

Morwell Branch, Australian Labor Party

Submission to VEC Latrobe City Council electoral structure review

1. This submission has been produced by the executive of the Morwell Branch of the ALP as part of an initiative to engage more closely with processes such as electoral boundary reviews that occur within our region.
2. The Morwell ALP encompasses members of the ALP living in the state electorate of Morwell, which is wholly within the boundaries of the Latrobe City Council.
3. This submission summarises a number of contributions made by branch members regarding the two proposals put forward by the VEC on 12 July 2023. These members are not named individually. Members were made aware of the limitations and requirements that guided this review, and feedback that obviously fell outside the bounds of this review was omitted.
4. The Morwell ALP would also like to use this submission to extend its appreciation to the VEC for its work in conducting this structure review.
5. **The Morwell ALP overwhelmingly expresses its preference for Model 2 based on its boundary arrangements.** However, members did raise issue with the names chosen for the Wards under Model 2, with some stating that the names chosen under Model 1 were more preferable and others requesting that Aboriginal names be used if possible.
6. Some members also noted that Model 1 and 2 provided different boundary structures to separate East Ward, but little consideration appears to be given to dividing the other Wards between Model 1 and 2. Given that this review will set council boundaries for the next eight years, it was hoped that the VEC would have given some consideration for alternate arrangements for these towns rather than focusing their efforts on one portion of the council.
7. The report recommends that the number of councillors for Latrobe City Council remains at 9. Morwell ALP agrees with this decision.
8. Some members suggested that increasing the number of councillors to 11 would allow for the disparate towns of the Latrobe Valley to be better represented. However, others noted that this change would also see councillors being elected by and

representing a very small electoral base of around 5,350. Additionally, 9 councillors has been the standard set by regional city councils such as City of Ballarat and Greater Bendigo councils.

9. Lastly, we would like to note that many of our members were frustrated with the fact that Latrobe City Council was being forced to change its mixed-member ward arrangements and return to single-member wards, which many felt had previously resulted in a “Traralgon-bias” - something that was noted in the VEC’s 2012 review of LCC boundaries. Whilst it is understood that this review is bound by legislation and must establish single-member wards, members requested that this view should still be included as part of this submission.

Morwell Branch, Australian Labor Party

President - Linda Reid

Vice President - Stephanie Morgan

Secretary - Lola Gay

Treasurer - Jannette Langley

Assistant Secretary - Oscar Machen

Contact:

Oscar Machen

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]