

**Electoral structure review - Corangamite Shire Council - Preliminary Submission
Wendey Matheson - Cobden - 12 February 2023, 03:21 pm**

In relation to the electoral review for the Corangamite Shire, I firmly believe that we need to retain our current ward structure.

I completely understand that due to the changes to the Local Government Act that a single multi member ward is no longer allowed, however, due to the significant diversity in countryside within our shire, I feel we are best suited to be represented by individual ward councillors.

We have sheep and cropping to the north, and then dairy, beef and coastal communities to the south.

It is critical that our main 12 communities are represented by those that actually understand their needs and can relate to those residents that live there. I am concerned knowing what has occurred in neighbouring shires, that we could end up with total misrepresentation, and more isolated communities will miss out on their voice at the council table, as well as having elected reps not at their community activities etc.

We have a great system here in Corangamite that works and I have never heard anyone say otherwise.

I implore the panel to please have regard for our unique situation and the people that live here in Corangamite Shire, and please keep us best represented as can be.

Thanking you Wendey Matheson, Cobden