

**Electoral structure review - Surf Coast Shire Council - Preliminary Submission  
Mary Cotter - Winchelsea - 22 February 2023, 4:43 pm**

**From:** [Mary Cotter](#)  
**To:** [Surf Coast ERAP Submissions 2023](#)  
**Subject:** SUBMISSION RE SURF COAST SHIRE WARDS  
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Greetings,

I most strongly urge you to return to one unsubdivided ward, with the main reason being the simple fact that proportional representation is more democratic.

It is also more conducive to the Shire gaining both higher quality and more diverse candidates to choose from, and makes it less likely that problematic ones will be retained year after year as sadly is currently the case.

Less importantly, it would eliminate the otherwise ongoing need to adjust ward boundaries every few years.

I believe that between 9 and 12 councillors in a single ward would be best to improve both diversity and quality among future councillors.

The very worst choice possible would be single person wards, as that would increase the likelihood of problematic incumbents being reelected over and over again, reduce the chances of finding someone on council that will represent one's concerns or interests, as well as increase the likelihood of a small number of people or interest groups having too much influence over their sole councillor.

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