

**Electoral structure review - Surf Coast Shire Council - Preliminary Submission**  
**Rod Tucker - Aireys Inlet - 21 February 2023, 03:12 pm**

It is important that wards be retained in the electoral makeup of the Surf Coast Shire Council. The Surf Coast encompasses a wide diversity of communities both in geographical location (e.g. hinterland, coastal, and suburban) and in social and economic structure (e.g. farming, industry, and coastal tourism). These different communities have widely differing characteristics and differing needs. The best way to ensure that these needs are heard by the council is via elected members of the council who represent voters in different parts of the Shire and support them when decisions are being made at Council meetings. This is the basis of democracy at all levels of government in Australia.

There is a concern in some parts of the Shire, outside Torquay, that as Torquay grows, it is turning more urban, and tending to become a dormitory suburb of Geelong. Torquay is much more closely integrated with Geelong than it is with other parts of the Shire. The fear is that if wards are abandoned, the needs of other parts of the Surf Coast will not be heard. I have read AIDAs submission to the Surf Coast Shire Council Electoral Structure Review and I support their proposal that the Shire be divided into four wards, with boundaries of these wards chosen to provide equal representation for all Shire residents.