

**Electoral structure review - Surf Coast Shire Council - Preliminary Submission**  
**Adrian Kennelly - Aireys Inlet - 13 February 2023, 05:54 pm**

I wish to support Surf Coast becoming one undivided ward, as I believe that wards encourage parochialism, rather than representation.

I live in Aireys Inlet, which is one of the smaller communities of the Shire, with many neighbours who fear we will be swamped by Councillors from Torquay if this is to happen. Our experience prior to the current wards demonstrated that was not true, with multiple residents of Aireys Inlet being elected to Council and as Mayor.

The election of a Councillor should be based on their qualities as a representative and their platform, not their address. I want to see good quality people represent the whole community of Surf Coast Shire and work in our best interests. I do not wish them to simply pander to a small number of influential people in their small community by having a populist response to local issues.

The latter is much more likely to happen in small wards where only a small number of votes can be the difference between election and not.