



Review of polling districts and places – what , who, why, when

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Overview

- **What** - size and boundaries of polling districts, location and suitability of polling places
- **Who** - Council responsibility
- **Why and when**
 - Statutory requirements
 - Sections 18A to 18E and Schedule A1 – RPA 1983
 - Review of Polling District and Polling Places Regulations 2006
 - Electoral Commission guidance
- **Definitions** - polling station, polling place, polling district

Polling districts

s.18 - It is the duty of the council / local authority to divide their area into polling districts for the purpose of parliamentary elections...

Constituency with 76,000 electors

2,000 electors per polling district

= 38 x polling districts

Not so simple...

Reasonable facilities for voting

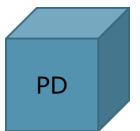
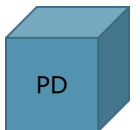
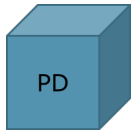
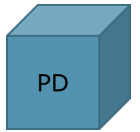
- Convenience for voters
- Transport links
- Community identity

Local government boundaries

Natural / physical boundaries

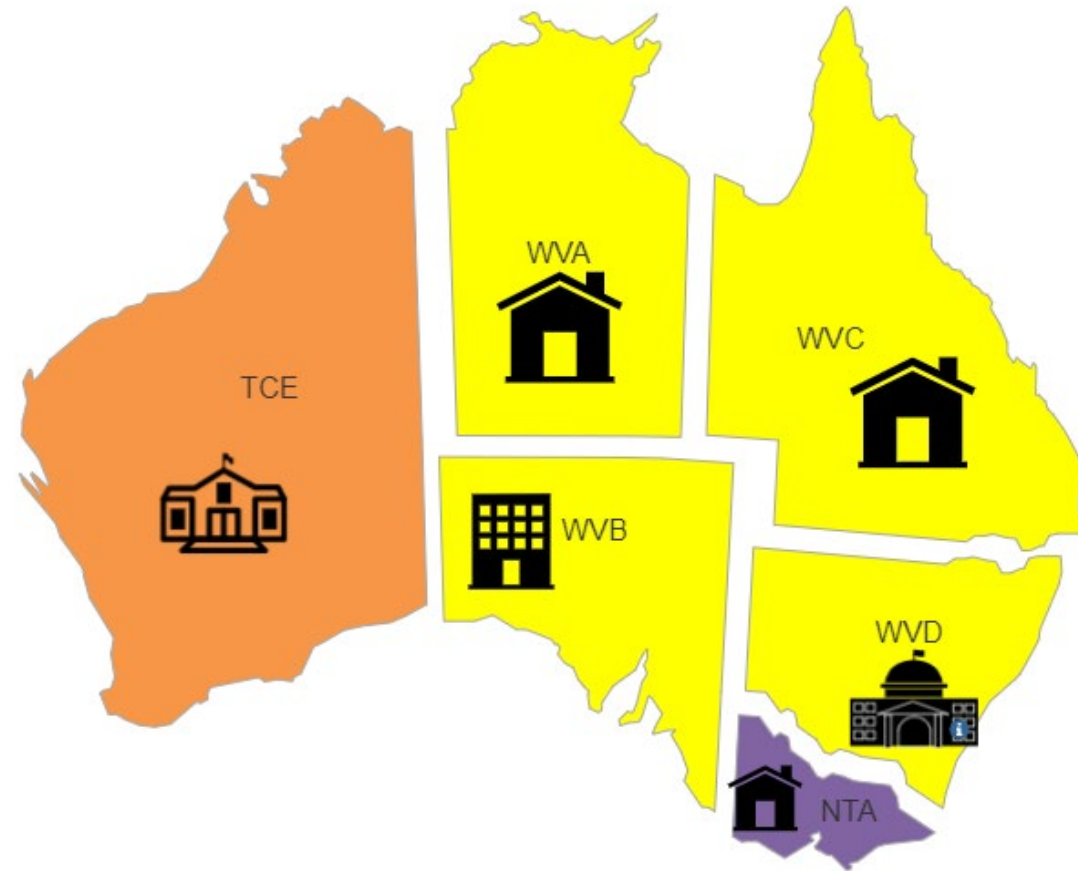
Polling districts – register structure

Constituency	County division	Principal area ward	Parish	Parish ward	Polling district
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire East	Clearvale	Loxley	Loxley Central	CVA
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire East	Clearvale	Loxley	Loxley North	CVB
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire East	Clearvale	Loxley	Loxley South	CVC
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire East	Clearvale	Southfold	Nether Southfold	CVD
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire East	Clearvale	Southfold	Upper Southfold	CVE
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire East	Newtown			NTA
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire East	Newtown			NTB
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire East	Newtown			NTC
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire East	Newtown			NTD
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire West	Town Centre			TCA
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire West	Town Centre			TCB
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire West	Town Centre			TCC
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire West	Town Centre			TCD
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire West	Town Centre	Carlton	Carlton Town	TCE
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire West	Woodvale	Carlton	Carlton Heights	WVA
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire West	Woodvale	Newby	High Newby	WVB
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire West	Woodvale	Newby	Low Newby	WVC
Ballot Valley	Ballotshire West	Woodvale	Tickle		WVD



