

**Electoral structure review - Northern Grampians Shire Council - Preliminary Submission  
Sarah Cole - Halls Gap - 15 February 2023, 03:23 pm**

I wish to support Northern Grampians Shire becoming one undivided council. The argument for wards in previous submissions has been to create diversity on council as each township has some representation, though in truth the diversity of each population is not represented as the minority populations of each ward are unable to be represented across the shire as a whole. First Nations people for example across the entire shire may be able to be represented on council in an undivided system but in a ward system are a minority in each ward and will therefore lack the opportunity to be represented. LGBTQIA+ people, people with disabilities, culturally and linguistically diverse people, the elderly, people affected by the housing crisis are all less likely to have true representation under a divided system. The small number of councillors from each ward doesn't allow for a diversity of views in each ward to be represented on council. The individual wards are more likely to represent the views of a small number of highly influential people in their ward. The Councillors should be elected based on their qualities as a representative and their platform, they should work in the best interest of the entire Northern Grampians Shire.