

**Electoral structure review - Corangamite Shire Council - Preliminary Submission
Alan Kerr - Timboon - 19 February 2023 5:57pm**

From: [Alan and Joy Kerr](#)
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To whom it may concern

Number of Councillors:

The workload of a councillor now is such that it discourages many capable people from standing. Small business owners, tradespersons, women with young families, all these have so much to contribute but cannot spare the time.

Increasing the number of councillors would lessen the load thus giving a wider range and number of people opportunity to stand for council election. Having more councilors means that it is harder for interested parties to influence decisions. When there was a 10 member council up to 20 hours per week at meetings was common. Add to that 20 hours thinking about council matters including speaking with constituents and you begin to see the challenge with fewer councilors. The mosaic in the foyer of Parliament House in Melbourne "In the multitude of councillors there is safety" is wisdom.

The fairest way to divide a local government area is single member wards to enable small communities of interest to have a voice at the table. Remote communities have a hard time being heard even with a local representative who has one vote. Centres of population by definition have numbers of votes but with a representative from small remote places their case can at least be heard. There is a saying in Corangamite that it is not far from the south of the Shire to Camperdown but it seems to be a huge distance from Camperdown to the south. In short, remote ratepayers expected to go to Camperdown but Camperdown people balk at going to the outer areas.

Southern based councillors have the lived experience of huge traffic problems at peak tourist times: vehicles parked in dangerous places with all passengers out and all doors wide open to look at livestock, native animals or farm activities; driving on the wrong side of the road; driving too fast for the conditions (100km/hr may be legal but lethal); families finding several people in their house waiting to be attended to when the property is not a tourist facility. The list is endless.

Northern area councillors are keenly aware of grass or crop fires or fires started by vehicles pulling off the road and hot exhausts starting fires.

The diversity of conditions requires local knowledge at councillor level thus making the shire divided into a number of wards most desirable.

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