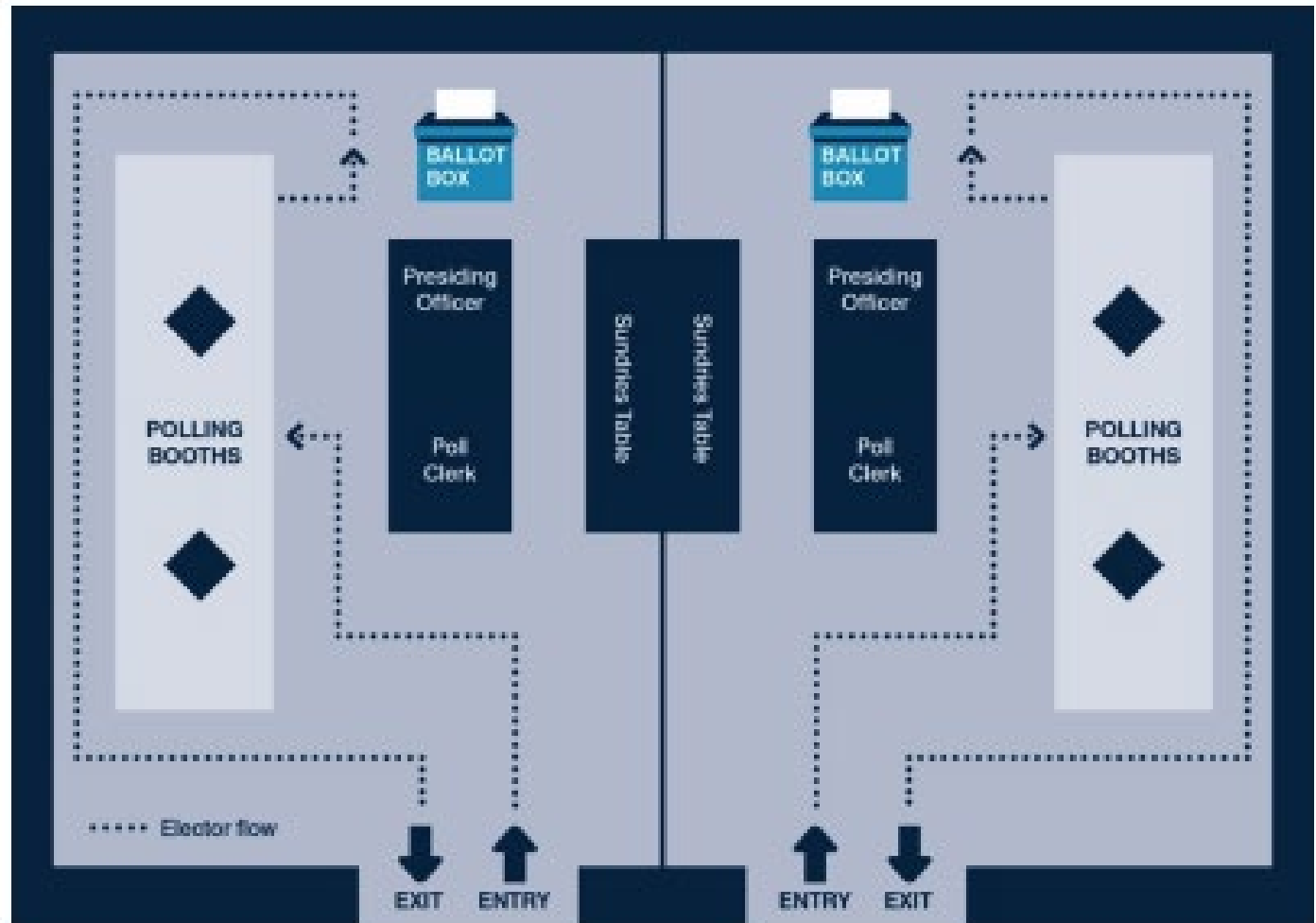
Polling places

Polling Place	Electors
Town Centre primary school	TCE 1 – 1800 TCE 1801 - 3600
Carlton Village Hall	WVA 1 - 1100
Newby College	WVB 1 - 1400
Newby Village Hall	WVC 1 - 900
Tickle Library	WVD 1 - 2000
Newtown Community Centre	NTA 1 - 1600



Polling stations

The RO shall provide a sufficient number of polling stations and allot electors in such manner as he/she thinks convenient...the polling station shall be in the polling place for that district.



Reality



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Type of review

- Compulsory review
 - every five years
 - 1 October 2023 - 31 January 2025
- Interim / partial review
 - must keep districts and places under review
 - at other times –population growth, boundary changes, etc
 - temporary changes for local elections **may** not require a review
- Otherwise - same processes

To review, or not to review?

- Elections Act 2022
 - accessibility
 - size/space required for paperwork, ID checks
 - ratios - allocation of voters and staff
 - private areas / privacy screens

- if no longer suitable, you should review

To review, or not to review?

- Polling station/place becomes unavailable before situation of polling stations is published
 - temporarily – review **may** not be required for local elections
 - permanently – full review required for future elections
 - other room available - review not required
