

**Electoral structure review - Greater Shepparton City Council - Response Submission
Lachlan Duggan - Shepparton - 19 July 2023, 09:39 pm**

I would like to start my submission by expressing my profound disapproval of the Govt.'s changes to permissible electoral structures, which undermine local democracy, is very likely to negatively impact diversity, and will create division among councilors focused on the interests of their own ward rather than focused on a common goal for the whole community. I accept that the structure of councils is not up for change, as the requirements are pretty explicit for cities, but I just wanted to get those thoughts on paper.

as for my ward submission, I feel as if the commission has done a pretty good job of creating sensible boundaries that group the various parts of the city in a cohesive manner, and express my support for Model 1, but with a few name changes and one boundary change, all related to the Shepparton wards specifically.

-I propose the names of three of the Shepparton wards to names that would be more recognisable to members of the community. I propose the following name changes:

Flinders Park Ward -> McEwen Ward (a reference to John McEwen reserve)

Showgrounds Ward -> Balaclava Ward (Balaclava Road, which runs through the ward)

Yanha Gurtji Ward -> Kanny-goopna Ward (the local Yorta Yorta name for Shepparton)

I also propose a boundary change that allows Poplar Ward to stay within Shepparton entirely without breaching the locality boundary

I propose that Orrvale is transferred into Pine Lodge ward, with the area bounded by Archer, Wilmot, St George, and St Andrews roads transferred into Poplar ward from Kanny-goopna Ward. This change does involve the transfer of 348 voters in Orrvale to Pine Lodge Ward, and 514 voters from Kanny-goopna to Poplar, which is a substantial change, but I believe that keeping Poplar as an entirely urban ward, is a better way to go.

I do not propose any changes to Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn River, or Midland wards, as any changes around Mooroopna would create knock-on effects that would negatively impact the rest of the map.

I have included a map with my proposed changes on it

Greater Shepparton City Council

Inset - Model 1

