
Unused	2,698
Total	16,020

DECLARATIONS RETURNED

General mail out admitted to the extraction	11,068
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	224
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	1
Returned declarations unable to admit to the extraction	321
Declarations returned to sender	242
Sub total	11,856
Declarations not returned	1,466
Total	13,322

Schedule 2: Certification statement

In accordance with Regulation 77, I certify that Schedule 1 of this report on the conduct of the 2020 Southern Grampians Shire 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MM Gately', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner

Appendix 1: Breakdown of the voters’ roll

Southern Grampians Shire Council	
Voters enrolled through an entitlement under section 241 of the LG Act	12,368
Voters enrolled through entitlements under sections 242 – 245 of the LG Act	690
Total	13,058

Appendix 2: Statutory advertising

Southern Grampians Shire Council election Schedule of public notices

Close of roll notice (see Appendix 2.1 for example)

VEC Website	8 August 2020
Hamilton Spectator	13 August 2020

Notice of election (see Appendix 2.2 for example)

VEC Website	31 August 2020
Hamilton Spectator	3 September 2020

Voting details notice (see Appendix 2.3 for example)

VEC Website	28 September 2020
Hamilton Spectator	1 October 2020

Reminder notice (see Appendix 2.4 for example)

VEC Website	12 October 2020
Hamilton Spectator	15 October 2020

Notice of result (see Appendix 2.5 for example)

VEC Website	23 November 2020
Hamilton Spectator	26 November 2020

Appendix 2.1: Close of roll notice for Southern Grampians Shire Council

Southern Grampians Shire Council postal election

Your council, your vote



You must be enrolled to vote

A general election will be held for Southern Grampians Shire 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 Southern Grampians Shire 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 Southern Grampians Shire 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 Southern Grampians Shire and you are not on the State electoral roll OR
- you have lived at your current residential address within Southern Grampians Shire 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 Southern Grampians Shire.

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 Southern Grampians Shire 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 Southern Grampians Shire OR
- you pay rates on a property you occupy in Southern Grampians Shire, for example you are a shop tenant and pay rates to the Council for the tenancy, and you have no other voting entitlement within Southern Grampians Shire OR

- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates to Southern Grampians Shire Council and you have no other voting entitlement within Southern Grampians Shire.

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

If you meet any of the mentioned criteria and wish to enrol, contact Southern Grampians Shire Council on (03) 5573 0435 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) 5573 0435.

Thinking about standing for election?

Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate for Southern Grampians Shire Council, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Southern Grampians Shire 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

@electionsvic



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

- 普通话 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داري 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 • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomaali 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 2.2: Notice of election for Southern Grampians Shire Council

Southern Grampians Shire Council postal election

Your council, your vote

Vote by post this October

Voting

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Southern Grampians Shire 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
Southern Grampians Shire 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 140 590 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 Southern Grampians Shire 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:

140 Thompson Street, Hamilton

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 140 590 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

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


- 普通话 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داری 9209 0193 Dari
- Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Елзавича 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 • Somali 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 Southern Grampians Shire Council

Southern Grampians Shire 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 140 590 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:

140 Thompson Street, Hamilton

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 140 590

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


- 普通话 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داری 9209 0193 Dari
- Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Елзавича 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 • Somali 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 2.4: Reminder notice for Southern Grampians Shire Council

Southern Grampians Shire 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 140 590 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:

140 Thompson Street, Hamilton

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 140 590

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

• 9209 0190 Amharic • 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • 9209 0193 Dari • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ភាសាខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0184 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomaali 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.


@electionsvic

Appendix 2.5: Notice of results for Southern Grampians Shire Council

Southern Grampians Shire Council election

Declaration of results



The following candidates were elected to the Southern Grampians Shire Council at the general election held in October 2020:

ROBERTSON, David (1st elected)

COLLITON, Bruch (2nd elected)

HENRY, Helen (3rd elected)

BROWN, Mary-Ann (4th elected)

CALVANO, Albert (5th elected)

McADAM, Greg (6th elected)

RAINSFORD, Katrina (7th elected)



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

Leanne Huf
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

Southern Grampians Shire Council Council-specific media releases and advisories

Enrol now for the Southern Grampians Shire Council election	7 August 2020
Call for candidates for the upcoming Southern Grampians Shire Council election	24 August 2020
Candidates announced for the Southern Grampians Shire Council election	23 September 2020
Ballot packs mailed this week for Southern Grampians Shire Council election	5 October 2020
Voting closes soon for the Southern Grampians Shire Council election	12 October 2020
New councillors for Southern Grampians Shire Council	5 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 Victorian Electoral Commission

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

Victorian Electoral Commission

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 6 and Thursday 8 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](#).

