

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 1:34 PM  
**To:** Greater Bendigo ERAP Submissions 2023  
**Subject:** Electoral ward submission

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

TWTMC

I am a Councillor in The City of Greater Bendigo Eppalock Ward and I am voicing my disapproval of the proposed ward and council changes, 3 to 9

At the moment the 3 ward and 3 Councillors structure works and fits well for Bendigo.

Having 3 councilors balances out with the Ward still being represented when 1 Councillor is sick, on holidays or needing time off, the other two fill the temporary gap and the wheel still turns.

The proposed Alternative of 9 councilors and 9 wards has the risk of , if one or more councilors are again, sick, needing a rest or holidays, then that ward is unrepresented for the whole time the councilor is absent. (we recently had a councilor absent for 5 weeks).

Along with this is Councilor Bias, meaning, if a councilor has a strong bias against something or some group or similar, then this bias may reflect on a sound mis representation of the bias subject or ratepayers.

Also, If the single Councilor is lacking in caliber or strength, to properly represent their ward, then again the system and outcome for the ward is compromised.

There is a common adage, ' If it aint Broke, don't need to fix it '. I think this fits the bill here. The present structure works well, leave it as it is.

The admin for 9 separate wards would also increase running costs for a council and extra staff needing to manage 9 wards and not three.

Regards Cr G Penna