

**Electoral structure review - Greater Geelong City Council - Response Submission
Melissa Cadwell - St Albans Park - 26 July 2023, 12:15 pm**

My name is Melissa Cadwell. I am a City of Greater Geelong Councillor for the central Brownbill Ward, recently elected to Council via VEC Countback on the 23rd January, 2023.

I live in the Southern part of the Brownbill Ward.

I note the submissions made by some of my fellow current and former Councillors, residents and also the Women in Local Democracy.

Various suggestions have been made, for example, retaining the current multi-member ward structure, deferring a decision about the electoral structure of the City of Greater Geelong LGA for another 3 years, and increasing the total number of Councillors from 12 to 24, or subdividing the Geelong Local Government Area into two municipalities. Noting that these don't adhere to the directives of the Local Government Act 2020 I welcome the feedback from the panel about the propositions.

I particularly support the statements made in these submissions regarding Geelong's continuing population growth, and the need for more rather than less Councilors to accommodate this population growth, and provide representation to our residents of the City, as well as the large geographic area of the City of Greater Geelong encompasses.

I believe there are two fundamental principles which should be applied for the electoral structure of the City of Greater Geelong Council and these are - the maintenance of 'communities of interest' in the ward boundaries, and supporting equitable representation for the people of the Greater Geelong area.

I support a model which achieves these principles and believe that Models 1 and Model 3 both have merit.

I don't support Model 2 which groups very different suburbs, for example Belmont with St Albans Park and Breakwater together in the Breakwater Ward, as these are communities which have very little in common.

I am supportive of the approach outlined in Cr Hathway's submission which highlights the importance of maintaining the structure of the existing 4 wards (Bellarine, Brownbill, Kardinia and Windermere) and further sub-dividing these, rather than devising totally new boundaries.

Model 1, grouping the existing suburbs of the current Brownbill ward as outlined on page 20-21 of the report is the model most likely to achieve this.

Model 3, which also groups similar suburbs together in the most sensible way, for example as outlined on page 23-24 of the report, for example the suburbs listed in the Cheetham Ward, where I live, with Thomson, Whittington, St Albans Park, Newcomb, Moolap, Breakwater and East Geelong.

On balance I am most supportive of Model 3 in the current proposed structure review, supportive of Model 1, and not supportive of Model 2.