

Melbourne Councils: Suburb Catchment Reference

Purpose

This document provides the complete suburb-to-council mapping for Melbourne's 31 metropolitan councils. Use this to:

- Populate vendor registration forms with recognizable suburb names
- Enable suburb-based council selection during signup
- Provide customers with intuitive council browsing based on their suburb
- Support auto-determination of council based on business address/suburb

Inner City Municipalities (3 Councils)

City of Melbourne

Suburbs: Carlton, Docklands, Flemington, Kensington, North Melbourne, Parkville, Richmond

Character: CBD, cultural institutions, high density

Use in UX: "Melbourne CBD & Inner City"

City of Port Phillip

Suburbs: Albert Park, Balaclava, Elwood, St Kilda, South Melbourne

Character: Beachside, coastal, entertainment

Use in UX: "St Kilda & Beachside"

City of Yarra

Suburbs: Abbotsford, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Richmond

Character: Cultural heritage, creative precinct

Use in UX: "Inner North Creative"

Northern Municipalities (7 Councils)

City of Banyule

Suburbs: Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Watsonia, Greensborough, Eltham

Character: Foothills, residential, family areas

Use in UX: "Heidelberg & Foothills"

City of Darebin

Suburbs: Preston, Reservoir, Thornbury, West Preston, Fairfield

Character: Inner north, diverse communities

Use in UX: "Preston & Inner North"

City of Hume

Suburbs: Broadmeadows, Sunbury, Craigieburn, Roxburgh Park, Tullamarine

Character: Large area, growth suburbs, outer north

Use in UX: "Broadmeadows & Outer North"

City of Merri-bek

Suburbs: Brunswick, Coburg, Fawkner, Glenroy, Pascoe Vale

Character: Inner north, multicultural

Use in UX: "Brunswick & Inner West"

City of Whittlesea

Suburbs: South Morang, Epping, Doreen, Mernda, Kinglake

Character: Growth corridor, emerging areas

Use in UX: "Epping & Growth Corridor"

Shire of Nillumbik

Suburbs: Diamond Creek, Eltham, Kallista, Monbulk, Lilydale East

Character: Hills, rural, scenic

Use in UX: "Eltham & Dandenong Hills"

City of Whittlesea
Suburbs: South Morang, Epping, Doreen, Mernda, Kinglake
Character: Growth corridor, emerging areas
Use in UX: "Epping & Growth Suburbs"

Eastern Municipalities (6 Councils)

City of Boroondara
Suburbs: Camberwell, Hawthorn, Kew, Balwyn, Glen Iris
Character: Prestigious suburbs, affluent, established
Use in UX: "Hawthorn & Eastern Prestige"

City of Knox
Suburbs: Bayswater, Boronia, Mountain Gate, Knoxfield, Ferntree Gully
Character: Mountain suburbs, foothills
Use in UX: "Boronia & Mountain Suburbs"

City of Manningham
Suburbs: Doncaster, Templestowe, Bulleen, Park Orchards
Character: Eastern suburbs, leafy
Use in UX: "Doncaster & Eastern Leafy"

City of Maroondah
Suburbs: Croydon, Ringwood, Heathmont, Donvale, Warranwood
Character: Eastern corridor, established residential
Use in UX: "Ringwood & Eastern Corridor"

City of Whitehorse
Suburbs: Box Hill, Nunawading, Vermont, Mitcham, Blackburn
Character: Eastern suburbs, residential, diverse
Use in UX: "Box Hill & Eastern Residential"

Shire of Yarra Ranges
Suburbs: Lilydale, Belgrave, Emerald, Coldstream, Yarra Glen
Character: Dandenong Ranges, largest LGA, tourist destination
Use in UX: "Lilydale & Dandenong Ranges"

Southeastern Municipalities (7 Councils)

City of Bayside
Suburbs: Beaumaris, Brighton, Hampton, Black Rock, Sandringham
Character: Bayside, beach suburbs, affluent
Use in UX: "Brighton & Bayside"

City of Glen Eira
Suburbs: Caulfield, Carnegie, Bentleigh, Elsternwick, Murrumbeena
Character: Southeastern suburbs, established
Use in UX: "Caulfield & Southeastern"

City of Kingston
Suburbs: Mentone, Moorabbin, Aspendale, Highett, Sandown
Character: South eastern beach areas, bayside
Use in UX: "Mentone & Bayside South"

City of Casey
Suburbs: Narre Warren, Cranbourne, Fountain Gate, Officer, Clyde

Character: Largest population (365K+), outer south growth
 Use in UX: "Narre Warren & Outer South"

City of Frankston
 Suburbs: Frankston, Seaford, Karingal, Skye, Langwarrin
 Character: Southern peninsula, beachside
 Use in UX: "Frankston & Peninsula"

Shire of Cardinia
 Suburbs: Pakenham, Officer, Beaconsfield, Emerald, Bunyip
 Character: Outer south east, growth areas, rural
 Use in UX: "Pakenham & Outer Southeast"