- Polling station/place becomes unavailable in the immediate run up to polling day
 - special circumstances – RO could change without council agreement if election rules allow

Next compulsory review

- 1 October 2023 – 31 January 2025
 - 16-month window
- Parliamentary constituencies
 - Boundary Commission's final proposals July 2023
 - once approved, will be used for next general election
- UK Parliamentary General Election
 - By 28 January 2025
 - Autumn 2023? May 2024? Autumn 2024?

Example timetable – front load preliminary work

Polling place review timetable		Interplay with election - if May 2024
Preparatory work	January – September 2023 New constituency boundaries final report - July 2023	
Notice of review	1 October 2023	
Consult	October – November 2023	
Consider responses	December 2023	
Prepare final proposals	January 2024	
Council meeting and decision	January 2024	
Conclude review	February 2024	
Amend polling scheme	February 2024	
Republish register (if any PD changes)	1 March 2024	Poll card data Notice of Election

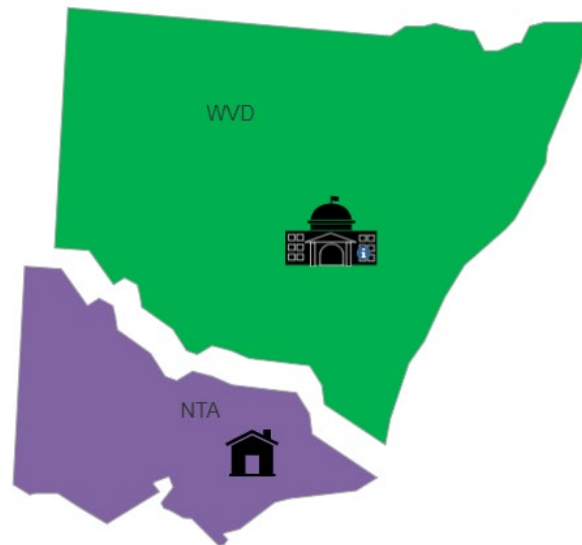
Example – two consecutive reviews

Interim Polling place review timetable	
Preparatory work	January – June 2023 New constituency boundaries final report- July 2023
Notice of review	1 July 2023
Consult	July - August 2023
Consider responses	September 2023
Prepare final proposals	October 2023
Council meeting and decision	November 2023
Conclude review	November 2023
Amend polling scheme	November 2023
Republish register	1 December 2023

