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## 10 WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW - OUTCOME OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION

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**Report prepared by:** Civic Services Manager

**File No.:** CLR/22/109/1 - BP23/432

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### REPORT SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 211 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council is required to keep its Ward boundaries under review to ensure that the variance between the Ward with the highest number of electors and the Ward with the lowest number of electors is not in excess of 10%.

Based on the data regarding elector numbers provided by the NSW Electoral Commission to June 2023, the variance was 10.9% and Council was therefore required to review Ward boundaries and make an adjustment in preparation for the 2024 Local Government Election.

At its meeting held on 25 July 2023, Council considered a proposed Ward boundary adjustment and resolved to place the Ward boundary change on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and allow 42 days for submissions to be received.

Accordingly, the proposed Ward Boundary Plan was placed on public exhibition, with submissions being accepted between Tuesday, 1 August 2023 and Monday, 11 September 2023. It should be noted that a total of one (1) public submission was received during the exhibition period.

This report recommends that Council consider the submissions received and adopt the Ward boundary change as **ATTACHED**.

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the Ward boundary change set out in this report and provided for in **ATTACHMENT 2**.

### ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Map of Current Ward Boundaries
- 2 Map of Proposed Ward Boundaries and Boundary Change

Report Prepared By:

**Amanda Janvrin**  
**Civic Services Manager**

Report Approved By:

**Wayne Rylands**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**ITEM 10 (continued)****Report**Confirmation of Ward Boundaries

Section 211 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) requires Council to keep its Ward boundaries under review to ensure that the variance between the Ward with the highest number of electors and the Ward with the lowest number of electors is not in excess of 10%. The Act requires Council to take action and correct the difference if there is more than a 10% variation and that difference remains at the end of the first year of the following term of office of the Council.

Data regarding elector numbers accessed from the NSW Electoral Commission from June 2023 shows that there has been some movement in elector numbers since Council last endorsed Ward boundaries in 2019.

Based on the data to June 2023, the variance was 10.9% and Council was therefore required to review Ward boundaries and make an adjustment in preparation for the 2024 Local Government Election.

**Discussion**

At its meeting on 25 July 2023, Council resolved as follows:-

- (a) *That Council endorse the Ward boundary change set out in this report and provided for in **ATTACHMENT 2**, to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and allow 42 days for submissions to be received.*
- (b) *That public exhibition commence following consultation of the Ward boundary change with the NSW Electoral Commission and the Australian Statistician (ABS).*
- (c) *That a further report be provided to Council at its meeting on 26 September 2023 setting out any submissions received and to consider adoption of the Ward boundary change.*

Details of the Ward Boundary Adjustment

The Ward boundary adjustment set out in this report and provided for in **ATTACHMENT 2** has taken into account large strata developments, currently under construction in Central Ward and incorporates the following:-

- East Ward to remain unchanged.
- Single boundary adjustment to be made between West and Central Wards.
- Proposed to move area bounded by Epping Road, Herring Road, Waterloo Road and Shrimptons Creek from Central Ward to West Ward.

**ITEM 10 (continued)**

- Adjustment location to incorporate currently under construction large strata developments, thus using the future additional dwellings to reduce the difference between the two Wards. This also minimises the current electors that will be affected by the change in Wards (approximately 593 current electors).

Based on the elector numbers from June 2023, the proposed Ward boundary adjustment will reduce the difference between the Ward with the highest number of electors and the Ward with the lowest number of electors to 7.0% and it is expected that this would reduce further by the time of the 2024 Local Government Election.

**Consultation**

As required by Section 210A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council consulted with the NSW Electoral Commission and the Australian Statistician (ABS) as part of the Ward boundary change process. No adjustments were suggested as part of the consultation process.

**Public Exhibition and Call for Submissions**

In accordance with Section 210A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the Ward Boundary Plan was placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and allowed 42 days for submissions to be received. Submissions were invited between Tuesday, 1 August 2023 and Monday, 11 September 2023.

A total of one (1) submission was received during the exhibition period. The submission is set out below verbatim:-

*I suggest that the ward boundaries be revised so as to better align with what might be called "communities of interest".*

*For example – West Ryde town centre is currently split between the West Ward and the Central Ward, which – based on my dealings with councillors – has the effect of reducing the extent to which councillors are inclined to take responsibility for addressing matters which affect the town centre area.*

*Similarly, the Macquarie Park commercial area (north of Epping Road) is split between the Central Ward and East Ward.*

*The boundaries of wards appear to be arbitrary in their placement.*

*I suggest that the ward boundaries be revised so that:*

- 1. West Ryde town centre be located in a single ward; and*
- 2. Macquarie Park commercial area (north of Epping Road) be located in a single ward.*

**ITEM 10 (continued)**

*Also, I suggest that for any future consultation regarding these matters, the supplied mapping include street names and place names – to better enable the local community to understand, and engage with, what is being proposed.*

