

Ward boundary review - Greater Dandenong City Council - Response Submission Greater Dandenong City Council - Dandenong - 20 March 2024, 02:07 pm

Greater Dandenong City Council recognises the Minister for Local Government's legislated obligation to keep the variation of the average number of voters per councillor for each ward to less than 10 per cent.

Given the cost of ward boundary reviews to communities, Council acknowledges the efforts of the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to provide a model (Model 1) which is forecast to remain relevant through to the 2028 council elections.

Councillors and council officers at Greater Dandenong discussed the VEC's provided options at its Councillor Briefing Session held on 18 March 2024. Councillors were equally divided as to which model they preferred, so a formal submission from the organisation cannot be presented. However, councillors asked that the following comments be noted by the submissions panel and that Council reserves the right to speak to these points at a submissions hearing.

Division of the south of the council area which encompasses the entire green wedge areas of Keysborough, Bangholme and Lyndhurst, most of the industrial area of Dandenong South and the Dandenong CBD as proposed in Model 1 would be a ward with significant competing and conflicting priorities and communities of interest for any councillor or Council.

It is acknowledged that the proposed changes to the Springvale council areas as proposed in Model 1 better align with the differing communities of interest in that area than Model 2.

Council acknowledges it may be easier to locate ward boundaries along major arterial roads and that they may cause some complexity when they are divided by ward boundaries in relation to access. Council however, does not agree that major arterial roads always divide communities of interest and should not automatically be considered as doing so in ward boundary review proposals.

Council welcomes any model that minimises the effects of a ward boundary review on its communities. Council acknowledges that there has been significant interest from members of the Greater Dandenong community in this ward boundary review and appreciates and supports those who have taken the time and effort to make submissions.