

This is a very restrictive model that does not permit much needed changes.

The EGSC covering 20929 sq. km is the second largest local government area in Victoria and almost twice the size of the third largest, with a voter population of 43123 most of whom reside in the south western section of the shire. My estimate is that approximately 35000 voters live in an area of less 5600 sq. km surrounding Bairnsdale. This being the case the remainder of the shire approximately 15000 sq. km is home to some 7500 voters.

To overcome the current inequitable situation, we need to undertake a division of the EGSC into smaller parts, could this be achieved by the establishment of wards? In short probably not. Dividing the municipality into wards would leave a situation where a small number of councilors would represent a vast majority of the geographical area.

I have provided an EGSC Boundary Builder Map that considers a 10 councilor, 6 ward subdivided shire, but again the problem persists 3 councilors would end up representing 80% + of the shire, with the associated travel and commitment required this is just not realistic.

In closing, I am sure that the VEC will conduct it's review in accordance with the relevant legislation but that does not progress the problems face by remote East Gippsland.

What needs to happen is that the EGSC needs to build a case for the de-amalgamation of the shire, so residents are give an opportunity to experience fair representation without the tyranny of distance.