VoterAlert



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](#)

Authorised by W. Galsky, 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](#)



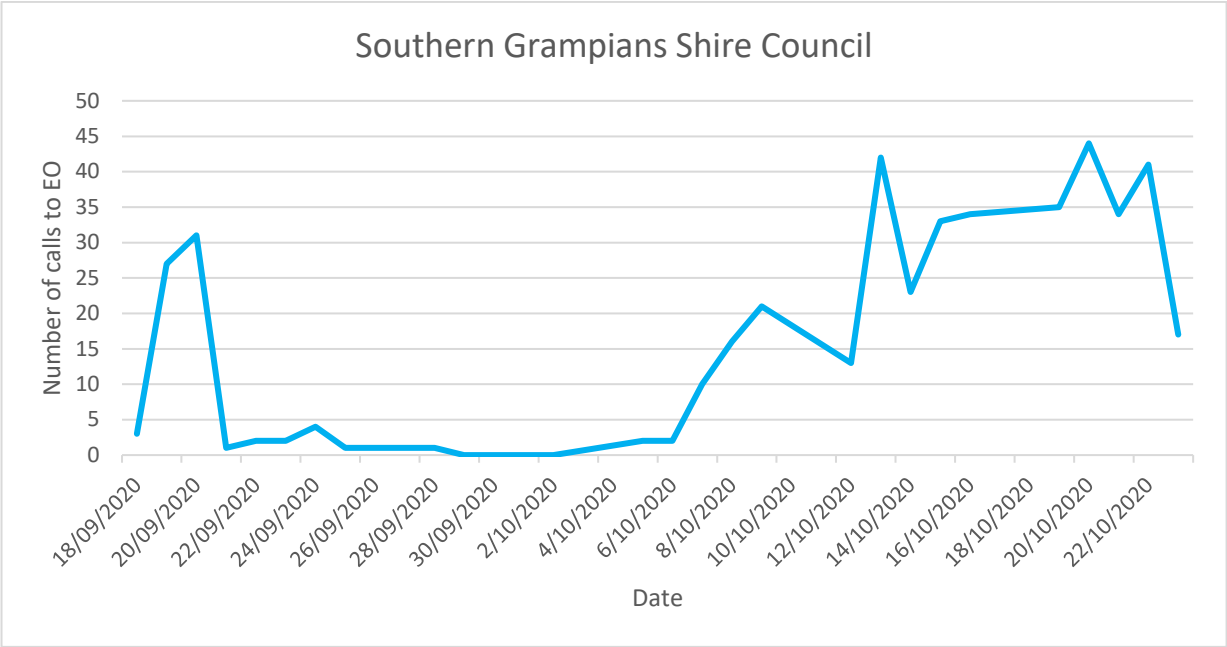
[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

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 Southern Grampians Shire 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:

Southern Grampians Shire Council election

McADAM, Greg

ROBERTSON, David

COLLITON, Bruach

BROWN, Mary-Ann

SHARPLES, Chris

DWIGHT, Bronwyn J.

LEWIS, Lyn

BROWN, Nick

CALVANO, Albert

MALONE, Fran

FOLEY, Peter

COOKE, Ama

RAINSFORD, Katrina

CAMPBELL, Ken

HENRY, Helen

Appendix 7.1: Candidate statements and photographs

Southern Grampians Shire 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
15	15	14

Appendix 7.2: Candidate statement leaflet for Southern Grampians Shire 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:
140 Thompson Street
Hamilton

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.



Southern Grampians
SHIRE COUNCIL

2020 Council Election


VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020



Southern Grampians
Shire Council

THIS IS A POSTAL ELECTION ONLY.

