

**Electoral structure review - Mornington Peninsula Shire Council - Response Submission  
John Dellar - Rosebud - 08 November 2023, 03:23 pm**

As a resident who has been a property owner on the Mornington Peninsula for over 40 years, I tender my opinion for consideration.

I am in full support of one councillor per ward however I would prefer seeing a total of 9 wards.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has not been viewed favourable in surveys of performance for the past two years. Accordingly a reduction in the number of Councillors would, I believe, be viewed by ratepayers as a sign of taking positive action in reducing costs. Eg: annual payment per Councillor, vehicles and any other equipment, training or costs associated with the position.

Whilst it may be argued that the average number of voters per Councillor would be too high, I see this metric as inconsequential. Councillors do not have contact with all their constituents. It is just a representative number for the purpose of averaging the size of wards.

I note for example that Greater Geelong has an average voter per Councillor number over 19000, a figure that 9 Councillors in Mornington would not reach. Again, if the numbers really mean anything.

Councillors represent local residents as do State and Federal members of Parliament. Our Federal member for Flinders represents just over 104,000 people based on votes cast at the 2022 election. Similarly Sam Groth our State member for Nepean represents over 43000 voters.

I also believe that an uneven number of Councillors is critical in minimising the need for the Mayor/Chair to have a casting vote. Obviously this only works when councillors are diligent with their attendance at meetings and do not abstain from a vote. Abstaining from a vote is not carrying out the duty of acting on behalf of ratepayers.

Finally, I note names for wards have already been proposed in the review options. Maybe thought could be given to alternatives.

EG: Process: Named after the yacht that capsized in 1892 off Mt Eliza with the sad loss of those on board including the entire Mornington football team.

Goldring: Named after Louis Goldring the first Mayor of Hughenden and district, later to become Flinders Shire and now Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Beleura: Overlooking Schnapper Point Mornington and described in 1863 as the finest Mansion in the Colony.

I thank the review panel in advance for seeking input and hopefully considering the content of all submissions.