

Ward boundary review - Boroondara City Council - Response Submission
Benjamin Chesler - Glen Iris - 13 March 2024, 06:16 pm

Good afternoon,

My name is Benjamin Chesler and I am a resident of Glen Iris. I am making this submission to the Boroondara City Council ward boundary review to endorse the VEC's proposed model 2. I would also like to suggest an additional alteration to the boundary between Gardiner and Solway wards. As this is my only point of difference with Model 2, my attached map submission only includes the boundaries of these two wards.

Model 2 is a clear improvement over Model 1 and the status quo. Bellevue clearly needs to be contracted. The proposed southern boundary along High Street and Doncaster Road is a clear, distinct boundary. Model 2 also makes a number of slight alterations that keeps similar neighbourhoods together while forming stronger boundaries, such as extending Bellevue West to Princess Street.

I would like to suggest one alteration to the boundary between Gardiner and Solway ward. While Model 2 proposes no changes to them, the boundary is currently weak and not easily recognisable to residents. It runs down Summerhill Road, before cutting through a series of side streets and a ROWY down to Gardiners Creek/KooyongKoot. There are no clear physical or social divisions that these boundaries follow. The VEC alluded to this in its Preliminary Report for the 2019 Electoral Representation Review, where it noted that the ward boundaries that were eventually adopted were (generalising for the whole municipality):

- less clear
- divided more communities
- made up of more side streets

These issues are clearly present in the current boundary between Solway and Gardiner wards.

I propose changing this boundary to run down the full length of Summerhill Road, then following High Street west to the edge of the Council area at Gardiners Creek. This means transferring 747 electors north of High Street from Solway to Gardiner, and 742 electors south of High Street from Gardiner to Solway, for a net change of 5 electors in each ward. This has a minimal impact on current and projected enrolment numbers.

Importantly, this boundary is stronger and clearer. Summerhill Road and High Street are two of the most major roads in Glen Iris and Ashburton. Drawing ward boundaries along these roads makes the wards much clearer to local residents and allows them to easily identify which ward they belong to. Furthermore, it is much simpler than the current boundary. Gardiner and Solway wards are only separated by 2 major roads, rather than 8 side streets.

As such, I strongly recommend altering the boundary between Gardiner and Solway wards to follow the clear physical boundaries of Summerhill Road and High Street.

Finally, I also note that while I strongly support multi-councillor wards as recommended in the 2019 Electoral Representation Review, that is unfortunately beyond the scope of this review.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Chesler



[REDACTED] Glen Iris VIC 3146