

**From:** Nepean Conservation Group [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 November 2023 8:32 PM  
**To:** Mornington Peninsula Submissions 2023  
**Subject:** VEC ERAP SUBMISSIONS MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE - NEPEAN CONSERVATION GROUP INC. 14 NOVEMBER 2023  
**Attachments:** VEC Submissions Nepean Conservation Group.pdf

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Good evening,

Please find VEC ERAP SUBMISSIONS MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE - NEPEAN CONSERVATION GROUP INC. 14 NOVEMBER 2023 pdf attached.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Ursula de Jong  
President  
Nepean Conservation Group Inc  
[REDACTED]

By email: [morningtonpeninsula.erapsubmissions@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:morningtonpeninsula.erapsubmissions@vec.vic.gov.au)

- Nepean Conservation Group Inc.
- Contact: Dr. Ursula de Jong
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission re the VEC's Electoral Structure Reviews - Mornington Peninsula Shire.

The Nepean Conservation Group Inc. represents residents from the current Nepean Ward: Portsea, Sorrento, Blairgowrie and Rye.

We are highly concerned that the Nepean Ward is disadvantaged by all three of the VEC's proposed models.

All three of the proposed models for the Nepean Ward by the VEC's ERAP (Electoral Representation Advisory Panel) fail to comply with the VEC's own guidelines.

*The Act requires electoral structures to provide fair and equitable representation and facilitate good governance. Each ward must have an approximately equal number of voters per councillor (within +/-10% of the average).*

The three proposed models have deviations considerably outside of the VEC guidelines (*within +/-10% of the average*).

The Nepean Conservation Group notes that the Nepean Ward has the following deviations (see data in tables from Models 1, 2 and 3 below).

Model 1: **+36%**; Model 2: **+39%**; Model 3: **+38%**

This is contrary to the intent of the Act and would logically require an immediate Subdivision Review.

Subdivision reviews and their intent are clearly articulated by the VEC in the following:

### ***"Subdivision reviews***

*We review the internal boundaries (wards) of a council when there has been a change in the number of voters per councillor in one or more wards. This makes sure each voter is represented equally at the next council general election.*

*This is known as a subdivision review. Your input is valuable. As a local, you know your council area better than anyone.*

*Subdivision reviews ensure that voters are equally represented within a council after any population changes. We hold a review if the number of voters per councillor in any ward at the next council general election may be:*

- *10% more than the average across the council*
- *10% less than the average across the council.*

*This is your chance to have a say on where the ward boundaries should be."*

<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/council-reviews/subdivision-reviews>

The Nepean Conservation Group has highlighted in yellow why the VEC says it is important that the VEC strictly adheres to its own  $\pm 10\%$  guidelines.

The Nepean Conservation Group also notes that in the various models proposed Capel Sound at +26%, Rosebud at +21% and Truemans at +22% are also well outside the VEC's guidelines. The proposed models highlight that almost half the proposed wards in VEC's Electoral Structure Reviews - Mornington Peninsula Shire do not meet the  $\pm 10\%$  guidelines.

In model 1: five (5) wards lie outside the VEC  $\pm 10\%$  guidelines.  
In model 2: five (5) wards lie outside the VEC  $\pm 10\%$  guidelines.  
In model 3: four (4) wards lie outside the VEC  $\pm 10\%$  guidelines.

It seems incongruous to the Nepean Conservation Group that the VEC's ERAP should propose models that breach the VEC's own guidelines and which will result in the need for an immediate subdivision review.

The Nepean Conservation Group would like explanations from the VEC appointed ERAP (Electoral Representation Advisory Panel) whose names are listed on page 2 of the "*Local council electoral structure review: Preliminary report Mornington Peninsula Shire Council: October 2023*", and reproduced below, as to why these inappropriate models have been proposed.

| Version | Date approved   | Approved by                        |
|---------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1       | 17 October 2023 | The Honourable Frank Vincent AO KC |
| 1       | 17 October 2023 | Ms Liz Williams PSM                |
| 1       | 18 October 2023 | Mr Sven Bluemmel                   |

The Nepean Conservation Group would also like the VEC's appointed ERAP panel members to consider creating a set of internal boundaries (wards) in Mornington Peninsula Shire that do actually meet the  $\pm 10\%$  guidelines to ensure that "*each voter is represented equally*".

