

**Electoral structure review - Surf Coast Shire Council - Preliminary Submission  
Maureen Tehan - Aireys Inlet - 21 February 2023, 02:10 pm**

SURF COAST SHIRE ELECTORAL REVIEW  
Maureen Tehan, Aireys Inlet

I have been a regular visitor to Aireys Inlet for 40 years and I am now a permanent resident.

I understand the Review is primarily concerned with the 10% tolerance of electors and within that context, the number of Councillors and whether or not there should be wards. While considering these, the idea of community of interest in local government and, in particular, in the Surf Coast Shire is most important to me. This is particularly so given the challenges the coastal regions face as well as the rapid growth in Torquay's population. These, among other considerations, suggest that a ward system is crucial to preserving representation of both coastal communities and the hinterland while ensuring that the urban areas of the shire are adequately represented. This idea of three main areas is in line with the Council's community vision.

I have read the submission of the Aireys Inlet and District Association and support its proposal. I believe that both the Council structure and the various communities of interest within the Shire can be met by adopting the key aspects of the submission. It recognises the three key areas of the Shire: the coast, rural/hinterland and urban areas and provides for representation of the diverse and specific communities of interest in those areas by proposing more than one Councillor in each Ward. It overcomes the problem of the domination of the Council by the major urban locations in an unsubdivided Council. It's proposed boundaries meet the elector tolerance requirement although precise boundaries could be adjusted according to local wishes.

I would like an opportunity to speak to this submission in the next stage of the review.

Maureen Tehan  
Aireys Inlet  
21 February 2023.