

Electoral structure review - Merri-bek City Council - Response Submission
Daniel Sullivan - Brunswick - 06 November 2023, 12:25 pm

While I am opposed to single-member wards, I appreciate this review process cannot create multi-member wards. Within the scope of the review process, I support Model 3, as I believe most of the ward names are good, with the exception of the Creek Wards, and Thomson Ward, and the boundaries make sense to me, especially those in the south, noting that a lot of population growth is expected in those southern wards, likely faster than other wards. I noticed that Warrk-Warrk Ward has a positive deviation, which is unfortunate, but I can understand it may not have been possible to do anything else when using Moreland Rd as a boundary. I also support using Sydney Road as a boundary across Brunswick.

While the preliminary report states that 'meaningful consultation' with local Aboriginal communities and groups is not possible to undertake within the timeframes of the current review program, I think there should be some evidence presented that some form of consultation has been conducted with these groups, I think it's irresponsible to do no consultation at all.

I believe it is inappropriate that a ward has been named after a living former politician, which is the case with Thomson Ward, which has clearly been named after Kelvin Thomson Park, which appears to be named after the former Labor representative for Wills. I'm surprised there is a park named after Kelvin Thomson anyway - there are other former politicians who have passed away who might be better candidates, Bob Hawke comes to mind. That said, the proposed Thomson Ward could be named 'Shore Ward', which is named after Felix Wentworth 'Wen' Shore, the former Coburg Town Clerk who served on the Coburg Recreation Reserves Committee for 25 years. More on his life here: <http://fightingthekaiser.blogspot.com/2014/05/felix-wentworth-shore.html>
Thank you to Tim McKenna, the Secretary of the Coburg Historical Society, for providing me some history of the people behind names of several of the reserves in Pascoe Vale.

I think the Creek Wards don't make much sense as names, you can't really have one ward take claim to each of those creeks (Westbreen Ward is fine, though). I believe Djirri Djirri is a much better name for 'Moonee Ponds Creek Ward' and I believe 'Pentridge Ward' is a better name for 'Merri Creek Ward'.

I am also against wards being named after suburbs, like they are in Model 1 - I think that is too confusing and makes changing boundaries later more difficult - the boundaries presumably don't fit the postcodes, so therefore they should generally have names that aren't associated directly with the postcodes.

I like the following Ward names and think they should be used in any model:

Bulleke-bek Ward, Randazzo Ward, Warrk-Warrk Ward, Bababi Djinanang Ward, Djirri Djirri Ward, Pentridge Ward.