

**Electoral structure review - Corangamite Shire Council - Preliminary Submission
Valerie Lang - Lismore - 22 February 2023, 03:36 pm**

The Electoral Structural Review Committee
Re the Corangamite Shire Council Electoral Structure Review
A Preliminary Submission from Val Lang of Lismore Progress Association Inc.

Wednesday 22 February 2023

Ms Julie Eisenbiser
Chairperson
Electoral Representation Advisory Panel

Dear Ms Eisenbiser,

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission

The Lismore community is in the North Ward of the Corangamite Shire. The North Ward is predominantly a broad acre farming area with the community serviced locally by small towns, with shire services and other larger services predominantly available from Camperdown, the nearest substantial town. The geography, rainfall, enterprises, scattered population and communication networks differ considerably from the more southern sections of the shire.

A high level of local satisfaction with the functioning of the current North Ward structure has been expressed to the Progress Association, with its strong and established systems of councillor, Shire and community interaction. The Lismore Progress Association thus supports a future single member ward structure which would divide the Central Ward into three wards and make some minor changes to the existing single member wards (giving 7 wards with one councillor each).

Reasons put forward included:

1. Local Representation: North Ward councillors have demonstrated a good understanding of the specific issues which impact this area of the Shire. They have contributed that understanding to whole of shire discussions to get the best outcomes for this area and the whole of the shire. Local councillor knowledge and interaction has also benefited this area as it has informed discussion on very local works and projects, and opened up opportunities for community members and groups to contribute to activities through the shire or on their own account.
2. Whole of Shire Representation: through the local councillor, with their attendance at formal meetings or in casual encounters, this area has a better understanding of whole of shire issues and the rationale behind decision-making, for example with budget setting and allocation of resources. With interest in and access to Shire Council discussions via the local councillor, or on-line or as reported in media, there is a strong view of North Ward as part of the whole shire, and as a part of the Victorian local government sector.
3. Selection and support of Candidates: The North Ward Councillor is known to the community and their performance assessed by their electorate. There is also an informed understanding of their role and the strengths and limitations of this role. The Progress Association and others are pleased to support them in their role: opening up opportunities for discussion and sharing information. The Lismore Progress Association, and other local organisations, encourage potential candidates to consider standing for council elections. If or when the incumbent is not considered to be performing as they could this would not go unnoticed and a more focused effort would be made to replace them at the next election.

Yours sincerely

Valerie Joan Lang

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