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From:	Brian Oates ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮
Sent:	Saturday, 11 November 2023 1:41 PM
To:	Casey Submissions 2023
Subject:	FW: My Submission City of Casey

Brian Oates

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Endeavour Hills
Victoria 3802

Please accept this, my submission regarding the City of Casey Electoral Structure.

This is an update of a submission that I made in 2019, however I believe nothing much has changed since that time even though some changes in Governance have occurred.

I propose that for the future City of Casey Council be eleven Wards with a single Councillor in each Ward. This was very satisfactory in the first few years of the City of Casey but after dual Councillor Wards were introduced things started to go bad, leading to the situation that the City of Casey from 2007 until the elected Councillors were removed, but much is still the same today.

The problems with dual Councillor Wards is that at an election there are generally two outcomes. Either candidates from opposite political perspectives are elected, in which case they criticise one another on all issues and little is progressed or alternately a popular Councillor is elected with a clear primary lead and the preferences then flow to someone else from the same party but not necessarily the expected candidate, who may have been an unpopular candidate, often a "running mate" gets elected and promptly resigns having no interest in being on the Council. This was witnessed in several cases in the City of Casey election of 2012, as I recall mainly in Springfield and Edrington Wards. The result, in this case, is that one Councillor does the work and the also ran watches, achieves very little but takes the money. As was obvious in the situation in the Four Oaks Ward of Casey Council in 2012 to n2016.

The other problem is the cost of campaigning in the State's largest and fastest growing municipality. A good campaign would have three mail outs. In order to have supporters deliver postal campaigning material in a current dual Councillor Ward a candidate would require around 200 helpers delivering for an hour for each of the mail outs. This is unlikely to be sustainable. The Cost of a single direct mail out to a dual Councillor Ward is around $10,000 when done by contractor delivery. This forces candidates to look for ways they can be financially assisted in these costs. This opens the door for the way to corruption and other

problems as the investment for an individual is barely worth the risk in relation to Councillor payments when the hours required are taken into consideration.

The other problem that has been witnessed is that with Councillors being stressed about funding and not getting on with their Ward partners it is easy for Council Officers to divide and conquer the Councillors. Good Governance is forgotten when Councillors have to please the officers to get things done or wait for instructions from senior managers before they make any decisions, this has also been apparent in the Casey Councils lack of direction after the former CEO left suddenly under strange and secret circumstances in early 2018.

I therefore suggest that single Ward as proposed in my map, which may still be available as I have had IT problems and could not save a copy of it but is very close to model 2. My aim was to continue as much as possible communities of interest and use natural boundaries wherever possible. With the rise of multi occupancy developments and high density living it is difficult to determine where most growth will escalate but I did try to lower the number in areas where new sub-divisions are being created and residential developments are still attracting many to this City. I think it would be good if the submissions from 2019 could also be reviewed to see how things have changed in those four years.

Regards
Brian Oates