

Electoral structure review - Hepburn Shire Council - Response Submission
Laraine Toose - Creswick - 04 April 2023, 12:09 pm

I have reviewed the 3 Models outlined in the Electoral boundary review for Hepburn Shire Council. I operate, in conjunction with my family, a farm at Smeaton but live in Creswick so my opinions reflect both my rural and small town perspective.

My thoughts on the 3 differing models are as below:-

Model 1 - No boundaries, 7 Councillors. Not my preferred model as there could be the risk of Councillors not truly reflecting the demographic and geographic structure of the whole Shire. I feel our councillors will be more likely to be elected from the higher population bases of the towns in the Shire. Rural ratepayers and residents of small hamlets need representation just as much as those who live in the larger towns. There is also the risk of being an unbalanced representation of Councillors from the East or West of the shire (for example) which could not happen with a designated boundary structure.

Model 2 - 8 Councillors. Not my preferred model as I think the re-structured boundaries geographic coverage is too diverse. There may also be a problem if votes are split on a Council resolution, leaving the presiding Mayor to cast the final vote on the matter. I assume this would be what happens?

Model 3 - I feel this structure is still more representative of local needs so is my preferred Model.