

Electoral structure review - Surf Coast Council - Preliminary Submission Amanda Mitchell-Taverner - Anglesea - 17 February 2023, 4:44pm

From: [Amanda Mitchell-Taverner](#)
To: [Surf Coast ERAP Submissions 2023](#)
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Electoral structure review - Surf Coast Shire

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17th February 2023

Thanks for the chance to have a say about restructuring.

Since the 1950s I have been a constant "holiday resident" and since 1989 a ratepayer and resident of Anglesea. I have seen the changes over those 60 plus years and know many residents, old and new who are concerned to preserve the separate and special nature of the Anglesea, Aireys Inlet and other small coastal towns. The fear is mostly that the urbanisation of the satellite city of Torquay threatens to overwhelm and destroy the nature and feel of the Ocean Road towns. Residents of Greater Torquay have very different needs, interests and requirements of the Shire Councillors. I cannot see how removal of the 3 Councillors per Ward can be anything but detrimental to the voice of the small town residents. Hard for any Councillor to represent such diversity. Local Ward Councillors are vital for this.

I am simply a resident with a long term interest and in no way an authority on where ward boundaries "should" go, but it seems clear as day that towns from Anglesea-Lorne require different advocacy from those of the inland towns and the urban areas of Torquay and Warrnambool.

I leave it to the experts to devise the system but strongly support the need for separate ward councillors for the "intrinsically different" area of coastal towns. These areas have a separate range of needs and interests,,,,, coastal character and protections from climate change issues, provision of unique tourism opportunities by keeping the area "different" etc.

I have no ability or wish to speak at the next stage of the process but ask my submission be noted and to be kept informed.