

**Electoral structure review - Moorabool Shire Council - Response Submission
Nina Roxburgh - Mount Egerton - 19 April 2023, 01:20 pm**

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose Model 1 - Unsubdivided proposal. Living in one of the smaller towns in the Moorabool Shire, this would have a significantly negative impact on my community and the communities of other small towns in the Shire. By adopting an unsubdivided approach, this would likely result in a concentrated number of Councillors coming from the more populated areas such as Bacchus Marsh and Ballan.

There is significant evidence which shows that individuals are susceptible to bias, and undoubtedly having Councillors represent communities they are not connected with will lead to them preferencing developments, allocation of funding and support for their own communities over others. (See: <https://guilfordjournals.com/doi/abs/10.1521/soco.1986.4.4.353>;
<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-16519-6#toc>;
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0146167204271570>)

Indeed, I recognise that having Councillors represent our community may also risk personal bias, but at least in Model 2 there is balance and this should result in fair and equitable representation.

It would devastate small areas like Mount Egerton, which is already low on the priority list for Council to have the chance of no representation at the Councillor level.

I believe the better option is Model 2, which offers the chance to increase the representation of smaller, yet critically important, communities and towns like ours. This way, there is a safety net/guarantee that everyone is, in part, represented across the Shire.

We have a diverse community in Moorabool, with disparate needs. One size fits all is not going to work, so purposefully making space for local representation is going to be the best way forward. Please endorse Model 2 - 3 wards, with 3 Councillors in each ward.

Kind Regards,
Nina