

**Electoral structure review - Corangamite Shire Council - Preliminary Submission  
Chris Lang - Lismore - 18 February 2023, 09:21 pm**

My submission of 10 Feb noted my reasons for a subdivided electorate. I noted that the shire of Corangamite is special in that it had a central town of Camperdown which holds most of the people, schools, services and infrastructure. The large surrounding rural areas that support and depend on it have very different interests and needs.

Additional points:

The rural electorate generally do not meet or know the majority of the councillors and those councillors are not familiar with the different rural ward issues. At present one councillor is familiar, and that knowledge is valued by his/her electors. Members of other wards would each feel the same way about their own councillor.

Ward structure:

In a ward structure council election between several candidates in the same ward the situation is simple, where the preferential voting system produces the candidates with the most votes. The candidates would campaign in their own ward about issues particular to that ward and with which they are familiar with and which their electors can judge them on, in addition to the rest of the shire issues. This is likely to produce the best representative for that particular ward.

Undivided electorate:

Single election:

This submission notes the reasons AGAINST an undivided electorate in this shire. I feel that things seem to be not so clear.

In a single councillor election the candidates for the position must all canvass across the entire shire and be familiar with all the issues of all the rural areas, who will all vote for their preferred candidate. That is a big job.

Multiple election:

In multiple councillor elections the candidates must ALL canvass across the entire shire and be familiar with all the issues of all the rural areas. To perform their democratic role in the proportional representation system the ENTIRE electorate must judge each of the 7 councillors and rank them all in order of preference. (Similar to voting below the line in state and federal elections.) I feel that this would be beyond my capacity to do effectively. I cannot speak for the rest of the electorate....!

Allocation of preferences:

I feel that a councillor who had spent enough time in our rural ward to understand the people, community groups and issues there may not gain enough votes in a proportional representation system to be elected above those candidates seeking votes in a more densely populated part of the shire. Thus the town based councillors would be likely to dominate the results, together with their town based platforms.

In summary:

So this submission is to again say that the shire of Corangamite with the widespread rural population surrounding the centre of Camperdown is very well suited to the present ward electoral structure.

Again, thanks for considering this submission.

Chris.