

**Electoral structure review - Campaspe Shire Council - Preliminary Submission
Jack Norris - Kyabram - 19 February 2023, 9:15 pm**

Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000

19 February 2023

Mr Jack Norris

[REDACTED]
Kyabram, Victoria 3620

RE: 2023-2024 Local Government Electoral Structure Review – Campaspe Shire Council – Preliminary Submission

Dear Electoral Representation Advisory Panel,

I am writing to you today in response to the current 2023-2024 Local Government Electoral Structure Review for the Campaspe Shire Council.

In order for the Campaspe Shire Council to adequately comply with the Local Government Act 2020 that was made an Act of Parliament on the 24th of March 2020, for the upcoming 2024 Local Government Elections in October 2024, I strongly believe that the municipality of the Campaspe Shire Council is best represented with nine Councillors in total which is the current number of Councillors.

Nine Councillors benefits the wider municipality of the Campaspe Shire Council as it reflects its townships, communities and the diversity of the broader region that makes up the Campaspe Shire Council. In terms of the Council's Electoral Structure, I strongly believe that the Campaspe Shire Council should retain its subdivision into wards, with one or more councillors elected by the people in each ward of the Campaspe Shire Council electoral structure.

Currently the Campaspe Shire Council is subdivided into five wards with two wards having three councillors each and three wards with one councillor each, the three wards that have one councillor each would have to merge into one ward in order to have three wards with three councillors in each ward to make the total number of councillors to nine.

By merging these three wards (Western, Rochester and Waranga) not only would it uphold the principal of one vote one value but also it would enable these three existing wards to be better represented in one ward by having three councillors. With the Campaspe Shire Council having a population of 31,046 people, by complying with the Local Government Act 2020, the voter numbers in each of these three proposed subdivided wards, the three wards would have need to have a deviation of at least 10,349 voters for each ward which would reflect in a deviation of +/-10%.

The Echuca Ward which currently includes 11,186 voters with a deviation of +8.09%, would under my proposal would retain its current representation of three councillors and no changes to its boundary.

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The Kyabram-Deakin Ward which consists of 9,957 voters with a deviation of -3.79% would also retain its current representation of three councillors and no changes to its boundary.

Lastly, Western, Rochester and Waranga Wards would merge into one ward with each councillor making one new ward with three councillors comprising the new ward. By merging these three current existing wards into one ward itself, it would consist of 9,903 voters with a deviation of -4.31%.

Under this proposal of the Campaspe Shire Council retaining its total number of councillors at nine and its subdivided electoral structure of three wards with three councillors per ward, this would enable the Campaspe Shire Council to be compliant with the Local Government Act 2020 for the October 2024 Local Government Elections.

Not only would the demographic of the municipality of the Campaspe Shire Council remain the same, but this proposal is also improving the representation of voters within the Campaspe Shire Council. The principle of 'one vote one value' will continue to be upheld under this proposal, but also the communities that current compromise within the Western, Rochester and Waranga Ward, will well and truly be better served by all being in one ward and having three councillors instead of one councillor each ward.

The days ahead are only getting better and under this proposal the voters of Campaspe Shire Council aren't being neglected, they will be better served and equally represented in three wards with three councillors each ward. This will be an improvement going forward than what the current voters of the Campaspe Shire Council are being served with at this present time. Ultimately, it also means that the voters can still hold their representatives to account under this proposal.

Into terms of what the name of the proposed merged ward should be, common sense should prevail which would mean that it should be open for public discussion for people currently within the Western, Rochester and Waranga Wards in what the name of their new merged ward should be renamed to. Both the Echuca and Kyabram-Deakin Ward would retain their respective ward name under my proposal.

In conclusion Electoral Representation Advisory Panel, I present and put forward, that in order for the Campaspe Shire Council to be complaint with the Local Government Act 2020, my proposal sees the Campaspe Shire Council retaining its subdivided electoral structure, with the total number of councillors being nine across three wards with Western, Rochester and Waranga Wards (current existing wards) being merged into one new ward.

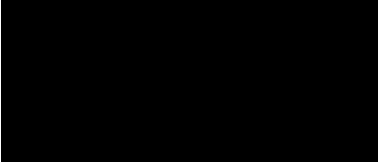
I strongly oppose in any suggestion that the voters of the Campaspe Shire Council are better off and being better represented under a unsubdivided Council. This idea would mean that the voters of the Campaspe Shire Council in its smaller townships and communities would be neglected, left behind and silenced from the election of councillors residing in populated areas of the municipality of the Shire in comparison to rural and isolated areas of the Campaspe Shire Council.

Not only does this proposal uphold and reflect the democratic principal of 'one vote one value' but it is also the right proposal that is winner for all residents within the municipality of the Campaspe Shire Council, not just those in Echuca, but for those residents in some of Council's smaller communities and townships such as Gunbower, Rochester, Lockington, Rushworth, Stanhope, Girgarre, Tongala and Kyabram.

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I look forward to my proposal being considered and I look forward to an end result that will benefit the wider municipality of the Campaspe Shire Council as a result under this proposal I present to you.

Kind Regards,



Jack Norris