RUNNING FOR
COUNCIL

Thinking of running for Council?
Here are a few things you should know

WYCHEPROOF
SHIRE HALL

SHIRE
OFFICES

BULOKE
SHIRE COUNCIL

BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

Acknowledgement of Country

Buloke Shire Council acknowledges the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk people and the Dja Dja Wurrung people as the traditional owners of parts of the land now known as Buloke. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and value their ongoing contribution to our heritage and our community.

Overview of Buloke Shire Council

The Buloke Shire encompasses a total land area of approximately 8,000 square kilometres. It is approximately 140 kilometres long and 60 kilometres wide, with an approximate population of 6,118 people (2023 ABS).
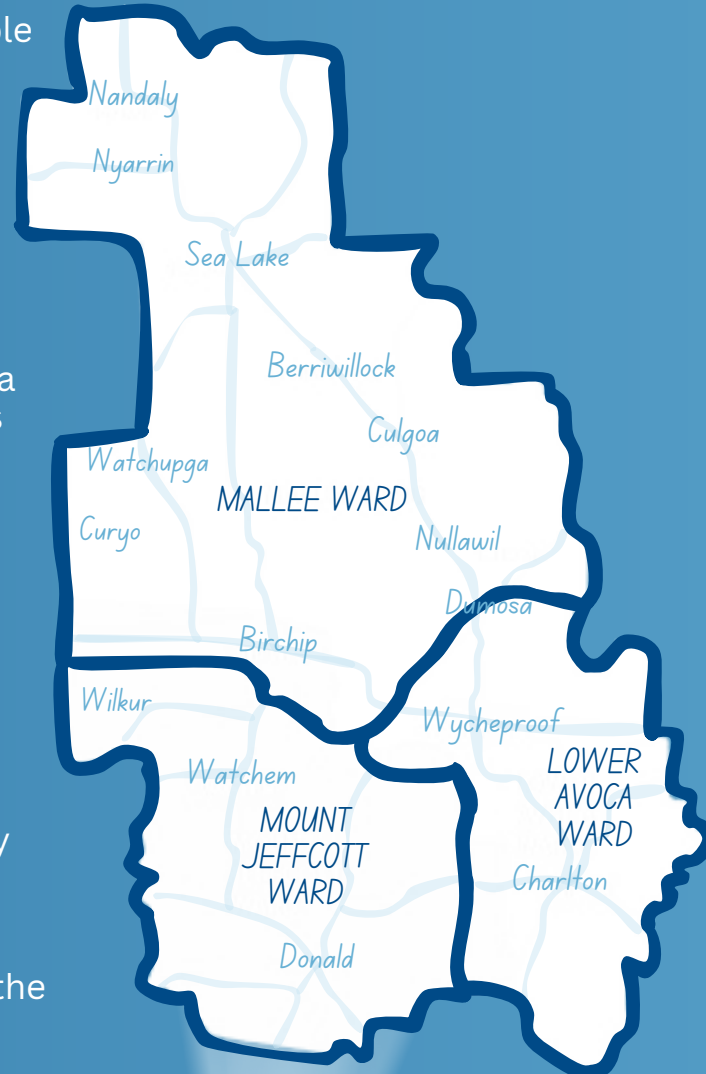
The Buloke Shire is a predominantly rural area. The main townships are Birchip, Charlton, Donald, Sea Lake and Wycheproof. Smaller townships include Berriwillock, Culgoa, Nandaly, Nullawil and Watchem.

Land is used largely for agriculture, particularly grain (wheat, oats and barley) production and sheep grazing.

Council provides an abundance of services to the community such as:

- Customer Service
- Animal Management and Local Laws
- Environmental Health
- Community and Economic Development
- Sport and Recreation
- Kindergartens
- Maternal Child Health Services (immunisation programs)
- Building and Planning
- Library Services
- Emergency Management
- Roads and Footpaths
- Livestock Exchange
- Waste Management

Refer to Council's website for further details: https://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/

MALLEE WARD
Nandaly
Nyarrin
Sea Lake
Berriwillock
Culgoa
Watchupga
Curyo
Nullawil
Dumosa
Birchip
Wilkur
Wycheproof
LOWER AVOCA WARD
Watchem
MOUNT JEFFCOTT WARD
Charlton
Donald

VICTORIA

8,000 square kilometres

Population of 6,118 people

What does being a Councillor involve?

