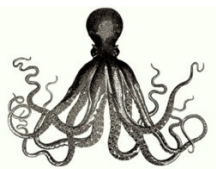


From: M Cheers [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 November 2023 3:53 PM
To: Mornington Peninsula Submissions 2023
Subject: Mornington Peninsula Electoral Boundaries Review - submission
Attachments: RCGA Electoral Boundary sub.pdf

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.

Dear VEC,
Please find attached a submission from the Rye Community Group Alliance commenting on the proposed changes to the electoral boundaries of the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Regards
Mechelle Cheers
Chair
Rye Community Group Alliance
[REDACTED]



Rye Community Group Alliance

██████████ Rye 3941

Joining as one voice to benefit the Rye Community

RE: Mornington Peninsula Electoral Boundaries

Rye Community Group Alliance ¹(RCGA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the electoral boundaries proposed in the 3 models put forward by the electoral representation advisory panel.

First, however we would like to stress that Rye is not a suburb but is defined across a number of formal planning documents as a coastal town. It is also targeted under the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme (MPPS) as developing as a large activity centre. RCGA and the community is strongly against any model where Rye is split into 2 different Wards.

The total area of Rye is merely 14.7square kilometres and splitting it into 2 wards severely reduces the lobbying/advocacy ability of ratepayers and residents. It also has implications for township/cultural identity.

Fingal has a 3939 postcode so has long been more associated with the Rosebud part of the Peninsula. The confusion may have arisen with the strong belief that St. Andrews Beach which shares the Rye postcode should be part of the same Ward.

Many residents would support Rye becoming a Ward on its own, comprising townships/villages within the 3941 post code. That is, Rye, Tootgarook and St Andrews Beach. The electoral population under this model would be 13,590 – on target with the desired number of voters giving a deviation of only – 1.49%. However this leaves Blairgowrie, Sorrento and Portsea with only 5586 voters. RCGA is aware this total population number in these 3 towns is not viable as a stand-alone Ward.

In light of the above, RCGA proposes (see below) the following which retains Rye in its entirety but removes on Tootgarook. Tootgarook is largely a residential suburb and defined as a convenience centre – the smallest commercial unit under the MPPS. Apart from small area close to Rye (Marshall Street to Leonard Street) Tootgarook generally has a greater synergy with Capel Sound and Rosebud and this is certainly true the closer the area is to Truemans Road.

Comments and recommendations - Proposed Model 1, NEPEAN WARD and Rosebud Ward

RCGA proposes that the draft Model 1 be modified to retain within the Nepean Ward all of Rye (i.e. from Marshall Street to Canterbury Jetty Road), Blairgowrie, Sorrento and Portsea. We also request St Andrews is added to the Ward and for Tootgarook not to be included.

Adding St Andrews Beach would keep the Rye ocean/bass strait beaches under the same ward as the Blairgowrie to Portsea back beaches. We do not see Fingal (postcode 3939) as part of the Nepean Ward.

¹ RCGA comprises executive members from key Rye community groups including the School, Pre School, Football & Netball Club, Community House, Lions Club, Historical Society and business reps.

The changes suggested above, would give the Nepean Ward 15,234 voters with a deviation of +11.1%, a significant difference to a deviation of +36.02%

All of Tootgarook under this model would go into the new 'Rosebud Ward 'along with Capel Sound and the Bayside area/population of Rosebud as per the draft model. While we don't know the exact population numbers, with the proposed split of Rosebud, this arrangement would lessen the numbers in the Rosebud Ward to bring down its high deviation of + 21.12%.

Fingal (pop. 637) given its rural status would fit within the Red Hill Ward with little impact on numbers (+ 6.7% cf +2.09%). Alternatively, given the Panel indicated it would like to see greater representation of the rural areas on the Peninsula, another option would be to place Fingal and Boneo (pop. 314) into the Seawinds Ward. This would boost Seawinds numbers to 13,551 and deviate from the average by only - 1.8%.

Models 2 & 3

The ward boundary proposed would also fit well with models 2 and 3 and reduce the size of the Nepean Ward and the (new) Trueman's Ward in model 2. Similarly for the Nepean Ward and the (proposed) Capel Sound in model 3.

Conclusion

In conclusion, RCGA again emphasises the need to keep Rye intact as a township for the reasons given above. We have offered a way by which the panel can make this decision and at the same time improve the evenness of the electoral numbers across the southern peninsula wards. The RCGA suggestions also pay regard to long term synergies and town identification.

Thank you again and RCGA looks forward to the next phase.

Your sincerely

Mechelle Cheers
Chair
Rye Community Group Alliance

