

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 2 April 2023 8:25 PM
To: Moorabool ERAP Submissions 2023
Subject: Moorabool Shire review

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Dear panel

My name is Benjamin John Davison and I am a resident of Ballan and can be reached at [REDACTED] Ballan 3342, on this email or by phone on [REDACTED].

I write to express my view that model two, three wards of three councillors each, is the model that I would like to see adopted.

The needs of the those in inner Bacchus Marsh are very different to the needs of the smaller settlements which are also different to the growth areas around Darley.

My strong view is that the more communities of interest are able to be directly represented the better outcomes can be achieved for them through democratic processes. While Ballan is in the smaller settlements ward in Model 2 it recently still had much in common with the smaller settlements in terms of infrastructure and amenities and has always played a role as a hub for those settlements. There is certainly greater connection and commonality of interests between Gordon and Ballan than between Dunnstown and Darley.

It is also likely that a single massive ward would skew wildly towards Bacchus Marsh in terms of candidates, campaigning and councillors. The people of Moorabool have a level of skepticism about the centralisation of the Shire into and around Bacchus Marsh based on the perception of its relative size and wealth. A large ballot paper with dozens of candidates, most of which will be from Bacchus Marsh, arriving in Wallace will struggle to engage with voters. Such skepticism and perceptions could result in lower engagement from the non Bacchus Marsh parts of the shire in the candidate process and even impact voter participation through non-voting or informal ballots. In term this could further entrench a negative sentiment and unfair views about the Shire as an entity.

While the Bungal Ward appears large on a map it's easy enough to visit multiple settlements in a single day in a car and some careful planning. The reality for the residents in those parts of the Shire is that many already travel far further than the boundaries of the Bungal ward every day for work, healthcare, education, supplies or recreation.

Sincerely

Ben Davison

Sent from my iPhone