

**Electoral structure review - Gannawarra Shire Council - Preliminary Submission
Laura O'Dwyer - Quambatook - 03 February 2023, 04:53 pm**

As a resident of Gannawarra, and a former employee, I would like to make a submission supporting the elimination of wards in Gannawarra Shire Council electorate while maintaining the 7 Councillors.

I would support the removal of wards though as I feel that there is a big divide between the townships of Kerang (patchell ward with 3 councillors) and Cohuna (Yarran with 2 Councillors). This divide has been detrimental to Council harmony over the past 10 years and I feel that Councillors need to remember that they represent the entire Gannawarra Council not just the town that they come from.

As a resident in the Avoca ward, which is over half the geographic size of Gannawarra, I feel it is important to maintain the status quo with regard to the number of Councillors to ensure that a rural based resident may be able to represent the small towns. If the number of Councillors were reduced to five councillors as considered during the previous review, there is a likelihood that residents from the more populated centres of Kerang, Cohuna and Koondrook would get in over a small town and rural candidate.