



Local Council Electoral Structure Review: Ballarat City Council

Dear Electoral Representation Advisory Panel,

The **Ballarat and District Branch of the Victorian Greens** writes to make a submission to the Electoral Representation Advisory Panel, addressing the models proposed by the Panel in its preliminary report.

In our view, it is important that councillors can represent a cohesive group of voters, and that the ward boundaries are along lines that make sense for community demographics.

We believe that **Model 1** has the most sensible and logical ward boundaries to enable representation of different groups of voters. However, we believe some ward boundaries should be redrawn, often to incorporate aspects of **Model 3**.

We believe the **Lake Gardens Ward** should be renamed Central Ward with the western boundary on Gillies Street North or thereabouts and the eastern boundary on Peel Street North or thereabouts. This would be like the proposed Central Ward in **Model 3** and would encompass Ballarat Central, Lake Wendouree and Soldiers Hill, including the station precinct, which is a strong community of interest around central Ballarat.

We believe the **Alfredton Ward** should take in the western area of what is now Lake Gardens Ward, namely the suburb of Lake Gardens, that its western boundary should be Dyson Street or thereabouts and that its eastern boundary should be Russell Street/Gillies Street North or thereabouts. This would be like the Alfredton Ward in **Model 3** and would encompass Alfredton, Lake Gardens, Newington, and Victoria Park, which is a strong community of interest with similar population demographics.

We believe the **Victoria Park Ward** should be renamed South-West Ward and take in Lucas and Bunkers Hill. This would be somewhat like the Winter Valley Ward in **Model 3**.

We believe the **Sovereign Hill Ward** should be renamed Mullawallah Ward with the western boundary on Sutton Street or thereabouts and the eastern boundary on Fussell Street or thereabouts. This would encompass Redan, Mount Pleasant, Sovereign Hill and Canadian, which is a strong community of interest centred around the southern suburbs of Ballarat. The name would recognise Mullawallah, a Wadawurrung man believed to have been the last of the Ballarat tribe.

We believe the **Wendouree Ward** should be extended to include Ballarat North and that the **Black Hill Ward** should be extended to include Invermay, Nerrina, Glen Park, Brown Hill, Gong Gong and Warrenheip as there is a strong community interest around the eastern suburbs and semi-rural areas that are becoming increasingly urbanised (for example “New Brown Hill” on the northern side of the Western Freeway).

We believe **Yarrowee Ward** should be renamed Sebastopol Ward considering its location.

We believe that **Burrumbeet Ward** should be renamed Rural North Ward as to name a large area after one small town does not reflect its scope.

Model 2 is, in our view, divides communities of interest by mixing rural areas in the north with suburban areas more closely associated with the centre of Ballarat and is generally undesirable.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission and would welcome the opportunity to speak at the public hearing.