

**Electoral structure review - Central Goldfields Shire Council - Response Submission
John Moyle - Maryborough - 12 April 2023, 12:16 am**

As a voter in the Central Goldfields Shire, I believe that I should have the right to have an effective voting presence in the choosing of the CGS Council.

From the three model options that have been recommended, I believe there is only one that truly allows voters to have a fair attempt to be able to influence the composition of the elected council.

That option is Model 1, where there is just one undivided ward with seven councilors elected.

The other 2 options do not allow for the guarantee that a voter will even get to cast a vote and therefore actually have a say and influence in who gets elected to the council.

Model 3 in particular would be a terrible option as you would find that some of the 7 wards would have just one person nominate for the ward and as such be elected unopposed. The same would also be very possible in Model 2, especially with the two rural wards.

Also, as a citizen of Maryborough, my current address would fall outside of the Maryborough Ward, which I also find totally ridiculous as I live in the residential boundaries of Maryborough but would be forced to vote in a ward that is dominated by rural residents, so my vote would realistically carry little impact.

It is my belief that all residents of the Shire should have an equal opportunity to elect councilors and preferably have the ability to choose all 7 of them. The only option that gives anything like a fair say to all voters in the shire is Model 1 and I strongly implore that this is the recommendation that is accepted.

I am very well aware that the current council are pushing for Model 3 and it is very evident why. The more wards that there are, then the more chances that they can be elected either unopposed or with only 1 opponent. With the current councilors who represent the 3 rural wards, they are almost assured of re-election unopposed as they hold popularity within their local community but not necessarily the entire shire.

This leads to a very unfair situation where a councilor could be very popular in their local ward, but despised by the majority of the remaining voters in the shire, yet this councilor has basically free reign to be on council for as long as they desire, and this situation exists with at least one current member of the council.

The only way to have a true and fair representation for all voters in the shire, is if every voter has the chance to choose 7 councilors. This then means that a councilor has to hold favour with voters across the entire shire and show they are working for the entire shire, rather than their small favourable local community ward. It also means that the 7 councilors who do get elected have to have been chosen by the majority of voters across the entire shire and therefore are a much more ideal representation of all the voters.

Model 1 is the only true and fair option that guarantees every voter an equal say in who gets elected. No one can miss out on voting unless there is no election for the whole shire (i.e. only 7 candidates). The other models do not guarantee this and also do not allow every voter the chance to elect every councilor.

Model 1 has to be the option that is chosen as the best and fairest possible choice to guarantee everyone gets the same chance when it comes to voting and electing the people who then represent them.