

**Electoral structure review - Warrnambool City Council - Response Submission  
Lynne Carter - Warrnambool - 21 July 2023, 11:51 pm**

VEC submission re Warrnambool council Wards proposal

I understand that the Government has already decided that we must move to a single councillor per Ward model. I appreciate that you are seeking consultation on the implementation of your Ward model. I only came across this by word of mouth but haven't seen it advertised in the local media but it was mentioned to me by 2 people this week.

If the change to Wards must be done I would request that there be consideration when setting boundaries so that communities which have worked hard to build their identity/sense of community and resident associations are kept together in the same ward. We are part of the South Warrnambool residents group and have worked with other residents to connect and build community. However on some of the VEC proposals (models 1 & 2) South Warrnambool is split across 2 wards. Likewise Merrivale and Dennington also have resident associations and a geographical/community identity and I might suggest Woodford and Allansford would also whereas when we lived in another part of Warrnambool there was not a distinct community or geographical identity.

It appears as if Option 3 is the best one for keeping South Warrnambool community together in the same ward but it may be more logical to keep South Warrnambool and Merrivale in the same ward more so than having South linked with East Warrnambool .

Regarding names of Wards, possibly there could be a mixture of aboriginal names linked to areas (eg Moyjil refers to the mouth of Hopkins area but is not appropriate to areas south or west of the City) or naming around the geographic landmarks (eg Botanic, Coastal, Merri ) or local shipwreck names or fauna as some models suggest. I think people's names should be avoided. Central, North South, East and West can actually make it easier for people to get their bearings and they don't have to remember 7 or 9 new names but it is difficult to have compass names for 7 - 9 wards.