Officer's Comments

1. The public submission suggested that “for any future consultation regarding these matters, the supplied mapping include street names and place names – to better enable the local community to understand, and engage with, what is being proposed”. The previous maps showed road names, but the idea of also including place names is an excellent one and this will be incorporated into future ward boundary maps.
2. It was highlighted that the West Ryde Town Centre covered two wards. Analysis by Council staff confirms that three of the six major centres in the Ryde Local Government Area are covered by two wards (West Ryde, Meadowbank and Macquarie Park). This has been the case for the past 20 years and whilst the submission raises this as a cause of ambiguity about which Councillors are the appropriate representative to raise matters with, others may suggest that this situation provides more Councillor for a constituent to contact. Given this raises a matter of Councillor representation, Councillors may wish to consider holding a future workshop to determine if this situation warrants a possible future change to Ward boundaries.
3. The public submission suggests that “Macquarie Park commercial area (north of Epping Road) be located in a single ward”. Given the size of the Macquarie Park commercial area, this could not be accommodated by a minor adjustment of the current ward boundaries and would involve a major redrawing of the ward boundaries from the current West, Central and East Wards into something like a North, Central and South Ward division of the Ryde Local Government Area. This is a major change to the Ward boundaries and would require significant public consultation, which is not possible within the NSW Electoral Commissions administrative timeframes for the 2024 Local Government election. If Councillors were of the view to hold a future workshop and depending on the results of the Councillor Workshop, this could be considered in the next term of Council, for possible implementation at the 2028 Local Government election.

This report is presented to Council for consideration of the submission received and recommends adoption of the Ward boundary change as provided for in

**ATTACHMENT 2.**

It should be noted that if Council resolves to make further amendments to the Ward Boundary Plan, it will be required to publicly exhibit the amended Plan in accordance with the Act.

**ITEM 10 (continued)****Critical Dates**

Under Section 277A of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Ward boundary and name changes must be made by **5 October 2023** to be in effect for the 14 September 2024 Local Government Election.

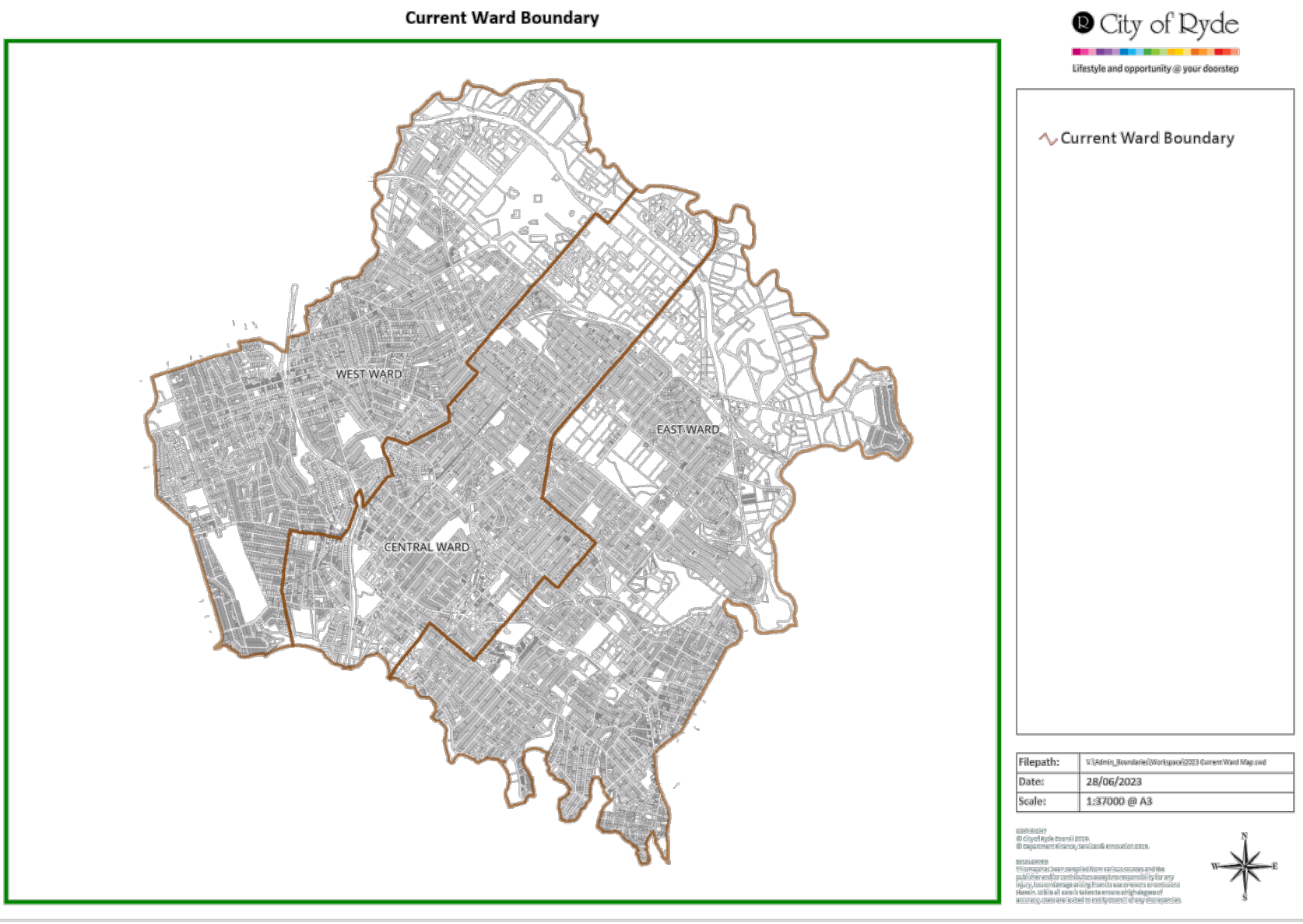
It should be noted that if Council resolves to make further amendments to the Ward Boundary Plan, the deadline of 5 October 2023 will not be able to be achieved.

