

**Electoral structure review - Hepburn Shire Council - Preliminary Submission
Warren Maloney - Daylesford - 01 March 2023, 03:16 pm**

My name is Warren Maloney and I have been a resident of Hepburn Shire continuously since 1998 with a direct Family connection to the area dating back to 1853.

I have been a Mayor (twice) and Councillor of Brunswick City Council (1980-1984), and a Mayor (twice) and Councillor of Hepburn Shire Council (2003-2005), and a President of the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) (2004-2006).

My submission succinctly is that the Preferred Adjustment for the Shire is UNSUBDIVIDED with 5 Councillors.

There is no appetite for an increase of Councillors whatsoever so 3 wards x 3 would be excessive and unwanted. 2 wards of 3 or 3 of 2 or 2 of 2 would be unworkable politically.

5, 7 or 9 single member wards would return to the disasters of 1995-2005 where the single ward Councillors showed only interest in their own wards and divided the discretionary funds and Mayoral positions at best to exclude Trentham & Clunes. In the 2005-2012 period, the single ward electorates created 2 very powerful Councillors who used their "no local opposition in their Wards" to create an atmosphere of malevolence that saw the resignation of the CEO and several leading Officers.

My experience with multi-member wards at Brunswick and in the 2012-2023 period at Hepburn has meant that a dominant Councillor at Creswick & Daylesford wards negates the role or capacity of the other Ward Councillor, set up the circumstances of 4 changes to CEOs, and in my view contributed to the poor decision making that has resulted in the current Local Government Inquiry known as "the Rex Theatre sites".

Unsubdivided + a lesser number of Councillors would mean the stonger likelihood of a better standard Councillor with responsibility of complete Shire oversight. It would also mean a clearer definition of the role of the Administration.

In addition to these gains (and less costs), the arrangement would mean that the distinct divergence in population growth and age groupings between the East & West of the Shire could be easily accommodated and represented, plus Shire wide needs of Health & Transport & Recreation & Road maintenance services would not be the bailliwick of the Few.

I am very happy to present these views personally or by Zoom if required.

Regards,

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