

**Electoral structure review - Merri-bek City Council - Response Submission**  
**Natalie Abboud - Coburg North - 20 October 2023, 12:25 pm**

Hello, I am Natalie Abboud. Thankyou for considering my submission.

As a former councillor and Mayor of the city of Merri-Bek, a business owner of 18 years and a resident of about 20 years, I feel well qualified to make this submission regarding the ward boundaries for the city as it transitions to 11 single member wards.

My three children attend school here and have lived here all their lives.

The changes I have suggested are related to wayfaring, access to open space and sporting facilities, creeks, shopping precincts and the way our communities co-exist and travel through the city.

The four south wards I have created are corridor shaped and run parallel to each other using the major arterials that are seen as unofficial barriers already, Nicholson st, Sydney road and Lygon st. The lower part of Merri-Bek is easier to travel through when heading Nth/Sth rather than E/W and as a result the neighborhoods have evolved in a similar linear way. The central south wards have a slightly lower deviation which is a response to the inevitable increase of further development. The East Brunswick ward has already seen most of the development that it will see and the south West ward has a lower deviation(almost 6%) simply because of the larger geographical size that it covers.

The central part of the city speaks for itself, Coburgers know who they are, south of Bell St which has long been referred to by the city's residents. North of Bell st on the East side is North Coburg, incorporating Coburg Hill, Merlynston and the North Coburg Primary School community off Ohea st up to Sussex st and bordered by Boundary road and the south end of the GMCT Fawkner Cemetery which serves as important open space for residents on the west side of the cemetery as well as Fawkner itself.

The deviation for the Fawkner area is low and this is also because of the larger land space and lower density in this part of the city.

North of Bell st on the West side of the city are the electorates of Paccocoe, Paccocoe sth, Haddy and Glenbrae. I have held my tongue firmly in my cheek with all of the proposed names in my map because I have no real concern with place names and figure that is for other minds to decide but I hope you can see that I have taken a very serious approach to the numbers and delineation of the ward locations themselves.

I am looking forward to being able to present the proposed map and talk to my suggestions in person.