



This submission is prepared on behalf of the Committees and members groups of 3228Residents Association Inc and the Greater Torquay Alliance inc.

As our names suggest, our group members reside in the towns of Torquay, Jan Juc, Bells Beach and Bellbrae – all in the 3228 post code.

The objective of the Electoral Structural Review is to determine whether the Surf Coast Shire should be undivided or remain divided into wards.

If there are to be wards, how many should there be? Also, how many councilors per ward that will comply with the current legislation that requires an equal number of councilors in each ward?

The last review of ward numbers was conducted prior to the last council election in 2020. Then as now, much was said about the need to connect communities of interest. Unfortunately for Torquay our 'community of interest' was ignored as the adjoining Winchelsea ward encroached further into the 3228 postcode encompassing the Torquay Primary school and other Torquay community assets. We believe a Structural Review was needed at that time, not a just change in ward boundaries.

We are opposed to seeing Torquay/ Jan Juc continually being bifurcated by boundaries of adjacent wards, as has previously happened.

How do we define 'communities of interest'? Although Torquay has a larger urban component than other coastal towns our interests/concerns are still the same.

Amongst other things, we also have concerns about:

- climate change,
- population growth,
- environmental degradation,
- bush fires,
- coastal erosion and landslides

We are the start of the Great Ocean road and as such we are under the same pressure from tourists as other coastal towns – we are home to GORCAPA who is tasked with managing the GOR in a sustainable way.

We believe the reason why past reviews have failed the 3228 postcode residents - Torquay is the fastest growing town in the shire and has been for many years. Almost as soon as new boundaries have been established, the population of Torquay increase and ward numbers are out of kilter again.

**Electoral structure review - Surf Coast Shire Council - Preliminary Submission  
Greater Torquay Alliance Inc. and 3228 Residents Association Inc.  
Torquay - 22 February 2023, 04:58 pm**

Any review, whether structural or of boundaries must consider **where population growth is directed** over the next 10 years (assuming this is the usual timeframe for a review). The VEC fact sheet suggests a population growth for the surf Coast Shire of 2.2% but doesn't say where. This information is vital to predict how any ward numbers (if wards are to be retained) may be effected over that time to ensure equitable representation. The Surf Coast Shire is now using Remplan to forecast future population growth. The Population, Households and Dwellings Forecasts to 2041 <https://app.remplan.com.au/surfcoast/forecast/households?state=Mr5bcbpR8ceAgqzH7Y9P5SeCzS aJLCnXjUlsn43PfkSbp5> clearly shows that Torquay and to a lesser extent Winchelsea, will be the main recipients of population growth.

We ask that these predictions be taken into consideration when making a decision on the future Structure of the surf Coast Shire.

We are not opposed to the shire being unsubdivided if that it seen as the most equitable solution. If it is to be undivided, how many councilors should there be? With the current number of votes shown as 35,330 perhaps 10 councilors would be appropriate. That would allow 3533 voters per councilor, which is not too dissimilar to the current proportions.

Single councilor wards may be the answer because it allows numbers to increase without affecting ward boundaries whilst preventing the common interests of Torquay and Jan Juc from being eroded.

We are not opposed to multi wards with equal numbers of Councilors as long as Torquay/ Jan Juc / Bells Beach / Bellbrae are not adversely affected in terms of boundaries and the number of Councilors who represent these towns.

We have experimented with the online distribution modelling map to try to find a solution such as this but found it very difficult to come up with an adequate model.

Thank you for the opportunity to have input into this process.

Yours Sincerely,

On Behalf of the committees of  
Greater Torquay Alliance Inc. and  
3228 Residents Association Inc.