As a councillor you will have the opportunity of making a significant contribution to our community and to be involved in a team working together to create great outcomes for our Shire.

As well as being an effective communicator who has the ability to be open and responsive to all sectors within the community you will need to have a strong community spirit and be a great team player.

Additionally, councillors also need to understand the importance of managing both internal and external relationships. In particular the relationships between the CEO, broader community, the media and other external stakeholders, including government departments, politicians and local businesses.

Above all else, you need to work well with other people. As a councillor you are just one person. As part of a council, you'll be relying on the support of your colleagues – and they on you – to enable strategic ideas to turn into reality.

The Strategic Role of a Councillor

To be strategic, a councillor is expected to:

- Participate in Council decision making when discussing resolutions at Council Meetings.
- Represent the interests of the broader municipal community.
- Contribute to the strategic direction of the Council.

When performing their duties, councillors must:

- Consider the diverse interests of the municipal community.
- Support the Mayor and acknowledge them and the role that they play.
- Act lawfully and in accordance with their oath or affirmation of office.
- Comply with the Councillor Code of Conduct
- Comply with Council's Governance Rules

Local Government

With three tiers of government in Australia, Local Government is the tier closest to the people.

The role that councils play in the community has expanded over the years to reflect the changing needs of residents.

Victorian councils provide a wide variety of services to their communities, as well as maintaining important community assets, delivering projects and advocating for the needs of the community to state and federal government.
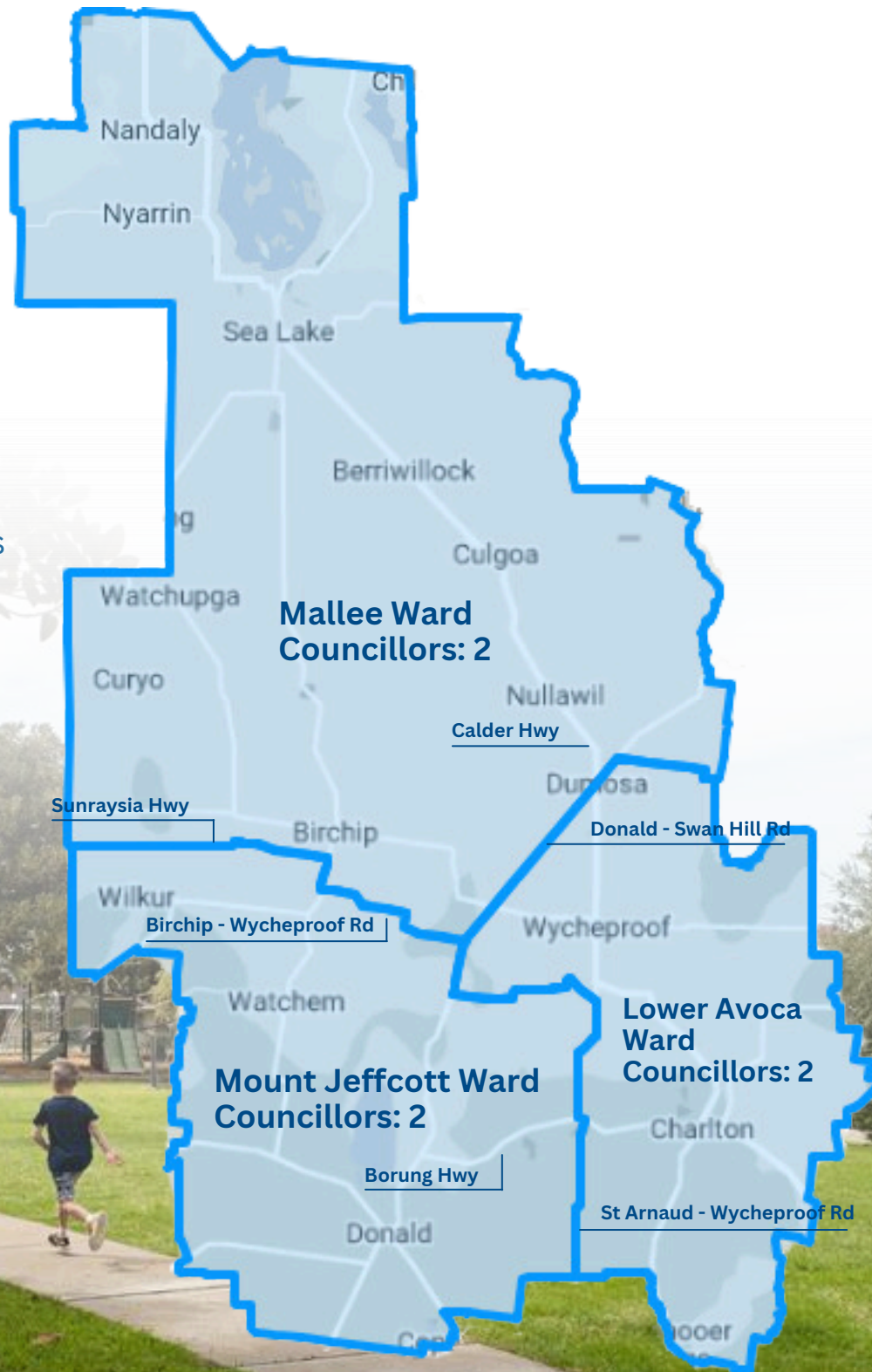
Ward Structure

