

**Electoral structure review - Mount Alexander Shire Council - Response Submission
Dev Mukherjee - Campbells Creek - 05 April 2023, 11:51 am**

Of the proposed changes to the electoral structure of Mount Alexander Shire Council, Model 1 should be implemented. Proportional representation in a single council structure is superior to single-member wards because:

1. Proportional systems ensure a larger proportion of voters will be represented by someone for whom they voted. In a single-member ward, up to just under half the voters may not support the winning candidate.
2. Proportional systems consistently elect more women and more people from minority groups. Single-member wards are more likely to be dominated by older white men who are often overrepresented in councils. This greater diversity from proportional systems better reflects the composition of the community.
3. Small single-member wards often only attract a single nomination, removing voters from the decision of who represents them. At both the 2016 and 2020 Mount Alexander Shire Council elections, two single-member wards were uncontested. A single council structure is likely to attract more candidates than positions available, enfranchising all voters in Mount Alexander.