

Electoral structure review - Moorabool Shire Council - Response Submission
Tony Lynch - Gordon - 03 April 2023, 02:19 pm

I am somewhat confused as to what is being proposed in terms of riding boundary options as proposed on the VEC web site and what was reported in the Ballarat Courier on 30th March 2023 which proposed options for a three riding shire with 3 councillors per riding or no riding's and 9 councillors.

The advantage of the 3 riding proposal as reported on the Ballarat Courier unites Gordon with neighbouring communities of interest with which Gordon interacts such as Mt Egerton, Springbank, Wallace, Bungaree, Dunnstown, Clarks Hill etc as opposed to being stuck in the Woodlands riding with Blackwood, Greendale, Barry's Reef where there is no relationships, no community of interest or connection.

So my preference is for a riding structure that has Gordon united with communities of similar interest. With ridings represented by councillors that live in the riding they represent. A riding structure provides for a representation and presentation of issues that may be unique to a particular riding. It also holds councillors more accountable for their performance to the ratepayer than having councillors roaming at large for the whole of the shire.

Of course, the most practical and logical structure would be to jettison Bacchus Marsh and its immediate surrounds and amalgamate them with Melton where it belongs and set Ballan up as the centre of a rural shire with similar but expanded ridings that existed under the previous Ballan Shire Council. The current arrangement is absurd where you have a rapidly growing town tacked on to the eastern boundary of what is essentially a rural shire where the demands of that township are not in the interest of the rest of the shire and many of the facilities that are being built are justified as being of benefit to all of the shire residents; as if Bacchus Marsh was the centre of the shire.