

**Electoral structure review - Surf Coast Shire Council - Preliminary Submission  
Margery and Trevor Smith - Bellbrae - 21 February 2023, 4:35 pm**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Surf Coast ERAP Submissions 2023](#)  
**Subject:** Surf Coast Council electoral structure  
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We have been ratepayers since 1972 , residents since 1979 and operate a financially successful beef property.

When the Shire of Barrabool existed we well represented , and our rural needs were adequately resourced. Road and roadside verge maintenance were a priority.

Since the inception of the Surf Coast Shire , the council has become increasingly “coastal centric” due largely to the rapid increase in population compared with that in the rural areas.

Resources are being spent on “city centric” planning subdivisions , housing developments ,cultural centres, childcare centres all of which are necessary but disproportionately at the expense of the rural ratepayers.

Road and verge maintenance has been neglected in the rural areas . Our unsealed roads have become dangerous. After heavy showers they become drains because the existing table drains are not cleaned out, the culverts not cleared

and the actual gravel roads are not crowned to allow the water to run off. Cattle transport carriers have refused to come to our property because the state of the road and the encroaching trees that have damaged their trucks.

We consider that our current Ward Councillors represent us well , they understand our problems and have provided assistance when required. Therefore we would want the current ward system retained.

The current number of Councillors should be retained.

Margery and Trevor Smith

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