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**To:** [strathbogiereview@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:strathbogiereview@vec.vic.gov.au)  
**Subject:** FW: Strathbogier Shire Council Representation Review  
**Date:** Wednesday, 3 August 2011 12:25:35 AM  
**Attachments:** [Electoral Representation Review - Guide for Submissions for Strathbogier Shire.pdf](#)  
[Strathbogier Brochure.pdf](#)  
[05072011 - Media Release - Electoral representation review gets underway for Strathbogier Shire Council.doc](#)

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The Chief Electoral Officer.  
Victorian Electoral Commissioner

Dear Sir,

I'm writing in response to your review of the electoral representation of the Strathbogier Shire Council. When the Shire was established in the mid 1990's it was established with 5 Councillors elected as an unsubdivided Council.

While it would seem strange for a public company to have directors who were only elected by a segment of shareholders, and focusing on their issues and interests, it seems equally strange to have an electoral system for local government that discourages a collegiate approach, and looking at the Shire as a whole.

Ours is one of the smaller Shires in population and I would support no more than 5 councillors.

In a small rural community with one vacancy to a ward, it discourages electoral contests, as they become a personal attack on a sitting councillor, and an embarrassing loss for one individual. I feel good quality people are discouraged from such contests, but they may be more willing to put themselves forward in a municipal wide contest for 5 positions, where it is not a head to head contest.

Other arguments for the Shire to be unsubdivided with a maximum of 5 councillors.

- a. councillors are encouraged to focus on the municipality as a whole.
- b. gives ratepayers a choice of councillors to approach with their concerns.
- c. every voter has a chance to express a preference for every candidate.
- d. removes the need to define internal boundaries, and ensures every vote is equal.
- e. ward boundaries may divide communities of interest.
- f. subdivided encourages councillors to focus on their own ward and not the whole Shire.
- g. with only 9000 residents we do not need more than 5 councillors.
- h. when the Shire was established it was unsubdivided and with 5 councillors - that was far better structure.

regards,

The Honourable Patrick McNamara.

Nagambie.

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