



Reference: A4953964

Enquiries: Brianna Alcock

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Ms Julie Eisenbise, Chairperson
Electoral Representative Advisory Panel
C/O Victorian Electoral Commission
Online submission via website – www.vec.vic.gov.au

2 August 2023

Dear Ms Eisenbise,

RESPONSE SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED ELECTORAL STRUCTURE FRANKSTON CITY COUNCIL

I write to provide a submission in response to the proposed electoral structure of the Frankston City Council, which has been endorsed by the Council at its meeting on 31 July 2023. As per Council’s Governance Rules, members of the community were provided the opportunity to ask questions or make submissions on this matter.

Council’s submission on each model proposed in the Preliminary Report dated 12 July, is given below:

Model 1 - a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 8 councillors – 8 wards with one councillor per ward.

Under this proposed model, Frankston City Council would adopt an 8-ward structure represented by one Councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act. The proposed ward names this model are; Banyan Ward, Boggy Creek Ward, Lloyd Park Ward, Mount Grand Ward, Paratea Ward, Seaford Reserve Ward, Telopea Reserve Ward and Yamala Ward.

This model is **NOT** preferred by Council due to:

- Proposed reduction in the number of Councillors from nine (9) to eight (8) is not justified considering the geographic area, population and number of voters in the council as compared to other similar metropolitan councils;

- Frankston City Council comprises of the largest area and have population almost equal to other similar councils, who have between nine (9) and up to 11 Councillors (refer page 15 of the report);
- It may not represent interests of the community and may have issues relating to representation;
- Even number of Councillors can create a deadlock in decision making and can result vote ties;
- Deadlock in decision making may result in not facilitating good governance as required under section 16(8) (b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Model 2 - a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward.

Under this model, Frankston City Council would adopt a 9-ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one Councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act. The proposed ward names this model are; Coastal Ward, Crystal Park Ward, Lloyd Park Ward, Lyrebird Ward, Mount Grand Ward, Paratea Ward, Telopea Reserve Ward, Wilton Bushland Ward and Worland Park Ward.

This model is **NOT** preferred by Council due to:

- The proposed boundaries are not aligned to the current ward structure which breaks up the wards;
- Proposal to keep the entire coastal area in one ward, may not meet the criteria for representing the community interests and can give the impression that only one councillor would be considering the needs of the community in relation to beach areas;
- Proposing the ward boundaries following the key features of the transport network, such as the railway line, may not meet the criteria of having meaningful and effective ward boundaries;
- Proposed ward boundaries may not be easily identifiable to local communities;
- The above factors may lead to not facilitating good governance as required under section 16(8) (b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Model 3 - a subdivided electoral structure with a total of 9 councillors – 9 wards with one councillor per ward, with different boundaries to Model 2

Under this model, Frankston City Council would adopt a nine (9) ward structure. Each ward would be represented by one councillor, in line with the requirements of the Act. The proposed ward names this model are; Banyan Ward, Lloyd Park Ward, Mount Grand Ward, Paratea Ward, Seaford Reserve Ward, Telopea Reserve Ward, Wilton Bushland Ward, Worland Park Ward and Yamala Ward.

Ward Boundaries

Frankston City Council has a diverse community with varying needs across the municipality. The differing population and circumstances within our locality necessitates the need for diverse representation. Taking this into account the implementation of nine (9) wards with one councillor in each, facilitates representation among the diverse needs

of the entire municipality. This approach also facilitates greater local access to Councillors.

Council **SUPPORTS** the ward boundaries proposed in Model 3 of the Preliminary Report but requests to consider the alternative names for the proposed wards.

This model is supported because:

- The proposed ward boundaries in this model are aligned better and relatively close to the current electoral structure roughly dividing each of the current wards into three (3) wards each;
- It is expected that many of the boundaries would be familiar to residents;
- This model is most stable and keeps some entire suburbs together in wards.

Ward Names

The names proposed by Council are based on:

- Traditional names, influential women and native flora or fauna;
- Names are registered under the Geographic Place Names Act 1998 and have been taken from GNV Naming register;
- Falls within the same ward easily recognisable and give a sense of the locality being represented.

Council's (FCC) proposed alternate names with significance for each name is detailed in the table below:

Ward names proposed in preliminary report	FCC Proposed alternate name	Reason/significance of proposed name
Banyan Ward	Lyrebird Ward	<i>Fauna theme and locally linked to Lyrebird Community Centre</i>
Lloyd Park Ward	Langwarrin Ward	<i>Traditional name that comes from the squatting run called Lang Waring or Long Waring, leased by William Willoby from 1843.</i>
Mount Grand Ward	Elisabeth Murdoch Ward	<i>Dame Elisabeth Murdoch was an Australian Philanthropist who lived at Cruden Farm in Langwarrin.</i>
Paratea Ward	Derinya Ward	<i>Means 'an egg, new life' and locally linked to Derinya Primary School.</i>
Seaford Reserve ward	Kananook Ward	<i>Linked to the word Kananuke which means yaluk which is a river/creek.</i>
Telopea Ward	Pines Ward	<i>Name of Forest and locally linked to Pines Forest and Pines Forest Primary School.</i>
Wilton Bushland Ward	Wilton Ward	<i>A simplified version which aligns with other proposed names.</i>

Worland Park Ward	Ballam Ward	<i>Linked to Balam-balam which has a meaning of butterfly.</i>
Yamala Ward	Sweetwater Ward	<i>Local link to Sweetwater Creek.</i>

Community engagement

A brief community consultation was undertaken on Council's draft submission via a survey from 26 July until 30 July 2023.

There were six (6) responses to the survey and overall support was shown for Council's draft submission. Results of the feedback received are shown below:

- Five (5) respondents supported Council's preferred proposed Model 3;
- All respondents supported Council's proposed alternate ward names: Langwarrin Ward, Elisabeth Murdoch Ward, Kananook Ward, Ballam Ward, Sweetwater Ward and Derinya Ward;
- Four (4) respondents supported Council's proposed alternate ward names: Pines Ward and Wilton Ward;
- Five (5) respondents supported Council's proposed alternate ward name: Lyrebird Ward.

Submission Conclusion

- Model 1 – not supported;
- Model 2 – not supported;
- Model 3 - prefer new electoral structure Model 3;
 - Supportive of ward boundaries in Model 3;
 - Request to change the proposed ward names in Model 3 to alternate new ward names: Lyrebird Ward, Langwarrin Ward, Elisabeth Murdoch Ward, Derinya Ward, Kananook Ward, Pines Ward, Wilton Ward, Ballam Ward and Sweetwater Ward.

I appreciate your consideration of this submission to the 2023-2024 electoral structure review of Frankston City Council.

As per the required information for making a submission, I would like to speak in support of Council's submission at the public hearing on Wednesday 9 August 2023. I can be contacted via email [REDACTED].

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Phil Cantillon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER