

**Electoral structure review - Greater Geelong City Council - Response Submission  
Jan Farrell - Ocean Grove - 26 July 2023, 03:32 pm**

The draft report fails to acknowledge existing communities of interest, particularly in the north and on The Bellarine.

For example, to link the seaside township of Point Lonsdale, the farming community on The Bellarine and the industrial area of Moolap into one ward makes no sense. What interests do these communities share?

And then to actually call the ward Moolap completely ignores the fact that some of its residents have a strong connection to The Bellarine.

So too, the option that cuts Ocean Grove into two different wards ignores the fact that the residents are a single community of interest. There can be no stronger connection for members of any community than to live in the same town.

The names chosen for the wards have little or no connection to existing towns, suburbs, landmarks or local cultural identities.

Under the historic single ward system, the ward based in Ocean Grove was called Beangala, in respect of its traditional owners.

I urge the Commission to adopt names for the wards that respect First Nations people as the traditional owners on the land contained within the Greater Geelong boundaries. Those lands were never ceded.