

## **Electoral structure review - Ballarat City Council - Response Submission**

### **Ellen Burns - Ballarat - 14 July 2023, 12:58 pm**

It is very important that councillors are able to represent a cohesive group of people, and that the boundaries are along lines that make sense for community demographics.

In my submission, I have divided Ballarat into 9 wards, all within acceptable deviation from the average population.

1. Central (dark blue)

This area encompasses Ballarat CBD, Lake Wendouree and Soldiers Hill/the station precinct. This is what most Ballarat residents would consider "central". The population is higher than average in this area but I believe that a central councillor would be able to represent this group of people effectively due to the density and similarity of demographic.

2. East (purple)

East territory encompasses Bakery Hill, Eureka, Black Hill, Woodmans Hill, Brown Hill, "New Brown Hill", Glen Park, Invermay, Gong Gong and Warrenheip. This is the area known by locals as "Ballarat East" with exception perhaps of Invermay, which used to be considered "North" but has joined the East due to the development spreading out from Brown Hill through Glen Park towards White Swan. This area has a semi-rural feel, even in denser areas, due to high canopy coverage and larger blocks.

3. North (grey)

North boundaries include Ballarat North, Mars Stadium and Wendouree ending at Gillies St. This ward spans the length of Howitt and Norman Streets, which act as the arteries for these communities. This area is a mix of residential and industry, containing many businesses and industrial areas. It also includes large areas of green space, including the cemetery, golf club, Midlands Reserve and CE Brown Reserve and the sports/oval/stadium area.

4. Rural (dark green)

Despite being a large area, I believe that this area would be able to be represented by one councillor due to the low population, and similar needs and demographic. As well as the rural areas and smaller towns such as Learmonth and Miners Rest, my proposed boundaries include BWEZ and Wendouree West. This would couple agricultural land with the businesses and industry (saleyards, McCains etc) that process and transport the farm produce.

5. Victory (dark purple)

The Victory ward includes the area around the Arch of Victory and Avenue of Honour. Alfredton, "New Alfredton", Lake Gardens and Vic Park straddle the top end of Sturt St/Ballarat-Burumbet Road. This area contains a mix of densely-populated residential areas, green spaces and some industrial areas. The demographic of these areas is similar, mainly lower-middle class families.

6. Canadian (brown)

This area includes Redan, Mount Pleasant, Sovereign Hill and Canadian (the names of the wards I have used have just been quick and not actually my proposed names). The demographic and needs of these areas are similar (middle class families, large Gen X population).

7. Buninyong (green)

I have drawn the boundaries of the Buninyong ward to include Mount Helen, Mount Clear, and the less densely-populated parts of Canadian and Mount Pleasant. These areas have similar needs and demographics; generally older people and families on larger residential or rural blocks. This area also includes Fed Uni and several pine plantations.

8. Sebastopol (light blue)

Bonshaw Creek and the Yarrowee River make natural boundaries around this area, with Rubicon St being a firm boundary before Redan begins. Sebas has historically been a lower SES area but is currently going through a revival period. More investment and new businesses going in.

9. South West (yellow)

My South West ward includes Lucas, Delacombe and Winter Valley. You will note that the South West territory has the lowest number of people, but this allows for the rapid population growth occurring there as we speak. There is likely to be another 1000 voters living in that area before the council election goes ahead.

I believe that these boundaries reflect communities, demographics, boundaries (official, natural and unspoken), and create areas that would successfully be able to be represented by single councillors.