

Juliet Beatty

  
Deans Marsh 3235

6<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Victoria Electoral Commission  
530 Collins Street  
Melbourne 3000

Dear Sir

**Re: Surf Coast Shire – Electoral Structure Review.**

I have lived in the Surf Coast Shire for the last 25 years. First in Lorne and then since 2013 in Deans Marsh.

From 2001 to 2004 my late husband, Nelson English was Lorne Ward Councillor.

As a consequence, I had a very real experience of the difficulties faced by a single Councillor who had to take on the role of representing both a highly tourist and wealthy community and a small hinterland township, each having entirely different needs.

This situation has only intensified in the last 20 years.

It is astounding that the Electoral Commission hasn't identified the fact that Deans Marsh, being precisely on the boundary between Surf Coast Shire and Colac Otway Shire, has a democratic far better aligned to the population within the Colac Otway Shire than to the Surf Coast Shire.

This could be achieved with only minor alterations to the overall population counts in both Shires.

However, as the Structural Review has not investigated this solution, my submission can already address the issues and alternatives mentioned in their report.

Therefore, my submission is as follows:

1. Keep the structure as it is at the moment.
2. Model 3. Otway Ranges Ward.

With 3 Councillors to cover this area, one would hope that one of them would be a resident of Lorne. In which event the chances are that this Councillor would have already got some understanding of the different needs and aspiration of those who live in the hinterland, as opposed to those settlements along the Great Ocean Road. In this way it is hoped that the care and understanding which we have experienced from Gary Allen, the Lorne Ward Councillor at present, would have some chance of continuing.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Juliet Beatty.

Juliet Beatty