

From: Geraldine Ryan [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 February 2023 4:58 PM
To: Northern Grampians ERAP Submissions 2023
Subject: Northern Grampians Shire Council -Preliminary Submission

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Electoral structure review - Northern Grampians Shire Council -Preliminary Submission February 2023

Having noted the considerable unease and disquiet between the views of people in the different regions of the Northern Grampians Shire in relation to Council matters I wish to make an argument in my submission that an unsubdivided electoral structure, with councillors elected by all voters, would be better for the region, its people and land.

I believe this is the case because if all the elected councillors have to turn their minds to and be up to speed on the whole shire, they are then far more likely to be informed when they are all voting on matters relating to a particular area of the shire. They will, with more knowledge, be fairer in dealing with issues whether those are in large population towns, such as Stawell and St Arnaud, or in small towns or in sparsely populated farming regions.

As well, citizens have more councillors with whom they can freely engage, or seek advice or discuss matters with instead of being referred to a single ward councilor.

Finally, seven councillors, in an unsubdivided electoral structure for the Northern Grampians Shire, one of the larger "smaller" councils – would seem appropriate.

With thanks for the opportunity to make comment.

Geraldine Ryan

[REDACTED] Stawell 3380
[REDACTED]