

**Electoral structure review - Surf Coast Shire Council - Preliminary Submission
Positive Aging Advisory Committee - Bellbrae - 17 February 2023, 08:23 pm**

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This submission is lodged by Magdalena Wheatland on behalf of Surf Coast Shire Positive Aging Advisory Committee.

As a group of volunteers representing interests of residents across the Surf Coast Shire, we would like to register our opposition to any suggestions of "no wards structures". In our experience there is already a poor representation of regional voters' interests, and the no-wards structure will result in inadequate understanding of regional needs. The current multiple wards could be maintained as four wards with two Councilor each, or a novel approach of 9 wards with one Councilor each. We are confident further discussions and consultations will result in a positive outcome for all Surf Coast Shire Residents.

Furthermore, the Electoral system relates purely to number of voters and ignores the reality of geographically dispersed communities. There should be adjusted formula that takes into consideration the geographical spread of a ward in addition to number of voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our view.
On behalf of the Positive Aging Advisory Committee
Magdalena Wheatland
Vice Chair