

I wish to comment on the Structure of the Glenelg Shire Council.

I support the election of councillors in an unsubdivided shire.

I support an unsubdivided shire because this model promotes a harmonious shire, where representatives have a responsibility to the complete area, to be aware of the needs of an entire region, to consider areas which are not where they reside, and to work co-operatively to achieve outcomes. It provides a larger pool of councillors who then would be familiar with local needs. In this era of electronic communication - smart phones with apps , internet , and the use of these by council and councillors there is a feeling of community in an undivided shire , as were are currently - and is promoted as such. .. We are Glenelg.. and local support for towns and areas in our Glenelg region is strong.. (Kelpie Festival , Casterton, Mouth to Mouth, Narrawong, Wood Wine and Roses in Heywood , sporting teams participation is shire-wide, and Library services cover large towns : static library services in Heywood Casterton Portland, and a mobile 'Library to Go' services less populated areas .. Offices of the Shire are located in Heywood and Casterton and Portland providing services from north to south,

A model with subdivision was a system operative in past years and brought out resentments, parochialism and divisions, as well as a feeling that particular areas were preferred. Consequently it is not an appropriate model. It was a system where those who believed they had greater importance in the shire used that to promote particular area and ignore the interests of others.

I am [REDACTED] years old, and remember the difficulties a subdivided shire brought.

Hence, I support an undivided shire.

Sincerely,

Meredith Newman Debens

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