

**Electoral structure review - Moonee Valley City Council - Response Submission
Pierce Tyson - Moonee Ponds - 08 November 2023, 06:41 am**

Attached PDF document for submission.

Mayor Pierce Tyson

Moonee Ponds VIC 3039

I make this submission on an individual basis and all views expressed are my personal opinion.

Model 1 as proposed by the VEC is far more similar to the current electoral structure of the City of Moonee Valley, and while it would be more familiar to existing Councillors and staff, the broader community does not have any attachment to existing boundaries that have only been in place for a few electoral cycles.

This submission favours Model 2 with minor adjustments included through the VEC Public Submission Tool. The reasons predominantly are in relation to maintenance of communities of interest and business districts, as well as expected population growth or stagnation within wards. Logical boundaries favour natural features, major roads, freeways and the train line that runs through the south and east of the municipality.

With respect to boundary proposals for the western and northern parts of the municipality, the most critical features to consider are Steele Creek and the Calder/Tullamarine Freeways. Steele Creek physically divides the suburbs of Niddrie from East Keilor, and West Essendon from Avondale Heights & Keilor East. These communities are distinct from each other and share very few services and facilities due to this natural division. The suggested changes for the southern and eastern parts of the municipality are predominately based on more logical physical road boundaries for the community, as well as keeping major business districts and activity centres together.

All suggested name changes are based on major roads within these districts, apart from Queens Park and Doutta Galla. The latter is a historical name within Moonee Valley, and was previously the name of the Legislative Council Region representing the area. Many parts of this community share the name, such as Doutta Galla Aged Care Services.

Rose Hill & Milleara Wards

While it would be ideal to have a higher than average population deviation for wards covering the suburbs of Keilor East and Avondale Heights due to current and projected stagnant or declining population, the clearly dividing natural and physical boundaries of Steele Creek and the Calder Freeway prohibit this being easily achieved.

The proposed changes distinct from the VEC model rest with maintaining the entire suburb of Avondale Heights together, with the necessity of dividing Keilor East due to being too large to be a ward itself. This submission proposes keeping both suburbs connected within respective wards as much as possible due to the general uniformity in demographics, services and interest. The pocket of Keilor East that I submit should be split from the rest of the suburb does not have significant connection to any of the three wards and would not be disadvantaged in resident representation.

McNamara & Buckley Wards

The proposed McNamara Ward has only been altered from the VEC's proposed Airport Ward Model 2 with respect to the continuation of Keilor Road up until Treadwell Road. The proposal from the VEC is logical to maintain the boundary north of the Calder and Tullamarine Freeways within one Ward, while keeping the focal point as Essendon Airport, a significant employer and point of interest to both suburbs that are located adjacent.

The proposed Buckley and McNamara Wards should have negative deviations due to the Victorian Government Housing Statement, identifying sites at the intersection of Keilor Road and Matthews Avenue, Niddrie as Activity Centre Overlay locations which will dramatically increase population growth in both wards. The minor changes to both reflect this, as well as maintaining a more logical and uniform line of division along the eastern boundary of Buckley Ward.

Aberfeldie Park, Myrnong, Doutta Galla, Queens Park & Woodlands Ward

Under this submission, Woodlands Ward is focussed on being altered from the VEC Model 2 with a view to correcting the high population deviation. Similarly, to Buckley and McNamara Wards, the Victorian Government will be implementing an Activity Centre Overlay as part of the Housing Statement at the intersection of Bulla, Keilor and Mount Alexander Roads. This will significantly increase population and is already a fast-growing community serviced by public transport and a freeway off and on ramp. At the heart of suggested changes to achieve this, are maintaining the major roads of Keilor Road and Mount Alexander Road, and the train line, as boundaries. Beyond that, adjustments to the remaining wards are to maintain the Moonee Ponds Activity Centre intact within a ward, and ensure boundaries follow logical major roads of Holmes Road and Ascot Vale Road. This submission attempts to contain Queens Park Ward along the train line as was the intention under Model 2.

