

**Electoral structure review - Wodonga City Council - Response Submission  
Graham Jenkin - West Wodonga - 14 July 2023, 04:39 pm**

It appears from the ERAP Preliminary Report that maintaining seven councillors without individual wards is a decision already made, however, keeping the status quo is my preference.

Wodonga does not cover as large a geographical area as many other regional city councils, being only 433 square kilometres in size, meaning there is little need in my view for "suburban" based representation via Single Councillor Wards.

I would prefer to vote for all Councillors, with no preference system in play, that is number only one to seven on the ballot paper, so that we residents are able to choose whom we see as the seven individuals with the best qualifications for the role of Councillor. Councils are large corporations and Councillors require high level skills in understanding financial statements and governance to adequately perform their roles. My personal belief is that before standing a candidate should have completed something akin to a recognised, comprehensive company director's course.

Without those skills, single council wards will make it more difficult to elect the best people to represent the citizens unless the seven "ideal world" councillors all stand and run in separate wards.

Option 2 of the ward based approach is my preferred option, if I was forced to decide only between Options 1 & 2, which it seems we are being asked to do.