

**Electoral structure review - Wyndham City Council - Response Submission
Gunjan Agarwal - Truganina - 22 November 2023, 01:55 pm**

To whom it may concern,

It is of great concern to me that the multi-councillor wards are being replaced by single member wards, as it will impair the democracy of Wyndham Council. I am aware that the mandate to move to single-councillor wards has been set by the Local Government Act 2020, but wish to make my views clear regardless in this submission. This move will hinder our democracy. Multi-councillor wards allow for our community to be better represented by its local councillors, as the larger wards provide residents a greater range of candidates and politics, and as such greater representation for minorities. In such diverse communities as the ones of Wyndham Council, the range of views is forsaken in single-councillor wards as the number of candidates shrinks, and the lone councillor elected has the potential to only meet the preferences of 51% of the community. Furthermore, in Wyndham, both Model 1 and Model 2 have been deemed in the interim report as unviable by 2028 due to the expected major deviations in population, a problem exacerbated by the requirement for smaller, single-councillor wards. I call on the panel to recommend to the Minister an amendment to the Act to return multi-councillor wards to the council of Wyndham by 2028.

In regards to the current structure review, I believe Model 1 to be the best division of wards for our communities within the council. My reasons for doing so are as follows:

? Quandong Ward & Iramoo Ward - as per the interim report, the boundaries are identical in both models. I have no qualms with the boundaries that have been set as the ward populations are closely aligned with each other, as are the physical areas.

? Werribee Park Ward & Cheetham Ward - I prefer Model 1 as the full parks & recreation area marked on the model is not divided between the wards. I also prefer the use of the name Cheetham over Saltwater, and have no qualms with the name Werribee Park..

? Featherbrook Ward - as per the interim report, the boundaries are identical in both models. If the ward population was not so close to the average I would recommend including the area up to the rail line that is instead in the Williams Landing Ward.

? Williams Landing Ward & Bemin Ward - In comparison with the boundaries of Model 2, I find Model 1 preferential in extending the Williams Landing Ward down to cover the full locality of Williams Landing, allowing Bemin Ward to straddle Skeleton Creek. My largest concern is the deviation of 6% over for Bremin, and 6% under for Williams Landing. If there were a simple way to redistribute the easternmost suburbs of Bremin to Williams Landing that would be preferable, however as mentioned earlier this seems unnecessary in the expectation of large deviations by 2028 anyway.

? Wimba Ward & Brinbeal Ward - I have no issues with the boundaries of these wards in Model 1, and whilst it is a minor difference prefer the more compact physical area of the wards compared to Model 2. The ward names are the same in both models, and I have no issue with either.

? Heathdale Ward - as per the interim report, the boundaries are identical in both models. I have no qualms with the boundaries nor the name of the ward.

? Belbridge Ward - Whilst I appreciate the symmetry of Granges Ward in Model 2, I do prefer the boundary of Bellbridge in extending to Skeleton Waterholes Creek and the partial locality boundary of Hoppers Crossing and Truganina.