

Electoral structure review - Greater Geelong City Council - Response Submission
Gina Fiske - Indented Head - 10 July 2023, 06:47 pm

I write to make comments on the proposed changes to Geelong VEC boundaries and the three options identified in the preliminary report in respect of Indented Head and surrounding areas.

The Victorian Electoral Commission CoGG preliminary report on the electoral review, and maps of three ward structure models are referred to in the paragraphs below.

The Act makes it clear that the VEC's brief is to review ward boundaries - CoGG is defined as a regional city and is required to have single member wards.

As a resident and committee member of The Indented Head Community Association after considering the options, I strongly reject Models 1 & 2 because the proposed boundaries would lead to Indented Head community voice and boundary being cut in half with Ibbotson Street as the boundary and our largest housing estate west of Ibbotson Street in both Grassy Point Ward (1) or Murradoc Ward (2).

In order to support a cohesive, coherent voice and the planning of resources, facilities, and recognize the whole community as a connected community, which for all other purposes works together to advocate for and actively support and use local planning, facilities and services, it is very important to retain this principle and enable the continuation of a strong, single area of Indented Head to be identified within the boundaries. Not to split the population of voters into smaller areas.

If the current Bellarine Ward has to change to average out the population over the wards, then I most definitely want to express support for the Swan Bay Ward in Model 3, which leaves the community in tact or using Grassy Point Road as the boundary and NOT Ibbotson Street in 1 & 2.

With our current population of approx. 1,400 we need to be in one ward to strengthen our community democracy at a local level and come together with sharing views and resources in the future. Therefore MPs and voters will primarily relate to and communicate with the whole community of Indented Head as our representative in parliament to influence our concerns.