

Our reference: DOC/3/4825

1 March 2023

Mount Alexander Electoral Representation Advisory Panel
VEC
Level 11
530 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

By email: MountAlexander.ERAPSubmissions@vec.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir / Madam

Local Council Electoral Structure Review – Preliminary Submission

Please accept this as Mount Alexander Shire Council's formal submission to the Local Council Electoral Structure Review. It is understood that this submission will be made public

Council suggests that the number of Councillors for the Shire remain at seven. It is felt that this number allows for a fair and equitable representation of the various communities of interest and outlying communities that exist within the Shire, whilst allowing for representation for any emerging in the future. It is noted that seven councillors is a similar representation to other comparable councils.

It is Council's preference that the Shire remain subdivided and have single councillor wards for the reasons outlined above. Particularly as this Shire consists of one major township and multiple satellite townships which all have different focuses and interests that need representation. There is concern if the Shire were to become unsubdivided that elected Councillors may reside in a centralised area and therefore may not reflect the diversity of the Shire's community.

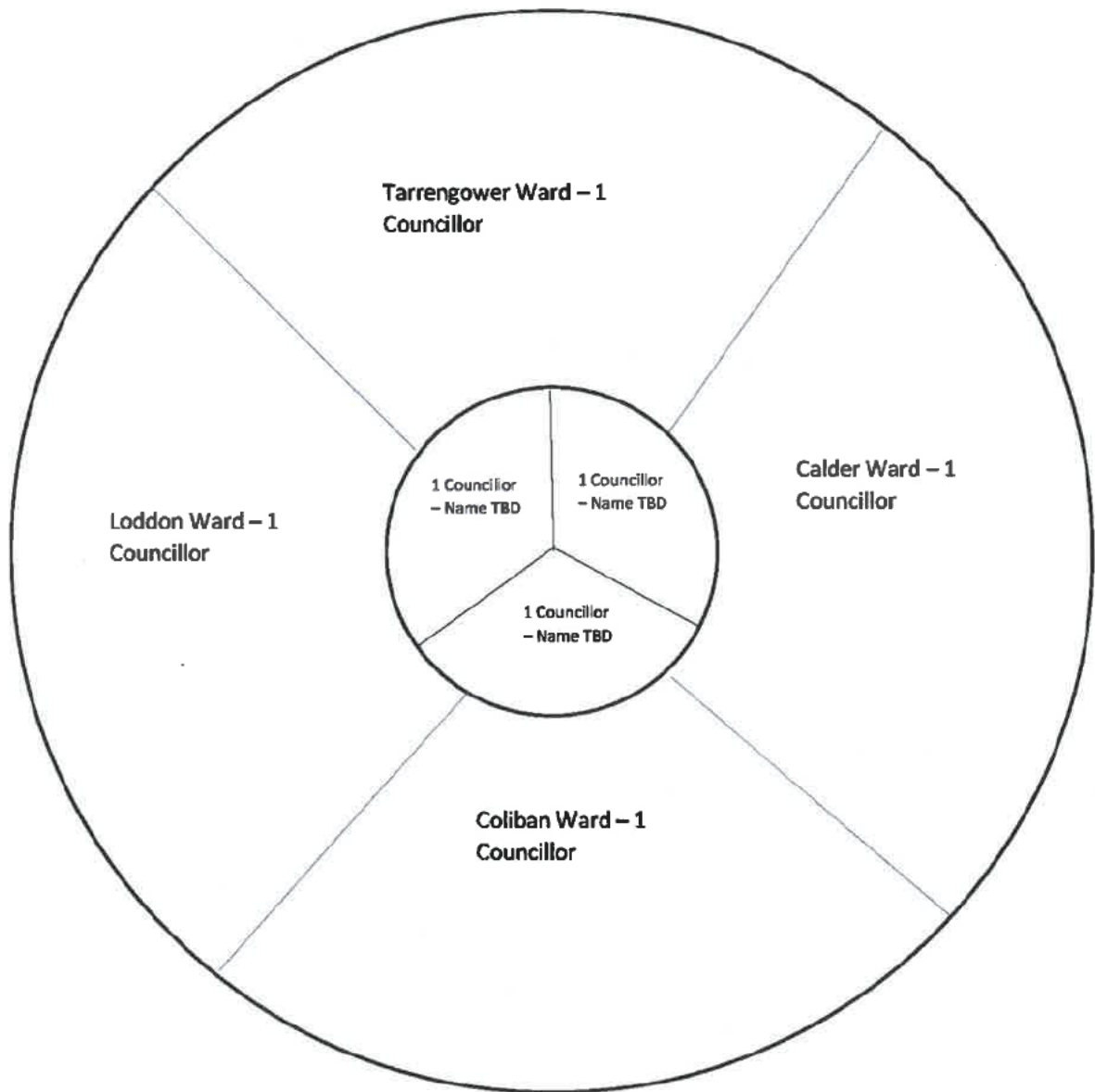
By splitting the current Castlemaine Ward in to three separate wards, the Shire could retain seven councillors with a relatively similar spread of voters across each ward. At this time there are no suggested names for the new wards.

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Below is a very simple diagram of Councils preferred ward structure:



Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Governance Unit on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

COUNCILLOR ROSIE ANNEAR
Mayor