

Electoral structure review - Casey City Council - Response Submission
Nathan Cornell - Berwick - 15 November 2023, 9:27 PM

From: [Nathan Cornell](#)
To: [Casey Submissions 2023](#)
Subject: Casey City Council restructuring - SUBMISSION
Date: Wednesday, 15 November 2023 9:34:37 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

For the City of Casey ward restructuring, Option 2 should be adopted, since it best reflects communities of interest. Option 2 is by far the most efficient at keeping Casey's suburbs and estates undivided by ward boundaries, as stated in the VEC report itself.

In Option 2, Grasmere Ward encompasses both old Berwick and the semi-rural areas of Harkaway and Narre Warren North, whose residents are a unified demographic. Grices Ward likewise keeps southern Berwick efficiently bound as a single ward. The Pakenham railway line divide is easily the most appropriate community boundary between these two wards (i.e. Old and New Berwick), so it should definitely be implemented in the final model.

Churchill Ward, Maramba Ward and River Gum Ward in Option 2 each cover demographically unified areas while splitting suburbs as little as possible. The Quarters Ward also represents Casey's western community well, as Lyndhurst, Lynbrook and Cranbourne West are well-connected suburbs. Almost all of Clyde North is united in one ward, which is ideal, especially since the area has grown very recently and thus has a strong sense of community.

On the other hand, Option 1 and Option 3 don't reflect communities of interest, splitting suburbs in illogical and unusual ways.

Option 1 splits Berwick into three different wards, and not in a logical way that divides Berwick via the rail line or the Princes Freeway. Waratah Ward connects Doveton with the entirely unrelated area of central Narre Warren. Grasmere Ward has part of Harkaway and parts of Narre Warren bordering Narre Warren South in the same ward - once again, these are totally different and demographically disunited areas. Furthermore, Merinda Ward has *four* different suburbs in it, which is fairly egregious and not ideal within such a well-populated council like Casey.

Option 3 also splits Berwick into three. It doesn't have all of Clyde North in one ward, which is counter-productive from a democratic point of view. The coastal towns are split into two wards, as are the two very similar suburbs of Lynbrook and Lyndhurst.

Overall, for numerous reasons, both of these models are inferior to Option 2.

If possible, it may also be a decent idea to alter a few of the ward names so that they are easier to locate and differentiate from one another. The use of suburbs or known neighbourhoods have made ward names in neighbouring Greater Dandenong easy to understand, as have names in other local government areas such as the City of Yarra. If it can't be a suburb name that is used, the more often indigenous names are used the better. Here are some recommendations:

- Grices Ward - change to 'Berwick South Ward'
- Springhill Ward - change to 'Cranbourne Ward'
- Quarters Ward - change to 'Lyndhurst Ward' (as it is the suburb in the centre of


the ward)

- Berwick Springs - change to 'Narre Warren South Ward' - this will prevent confusion with the suburb of Berwick
- Pelican Point Ward - change to 'Bunurong Ward'

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to make a submission. I hope you take these recommendations into consideration.

Kindest regards,

Nathan Cornell

 Berwick, VIC