Voting is compulsory for residents.
For further information visit vec.vic.gov.au or
phone 1300 140 590

 **Victorian Electoral Commission**
Printed on 100% Australian made recycled stock

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McADAM, Greg

I was born and educated in Geelong. Served in the ADF for two years and have lived at Mooralla for the last 45 years. I have been a farmer for most of my adult life, and have been married to Jan for 47 years. We have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. I have been involved in a number of Community and volunteer Organisations over many years, and have been able to use that experience to help me make decisions that are in the best interest of the whole of the shire during the last 4 years, and as a self-employed businessman I have a good grasp of financial management. In 2016 when I first stood for election to Council, I included in those I would wish to support, Volunteer, Community and sporting groups as well as Business' both large and small, in Hamilton and in our Townships, for with them will come employment and population growth. More specifically I have been a big supporter of the development of the HRLX, Rural Property Numbering system, New Hamilton Industrial Park, and the Greater Grants scheme which has been used to assist many small organisations spread throughout the Shire. I have always believed, and have stated so publicly more than one occasion, that a new or redeveloped Hamilton Art Gallery should be sited in the CBD as part of Hamilton's multi stage CBD Revitalisation Program.

1

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ROBERTSON, David

I live and farm in the Coleraine district with my wife Fiona. We have been here for 40 years. We have 3 sons who have all returned to the district to live with their families. Over the years I have been actively involved in many local sports, football, hockey, tennis and golf. I was the President of the Hamilton Golf Club for 4 years. I have coached football at Junior and Senior levels, and been involved with the Coleraine Football Club for many years in various roles. I have also been heavily involved in Agricultural Industry matters, serving on the Wool Council of Australia, VFF District Rep, Shearer Training and involved in research programs such as Evergraze and Life Time Ewe Management. I was also privileged to do an Australian Rural Leadership Program which gave me exposure to many social and industry issues in Rural and Regional Australia and the marketing of Australian Agricultural Produce overseas. With all these experiences I have gained knowledge and skills of which I believe would be of great value in representing the Community, to give clear direction and leadership as a Councillor on the Southern Grampians Shire. In this ever changing world we must reassess our performance and continually make improvements. Local Government is there to encourage and stimulate business activity and I will strive to instil this in the Southern Grampians Shire as a Councillor. I will work hard to represent all members of the Community and get the best outcome.

2

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COLLITON, Bruach

I am determined to see projects delivered on time and on budget. I will bring action. As a small business operator I strive for innovation and efficiencies. I know how to adapt quickly and make decisions confidently based on evidence. I see solutions for the problems generated by the status quo, and opportunities to manage our money more efficiently. I believe our region has enormous potential in Agriculture technology, manufacturing, energy production, and ecotourism. Coupled with our culture and lifestyle, we have a very attractive place to live and invest. We have strong communities in all our small towns that create a special package. I will work hard to promote our region by investing in our natural assets to show them off to the world. I propose a pathway for manufacturing in our region, focused on value-add agriculture, energy production and technology. Council needs to plan appropriately to facilitate this future growth. We have untapped airport infrastructure, rail and roads, setting us up as the ultimate hub. I believe in finding win-win outcomes and generating a positive, focused vision for our future, with a can do attitude. I have a great vision for Southern Grampians and will lead with diligence and passion. I will strive to set a proactive culture in local government where we can find the best in each other, building on our vision to be the best place to live and invest. Success comes through hard work. I am proud to be part of a family who has worked hard and invested into education and business for generations. I have been blessed with 4 children, a loving wife and a home that is our castle. I served as a Councillor in 2008-2016 and after a short break, focusing on my family, I'm keen to get more done!

