

**Electoral structure review - Greater Geelong City Council - Response Submission
Anne Brackley - Drysdale - 26 July 2023, 06:55 am**

As a long time resident of the Bellarine, with more than 150 years of family members being born, and living in the Drysdale area, I have lived through a number of Ward Boundary changes.

As a Community Development facilitator, I am eager to work with communities of interest and to assist the community in any way I can. Having lived and worked in a community divided by Ward Boundaries, I would ask that this never happen to any other community, due to its divisive nature and its ability to erode a sense of place and community.

The best model I have seen, lived and worked through, is the current model where the Bellarine Peninsula has a number of Councillors working together in the best interests of the residents of the Bellarine.

I implore the VEC to reconsider pushing the City of Greater Geelong to implement the Single Councillor Ward structure especially for the Bellarine.

Unfortunately the 3 models put forward all divide communities of interest and thus put these communities at risk.

There are many challenges ahead of the towns, villages and hamlets of the Bellarine (not suburbs) and together we can help and support each other as navigate the challenges of population growth and Distinctive Area Landscape application. I look forward to being part of this area going forward together in a positive inclusive caring way.