

Electoral structure review - Whittlesea City Council - Response Submission
Kim Kotas - Doreen - 15 November 2023, 11:40 am

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 November 2023 11:40 AM
To: Whittlesea Submissions 2023
Subject: Response Submission, City of Whittlesea Elecetorial Structural Review 2023
Attachments: Response Submission_ Electoral Structure Review 2023_City of Whittlesea.docx

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Please see my response submission attached.

Yours truly
Ms. Kim Kotas
[REDACTED]
Doreen VIC 3754
[REDACTED]

Response Submission

Local council electoral structure review

Preliminary Report

Whittlesea City Council

October 2023

North Ward

On all three models, North Ward covers the towns of Whittlesea, Donnybrook and Doreen – North of Hazel Glen Drive.

On all three models, North Ward has around a -4% deviation in electors as of July 2023.

This modelling fails to take into account the population growth between now and October 2024. The Act 15(2) can go as far as -10% as of October 2024, i.e., Conservatively -15% as of July 2023.

Some suggestions:

Wollert and Donnybrook to be included in the one ward. Craigieburn Road – Meriang Road, including entire Donnybrook locality.

North ward to take in other parts of growth on the other side of Meriang Road.

Doreen (Painted Hills ward, can take in the entire locality of Doreen, - COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST + PSP is completely filled out, so unlikely to be more growth.

Mernda ward needs to take into account new growth - no established community yet, therefore small community of interest to be protected.

Epping, Lalor, Thomastown, Bundoora and Mill Park are established suburbs. There will not be the proportion of population growth there as is happening North of Bridge Inn/ Craigieburn Road East.

Both wards to be significantly under quota. This is to take into account that the vast majority of Whittlesea Council growth will be North of Craigieburn Road East/ Bridge Inn Road. At the October 2024 elections, these boundaries must leave as much room for growth as possible, whilst remaining compliant with s15(2) of the Act to ensure that through 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028, the Donnybrook, Whittlesea and Mernda areas are not grossly underrepresented, as population projections expect. The draft wards fail to take into the proportions of the Donnybrook, Mernda and Wollert PSPs as planned.

As such, the committee should break up North ward, and recognise the former North ward as it was at the 2016 Council election, is not an accurate blueprint for future ward boundaries.