

## Electoral Representation Review - East Gippsland Shire Council - Preliminary Submission Lionel Rose - Fernbank - 24 February 2019

The major issue with councillor representation in East Gippsland is the large size of the shire. With a Shire this size, the population distribution tends to allow for councillors to be elected by specific groups usually from the larger towns leaving the rural and remote rural ratepayers with little representation. The current council, as were previous councils, top heavy with councillors representing Bairnsdale, Paynesville, Lakes Entrance and Omeo while the smaller rural settlements struggle to have issues specific to them raised and adequately understood. This could be easily overcome by establishing a ward systems dividing the Shire and ensuring that a number of those wards did not include any larger towns. Such a ssystem would then go a long way to ensure more adequate representation of all ratepayers and allow thier concerns and issued to be raised in council.