3

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BROWN, Mary-Ann

I have lived on a farm at Dunkeld for more than 30 years and have owned and operated a business in Hamilton for 30 years. From my earliest involvement with the hospital board, the Dunkeld Progress Association, the Dunkeld Community Centre and the Hamilton business community, and as a councillor, I have consistently advocated for support for the communities in this Shire. As a Councillor and Mayor I have been privileged to learn about and connect with all our communities. This knowledge and these connections have given me a good understanding of the issues facing our communities and how Council can support our communities most effectively. I am a team player and want to see a Council which works together to strengthen and diversify our economy, building on our strong agricultural businesses, as well as working to help our tourism and hospitality businesses recover and thrive as we come out of the coronavirus pandemic. My experience as Mayor and as the Chair of Rural Councils Victoria has given me the opportunity to build strong relationships with the state and federal government which will be beneficial for our Shire as we deal with the challenges facing us as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. I have advocated and will continue to put the case to ensure that Southern Grampians Shire and its communities get their fair share of government support to make the most of future opportunities. The Council needs people with leadership and experience. My agricultural, business and community experience, as well as my experience as a Mayor and Councillor, demonstrate that I have the necessary leadership skills and commitment to make a difference and to make our Shire thrive, benefitting all our residents.

4

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SHARPLES, Chris

Our Council should lead development of our region, be proactive and build new ideas. Coming into a Covid-normal world, I see becoming more self-sufficient as the greatest of the many challenges we face. In terms of Council, I believe that increasing our own capacity to realise our goals will be at the forefront of the coming years. We should not have to rely on services from outside our region to get jobs done here. We should be able to grow our trades and services locally to deliver those projects, be it by training and upskilling, or investment in our youth, right through to procuring plant and equipment. I want to see more of our skills, and our funds, stay within our community. We live in one of the safest communities in Australia. We have the best water, clean air and abundant resources creating an enviable environment for both lifestyle and business. In this I see incredible opportunities. We can sit and wait, or we can create a future that is both dynamic and rewarding. To do this we must consider all opportunities. In tourism, lead by harnessing value in a revitalised art sector. In agriculture by exploiting the fact that we can grow in seasons where other world producers are dormant. In education where our schools continue to lead by example. In business where encouragement and investment help to build thriving communities. As a resident of Hamilton for over 50 years and businessman for over 30 years, I realise our community is multi-generational with a long and proud history. We're also family friendly - I want it to stay that way. As a member of the Council I plan to continue to build on those strengths with new ideas and fresh forward thinking. Southern Grampians, a region of incredible opportunities!

5

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DWIGHT, Bronwyn J.

I moved to Hamilton with my husband and daughter in 2012. My husband and I were both police officers with Victoria Police. When the option came to work in a regional community, we jumped at the opportunity. I took early retirement from policing in January 2019. We also have two sons, both married and two grand daughters. I enjoy singing, playing golf, being with friends and a good cup of coffee at one of Hamilton's many fabulous cafes. We love Hamilton and have chosen, in retirement, to continue to live here and to engage in whatever ways we can for the benefit of this diverse community. I have formed significant relationships with many in the community through involvement with varied community activities whether as member of ParkRun, organising Hamilton's Carols by Candlelight for the past two years or being on a Committee developing strategies to minimise the effects of ICE in our region. As a new candidate, I am committed to bringing a fresh voice to the Council, to ensuring our residents are heard, are fully informed and their interests and concerns are truly represented in all decision making. I am passionate about Hamilton being a community where all residents are able to thrive and will work toward this by listening to the concerns of residents and supporting events, programs, infrastructure and business development that contribute to the growth of this region.

6

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LEWIS, Lyn

As the owner of two hospitality businesses in Hamilton, I'm excited about the opportunity representing Council would afford me to help grow our town and region. My family chose this area nearly six years ago, while looking for a business, we found a town with tree lines streets, friendly people, and an abundance of opportunity. Our decision was made, it felt right. Since purchasing The Lakeside Motel, we have won awards locally, at a state level and across Australasia. My life has been filled with volunteer roles from Kindergarten President, Auskick canteen manager, and various charities including starting the Absent Friends Auxiliary of the Royal Children's Hospital in 2010. I am still President of this organisation and was last year declared a "Living Treasure" by the RCH. Since moving to Hamilton I have been involved with the Woolly West Fest, the committee of the Hamilton Regional Business Association, and on the Board of Management of Alexandra House Sportsclub for 4 years, the Chair since 2018. I am putting myself forward for Council because I believe that our shire want progress but are hesitant to rush into change for changes sake. There is a reason we love living in this part of the world and we must fight to retain its integrity and aesthetic appeal, but without sensible and managed progress we cannot attract new residents and visitors to maintain business, investment and facilitate growth. We need Councillors who will represent our collective views, communicate with the community, listen, and work together to see good plans come to fruition. Many of these plans have already been made, some are ready to act upon, others need development, reworking, further consultation or expansion. Voters need to see decisions being made to enhance the entire region, and the benefits flowing through our community.

