

**Electoral structure review - Surf Coast Shire Council - Preliminary Submission  
Barbara Hammond - Fairhaven - 13 February 2023, 02:09 pm**

**From:** [barbara.hammond](#)  
**To:** [Surf Coast ERAP Submissions 2023](#)  
**Subject:** Submission Electoral Boundaries  
**Date:** Monday, 13 February 2023 2:09:33 PM

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To the Panel,

My name is Barbara Hammond and I live in Fairhaven in the Surf Coast Shire.

The Surf Coast Shire undertook a substantial community engagement process last year which resulted in the following mission statement and community vision.

‘From the hinterland to the coast, from the first peoples to the children of the future, we are an active, diverse community that lives creatively to value, protect and enhance the natural environment and our unique neighbourhoods. We will leave the Surf Coast better than we found it.’

I was lucky enough to be part of this process and I would stress that the emphasis on “unique neighbourhoods” was a recurring theme throughout the many hours of consultation. It was recognised by all that there were clear and diverse communities of interest in the Shire and the needs of all communities ..large and small were important for the social economic and environmental benefits for the whole shire.

In particular it was noted that the needs of small coastal towns such as Anglesea, Aireys Inlet and Lorne, compared to the large agricultural hinterland and the ever growing urban township and environs of Torquay were all very different and the voices of all needed to be heard.

In this respect as the population of Torquay dominates the Shire it would be inappropriate to adopt a one ward solution for the shire.

A multi ward solution with equal numbers of councillors is preferred. I haven't done a map with population numbers but I would suggest a breakup that has four wards ..two for the Torquay area, one for the hinterland area and one that at least includes Anglesea through along the coast ..to an including Lorne. If communities close to Anglesea and Lorne ..eg Bellbrae, Deans Marsh and close by see their main relationship being to this ward then they could also be included in this coastal ward.

People from Torquay Jan Juc Winchelsea etc. are best placed to say where the boundaries of those three wards would best be.

In regard to the number of councillors for each ward..I think three per ward would be workable.

I would like to request to speak in person as part of the second stage of the consultation.

Sincerely  
Barbara Hammond

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Phone [REDACTED]