



28 July 2023

Mr Brendan McGrath
Chief Executive Officer
Rural City of Wangaratta

62-68 Ovens Street
Wangaratta VIC 3677

Dear Electoral Representation Advisory Panel

Re: Electoral Structure Review – Rural City of Wangaratta

The CEO on behalf of the Mayor and Councillors of Rural City of Wangaratta makes the following submission to the Electoral Structure Review currently underway in our municipality.

Number of councillors and Wards

Mayor and Councillors are happy with both the proposed number of councillors and number of wards recommended in the review. The number of Councillors appears in line with other regional cities as highlighted in your draft report.

Location of ward boundaries

Out of the three Models presented for consideration, our councillors have a strong preference for Model 1 comprising the Wangaratta urban centre and three rural wards. The boundaries of the 3 proposed rural wards closely resemble those of the current structure, primarily following waterways and major rural roads. The Ovens River forms a strong and recognisable boundary between the proposed Reedy Creek and King River wards to the east. This was endorsed by Councillors.

Appropriate ward names

Mayor and Councillors support the proposed naming of the new 'City Ward' wards. However, our councillors strongly encourage the Electoral Representation Advisory Panel to consider naming the rural wards after prominent and historically well-known names that are more representative of our municipality and are more familiar to our residents.

Names for consideration that follow Model 1's rural boundaries but are more representative of our region would be:

1. Proposed Reedy Creek Ward to be named Ovens Ward
2. Proposed Warby – Ovens Ward to be named Warby Ward
3. Proposed King River Ward to be named King River Ward

Yours sincerely,



Brendan McGrath
Chief Executive Officer