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2023-24 Council Structure Reviews
Preliminary Submission – Mount Alexander Shire Council

1) The number of councillors required for the Mount Alexander Shire Council
I consider that the number of councillors for the Mount Alexander Shire Council should consist of nine (9). This is an increase of two (2) over the current number of councillors which consists of seven (7). I have gone into further details connected with the electoral structure in (2) below, along with whether the Shire Council should be divided and how to provide a more representative Council.

2) The electoral structure that best supports voter representation in the Mount Alexander Shire Council (subdivided or un-subdivided)

- The number of wards

Currently the Mount Alexander Shire Council is subdivided into five (5) wards: namely Tarrangower (represented by one (1) councillor), Loddon (represented by one (1) councillor), Coliban (represented by one (1) councillor), Calder (represented by one (1) councillor), and Castlemaine (represented by three (3) councillors).

I would propose that both the Tarrangower and Loddon wards be consolidated into one ward with three (3) councillors, along with both Calder and Coliban wards being consolidated into one ward with three (3) councillors, while the Castlemaine ward remains unchanged with three councillors.

- What the ward boundaries should be

As described in the previous point, I consider that the Mount Alexander Shire Council should have its wards reduced from the current five (5) to three (3). This would allow the more rural wards to remain rural while the more predominately urban area of Castlemaine would be retained as is. The main reasoning behind this layout is that the rural and urban areas (wards) have their own set of issues that would be better represented by their own councillor/s without each councillor having a small urban area along with a larger rural area to represent.

- The name of each ward

One possibility could be West (consisting of the current Loddon and Tarrangower wards); Central (consisting of the current Castlemaine ward); and East (consisting of the current Calder and Coliban wards).

- How many councillors should be elected for each ward

I would propose that there be three (3) councillors elected for each of the new wards that I have proposed, which would give an overall number of nine (9) councillors for the Mount Alexander Shire Council. The reasoning behind my thought is that with both the East and West Wards would benefit from having three (3) councillors based on the large geographic area needed to be covered by each councillor, while the Central Ward would stay the same while not large in geographic size it has a larger population size compared to the other two wards.