

Electoral structure review - Moorabool Shire Council - Response Submission
John Kowarsky - Ballan - 04 April 2023, 09:26 am

I support the Preliminary Report recommendation to increase the number of Councillors from 7 to 9.

I strongly endorse Preliminary Report Model 1 for the reasons as outlined in my first submission.

The basic philosophy should be that each Councillor must represent the interests of the whole of the Shire.

The Preliminary Report Model 2 would exacerbate the "us and them" mentality between wards, and serve to split the Shire into sectional (and potentially likely opposing) factions. In fact, the narrative for Model 2 states, apparently as an advantage, that it "broadly captures the communities of interest" namely (i) rural, (ii) rural/urban and (iii) urban. Such a division is the very antithesis of seeking broad, overall representation of Shire interests.

The other argument advanced for Model 2 in the Preliminary Report is that it is better than single-councillor wards at absorbing population changes. As the option of single-councillor wards has now been eliminated, this aspect is not relevant to considering Model 1 versus Model 2. And in this respect, the problem of absorbing population changes completely disappears with Model 1.