

Electoral structure review - Casey City Council - Response Submission
Najah Nafisi - Berwick - 19 November 2023, 10:30 am

To whom it may concern,

I would like to strongly support Option 2 as it best reflects communities of interest. As the VEC report says itself, this is the option that has tried to keep suburbs of Casey together as much as possible.

In Option 2, the older part of Berwick along with the semi-rural areas north of it, which are demographically similar, are in a ward of their own. The newer southern part of Berwick (Berwick South) similarly has its own ward. Churchill Ward, Maramba Ward and River Gum Ward represent demographically similar areas. Almost all of Clyde North is united in one ward. The very west of the municipality is well represented in Quarters Ward, with Lyndhurst and almost all of Lynbrook and Cranbourne West in one ward. In fact the only key improvement needed to Option 2 is to have all of Lynbrook and Cranbourne West in Quarters Ward and less of Cranbourne North.

Option 1 and Option 3 don't reflect communities of interest, splitting suburbs in illogical ways.

Option 1 splits Berwick into three different wards and not in a logical north-south, new-old Berwick way. It has Waratah Ward connecting Doveton with the unrelated central Narre Warren area. Grasmere Ward has part of Harkaway and parts of Narre Warren bordering Narre Warren South in the same ward - totally different areas. Merinda Ward has four different suburbs in it.

Option 3 breaks Berwick in three ways as well. It doesn't have all of Clyde North in one ward and splits two demographically similar suburbs in Lynbrook and Lyndhurst apart. It separates the coastal communities into two wards.

I also have the following suggestions for different ward names based on having ward names that are either easy to understand because they are based on suburbs or have indigenous names. The use of suburbs or known neighbourhoods have made ward names in neighbouring Greater Dandenong easy to understand and locate. If it can't be a suburb name that is used, the more often indigenous names are used the better.

Grices Ward - Berwick South Ward

Springhill Ward - Cranbourne Ward

Quarters Ward - Lyndhurst Ward (as it is the suburb in the centre of the ward)

Berwick Springs - Narre Warren South Ward - also stops confusion with the suburb of Berwick

Pelican Point Ward - Bunerong Ward

Thanks for the opportunity to make a submission.

Regards,

Najah Nafisi

 Berwick