

**Electoral structure review - Central Goldfields Shire Council - Preliminary Submission**  
**John Moyle - Maryborough - 27 February 2023, 02:59 am**

While my true belief is that one single ward with a total of 7 councilors would be the most ideal model, this will cause a lot of angst with the voters who live in the part of the shire that is outside of Maryborough.

There is a great belief that the rural part of the shire should have as much voice on the council as the city of Maryborough does. I think the concern with having just one ward is that there is the possibility of the majority of the council being from Maryborough and therefore not representing the rest of the shire.

For me the only way around that would be to have 2 wards as I showed in my map (and yes I know this is not considered a preferred option).

My reasoning here is that if you divide the shire into Maryborough and then the rest of the shire, both represented by 4 councilors, then it would be considered more fair to the rest of the shire.

I definitely don't think the current situation is suitable and certainly would not like to see the shire divided into 7 wards with one councilor per ward because then residents are not getting to elect more than one councilor and therefore the vast majority of the council they have no say in being there.

There is also the probability of councilors getting elected unopposed, as has happened recently in one ward where there is a councilor who no one will run against for several different reasons. It is totally unfair that the residents of that ward get absolutely no say in who represents them at all.

In my opinion, every voter in the council election should have the ability to elect the same number of councilors and that number should be at least half of the total number of councilors. Therefore, it would mean either one large ward with everyone voting for the full number of councilors or the shire being divided in half and each ward making up half the council.

I also think preferential voting in council elections is outdated and should be removed from being used but I know that is not part of this review, but just feel it is also something that really needs to be changed so that the people with the most number of votes get elected, not someone who gets less votes and is carried into council because of preferences from their mates on council.