

**Electoral structure review - Surf Coast Shire Council - Preliminary Submission  
Rose Hodge - Jan Juc - 22 February 2023, 10:13 am**

As a sitting Councillor at Surf Coast Shire for 19 years I have experienced two elections and terms as an unwarded councillor (2004, 2008) and three elections and terms as a warded councillor (2012, 2016, 2020) and with this experience I would like to submit that an unwarded council is my preferred preference.

As stated in the Local Government Act 2020 the system we have at present is NOT compliant and must change, there are three alternatives and again I reiterate unwarded is the superior choice.

To be equitable to the Community and Councillors numbers need to be fair and being unwarded places everyone on an even footing, community are free to contact any councillor and all councillors see an overall municipality view rather than a focused ward structure.

At the last review we saw wards introduced and the boundaries left many citizens confused, especially in Torquay where (to even the population numbers) lines were drawn near the heart of Torquay and those citizens were now in the Winchelsea Ward. Removing all boundaries eliminates any confusion.

Over the years I felt the Shire could manage with 7 Councillors, but due to the large growth being experienced 9 Councillors seem to be the correct mix.

If needed I would present to the Panel.

Yours Sincerely,

Cr. Rose Hodge

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