

**Electoral structure review - Wyndham City Council - Response Submission  
Shannon McGuire - Tarneit - 21 November 2023, 8:53 am**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Wyndham Submissions 2023](#)  
**Subject:** Model review  
**Date:** Tuesday, 21 November 2023 8:53:08 AM  
**Attachments:** [ERAP Wyndham.pdf](#)

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Dear team,

Please find attached a submission for the Wyndham Model Review. I would like to attend the online public hearing and consider speaking to this document.

Yours sincerely,

Shannon McGuire

Dear ERAP Panel,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the local council electoral structure for Wyndham City Council. As a resident of Wyndham, I would like to advocate for Model 2 as the most representative option for our Council area, and propose an increase in wards from 11 to 12.

Model 2 demonstrates notable advantages, particularly in the central and northern suburbs of the municipality, where diverse demographic, historical, and cultural characteristics necessitate careful consideration. Walking through residential areas, it is evident that estates north of the Freeway have evolved gradually over the past 50 years, leading to changes in housing stock, streetscape, and community demographics. These differences translate into distinct needs within Wyndham's wards, ranging from services like kindergartens and aged care to sports and infrastructure investments.

Recognising the inherent imperfections in ward allocation, Model 2 appears more successful in achieving the goal of bringing communities together to advocate for their needs. Notably, Model 2 provides greater clarity to residents about their local ward representative, incorporating historical changes in housing development, demographics, and community expectations.

**Clear Boundary Lines on Major Roads:**

One significant difference between the two models is the clarity of boundary lines in Model 2 compared to Model 1. Model 1's lack of clear and obvious lines, especially between Brinbeal and Bellbridge wards, may cause confusion among residents. The use of major roads as delineators in Model 2 provides a clearer distinction, aiding residents, stakeholders, and council administrators in understanding and reviewing the impact of future investments and initiatives.

**Avoiding Suburb Division:**

While both models cut Hoppers Crossing into two, Model 2 demonstrates a more clearly defined boundary. In Model 1, Bemim Ward incorporates two different suburbs, Tarneit and Truganina, which should be avoided to ensure community understanding of ward boundaries. Model 2's boundary definition aligns more effectively with community expectations.

**Naming Recommendation:**

I propose renaming Brinbeal Ward to Tarneit West and Wimba Ward to Tarneit North in Model 2. These names align with residents' commonly used terms for the L-shaped suburb, enhancing face validity and community recognition.

**Consideration of a 12-Ward Model:**

I recommend considering a 12-ward model for public debate. This approach could offer new ways to divide wards, providing better clarity for residents, especially in areas like Williams Landing, where concerns have been voiced. A 12-ward model may also accommodate future population growth more effectively. Reducing the average electors per ward from almost 18,000 to 16,400 aligns more closely with comparable councils, and with anticipated growth, this figure is likely to approach 20,000+, making it essential to bring it in line with other municipalities in Melbourne, which have 14,000 electors per ward.

I appreciate your consideration of these points and believe that adopting Model 2, along with considering a 12-ward model, will contribute to a more representative and responsive electoral structure for Wyndham City Council.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter

Shannon McGuire