Mornington Peninsula Shire
 Suburbs: Mornington, Mount Martha, Red Hill, Sorrento, Portsea
 Character: Peninsula tourism, coastal, wine region
 Use in UX: "Mornington Peninsula"

Western Municipalities (6 Councils)

City of Brimbank
 Suburbs: Sunshine, St Albans, Keilor, Albanvale, Deer Park
 Character: Western industrial, diverse communities
 Use in UX: "Sunshine & Western Industrial"

City of Hobsons Bay
 Suburbs: Williamstown, Altona, Newport, Hobsons Bay, Werribee South
 Character: Western coastal, industrial heritage
 Use in UX: "Williamstown & Western Coastal"

City of Maribyrnong
 Suburbs: Footscray, Yarraville, Seddon, Kingsville, West Footscray
 Character: Inner west, cultural, creative
 Use in UX: "Footscray & Inner West"

City of Melton
 Suburbs: Caroline Springs, Melton, Hillside, Toolern, Brookfield
 Character: Growth areas, new residential
 Use in UX: "Melton & Western Growth"

City of Moonee Valley
 Suburbs: Essendon, Moonee Ponds, Ascot Vale, Strathmore, Avondale Heights
 Character: Northern west, established
 Use in UX: "Essendon & Northern West"

City of Wyndham
 Suburbs: Werribee, Point Cook, Williams Landing, Tarneit, Manor Lakes
 Character: Southwest growth corridor, rapidly expanding
 Use in UX: "Werribee & Southwest Growth"

Registration Flow Implementation

Recommended UX Approach

Step 1: Suburb-First Selection (Not LGA)
 Instead of showing "City of Banyule", show the suburbs with the council name as secondary context:

```  
Where is your business located?

- â—` Heidelberg (City of Banyule)
- â—` Ivanhoe (City of Banyule)
- â—` Watsonia (City of Banyule)
- â—` Greensborough (City of Banyule)
- â—` Eltham (City of Banyule)

```

Step 2: Group by Region for Faster Navigation

```

INNER CITY

- â—` Carlton (City of Melbourne)
- â—` Docklands (City of Melbourne)
- â—` St Kilda (City of Port Phillip)
- â—` Fitzroy (City of Yarra)

NORTHERN

- â—` Preston (City of Darebin)
- â—` Heidelberg (City of Banyule)
- â—` Brunswick (City of Merri-bek)

```

Step 3: Autocomplete + Address Lookup

Implement suburb autocomplete so vendors can type "Mel" and get Melbourne-area suburbs, then the system auto-assigns the correct council.

Database Schema

localities table:

```

| id  | suburb_name | council_id | council_name         | region     | character                  |
|-----|-------------|------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| 1   | Carlton     | 1          | City of Melbourne    | Inner City | CBD, cultural institutions |
| 2   | Docklands   | 1          | City of Melbourne    | Inner City | CBD, cultural institutions |
| 3   | Albert Park | 2          | City of Port Phillip | Inner City | Beachside, coastal         |
| ... |             |            |                      |            |                            |

\*\*lgas table:\*\*

```

id	council_name	region	suburb_count	key_characteristics
1	City of Melbourne	Inner City	7	CBD, cultural institutions, high density
2	City of Port Phillip	Inner City	5	Beachside, coastal, entertainment
...				

vendor_registrations table:

```

| id  | vendor_id | selected_suburb | council_id | created_at |
|-----|-----------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| 1   | v_001     | Heidelberg      | 4          | 2025-11-09 |
| ... |           |                 |            |            |

```

Frontend Logic

Auto-Assign Council Based on Suburb Selection

```javascript
const suburbToCouncil = {
  "Carlton": "City of Melbourne",
  "Docklands": "City of Melbourne",
  "Fitzroy": "City of Yarra",
  "Heidelberg": "City of Banyule",
  "Preston": "City of Darebin",
  "Brighton": "City of Bayside",
  // ... 100+ suburb mappings
};

function onSuburbSelect(suburb) {
  const council = suburbToCouncil[suburb];
  setVendorLGA(council);
  // Auto-populate council field invisibly
  // Vendors never see "LGA" term only their suburb
}

---


## Customer Browsing Experience

**Option A: Browse by Suburb**
"Find vendors near you"
- [Browse by Suburb] → Select suburb → See 31 councils worth of listings

**Option B: Browse by Council (with Friendly Names)**
"Browse by Area"
- [ St Kilda & Beachside ] (City of Port Phillip)
- [ Hawthorn & Eastern Prestige ] (City of Boroondara)
- [ Werribee & Southwest Growth ] (City of Wyndham)

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## Key Principles

1. **Hide LGA Term**: Never show "LGA" or "Local Government Area" to users as it's not in their vocabulary
2. **Surface Suburbs**: Make suburbs the primary selector; LGA is a backend abstraction
3. **Group for Navigation**: Use regions and character descriptions to help users find their area
4. **Auto-Assign**: Use address/suburb to automatically determine council no user confusion
5. **Consistent Labeling**: Always pair suburb with council name for clarity (e.g., "Heidelberg (City of Banyule)")
```