Yours sincerely

Dr Ursula de Jong  
President  
Nepean Conservation Group Inc

**Mornington Peninsula Shire Council**

**Model 1**  
 11 single-councillor wards

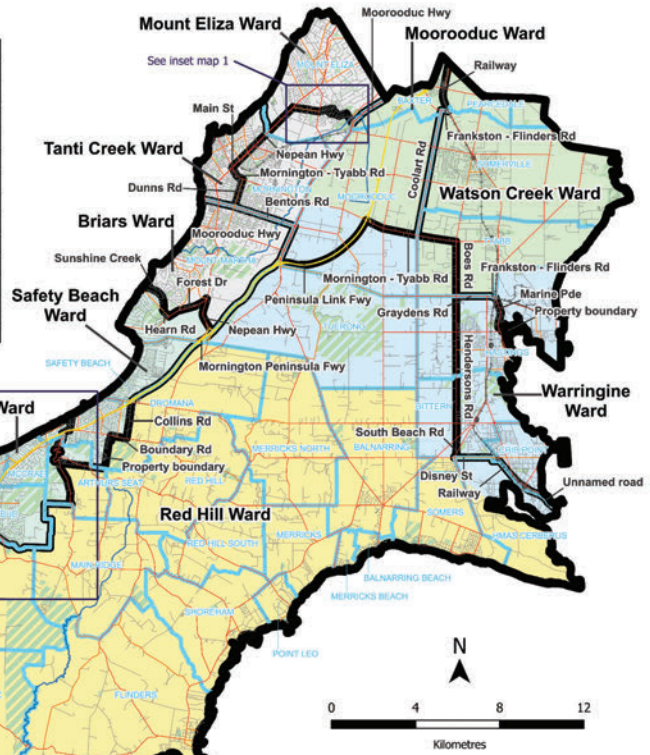
| Ward         | Electors* | Deviation | Area sq km |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Briars       | 13,313    | -3.49%    | 23.2       |
| Moorooduc    | 11,837    | -14.19%   | 55.1       |
| Mount Eliza  | 11,971    | -13.22%   | 17.9       |
| Nepean       | 18,763    | +36.02%   | 36.1       |
| Red Hill     | 14,083    | +2.09%    | 428.6      |
| Rosebud      | 16,708    | +21.12%   | 14.9       |
| Safety Beach | 15,115    | +9.57%    | 20.7       |
| Seawinds     | 12,600    | -8.66%    | 20.8       |
| Tanti Creek  | 12,447    | -9.77%    | 7.9        |
| Warringine   | 13,033    | -5.52%    | 24.1       |
| Watson Creek | 11,871    | -13.94%   | 74.1       |
| Total        | 151,741   |           | 723.4      |
| Average      | 13,795    |           | 65.8       |

\*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023

- Legend**
- Proposed boundaries
  - Existing ward(s)
    - Briars
    - Corberus
    - Nepean
    - Red Hill
    - Seawinds
    - Watson
  - Map Symbols
    - Freeways
    - Main roads
    - Collector roads
    - Minor roads
    - Railways
    - Railway stations
    - Rivers & creeks
    - Lakes
    - Parks & reserves
    - Locality boundaries

Data use:  
 Layers for alignment:  
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**Mornington Peninsula Shire Council**

