

**Ward boundary review - Greater Dandenong City Council - Response Submission
Rhonda Garad - Dandenong - 20 March 2024, 02:48 pm**

Dear VEC Panel Members,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed models for ward boundary adjustments within the Greater Dandenong City Council, specifically in relation to the implications of combining areas designated as Green Wedge with those classified as Industrial zones. The report under review outlines two models for public consultation, with one model potentially leading to unintended and undesirable outcomes for our community and environment.

The Green Wedge zone, recognised in the preliminary report, represents an area vital for environmental preservation and community benefit. These areas, predominantly located in the southern parts of the municipality, serve as critical green spaces amidst urban and industrial development. They provide not only ecological benefits but also contribute to the health and well-being of our community by offering recreational spaces and preserving the natural landscape. The introduction of industrial activities into or near these zones risks compromising their integrity, with potential adverse effects on biodiversity, air quality, and the aesthetic and recreational value these spaces offer.

Moreover, the gradual encroachment of light industrial businesses into the Green Wedge areas, as a result of boundary adjustments that blur the lines between distinct zoning categories, could set a precedent that undermines the core purpose of these zones. It's crucial that any ward boundary adjustments maintain a clear distinction between areas designated for environmental preservation and those allocated for industrial development to prevent the gradual industrialization of Green Wedge areas.

Additionally, the report indicates that Model 2 would have minimal impact on residents, which should be given due consideration. The long-term environmental and community impacts, particularly the potential consequences of blending industrial activities with Green Wedge zones, warrant significant attention.

In conclusion, I urge the VEC to reconsider the preferred model to be Model 2 to ensure the preservation of Green Wedge zones without compromise. The distinct nature of these areas must be maintained, both to protect the environmental assets they represent and to uphold the quality of life for the residents of Greater Dandenong City. I recommend that any future proposals for ward boundary adjustments explicitly exclude the possibility of integrating industrial development into Green Wedge areas, thereby safeguarding these crucial spaces for future generations.

Thank you for considering my submission. I look forward to the VEC's final recommendations that reflect a balanced approach to ward boundary adjustments, prioritising both the community's well-being and environmental preservation.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Garad

Councillor Keysborough South Ward,

[REDACTED]
Dandenong, 3175.

Mob: [REDACTED]