

**Electoral structure review - Greater Geelong City Council - Response Submission  
Tom Welsh - Grovedale - 16 July 2023, 05:39 pm**

Dear VEC,

I write this submission as someone who is a fifth-generation resident of the Kardinia Ward, City of Greater Geelong and someone involved in many groups across the current Kardinia Ward. The proposed ward structures seem to have been drafted by someone who does not live in the City of Greater Geelong with the current community interests not been considered.

I believe the past Deakin Ward before the 2017 elections best represented the communities of Highton, Ceres, Wandana Heights and the rural part of Waurin Ponds. Splitting communities such as Highton and Ceres in the current proposals does not suit well with me. This is because it will make it harder for Councillors to represent communities for example, sporting clubs, fire brigades and other groups.

I have concerns with Model One with placing Highton and Anakie in the same ward which, these communities have vast different issues and are not connected in transportation, community groups and shopping. Ceres, Highton, Wandana Heights and Waurin Ponds (West of the Ring Road, should all be included into the same ward due to the vast interest and interconnection. Waurin Ponds (West of the Ring Road) is a semi-rural area which are better connected with the communities of Ceres, than other parts of suburban Waurin Ponds and Grovedale.