

**Electoral structure review - Corangamite Shire Council - Response Submission
Barbara Cowley - Cobrico - 05 April 2023, 12:40 pm**

As a Corangamite Shire resident I support Model 3 of seven wards with one councillor in each.

The community has been effectively served by a ward based model over the years, so I see no need to change what has been working well.

Ward councillors are more closely connected to their areas and understand the specific needs of their local communities.

There is a large difference in the distance of north to south in the Corangamite Shire and so it is with the diversity of land type. An unsubdivided shire with seven councillors could lead to a disproportionate distribution of councillors, with the larger centres potentially having more candidates, and more voters likely to vote for their local candidates. This could lead to the smaller areas having little or no representation for their specific areas or needs.

With seven councillors in an unsubdivided system, I would expect each councillor to know at least something of each area of the Shire. This then would lead to the councillors having to have a larger knowledge base and workload in order to serve their constituents effectively.

With the ward system the residents are more likely to know who to go to or contact for help and assistance. My local councillor serves our community well and is very accessible.

Please don't change a system that works very well in the Corangamite Shire.