

Electoral Representation Review - East Gippsland Shire Council - Preliminary Submission

Newlands Arm Residents & Ratepayers Association Inc. - Newlands Arm - 11 March 2019

We believe the current number of Councillors is appropriate for the size and population of our Shire and is comparable to similar Shires around the state. Whilst the population is growing, it is not growing at a rate to justify an increase in the number of Councillors.

In terms of the electoral structure we strongly support the introduction of the subdivided structure, with single Councillor wards. As we have been ignored under the current system and had no voice in Council, due to the small community we live in, a dedicated Councillor should result in our issues being addressed. If that Councillor does not respond, voters in the ward can force them out at the ballot box in the next election, which is as it should be in a democracy.

In considering names for the ward for the residents of Newlands Arm we believe "Simpson" would be a most appropriate choice. This would recognize the community commitment to the people of Newlands Arm and Paynesville.

George and Phyllis Simpson generously donated 36 acres of land for recreational use by the residents of Newlands Arm. In addition they contributed a substantial amount to the building of our community hall.

They were also proactive in supporting an ambulance for Paynesville and provided a significant amount of money towards that effort. The Paynesville Ambulance Auxillary visited us recently and were delighted to see paintings of George and Phyllis on our hall wall.