

From: Brunswick Residents [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 November 2023 11:13 AM
To: Merri-bek Submissions 2023
Subject: Submission to Merri-bek City Council electoral structure
Attachments: BRN submission Electoral boundaries 2023.docx; BRN submission Electoral boundaries 2023.pdf

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Please find our submission attached as Word document and PDF,

Nancy Atkin for

Brunswick Residents Network

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Brunswick Residents Network

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8 November 2023

Victorian Electoral Commission
Emailed to: Merri-bek.ERAPSubmissions@vec.vic.gov.au

**Brunswick Residents Network submission:
Merri-bek City Council electoral structure review**

To whom it may concern

Brunswick Residents Network is a residents' group that formed in 2010. It engages with and links local community and businesses through public meetings and social and traditional media. At the core of our network are residents and groups in Brunswick, within the City of Merri-bek. Our focus is issues in planning, transport, building, and local government.

We have a few simple points to make about the boundary changes.

1. We would like it noted that, although this is outside the scope of this review, Brunswick Residents Network does not agree with the imposition of single-member wards; and believe we were better served by multi-member wards. Currently three councillors with a range of skills and interests currently represent our area.
2. We strongly support the creation of four wards covering the suburb of Brunswick, with Moreland Road – the traditional and widely-recognised boundary of Brunswick – as the northern border of Brunswick.
3. Similarly, the creation of eastern and western Brunswick wards, with Lygon Street and Pearson/Grantham Street respectively as the boundaries, makes sense as the acknowledged borders of East and West Brunswick.
4. The only boundary difference between Model 1 and 2, and Model 3, is that central Brunswick is divided vertically in Model 3 and horizontally in the other two. Horizontal division makes sense in terms of the urban landscape, with smaller blocks, denser housing and a longer history of urbanisation. However a north-south division down Sydney Road – a major thoroughfare and a straight line on the map – is simple, follows a natural division and will make it easy for people to find what ward they are in, so is probably preferable.
5. We believe the naming of wards needs more research and explanation. Dunstan Ward is named after a park, but who was Dunstan? If it was the Country Party Premier from the Mallee, of the 1930s, this may not be a good choice. Regarding use of Indigenous names, these should have been approved by the Wurundjeri representatives.

Nancy Atkin, for Brunswick Residents Network.