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Sent: Tuesday, 8 August 2023 6:40 PM
To: Glen Eira Submissions 2023
Subject: Submission to electoral structure review

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I was a councillor at the city of Glen Eira for approximately 14 years, including three terms as Mayor. I chose not to run again in 2020, and do not intend to run at the upcoming election. Of the three proposed models, I believe Model 2 is the best, followed by Model 3. I believe residents identify far more with their suburb than they do with their current wards. As the Preliminary Report states, Models 2 and 3 have entire suburbs for the most part contained within wards. While there are exceptions, such as Carnegie and Bentleigh East being divided, this is the case in Model 1 as well, and it's hard to see how this can be avoided, especially in the case of Bentleigh East, given its size. And, unlike Models 2 and 3, Model 1 also divides Caulfield South, Elsternwick and McKinnon. I prefer Model 2 over Model 3 because the ward boundaries are far less complicated. Even under our current boundaries, many residents, and at times even some councillors, have trouble working out where their boundaries are, and this would only be exacerbated with some of the complicated boundaries in Model 3, such as the north of the boundary between the proposed Koornang and Murrumbeena Wards, the west of the boundary between the proposed Moorleigh and Waratah Wards, and the bulge in the boundary between the proposed Rosstown and Greenmeadows Wards. The same concern also applies to Model 1, which also has some complicated boundaries, although not to the same extent as Model 3. I understand that the reason for these complicated boundary proposals is to keep shopping strips in the same ward, but there are advantages to having the strips split across two wards. One of the weaknesses of the single councillor ward system, as opposed to the current multi-councillor ward system, is that each ward only has one councillor to represent its specific interests. I suspect that is one reason the VEC previously favoured multi-councillor wards. With some shopping strips divided between two wards, at least those will be represented by more than one councillor, and the shopping strips are some of the areas that require the greatest attention. Below I also have some comments on the proposed ward names, model by model. While I appreciate the aim is to use indigenous names and where possible to name each ward after a park within it, I don't believe this results in the best or clearest outcome in all cases.

Model 1

I think the proposed Koornang Ward should be called Glen Huntly Ward or Booran. While I appreciate that it contains Koornang Park, it could lead to confusion, with Koornang Road being the boundary, residents may assume if they live on Koornang Road, they are in that ward. The ward consists mostly of the suburb of Glen Huntly. Booran Road runs through it, and it also contains Booran Reserve, also an indigenous name.

I think Wattle Grove Ward should be called Ormond Ward. While I appreciate it is named after Wattle Grove Park, this is a minor park that is hardly visible until you are inside it, so many if not most would think the ward is named after a very minor road. The ward consists mostly of the suburb of Ormond.

I think Mallanbool Ward should be called Boyd Ward. Mallanbol Reserve is a small park in the corner of the ward. The ward also contains Boyd Park, and the generations of the Boyd family lived and worked in the area, so it would be a fitting tribute to their contribution to the local area and the state.

I think Tucker Ward should be called Moorleigh, as it is in Models 2 and 3. It would be confusing for residents who are currently in Tucker Ward and then find themselves in Elster Creek or Coatesville Wards, and the ward only extends for half the length of Tucker Road, which would lead to more confusion.

Model 2

I don't think the name Rosstown should be used for the ward as proposed. I understand that part of the Rosstown Rail trail runs through the ward, but calling it Rosstown would be confusing as the heart of what used to be Rosstown is Carnegie, which is outside the proposed ward. The former Rosstown Sugar Refinery was near the corner of Neerim and Koornang Roads, also outside the proposed ward. It would also confuse residents who currently live in Rosstown Ward, but won't, and those who don't currently live in Rosstown Ward, but will. I suggest the name, Bambra Ward.

I think Mallanbool Ward should be named Bailey Ward. Mallanbool Park is a small park in the corner of the proposed ward and across North Road from most of it. Bailey Reserve is far larger, very central, and is the site of GESAC.

I think Wattle Grove Ward should be called Ormond Ward for the reasons given under Model 1.

I don't think Koornang Ward should have that name for the reasons given under Model 1. I suggest Grange Ward, as Grange Road runs through the middle of it, or Racecourse Ward, as it includes the racecourse, which is a site of state-wide significance, and will hopefully soon be the site of a very impressive public park, or Booran or Glen Huntly as set out under Model 1.

Model 3

I suggest Rosstown Ward be called Bambra Ward for the reasons given under Model 2.

I suggest Wattle Grove Ward be called Ormond Ward for the reasons given under Models 1 and 2.

I think Koornang Ward should be called Booran or Glen Huntly for the reasons given under Model 1, or Racecourse or Grange for the reasons given under Model 2.

I think Wattle Waratah Ward should be called Bailey Ward. Waratah Street Reserve is a small park not many would know about, whereas Bailey Reserve is far larger, and is the site of GESAC.

Thanks you for considering my submission. I do not wish to speak to it.

Kind Regards,

Jamie Hyams