In October 2024 we will move to a new electoral structure;
Three wards, Lower Avoca, Mallee and Mount Jeffcott

Two councillors per ward, with a total of six councillors.

The main change to the structure, is the requirement to move to an even number of councillors per ward, therefore Mount Jeffcott will be represented by two councillors only (previously 3, and total of 7 councillors).

Nandaly

Nyarrin

Ch

Sea Lake

Berriwillock

Culgoa

Mallee Ward Councillors: 2

Watchupga

Curyo

Nullawil

Calder Hwy

Du?osa

Sunraysia Hwy

Birchip

Donald - Swan Hill Rd

Wilkur

Birchip - Wycheproof Rd

Wycheproof

Watchem

Lower Avoca Ward Councillors: 2

Mount Jeffcott Ward Councillors: 2

Charlton

Borung Hwy

Donald

St Arnaud - Wycheproof Rd

How often does Council meet?

At present, Council Meetings are held monthly on the **second Wednesday of every month**, commencing at 7pm.

This is where motions are discussed and debated and where decisions are made.

Councillor Briefings are held twice per month, on the **first and third Wednesday of every month**.

At these briefings staff and members of the community brief councillors on both current and emerging issues and where councillors can provide feedback, strategic advice and direction.

Once elected, the new Council may wish to review the times and days of the month on which meetings and briefings occur.

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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		⚪				
		🟠				

🟠 Councillor Briefing

⚪ Councill Meeting

Candidate Training

What is a candidate required to do prior to nominating for election?

It is mandatory for candidates to complete an online training module prior to nominating to be a candidate.

This is a requirement of both the Victorian Government and of the Victorian Electoral Commission. The training is **free of charge** and can be accessed on the Local Government Victoria website and will take about one hour to complete.
https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/elections-2024

The aim of the training is to build confidence for both candidates and communities. You must complete this training to be able to nominate for election.

The training provides essential information about being a councillor, including understanding conflicts of interest, adhering to a code of conduct, and what support is available to effectively perform the role.

What training is required once elected?

Once elected all councillors will need to undertake training which will be facilitated by the Council each year. Initially all councillors will need to undertake this training within 4 months of election and thereafter each year.

In the case of mayors and deputy mayors this training will need to be undertaken within one month of election and thereafter annually.