**Model 2**  
 11 single-councillor wards

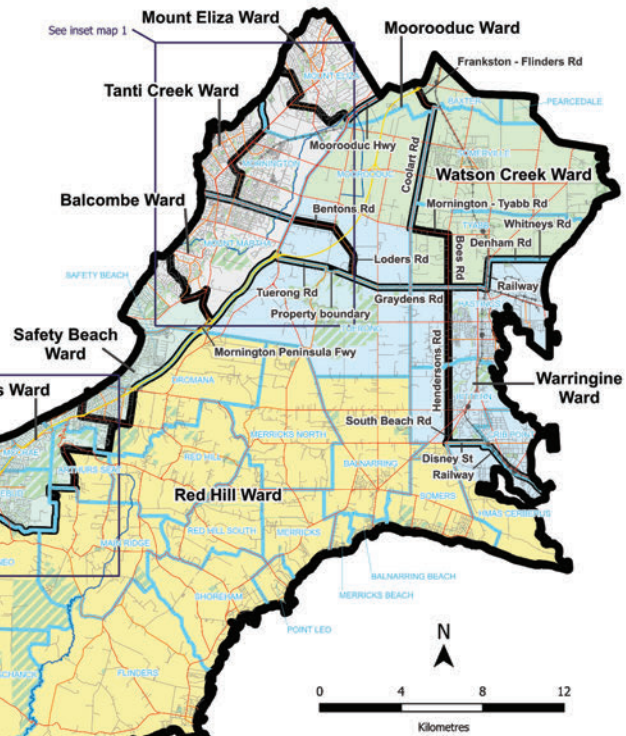
| Ward         | Electors* | Deviation | Area sq km |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Balcombe     | 11,756    | -14.78%   | 27.3       |
| Moorooduc    | 11,812    | -14.37%   | 66.4       |
| Mount Eliza  | 11,669    | -15.41%   | 15.5       |
| Nepean       | 19,185    | +39.08%   | 36.8       |
| Red Hill     | 13,394    | -2.9%     | 411.4      |
| Safety Beach | 14,686    | +6.46%    | 19.2       |
| Seawinds     | 14,062    | +1.94%    | 24.4       |
| Tanti Creek  | 12,447    | -9.77%    | 7.9        |
| Truemans     | 16,945    | +22.84%   | 14.8       |
| Warringine   | 13,071    | -5.25%    | 34.4       |
| Watson Creek | 12,714    | -7.83%    | 65.3       |
| Total        | 151,741   |           | 723.4      |
| Average      | 13,795    |           | 65.8       |

\*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023

- Legend**
- Proposed boundaries
  - Existing ward(s)
    - Briars
    - Corberus
    - Nepean
    - Red Hill
    - Seawinds
    - Watson
  - Map Symbols
    - Freeways
    - Main roads
    - Collector roads
    - Minor roads
    - Railways
    - Railway stations
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**Mornington Peninsula Shire Council**

Model 3  
 11 single-councillor wards

| Ward        | Electors* | Deviation | Area sq km |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Briars      | 12,977    | -5.93%    | 26.9       |
| Capel Sound | 17,451    | +26.51%   | 15.2       |
| McCrae      | 12,702    | -7.92%    | 18.7       |
| Moorooduc   | 12,666    | -8.18%    | 75.1       |
| Mount Eliza | 13,183    | -4.43%    | 16.1       |
| Nepean      | 19,077    | +38.29%   | 59         |
| Red Hill    | 12,667    | -8.17%    | 295.7      |
| Seawinds    | 14,211    | +3.02%    | 45.7       |
| Somerville  | 11,860    | -14.02%   | 64.6       |
| Tanti Creek | 13,209    | -4.25%    | 8.7        |
| Warringine  | 11,738    | -14.91%   | 97.9       |
| Total       | 151,741   |           | 723.6      |
| Average     | 13,795    |           | 65.8       |

\*Elector numbers as at 25 July 2023

- Legend**
- Proposed boundaries
  - Existing ward(s)**
  - Briars
  - Carberus
  - Nepean
  - Red Hill
  - Seawinds
  - Watson
  - Map Symbols**
  - Freeways
  - Main roads
  - Collector roads
  - Minor roads
  - Railways
  - Railway stations
  - Rivers & creeks
  - Lakes
  - Locality boundaries
  - Parks & reserves

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