

Submission to the VEC regarding Gannawarra ward review

I wish to submit a submission supporting the second option of two wards of three Councillors each in Gannawarra.

The reasons for my support of this option are

- Stronger links between Councillors and an area they represent
- Clearer link in the eyes of the public of which Councillors are answerable for an issue in a geographical situation.
- Increased knowledge of the voters of the candidates they are voting for – in the last election areas around Leitchville had to vote for candidates from Kerang – many did not know a single candidate and therefore had no idea who to vote for.
- The more direct the link between Councillors and the people they represent the greater the ability for Councillors to be held accountable by their electors.
- I support the boundary proposed by the VEC as it creates two logical zones in Gannawarra. One dominated by irrigation farming, one dominated by dryland farming.
 - Grouping like people together creates a common bond within the group. The consistency of needs and objectives of the group are greater. This increases the likelihood that their representatives have a clear understanding to take to council. Therefore, the representation is stronger and more reflective of the needs of that community.
- I see no problem with an even number of councilors as there are effective mechanisms to resolve tied votes already. Even with an odd number of Councillors, an absence reduces the voting to an even number. In most cases votes are not frequently evenly split so I do not consider it would be a problem.

Thankyou

Garner Smith

████████████████████ COHUNA VIC 3568

████████████████████

██████████