

**Electoral structure review - Stonnington City Council - Response Submission
Steven D Kunstler - Armadale - 20 July 2023, 11:39 pm**

The preliminary report is misconceived and the 3 models offered fatally flawed.

The assumption that 9 Councillors are required because Stonnington (currently) & other Councils have the same number is flawed reasoning.

At least 2 other Councils manage with 7 Councillors and yet no mention is made of those nor has research or apparent analysis been carried out as to whether that number is sufficient or even surplus to requirements.

This suggests an undeclared bias by the report's authors and the report should be sent back for revision or a further report prepared dealing with a model with significantly fewer Councillors and the savings that could be had from fewer meetings, fewer bodies to feed at the ratepayer trough, etc.

The 3 models offered merely 'reposition the deck chairs on the Titanic'. Radical thought is required. Victorians are over-governed relative to our population and the ratepayers & tax payers suffer fiscal & other deprivations because of it. In 2022 Stonnington has a population of around 110,000 and suffers under the yolk of 3 layers of government: Local, State & Federal. In Ancient China more than 2000 years ago, at the time of Confucius, government at the lowest level was 250,000 in an overall population of less than twice the whole of Australia's. Ahhhh....

The legislation to be implemented enables us to commence to correct this historical anomaly. As well as reducing the number of Councillors in Stonnington a recommendation should go to the Minister to merge adjacent Councils so that each covers a population of approximately 250,000 with that reduced number of Councillors.

Stop Councillors' feeding frenzy paid for by ratepayers.

Reduce their number and increase their responsibilities. If they cannot handle the heat they may implode which in itself might be beneficial.

A lot of hot air was expended by the chattering classes when Jeff Kennett did away with many Councils in 2004 but very little long term damage was experienced.

Let's learn from China & Jeff.....bigger Council areas & fewer Councillors!