

From: Gino Iannazzo [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 November 2023 3:47 PM
To: Merri-bek Submissions 2023
Subject: Ward Boundaries Review

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Ward Boundaries Review

Dear Panel

Here is my submission to the Review of Merri-bek ward Boundaries. I have read your Report and recommendations, and looked at the 3 Models you have put forward.

I have lived in Coburg for many decades, since arriving in Australia as a migrant from Italy. I have been involved in its community life for many years. In particular I was a founder of the Coburg Italian Pensioners Group, which later became the Pensioners Voice. In this capacity I know a lot of residents of Coburg and neighbouring suburbs, and have an understanding of community of interest in Coburg and beyond.

While I live in Bell Street, and am well aware that it carries a lot of traffic, I don't think it is a strong definer of community of interest. People from north and south of Bell Street in Coburg mix and interact a great deal. I think that in terms of community of interest, Sydney Road is a much stronger boundary. Models 2 and 3 use Sydney Road, and therefore provide a better outcome for residents than Model 1, which has what I think is an artificial distinction between Coburg North and Coburg. I also think that the boundary between the proposed Coburg Ward and Pascoe Vale South Ward in Model 1 is not very strong. I think Gordon Street (Models 2 and 3) is better.

So in terms of community of interest and strong boundaries, I would prefer either Model 2 or Model 3. On balance I think the Panel should choose Model 3, because Model 2 has one Ward, Westbreen, with 12,760 voters, which is 7.57% more voters than the average Ward, and more than a thousand voters more than in some other Wards. Model 3 doesn't have this problem.

In terms of Ward names, I agree with the names the Panel has proposed in Model 3 – Harmony Park Ward for the Ward I live in, and Merri Creek Ward, Thomson Ward, Bababi Djinanang Ward, Westbreen Ward, Box Forest Ward, Moonee Ponds Creek Ward, Warrk-Warrk Ward, Randazzo Ward, Bulleke-bek Ward and Dunstan Ward for the others.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. I do not need to make an oral presentation.

Yours sincerely

Gino Iannazzo

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]