

Electoral structure review - Mornington Peninsula Shire Council - Response Submission Nepean Ratepayers Association - Sorrento - 14 November 2023, 03:13 pm

Local Council Electoral Structure Review – Mornington Peninsular Shire

The requirement to meet the “one vote, one value” is not met by any of the three Models offered to the public for comment.

The Review has failed to offer a model that will ensure constituents are represented fairly. The proposed Ward boundaries must be reviewed to ensure a more equitable distribution of voters per ward.

The Local Government Act 2020 – Part 2, Section 15(2) which states “Before recommending the making of an Order in Council under this section that provides for the subdivision of a municipal district into wards or the specification of the boundaries of wards of a municipal district, the Minister must seek to ensure that— (a) each ward has approximately an equal number of voters per Councillor; and (b) the number of voters per Councillor in a ward does not vary from the average number of voters per Councillor for all of the wards by more than 10 per cent.”

Even with estimates of 6% growth by 2036, most of which will be accommodated in Mornington and Rosebud along the bay and Hastings in the east, the proposed Models will not meet the requirement to ensure that the number of voters per Councillor does not vary from the average number of voters per Councillor by more than 10 per cent.

Model 1 – the proposed Wards that do not meet the +/- 10% average voters is 4 out of 11 with Nepean at a significant disadvantage.

- Mooroduc (-14.19%)
- Mt Eliza (-13.22%)
- Nepean (+36.02%)
- Rosebud (+21.12)

Model 2 - the proposed Wards that do not meet the +/- 10% average voters is 6 out of 11 with Nepean again at a significant disadvantage.

- Balcolme (-14.78%)
- Mooraduc (-14.37)
- Mt Eliza (-15.41)
- Nepean (+39.08%)
- Somerville (-14.02%)
- Warringine (- 14.91%)

Model 3 - the proposed Wards that do not meet the +/- 10% average voters is 4 out of 11 with Nepean again at a significant disadvantage.

- Capel Sound (+26.51%)
- Nepean (+38%)
- Sommerville (-14.02%)
- Warringine (-14.91%)

Nepean Ward voters will be significantly disadvantaged by all of the models offered for comment.

11 councillors seems to be the appropriate number of councillors to represent the population of the Mornington Peninsula Shire given the population and the geographical size of the Shire compared to other Shires.

The thought processes behind appropriate names appears sound. However the naming of each ward is not as important as getting the boundaries right to ensure one vote one value.

Nepean Ratepayers Association