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BROWN, Nick

I want to make the Southern Grampians shire what the people of our community deserve it to be. Unified, thriving, positive and forward-moving. And this will only be achieved if myself and other councillors actually listen to what the community has to say. I want to be a part of a united council that works together to deliver. Each councillor will have their own focus areas and interests, that is needed, but there must be mutual respect because a divided council is only going to see the people of Southern Grampians pay the price and suffer. Therefore, the saying teamwork makes the dream work is one we must live by. My vision for Southern Grampians is to be the envy of other shires, to be a place where people want to travel far and wide to visit, where people want to move to, where people want to continue to live, where people want to retire. I am born and raised in Hamilton, and every day I consider myself extremely fortunate for that. I am proud to be from Hamilton and the Southern Grampians shire. I want to make sure that we build on making this already amazing region even greater, so that everyone is proud to be a part of the Southern Grampians shire. Our region has so much potential and it's time we work together to turn that potential into reality and make the Southern Grampians shire the greatest shire you could ever be a part of. The time to make this happen is now, but change is needed. So vote for me and I vow to deliver this.

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CALVANO, Albert

For the last twelve years it has been a privilege and honour to be trusted as councillor and two terms as Mayor. I'm deeply conscious of that privilege I have established the importance of creating trust and building relationships with the community. Success doesn't come easy without dedication. There is great obligation on councillors, to tell the community clearly what the difficulties and challenges are, how we work our way through contentious issues, and what I'll try to do with community engagement. 2020 has been a challenging year for all because of Covid-19, but I'm confident that there are better times ahead, by keeping our economy strong and making sure that we still provide the services to our community. Making sure that our loans are kept to a minimum, only to be accessed for economic development. We need to continue to build our economy for the future, based on our skills, talent, education, agriculture, export, food & fibre, mining, tourism, technology and population growth etc. I'm a realist! I'm for the people and still have unfinished projects to oversee. I pride myself that people of the shire have felt free to approach me on issues that concern them. I acknowledge the importance of serving the whole of the Southern Grampians Shire Council. (This Shire does not have wards.) I will continue to be a proud ambassador for this community, making fair judgement, be accessible, approachable and deal with your concerns if elected. With the privilege that this community has given me in the past, I have gained more experience and have more to offer. For further information contact 0457 856 056. Albert Calvano.

