

**Oops! Being re-sent due to missing map (attached) for clarification.**

To the Concerned Persons/Personnel/Dept.,

The reason why this is being submitted in the form of an email and NOT online, is because, the online submission portal does not work. Even contacting 131832, the 'helpful' Help Desk staff member could not be of much assistance as the complaint was technical (he did try to transfer the call? - only for it to come back to him?) - however, he did provide me with the above email address, for which I was grateful and thanked him. Anyway...

Re. the Dandenong Star Journal's (dt. 20/2/24) call for submissions on GDCC review on Ward boundaries : (Quote) "Under the Local Government Act 2020, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) must review a council's ward boundaries at the request of the Minister for Local Government when there has been a change in the number of voters per councillor in one or more wards". (Unquote)

That is the dumbest edict I have come across. Let me explain :

(1) If a ward has 2 and a half members vs 1 with 10 members, it should be the area covered and NOT the number of members that should be a criteria.

(2) It should be the services provided (or that should be provided) to the residents (of that ward) that should be the primary concern.

Therefore, based in the 2 simple premises above, it is unbelievable that the GDCC has been divided ('chopped up' is the more appropriate term that comes to mind?) into 11 ways! (and not 22?) Laughable!

In my fair and humble opinion, it would make sense to cut it down to 5 wards - as follows:

(1) Dandenong North (Dandenong North Ward + Cleeland Ward) - with its the boundry to extend to Greens Road

(2) Dandenong South (renaming the current Dandenong Ward)

(3) Springvale (Springvale North Ward + Springvale Central Ward + Springvale South Ward)

(4) Noble Park (Noble Park Ward + Noble Park North Ward + Yarraman Ward)

(5) Keysborough (Keysborough Ward + Keysborough South Ward)

The above would :

(1) Cost savings (reduce the number of Councillors (currently on the gravy train) from 11 to 5.

(2) Redefine the current crazy map and its boundaries - to something logical, let alone sensible!

Currently, even the mis-mash of divisions/boundaries sees NO elected Councillors? - be it 'in 'sight' or 'services to' their wards! (and I speak not just for myself but for family and friends in adjacent wards too! - Go figure!).

A 'Concerned Resident' (of Dandenong for the past 25+ years).

(P.S.: I would gladly have given my name if I had to do it via an account creation, meanwhile, feel free to respond - if you need to? - via this email address.)

