

**Electoral structure review - Greater Geelong City Council - Response Submission
Warren Chapman - Ocean Grove - 26 July 2023, 02:48 pm**

Members, Electoral Representation Advisory Council

I seek your report recommend to the Minister for Local Government that there are exceptional circumstances applicable to the Greater Geelong City Council (GGCC) electorate review and that the Minister postpone the process until 2026 or later.

I believe the Government adopted recommendation of the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Greater Geelong City Council March 2016 should apply for another electoral cycle due in later 2024, that being the 4 ward structure with 11 Councillors elected. The recognition of the Independent Commission of Inquiry that multi Councillor wards brings the best strategic and cooperative Council operation for the benefit of the municipality and residents.

I endorse and support the submissions of the Ocean Grove Community Association (OGCA) and the Combined Bellarine Community Association (CBCA) which advocate for application of exceptional circumstance and seek retention of the present multi Councillor ward arrangement for GGCC.

Preferences;

In review of the 3 models presented by the ERAC, I would support Model 1 as it best represents the Bellarine Ward which closely represents the Bellarine Distinctive Area and Landscape declared area.

I offer this option for the naming of the 3 wards defined in the Model 1;

- Grassy Point Ward, rename as Bellarine to capture the locality Bellarine and Mount Bellarine
-Moolap, to realign the southern boundary of the ward to the southern boundary of the Lake Connewarre system and rename as Connewarre
- Connewarre, rename as Barrier, this to capture the character of the barrier sand dune system which protects the hinterland