9

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It must be acknowledged that businesses across the shire are currently facing hardship, and one of my visions for the greater shire is to grow tourism which will benefit businesses and residents of small communities. I'm an active member of several local committees and sporting organisations, just lately have been pivotal with the success of installing the RV Dump Point at the Tourist Info Centre, as well as instigating the Go Figure Coleraine! project [art installation of animal figurines in Coleraine's main street]. In one of my previous professional roles, I was required to be the facilitator between the Corporate mining giants, and the small surrounding communities that had specific needs. This required an understanding of the values and needs of those communities, to ensure that they were able to function as included communities and not forgotten. One needs to have empathy, a sense of fairness and be approachable. My work and life experiences have instilled these attributes. My voice will be strong and passionate, advocating for small communities throughout the shire. My Visions are to ensure that our communities have their needs effectively represented. To raise the profile, livability and tourist benefits of all these small communities. Work towards innovative and creative ways to encourage tourism. Let me be your voice in Council. Small communities matter</p> <p>10</p>	<p>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.</p> <div></div> <p>FOLEY, Peter</p> <p>I am a prison Supervisor for the Department of Justice and Community Safety and I believe my experience in this role makes me a perfect candidate for the upcoming Southern Grampians Shire Council elections. I am responsible for a large budget and understand that every decision I make daily is spending tax payers money. I have a passion to lead and to be a positive role model. I will be a Councillor that carefully considers information, understands the affects on community and is in touch with residents needs. I am confident in my ability to represent. I want to assist in helping give the youth of our shire the opportunity to stay and thrive in the area that they grew up in. I want to turn the Southern Grampians Shire into an educational hub and lock in a University that will utilize and benefit all the great industries we have in the area. We lose too many of our students to other cities in their search to further their education. This valuable resource is lost, and all the hard work that has been done by our community over their years of schooling, will be the benefit to other cities and not our own.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>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.</p> <div></div> <p>COOKE, Ama</p> <p>Councillors should come from different sectors of the community. I have experience in many roles, from running my own businesses for over 30 years, to decades of volunteering on a variety of committees in differing towns, large and small, to now being a carer with time to dedicate to activities such as being president of the Penshurst Progress Association, secretary of the Memorial Hall and annual Art Exhibition, treasurer of the Mens' Shed and co-creator of the town Newsletter. I am determined, persistent, focused, honest, thoughtful, kind, compassionate. My vision for the Shire is a place where our grandchildren have a secure future in a healthy environment, a safe, cohesive and loving community that cares for the elderly, is inclusive and just, with enough employment and activities that help us be prosperous, happy and productive. It takes teamwork to create that future. I want to be part of that team. While the pandemic has challenged lives and livelihoods, it has not beaten us. The road back to true prosperity requires the co-operation of everyone, starting with me. Right now it is important to focus on the growth in all the towns of our Shire. We need to encourage our businesses to prosper, help fill empty shops, really repair all the roads, be fair to our farmers and foster projects such as the new Art Gallery. The new Council team should be enthusiastic, having their eyes on the future with their feet firmly on the ground. I've spent the last eight years learning about our region. I've been part of the growth and changes in Penshurst. I want to see the same in all our towns. As a Councillor I'll be your voice, I'll listen, I'll act, and I'll keep you informed. Communication is vital. Let's talk. Vote 1 Ama Cooke.</p> <p>12</p>
<p>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.</p> <div></div> <p>RAINSFORD, Katrina</p> <p>Congratulations to all new candidates nominating . We need reform. Council business done differently. More transparency. Delivering Fair Go Rating system for all including farmers. Councillors in portfolios representing our Shire. Councillor only meetings. Return control to elected Councillors applying more financial scrutiny. As a rural and residential ratepayer I can't afford this top heavy management. Check the Annual Financial Report. 1.27 million in consultancies doubled in 12 months alongside increased employee costs of \$650,000. The more you pay the less say you have. Unidentified item more than doubled to 1.34 million. Volunteer groups frustrated and obstructed in achieving commonsense outcomes for their community. Plans for major funding applications not made public. User groups not convened instead consultation in silos. Establishment of Councillor Community Advisory Committees blocked. Only Hamilton public asset Committee Hamilton Regional Livestock Exchange. Major project achieved. It's Operational the new art form. Policies created by executive not approved or discussed with Council. More than where the New Hamilton Gallery is placed (I think we can have both but fix the CBD first) is lack of community consultation on model of management, creating a Board reporting to the CEO. No public EOI. Council could have purchased Lonsdale St vacant building linking Melville Oval with money wasted in last 4 years. Would SES and CFA like support in a pitch for Baimbridge Road Kitset building? Successes include township community driven projects, greater grants, digital innovation, street trees, free entry outdoor pools, dog park, murals and laneway activation. Meanwhile major projects like Cox Street stalled despite 5 million available. What action on Heavy Truck Route? What happened to Passenger Rail Advocacy? No campaign supporting Hamilton meat processing where our majoc produce could be value added as branded product creating 100s of jobs by private enterprise not seeking council funds. Just leadership.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>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.</p> <div></div> <p>CAMPBELL, Ken</p> <p>I would like to give back in a positive way to my local community, by nominating for Council I feel I will be able to achieve this goal. Southern Grampians Shire is a great place to live, educate and raise a family, enjoy life and simply be a part of. Apart from beautiful countryside and landscapes, we are fortunate to have access to services and facilities many communities don't. I feel now is the time to have a positive, progressive, forward thinking, team focussed Council. One that realises the importance of cohesion and unity to be able to work effectively for the benefit of all in the community. A Council that can make a decision based on weighing up the pro's and cons put before them. Representing local views, priorities and needs, whilst engaging and establishing strong working relationships to achieve positive outcomes, for the community as a whole. I believe I possess all the personal skills and qualities, which would benefit and enable me to perform the role. I have had a varied working life and community involvement: working in shearing sheds to Department of Defence, Commonwealth Employment Service to Social Security. Hospital volunteer and fundraising to basketball referee and coach, lifeguard to labourer. I am well experienced in listening and assisting people from diverse backgrounds to address their issues or concerns. Helping people is something I am committed to. Let's work together to make Southern Grampians even better than we thought it could be for the greater community.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>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.</p> <div></div> <p>HENRY, Helen</p> <p>I was born in Digby and grew up helping around the farm (fat lambs, wool & beef); going around the sheep, raking hay, feeding out, roust-a-bouting and burning stubble and I love farm life. My other playgrounds were the Weccurra State forest, the Grampians, and the Wannon River. I have a deep affinity for rolling pastures, volcanic plains, redgums, and freshwater rivers. I ate hot chips after netball in Coleraine, went camping, and came to Hamilton once a month for groceries. I grew up a part of a strong rural community and I believe we all must contribute to our area to remain vibrant and viable. My Grandfather built the Merino school oval with his bulldozer, my mum and aunts repainted the Merino swimming pool one spring, and all the families around town came together for casserole teas every month. Community service and connection are the lifeblood of our area. I am a teacher, I am good at listening and I am great at communicating. I believe in our young people. I do my homework and I know how to read between the lines to ask important questions. I run a successful engineering business here in town with my husband. I am the financial and strategic planner. I am very good with money, budgets, and marketing and believe there are many opportunities for responsible economic growth in our shire and investment into projects that have been planned but have yet to be actioned. I spent ten years living away from home and have been back here for over fifteen years, I choose to live here because Southern Grampians is beautiful, clean, safe, dynamic, and entrepreneurial. Voting for me is a vote for youth, industry, action, and our natural assets. I care about what matters to you.</p> <p>15</p>