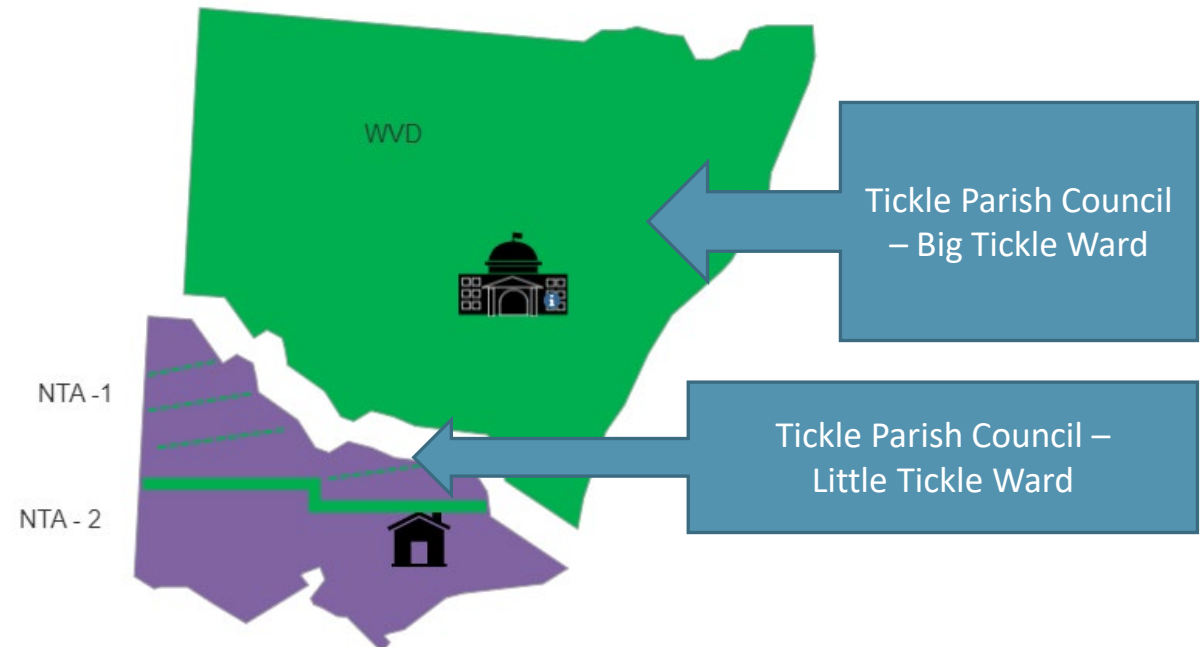
Compulsory review timetable	
Preparatory work	January – June 2024
Notice of review	1 July 2024
Consult	July – August 2024
Consider responses	September 2024
Prepare final proposals	October 2024
Council meeting and decision	November 2024
Conclude review	November 2024
Amend polling scheme	November 2024
Republish register	1 December 2024

To review, or not to review?

- Tickle parish wants to extend its boundary
 - Align a polling district review with the Community Governance review



Polling place
to be
designated for
NTA- 1



Boundary changes

- Boundary changes
 - Community Governance Review
 - Local government review
- Polling district and places review alongside or immediately after the review
- When to publish the register on new boundaries?
 - Ideally, December, splitting polling districts to reflect old and new boundaries
 - If changes order is delayed, old boundaries in December, new in February/March

Stages of review

- Preparatory work
- Notice of review
- (A)RO's proposals
- Consultation
- Prepare final proposals
- Council/committee decision
- Publish outcome
- Adapt and publish register

Who to involve



Thank you

- EC guidance: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/electoral-administrator/returning-officer/polling-place-reviews>
- AEA Training: <https://www.aea-elections.co.uk/training-qualifications/training-courses/course-details/>
- Member Support: member.support@aea-elections.co.uk