

**Electoral structure review - Mornington Peninsula Shire Council - Response Submission  
Flinders Community Association - Flinders - 10 November 2023, 11.49 am**

**From:** [Mary Iles - President FCA](#)  
**To:** [Mornington Peninsula Submissions 2023](#)  
**Cc:** [Maxine Cooper\(Wright\)](#); [Neville Wale](#); [David Gill](#)  
**Subject:** Flinders Community Association response to revised Electoral Commission findings  
**Date:** Friday, 10 November 2023 11:49:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [FCA letter electoral Commission 10 11 23.pdf](#)

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Dear Sirs,

Please find attached our submission on behalf of the Flinders Community Association in relation to the LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTORAL STRUCTURE REVIEW - PRELIMINARY REPORT- MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE.

We look forward to your response.

Regards,

Mary Iles  
President  
Flinders Community Association

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**Flinders Community Association**

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10 November 2023

Dear Advisory Panel

**LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTORAL STRUCTURE REVIEW - PRELIMINARY REPORT  
MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE**

The Flinders Community Association considers the current electoral structure of the Mornington Peninsula to be focused too heavily on the Port Phillip coastal urban strip in which an exclusively urban ward may have 2 or 3 council representatives. The Association strongly supports the decision to transition to one councillor one ward representation. Having regard to the Model options presented in the Preliminary Report little would change from the current situation. In either **Model 1** or **Model 2** the perceived imbalance of Council representation from the Red Hill Ward perspective remains.

The Flinders Community Association represents one of the small Western Port communities on the eastern side of the Mornington Peninsula. Flinders with Shoreham, Merricks, Balnarring, Red Hill and Red Hill South are villages within the current Red Hill Ward of the Mornington Peninsula Shire which identify strongly with the surrounding rural districts. These villages provide essential community and cultural services to this rural population. Significantly for the most part the ward is covered by Green Wedge planning policies and controls. The Association believes that the maintenance of the Green Wedge is critical to the economy and cultural landscapes of the Mornington Peninsula and must be an important responsibility of any elected local council.

The Association is of the view that there is merit in councillors on the Mornington Peninsula having direct involvement and representation roles in the rural parts of the Shire. For this reason the **Model 3**, which indicates 5 of the 11 new wards should have at least some rural component, is supported. Unfortunately the Red Hill Ward remains the largest ward in which many of its perceived disabilities remain unresolved. Perhaps the dimensions of 'community of interest' could be given greater weight in the context of this Ward, for example:


- Perceptual: a sense of belonging to an area or locality which can be clearly defined.
- Functional: the ability to meet with reasonable economy the community's requirements for comprehensive physical and human services.
- Political: the ability of the elected councillor to represent the interests and reconcile the conflicts of all its residents.

The Association suggests that there may be scope to extend Capel Sound and McCrae wards in **Model 3** to include additional hinterland. Capel Sound could take in a major part of the Tootgarook wetland south to Limestone Road. McCrae ward could encompass the intensive market gardening areas south to Patterson Road. These additional areas are relatively sparsely settled and would cause little change to population calculations. It would further reduce the extent of the Red Hill ward and oblige more Councillors to directly address environmental, conservation and rural issues.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Iles  
President

Flinders Community Association Inc. Mobile 

Cc Maxine Cooper(Wright) - Vice President FCA

Neville Wale – Committee Member FCA

David Gill – MPSC Red Hill Ward Councillor