Appendix 8: Daily breakdown of the general mail-out

Southern Grampians Shire Council election			
6 October 2020	7 October 2020	8 October 2020	Total
4,440	4,440	4,178	13,058

Appendix 9: Result information

Southern Grampians Shire Council election

Count summary

Enrolment:	13,058
Formal votes:	10,623
Informal votes:	653 (5.79% of the total votes)
Voter turnout:	11,276 (86.35% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
McADAM, Greg	870	8.19%
ROBERTSON, David	1,508	14.20%
COLLITON, Bruach	1,120	10.54%
BROWN, Mary-Ann	1,011	9.52%
SHARPLES, Chris	516	4.86%
DWIGHT, Bronwyn J.	307	2.89%
LEWIS, Lyn	286	2.69%
BROWN, Nick	689	6.49%
CALVANO, Albert	1,007	9.48%
MALONE, Fran	487	4.58%
FOLEY, Peter	515	4.85%
COOKE, Ama	161	1.52%
RAINSFORD, Katrina	915	8.61%
CAMPBELL, Ken	188	1.77%
HENRY, Helen	1,043	9.82%

Successful candidates

ROBERTSON, David (1st elected candidate)
COLLITON, Bruach (2nd elected candidate)
HENRY, Helen (3rd elected candidate)
BROWN, Mary-Ann (4th elected candidate)
CALVANO, Albert (5th elected candidate)
McADAM, Greg (6th elected candidate)
RAINSFORD, Katrina (7th 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).

Southern Grampians Shire Council election			
Enrolment category	Participation as a percentage of voters enrolled in each category for 2020 Southern Grampians Shire Council general election	Comparator for 2016 Southern Grampians Shire Council general election	Statewide postal election comparator for 2020 LG elections (excl. Melbourne City Council)
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	89.65%	85.36%	86.27%
aged 18 to 69 years old on election day	88.65%	85.91%	85.48%
aged 70 years and over on election day	92.86%	83.31%	90.14%
Voters enrolled through sections 243 - 245 of the LG Act	67.25%	58.33%	60.96%
Council total	88.47%	83.05%	84.12%

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