

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 April 2023 2:47 PM  
**To:** Hepburn ERAP Submissions 2023  
**Subject:** Electoral model for Hepburn Shire

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Fay Rosalind Magee

[REDACTED] Trentham

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Model 3

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**My preference is for Model 3 - A subdivided electoral structure with a total of seven wards and seven councillors, one councillor from each ward**

As a rate payer for over 25 years, I am concerned that in a small Shire like Hepburn there is good and equal representation at local government level. In some ways, different parts of the Shire are more distinct than perhaps in places where there are larger population concentrations or centres. The current structure has served relatively well and it would be a seriously backward step to create just one area with 7 councillors living in almost random parts of the Shire. Under Model 1, the system is open to political manipulation from within or beyond, looking to be an influential majority more oriented to power in other places and where the "interests of the electors" can be lost. Also under Model 1, certain parts of the Shire with specific needs or circumstances can easily be overlooked.

**Model 3** has the capacity for Local government to be the level of government which is critical to many locally-defined services. It is a vital form of government where officers and agencies need to be literally, on the ground, responding to local situations. This was demonstrated powerfully with the June 2021 storm event.

A councillor representing each ward has proven to work well, connected most directly to the people of the ward. This person can be more aware of, be part of, and respond to local networks, who can pass on and interpret the workings of the local government structures as needed.