

**Electoral structure review - Surf Coast Shire Council - Preliminary Submission**  
**Liz Wood - Aireys Inlet - 22 February 2023, 04:02 pm**

Surf Coast Shire is comprised of numerous townships which would all claim to be unique in character. There are 3 clear themes which link township character.

1. Coastal settlements - this would include Lorne, Eastern View, Moggs Creek, Fairhaven, Aireys Inlet, Anglesea (and could include Jan Juc).
2. Hinterland settlements - this would include places like Winchelsea, Deans Marsh, Bambra, Boonah, Benwerrin, Pennyroyal, Moria, Wensleydale, Freshwater Creek and Bellbrae.
3. Urban - this is Torquay - the most populous and urbanised population centre within SCS.

Grouping the settlements in this way acknowledges the key characteristics and generally key issues are shared issues across these three themes. I haven't been able to map this using the mapping tool. But I'd love to see options including the idea of 3 wards with 3 councillors each.

I don't think 9 wards would be a good model at all, as it would lend itself to parochial interests. If 3 wards can't be achieved then it would need to be 1 undivided ward. The key risk being over representation from Torquay and under representation of other less populous townships. Surf Coast Shire policy making is often not one size fits all but requires a more nuanced approach which must take into consideration the diversity of these growing communities and the policy challenges of Surf Coast Shire's diversity eg hinterland vs urban vs coastal vs rural.