

**Electoral structure review - Horsham Rural City Council - Response Submission**  
**Jennifer Smith - Horsham - 15 July 2023, 03:32 pm**

Single-councillor wards for Horsham Rural City Council are a bad idea. Horsham is the smallest of the 10 regional cities in Victoria and with our small population we struggle to have seven candidates willing to nominate for the 7 member Council, let alone having enough candidates to be able to elect 7 good councillors. At the last election, there were only 9 nominees and the best one was forced to resign within the first year. She was replaced with the eighth choice on a countback. Consequently the average quality of councillors is less than optimal.

If candidates have to nominate for a single ward, we might lose the chance of getting the best councillors because there might be two good candidates nominating for the same ward.

Our Council has operated without wards for over 20 years and there is no good reason for subdividing our relatively small community into 5 city wards versus 2 farming wards or into 7 artificial slices like a pizza.

Please recommend to the Minister that Horsham Rural City Council should retain its present system of a single ward with seven councillors.