

Electoral structure review - Warrnambool City Council - Response Submission

Max Taylor - Warrnambool - 25 July 2023, 03:34 pm

Warrnambool Electoral Council Boundary

There is so much history connected with South Warrnambool, that this opportunistic time to rename Merri Ward to South Warrnambool Ward and to move the Western Boundary of Moygil Ward further east to the Warrnambool Surf Club, then up through the Pertobe Road cutting to Merri Street.

The Merri Ward and Moygil Ward proposed boundary divides South Warrnambool in half, which I am totally opposed to. By moving the Moygil boundary to further east and renaming Merri Ward to South Warrnambool Ward will retain, recognise and invigorate all the history and heritage of South Warrnambool.

To support this proposed change, there exists now Warrnambool Council Road signs to indicate you are now entering South Warrnambool at the cutting and the Harris Street Reserve.

South Warrnambool was the 1st settlement in Warrnambool back in 1847 when the 1st land sales were held and South Warrnambool soon became a very busy port and a thriving place for many industries and became connected to the current railway station through a rail line down to the end of the breakwater. The breakwater was one of the most significant and important maritime engineering projects in Victoria in the late 19th century and not completed until 1890 and the Port of Warrnambool operated until 1942 when it was closed in favour of Portlands deep sea all weather harbour.

Deep in the heart of South Warrnambool there is so much history and heritage and just to mention a few there was not one, but two hotels situated now where the Lady Bay Hotel is, they once catered for sea passengers and sat almost adjacent to each other, one hotel being the Prince of Wales obtained a licence in 1874 and near by was Jewells Steam packet Inn which later became Bayview Hotel and then later the Lady Bay Hotel, which became a thriving place for night club entertainment and live bands through the 1970,80's 90's, hosting bands such as Cold Chisel, Skyhooks, Midnight Oil and the Angels, until it was demolished in 2001 to build the current resort. Close by to the Pertobe Road roundabout is the Warrnambool depot of the 8th/7th Royal Victorian Regiment Battalion originally used as a WW11 dehydration factory. Situated along the wharf railway line back in the 1920's was a saw mill, box factory, nail works and a Wollen Mill. The Mill built in 1909 when 40,000 pounds was raised through volunteer canvasses in Warrnambool and wartime demand increased production staff to 700. In 1958, the Mill became the first to manufacture electric blankets in Australia. Close by is Jetty Flat that hosted Warrnambool's first race horse meetings, visiting circuses, football and cricket matches.

South Warrnambool State school opened in 1877, the second under the new State Education system. there was also a South Warrnambool Police station, several businesses and a Doctors residence.

South Warrnambool today continues to work at maintaining its individual identity and I totally realise to change this boundary and populations will mean considerable work, but I remain so passionate and optimistic that this is a once in a life time opportunity to rename Merri Ward to South Warrnambool Ward and retain and recognize all the history and heritage connected with South Warrnambool which it thoroughly deserves.

Regards Max Taylor