

**Electoral structure review - Moorabool Shire Council - Response Submission
Shane Walden - MOUNT DORAN, VIC, 333 - 29 March 2023, 05:53 pm**

Model 2 is my preferred option. This provided the best demographic and democratic outcome, balancing the number of electors geographically with representation. This is the best way to ensure that the needs of the rural communities are considered in equal weight with those of urban areas.

Model 1 fails to address the imbalance between the urban and rural areas of a Shire that is still geographically rural. The residents of the municipality's urban areas have needs that differ from those of people living in rural areas. Model 1 runs a risk that a situation may arise where a majority of councillors have urban interests at heart and make decisions accordingly. The needs of the urban and rural communities are quite different. There is a feeling locally that heavy investments are being made in a Bacchus Marsh-centric manner, even though less than one-third of the population lives there. Current major infrastructure projects will need maintenance and renewal in the future, which will come from consolidated rate revenue; however, these assets are not readily accessible for the community living up to an hour away from Bacchus Marsh.

Model 2 is important to ensure that essential maintenance and renewal continue in rural areas, ensuring rural communities are able to travel safely on Shire roads and that vegetation is reliably cleared on roadsides ensuring communities can stay connected and easily access services.