

**Electoral structure review - Greater Geelong City Council - Response Submission  
Ron Nelson - Highton - 26 July 2023, 04:56 pm**

As a resident of Geelong for over 45 years and a City of Greater Geelong Ward Councillor for over 11 years representing my community in both single and multiple council ward structure Model 2 is my preferred model for a number of reasons.

Firstly, Model 2 clearly highlights Buckley Falls Ward as a community of interest due to it including Highton as the main suburb. Highton is one of the largest suburbs in Geelong with over 20,000 residents, and including it in one ward makes the most sense. In other Ward models they break up Highton which, I believe is not the purpose of this restructure. Model 2 also allows for the growth areas in the north of the Ward (Fyansford and Batesford South) to be included, which is future proofing the ward.

Model 2 also splits the rural from the suburban in the north for You Yangs Ward and Corio Bay Ward, allow for future proofing for the You Yangs Ward which is due to grow significantly in the future, however the Corio Ward should include all of Corio.

Model 2 makes Deakin Ward, which consists of Grovedale and Waurin Ponds combined which are communities of interest also.

While in the Bellarine the Connewarre Ward and the Murradoc Wards are split between North and South Bellarine which is perfect for communities of interest.

Model 2 also creates the Barwon Ward, which includes Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove, two beachside towns that both straddle the Barwon River where it meets the ocean.

While no Model is truly perfect, Model 2 seems on balance the best option moving forward for the differing and growing communities of Geelong.

I also note that Geelong is one of the fastest growing regional centres in the country and that another review will likely be needed within the next decade.

Thank you.

Cr Ron Nelson  
Kardinia Ward