

Electoral structure review - Surf Coast Shire Council - Preliminary Submission
Mike Bodsworth - Anglesea - 20 February 2023, 12:52 pm

I am a full-time resident of Anglesea and strongly believe a warded municipality is best, because of the differences in natural features, town character, local community interests and preferences and local economies. I favour either three wards of three councillors each, or four wards of either two or three councillors each. If three wards, I favour wards as follows: a Torquay Ward (The central, most developed part of Torquay and Nth Torquay), a Coastal ward (west of Torquay to the municipal boundary and inland to the top of the Otway ridge, i.e Mt Sabine Road, Seaview Road, Bambra Road, Forest Road and Great Ocean Road, including Jan Juc, Bells Beach, Anglesea, Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven, Moggs Creek, Eastern View, Lorne) and a Rural or hinterland ward (the rest of the municipality).

If four wards my preference is as above but with two Torquay Wards, south and north.

Torquay is a high growth area that is transitioning from small coastal holiday town to a large, busy, higher density town or small coastal city, with predominantly full-time residents, a diverse economy and highly developed social infrastructure.

The Great Ocean Road coast is a unique area with a large part-time residential population, very high visitor numbers, iconic landscapes and natural features, coast and forests highly exposed to climate change risks and a low-growth strategic planning context.

The rural or hinterland zone (ward) is predominantly focused on primary production, rural lifestyle living and rural tourism and recreation. It includes small communities with a strong focus on sustainability and land-care as well as the growing town of Winchelsea, expected to grow to 10,000 permanent residents.