

**Electoral structure review - Strathbogie Shire Council - Response Submission
Kathryn Auty - Euroa - 10 April 2023, 09:41 am**

I support the Shire of Strathbogie moving to an electoral boundaries model that abolishes the 'wards'.

I support a voting process which provides all members of the community with the same candidates.

This is a Shire of 10,000 people and it is ludicrous that our community votes for councillors on the basis of historical artificial geographical boundaries.

The present ward boundaries were drawn up when the amalgamation with Violet Town Shire occurred. Since amalgamation our demographic has changed as a function of Covid and a more general move to regional living.

Wards are no longer (if they ever were) providing for representative government in our Shire. They are an anachronism. In my view we should all get to vote for the same council representatives across the whole Shire.

Having spoken to voters in our Shire people find it confusing when they cast their vote to be told that their choices are constrained by the artificial boundaries created out of historical circumstances.

I also think we should retain 7 councillors as the number of representatives.