

**Electoral structure review - Warrnambool City Council - Response Submission  
Warrnambool Ratepayers Association - Warrnambool - 23 July 2023, 07:37 pm**

To Whom It May Concern

RE- WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL ELECTORAL STRUCTURE REVIEW

The Warrnambool Ratepayers Association is writing in support of Model 3 as proposed in the Warrnambool City Council electoral structure review.

We support Model 3 in preference to 1 or 2, because Model 3 -

- Best accommodates the future growth of the city, especially in relation to population distribution amongst the wards – per comments below per ward, ‘already full’ wards have ‘above average’ elector numbers, ‘below average’ wards will grow by infilling, and the peripheral wards will grow dramatically – ‘future-proofing’ the wards by enabling all boundaries to be retained – and the dramatic growth to be accommodated by eventually splitting the eastern and north-western wards. This would neatly create the two additional wards to bring up from 7 to 9 councillors.
- Has the clearest and best-defined boundaries, showing simpler boundaries for the voting electorate
- Is best fit for Dennington, incorporating Bushfield and Woodford in the Ward
- The Hopkins River Ward is a better fit for the communities of interest in this Model compared to models 1 and 2.

We support a change in the Ward Names to the following, as we believe this is a more accurate description of the different ward areas:

- Wollaston Ward (per Model 3) – expect dramatic growth – eventual split into two – ‘Dennington’ and ‘Merri North’ say.
- Russells Creek Ward (ex-Brierly Basin) – infill will raise numbers towards ‘average’.
- Moyjil Ward (per Model 3) – infill will bring numbers up towards ‘average’.
- Botanic Ward (per Model 3) – population is nearing ‘full’.
- Hopkins River Ward (per Model 3) – expect dramatic growth – eventual split into two – ‘Allansford / Hopkins Point’ and ‘North-East’ say.
- Merri Downs Ward (ex-Platypus Park) – population is nearing ‘full’.
- Central Ward (per Model 3) – population is nearing ‘full’.

We also support retention of 7 councillors for the city.

We understand this will have to be reviewed to 9 when Warrnambool reaches the threshold population as it continues to grow into the future.

Kind Regards

Joan Kelson

President

Warrnambool Ratepayers Association