

**Electoral structure review - Mornington Peninsula Shire Council - Response Submission
Stephen Holland - Mount Eliza - 08 November 2023, 10:02 pm**

My name is Cr Steve Holland, I am the current Mayor of the Mornington Peninsula Shire and was elected to Briars Ward in 2020.

In my opinion, the panel has not given anywhere near enough consideration to the total number of councillors.

11 is far too many. 9 is sufficient.

With 9 councillors, you can achieve a much fairer representative balance between coastal and rural townships and a much fairer representative balance between Port Phillip and Western Port.

You will also note in my submission that all 9 wards are within the required +/- 10% requirement. This is something that is much more difficult to achieve with 11 wards.

There is significant research to support the view that when the size of a decision-making group exceeds 7 people, the overall performance of the group deteriorates. 11 can quickly become unwieldy, not to mention the additional cost burden on ratepayers in terms of support and administration. This all leads to worse and less timely decisions and ultimately poorer outcomes.

In my view, 9 councillors is more than sufficient for the Mornington Peninsula. In fact, 7 would be easily justifiable - 11 is far too many but 9 is a happy-medium compromise which has the added benefit of ensuring similar townships are grouped, fairly represented and that a balance is achieved in such a diverse municipality.

I have no strong views about the ward names, although I do believe some local knowledge (which the panel is lacking) is required.