

.I think 7 councillors is appropriate for GSC

I think the Glenelg Shire should be subdivided into 4 wards basicall covering approx 2500 (round figures) electors percouncillor. ! councillor for North Ward (Casterton area) ! councillor for West Ward (Nelson , Coastal, Great South Walk etc 1 councillor) North Ward (Heywood area) and South Ward 4 councillors Portland area. I have submitted my very rough break up of areas with common interests approx 2500 per councillor. see map.

My main reasons for a subdivided council are:

Tyrenary of distance at present there are currently 6 councillors Portland 1 councillor Casterton. It is very hard for people outside these areas to consider they are represented, due to the fact they really never have the opportunity to meet formally or more importantly informally with their representatives. No disrespect at all intended on the councillors living in Portland, its just a fact they are well known to Portland citizens but of course, because purely by location unknown to outer areas. There is also the very real fear if current well known councillor in Casterton retires, due to the weighted numbers Portland City, in all probability another Portland citizen is likely to be voted in. I fully understand they are there to represent the entire Shire, and well intended they may be, but the reality is voters outside the city precinct have a perception they are disadvantaged.

May I just give a very small example of such perception. Nelson for instance has a permanent population of approx 200, but during the Christmas to Easter period this population, driven by holiday makers in holiday houses, camp grounds, and the Jewell in the Shire Crown the Lower Glenelg Natinal Park camp sites on the great Glenelg River, increases to approx 2000. This fact is not a commonly known to Portland councillors. Nelson people see and hear how the Shire applauds cruise ships arriving for one day with perhaps less than 1000 visitors. Its great to have the cudos of cruise ships, and congratulations on achieving such visits, but Nelson feels quie neglected having 2000 visitors for up to a couple of months. There is perhaps the opportunity to invest in say a "Sked" sewerage scheme, but would need perhaps pushing by a person with interest in advancing other areas of Shire. This is just a one off simple example. Another is Nelson being the turning point of the Great South West Walk which attracts visitors from all over the world. Its beautifully currently run by volunteers whom have been responsible for creating such an attraction, but maybe someone outside Portland could be of benefit to promotion or assistance. Just having representatives outside the city would add another perspective to the Glenelg Shire.