Electoral structure review - Corangamite Shire Council - Preliminary Submission David and Susan Hunneybell - Skipton - 19 February 2023 11:37am

From: <u>David Hunneybell</u>

To: Corangamite ERAP Submissions 2023

Subject: Wards

Date: Sunday, 19 February 2023 11:37:08 AM

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We are strongly opposed to any change to our ward representation, we feel that the loss of our ward representation would be detrimental to the future of our town and district and would eventually turn the shire into a small centralised and probably political group representing their own ideals and not the needs, welfare, progress of the whole shire. The wards help represent very large areas with relatively small populations, and like all these areas, are battling to grow and exist. Times have changed and their are more and more working families moving into these areas, mostly through housing costs and the renewed need for more farm/agricultural workers, this should be a time for many small towns to start to rebound after years of decline, and it is vital they be given a fair go by having direct access to their local ward shire representative, and not someone elected with no real knowledge of the needs of the district.

We all pay rates and surely should all be entitled to the same duty of care and responsibility as all other ratepayers in the shire, our basic right should surely be equal representation by a local ward representative. Politics and cost should not interfere with the enrolment of council representatives and it is imperative that we ensure our democratic right to our ward system which ensures all these values.

Yours Sincerely

David & Susan Hunneybell Skipton.