

**Electoral structure review - Casey City Council - Response Submission
Stuart Chalmers - Narre Warren North - 21 November 2023, 12:28 pm**

From: [Stuart Chalmers](#)
To: [Casey Submissions 2023](#)
Subject: Casey Council 2023 Electoral Review Preliminary Report Response Submission
Date: Tuesday, 21 November 2023 12:28:29 PM
Attachments: [Casey City Council 2023 Electoral Structure Review Preliminary Report Stuart Chalmers.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached is my Preliminary Report Response Submission for the Casey City Council 2023 Electoral Structural Review.

Regards,
Stuart Chalmers.

**ELECTORAL PREPRESENTATION ADVISORY PANEL
CASEY CITY COUNCIL – ELECTORAL STRUCTURE REVIEW
NOVEMBER 2023 PRELIMINARY REPORT RESPONSE SUBMISSION**

Response submitted by:

Name: Mr Stuart Austen Chalmers

Contact phone number (mobile): [REDACTED]

Contact phone number (home): [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address (postal and residential): [REDACTED], Narre Warren North, VIC. 3804.

Public Hearing:

I intend to attend the online public hearing on Tuesday 28th November, and would speak on my submission and in support of other speakers with similar responses to this Preliminary Report.

CASEY CITY COUNCIL – ELECTORAL STRUCTURE REVIEW NOVEMBER 2023 PRELIMINARY REPORT RESPONSE SUBMISSION

This submission considers the three options presented in the Preliminary Report from the point of view of a resident in the western part of Narre Warren North and I support:

- Twelve wards with one councillor per ward;
- Model 2 which attempts to keep communities based around suburb identities together.

Ward Structure with 12 Councillors:

My support for twelve councillors is based on the number of electors per councillor and for the twelve councillor option the average number of electors per councillor is close to 21,000 while for the eleven councillor option the average number of electors per councillor is close to 23,000. With continuing development and this preliminary report forecasting population growth from 365,239 (ABS 2022) to nearly 450,000 in 2028 (over 23% increase), the number of electors per councillor could also increase (allowing order of magnitude 20%) to around 25,000 for the twelve councillor option or nearly 28,000 for the eleven councillor option. These increased numbers of electors per councillor are significantly higher than other local councils in Victoria. This may result in higher demands being made on councillors serving their community and could result in a lesser number of candidates standing for election to the Casey City Council.

Thus I support the ward structure with twelve councillors, and also support that the wards in the southern area (such as Model 1 Viewgrand, Model 2 Clyde North, and Model 3 Grices) where most population growth can be expected, be established with the current elector number per councillor set lower than the average to provide for future increases in this number.

Model 2 Ward Structure - Grassmere:

This model is developed with the aim of keeping suburbs and communities with common interests together, and in particular shows the western boundary of the Grassmere Ward along Hallam North Road. This provides for most of Narre Warren North to be in the Grassmere Ward. For Model 1 and Model 3 the western boundary of Kurrajong Ward (Model 1) and Maramba Ward (Model 3) is along Narre Warren North Road, thus splitting Narre Warren North into two wards and hence two councillors.

Narre Warren North is a semi-rural community with common interests that are different to suburban residential Endeavour Hills, and residents such as me, between Narre Warren North Road and Hallam North Road see themselves as part of Narre Warren North, rather than Endeavour Hills. This extends to supporting local groups such as the Narre Warren North Community Association where the local councillor would again be invited to attend meetings and respond to issues involving City of Casey Council. Having one Grassmere councillor, rather than two, representing Narre Warren North on items such as ensuring the Council provides adequate 'Welcome to Narre Warren North' signs as you enter the suburb. This is an example of why Model 2 based on community identity is my preferred Ward Structure, even though this is currently an eleven councillor model.