

From: Bianca Felix [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 November 2023 11:07 PM
To: Mornington Peninsula Submissions 2023
Subject: Submission - MP Shire Electoral Structure Review Submission

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To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Electoral Structure Review

I have lived in the Western Port region of the Mornington Peninsula for almost 15 years.

Although I have worked across the Mornington Peninsula, I do not presume to comment on any of the proposed changes for the Port Phillip side of the region.

However, I have strong views about the proposed electoral boundary changes on the Western Port side of the region, as well as the south-eastern peninsula.

The Watson Creek/Somerville ward should incorporate Tyabb and Somerville.

Most importantly, the proposed Warringine ward needs to be more coherently considered. The townships of Hastings, Bittern, Crib Point and HMAS Cerberus form a larger community.

HMAS Cerberus is not included in any of the proposed models, and this is a significant error. The naval base is intimately connected with Crib Point and Bittern should be allocated within any electoral boundary that includes those two townships.

The southern boundary of the proposed ward should absolutely include the whole of Crib Point - including Stony Point - and extend down South Beach Rd to the intersection with Sandy Point Rd, ie the north-eastern edge of Somers.

This does not appear to be the case for any of the proposed models and is a significant deficiency.

The proposed boundaries of Warringine ward in Model 3 bear absolutely no relationship to the natural flow of life within the communities of the proposed ward. I believe that model should be rejected outright.

If I understand the maps correctly, both Model 1 and Model 2 use Hendersons Rd as the western boundary of the ward. Again, this makes no sense - Coolart Rd forms the natural boundary between the Western Port side of the Peninsula, the hinterland, and then Port Phillip on the other side.

In contrast, Graydens Rd marks a natural transition between Hastings and Tyabb and is a natural fit for the northern boundary of the proposed ward.

Finally, the proposed Red Hill Ward remains extremely large in all the proposed models, which appears to undermine the purpose of the restructure of electoral boundaries.

Somers, Flinders, Balnarring (and Balnarring Beach) Shoreham and Merricks form a larger cohesive community. It could be argued that the community extends through to Red Hill/Red Hill South.

Cape Schank, Fingal and Boneo form a separate community, and are more closely allied to Rosebud and Tootgarook.

These natural communities are not reflected by the proposed electoral boundaries, which may lead to friction and sub-standard representation in the new Shire council.

I hope that my descriptions are clear. Should you require any further explanation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Faithfully,

Bianca Felix
Bittern