Electoral structure review - Hepburn Shire Council - Response Submission
Richard Leeder - trentham - 15 April 2023, 09:09 am

The three proposed models are all reasonable however their is a total lack of critical analysis that provides any particular reason for those three being proposed. There are literally thousands of possible model but yet we have only three to choose from with no inclination as to the reasoning behind why these three were chosen. Very poor approach to option development.

Local council must provide local representation for residents. There are four main communities in Hepburn shire and representation for each of these must be ensured. This eliminates Hepburn Model 1 as an appropriate model. Model 1 cannot ensure representation of the each of the four communities because without any boundaries all councilors may come from a single family in one location.

There should be as far as reasonable (if there is such a thing) an equal representation for residents. This would mean that each councilor represents a similar number of residents within the shire. Model 3 provides representation for less populated areas and can therefore provides an imbalance in the number of residence each councilor represents.

This leaves us with Model 2 as the best option when considering representation criteria for:

1. ensuring the four main communities are represented and cannot be excluded for unrepresented in any way
2. ensuring that there is equal representation as far as reasonable for all residents

I would endorse Model 2 as the preferred model because Model 1 and Model 3 may not offer the communities and residents equitable local government representation which can be considered undemocratic.