**Financial Implications**

Adoption of the recommendation will have no financial impact.

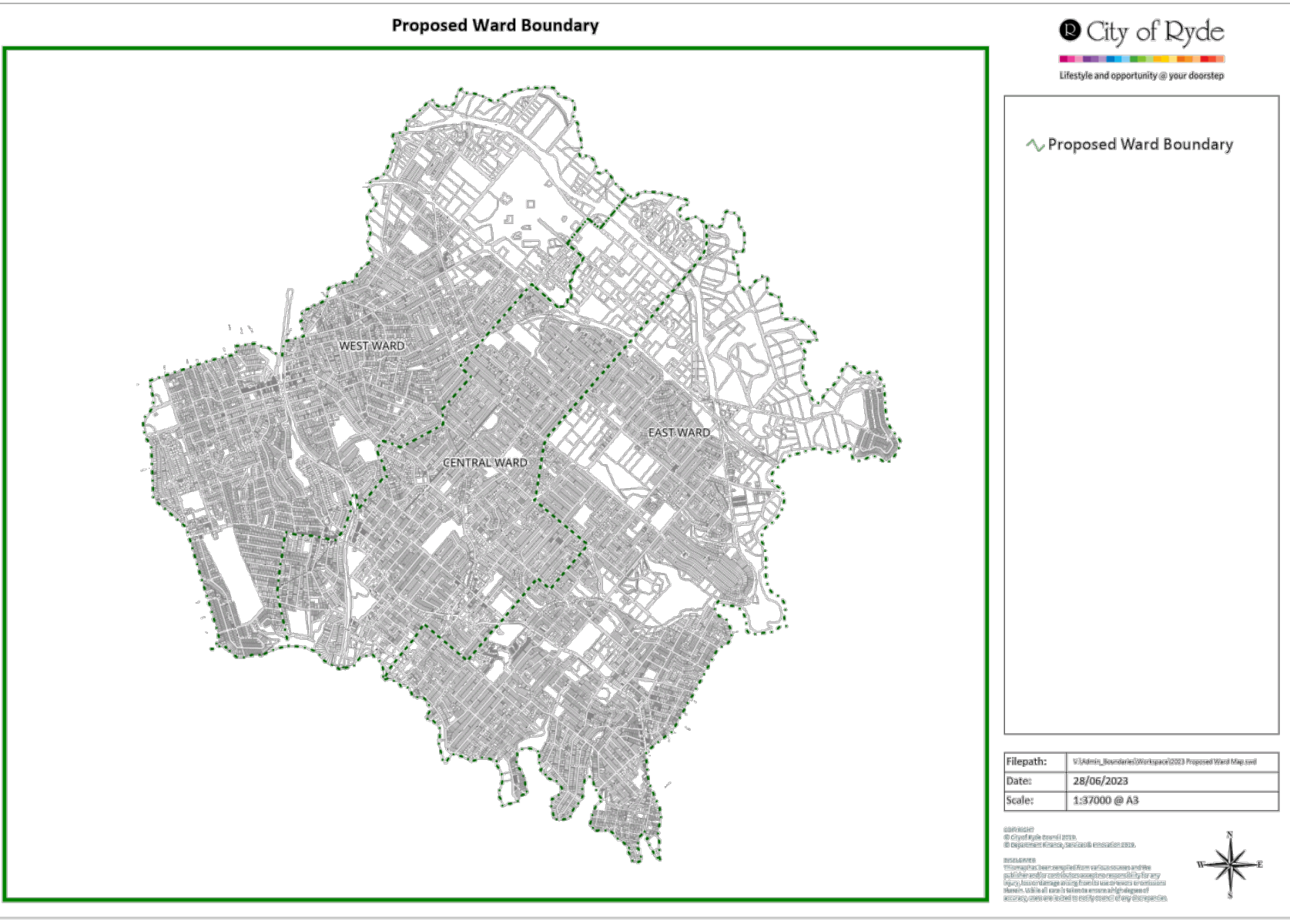
**ITEM 10 (continued)**

**ATTACHMENT 1**



**ITEM 10 (continued)**

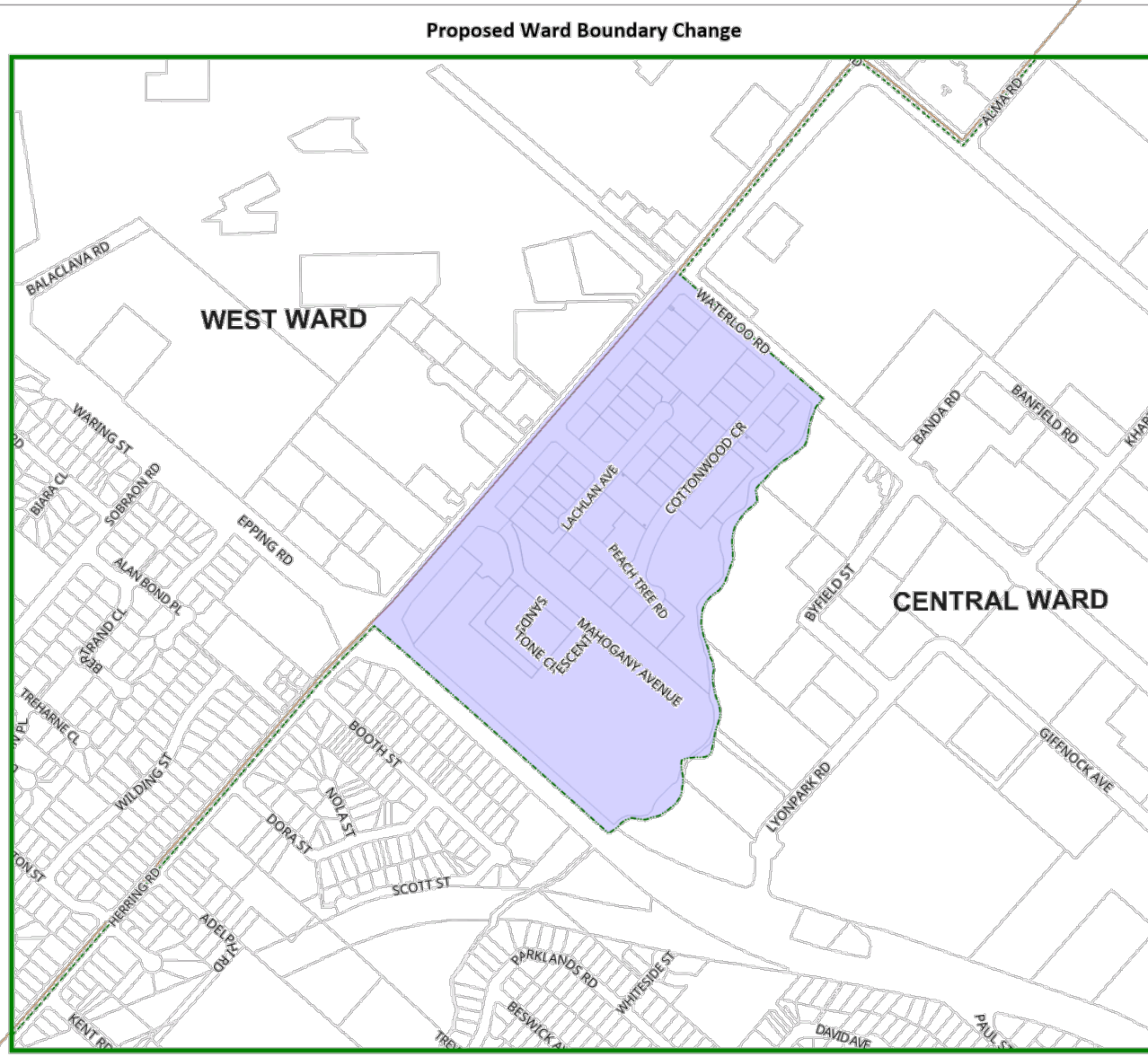
**ATTACHMENT 2**





ITEM 10 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 2



Proposed Ward Boundary  
 Current Ward Boundary  
 Adjusted Area

Filepath:	V:\data_base\res\respace2023\Report\Ward Area Adjustment.mxd
Date:	28/06/2023
Scale:	1:5000 @ A3

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