

**Electoral structure review - Mornington Peninsula Shire Council - Response Submission
Robert Babb - Merricks North - 08 November 2023, 11:46 am**

Submission in Support of Model 3: Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Electoral Structure Review

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the comprehensive review undertaken by the Victorian Electoral Commission (Commission) to ensure fair and effective representation for the residents of the Mornington Peninsula Shire. The efforts of independent electoral commissions like yours are one of the pillars of our robust democracy in Australia. The Commission and reviews such as these ensure that our electoral processes remain transparent, equitable, and adaptive to our communities' evolving needs.

As a resident of the Red Hill ward, I am particularly invested in the outcomes of this review. I would like to voice my support for Model 3 in the proposed electoral structure for Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, as I believe it presents the most equitable approach to representation, reflecting the diverse nature of our local area.

Below are my top three arguments in support of Model 3.

1. **Improved Representation for Rural Communities:** Model 3 offers a strategic reduction in the size of the Red Hill Ward, focusing on rural locality boundaries. This consideration is critical for the representation of rural communities, as it aligns with the historical feedback emphasizing the need for rural areas to be kept intact. The potential for more rural councillors under this model would enhance the focus on specific issues pertaining to these communities, ensuring that their unique needs are not overshadowed by the more populous coastal areas.
2. **Coherent Community Interests:** This model adeptly addresses concerns previously raised regarding the affiliation of areas which local residents would not consider the same immediate community (such as Fingal and St Andrews Beach). By capturing surf beaches and closely affiliated communities within the Nepean Ward, Model 3 promotes a coherent representation that resonates with the community's shared interests and identities.
3. **Sustainable Development and Growth:** In the context of both maintaining environmental values and fostering sustainable growth, Model 3 provides a balanced framework. By enabling the election of more rural councillors, the council can benefit from perspectives that advocate for the preservation of our green wedge areas, while also considering the development needs of our towns and villages.

I believe that Model 3 embodies a community conscious approach that will serve the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and its wards well into the future. I am optimistic that this model will facilitate improvements in the operations of the council, contributing to the well-being and prosperity of our shire.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.