What are the requirements to become a Councillor?

Eligibility

To be a candidate for a local council election, you must:

- Be an Australian citizen and be aged 18 years or over.
- Be enrolled on the voters' roll for the council in which you wish to stand.
- Have completed the mandatory Local Government Victoria (LGV) candidate training.
- Not have been disqualified from being a councillor.

You **cannot** be a candidate for any of the following reasons:

- You are an undischarged bankrupt.
- You have property that is subject to control under the law relating to bankruptcy.
- You are a member of Council staff of the Council. You can take leave from this role in order to nominate.
- You have been convicted of any of the criminal offences referred to in section 34(2) of Victorian Local Government Act.
- You are a councillor with another council, including the Federal Parliament or a member of parliament of any state or territory of the Commonwealth of Australia.
- You are employed by a federal or state member of parliament as a ministerial officer, a parliamentary adviser or an electorate officer. You can take leave from these roles to nominate.

Or

You are otherwise incapable of becoming or continuing to be a councillor.

For more information and resources, please visit the Victorian Electoral Commission website.
https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/

Election Campaign - Donation Returns

Local government election candidates must provide a record of whether or not they did or didn't receive any donations, gifts or in-kind support for their election campaign. Under the Victorian Local Government Act a return must be provided within 40 days of the election.

In a return you must include details of:

- Monetary donations equal to, or over the value of $500
- All donations of in-kind support equal to, or over the value of $500
- All donations of services equal to, or over the value of $500
- All donations from the same person or body, if the combined value of the donations you received from that person or body is equal to, or over the value of $500

Forms must be completed by all candidates and submitted to the CEO of the council for which you are nominating.

Remuneration for Councillors

Remuneration for councillors is determined by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal.

Buloke Shire Council is classified as a Category 1 Council and until 17 December 2024 the per annum allowances (from 1 July 2024) are as follows:

Mayor	**$84,498**
Deputy Mayor	**$42,248**
Councillor	**$27,291**

NEXT STEPS

The **first step** is to determine whether or not you are eligible to nominate as a candidate and run in the election. Almost anyone who is eligible to vote at council elections in Victoria is eligible to stand for election as a councillor. Before setting off to become a councillor, ensure that you are on the roll for Buloke Shire Council and be clear that you are not disqualified from standing for office.

The best way to do this is to refer to Section 34 of the *Local Government Act 2020* which explains who is disqualified from running for office.

Secondly, you should confirm in your own mind what it is that you are passionate about. As a potential candidate it is important to understand what issues are important to you. People voting in the election will want to know what you stand for and it will be important to make that known to voters.

Thirdly, you should attend at least one of the sessions either via Zoom or in person being offered by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), The Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA), The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), or those being run by Buloke Shire Council either in your town or in a town near you.

Dates for some of these sessions are included in the booklet and online at:
https://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/buloke-shire-council-elections-2024
or
https://www.mav.asn.au/stand-for-council-2024

SAVE THE DATE

STAND FOR COUNCIL INFORMATION SESSION
17 July 2024 - Bendigo
7 August 2024 - Swan Hill

CLOSE OF ROLL
4:00pm Wednesday
7 August 2024

NOMINATIONS OPEN
12:00 noon Monday
9 September 2024

CLOSE OF NOMINATIONS
12:00 noon Tuesday 17 September 2024

MAILOUT OF BALLOT PACKS
Monday 7 October 2024 to
Thursday 10 October 2024

CLOSE OF VOTING
6:00pm Friday 25 October 2024

RUNNING FOR BULOKE COUNCIL - INFORMATION SESSIONS:

Lower Avoca Ward

Wycheproof Shire Office
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Tuesday 16 July 2024
6pm - 7pm

Mt Jeffcott Ward

Donald Shire Offices
31 McCulloch St, Donald

Monday 22 July 2024
6pm - 7pm

Mallee Ward

Sea Lake Senior Citizens
Sutcliffe St, Sea Lake

Wednesday 24 July 2024
6pm - 7pm