

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this process. I write this submission as a former resident of CoGG (Belmont, Clifton Springs, St Leonards).

While I do not support the introduction of single-member wards, I understand that this structure has been imposed by the previous minister. Single member wards are known to be the most undemocratic structure, restricting diversity, encouraging parochialism and leading to increased instances of councillors being elected unopposed.

Single member wards also create difficulties in creating boundaries, as can be seen by all three models proposed. Model one includes the odd boundary of Cowies Creek Ward, which includes Anakie with Norlane and a portion of Highton thrown in. These are three communities with no geographic interest. Model two includes the Connewarre ward stretching from the coastal villages of the eastern Bellarine, right across to the Armstrong Creek growth area. Model three unnecessarily divides communities, often across multiple wards.

I believe that the number of councillors should be increased, to reflect the fact that the city is one of the largest LGAs in Victoria and has significant population growth projected. A council of 13 would be ideal, as this is an odd number. However, this is not being presented as an option. With the largest number being considered being 12, I have proposed the following boundaries, which seek to contain whole townships/major suburbs within one ward and group geographic communities of interest.

The voting population of each ward takes into consideration current and future growth areas.

Barrabool – Highton (part), Fyansford, Newtown (part), Wandana Heights, Ceres – Western and Fyansford Growth corridors

Central – Central Geelong, East Geelong, Geelong West, Rippleside, Drumcondra, Thompson (part), South Geelong (part)

Connewarre – Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads, Connewarre, Breamlea

Corio – Corio, Norlane, North Shore

Coriyule – Drysdale, Clifton Springs, Curlewis, Leopold (part)

Dooliebeal – Armstrong Creek (part), Warralily, Charlemont, Grovedale, Marshall – Armstrong Creek growth corridor

Kardinia – Belmont, Highton (part) Chilwell, South Geelong

Moolap – Moolap, Leopold (part), St Albans Park, Breakwater, Newcomb, Whittington

Swan Bay – Wallington, Portarlinton, Indented Head, St Leonards, Pt Lonsdale, Marcus Hill, Mannerim, Bellarine, Oakdene

Waurm Ponds – Waurm Ponds, Grovedale (part), Armstrong Creek (part), Mt Duneed

Western Heights – Herne Hill, Hamlyn Heights, Bell Post Hill, Bell Park, Manifold Heights, North Geelong

You Yangs – Lara, Lovely Banks, Anakie, Avalon, Little River, Balliang, Batesford – NW and Lara West growth corridors