

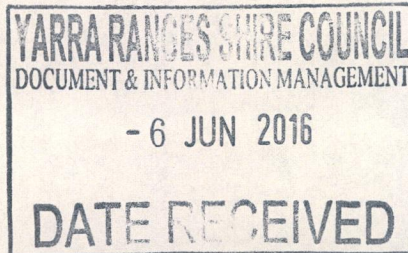


Hon Natalie Hutchins MP

Minister for Local Government
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
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Cr Jason Callanan
Mayor
Yarra Ranges Shire Council
PO Box 105
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File: FOL/15/50470

Dear Cr Callanan

ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW – YARRA RANGES SHIRE COUNCIL

I refer to the recent Electoral Representation Review of the Yarra Ranges Shire Council conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC). Having carefully considered the Final Report provided to me by the VEC under section 219F of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), I have recommended to the Governor in Council that the council continue to consist of nine councillors elected from nine single-member wards, with modified boundaries to some of the existing wards. This is the same model as detailed in Option A of the Commission in its preliminary report during the review.

The Governor in Council made an Order approving my recommendation on 31 May 2016. Notice of the Order is being published in the *Victoria Government Gazette* on 2 June 2016.

The council's altered electoral structure is in keeping with the Government's commitment to the maintenance of democratic electoral arrangements for local government in Victoria. I am satisfied that the structure will provide fair and equitable representation to the municipality's voters.

I note my decision differed from the VEC's recommended option that Yarra Ranges Shire move to a structure of nine councillors elected from three three-councillor wards. I am highly respectful of the high quality of VEC's conduct of the council's review which was undertaken with objectivity, impartiality and rigor. However in this instance I was not convinced there were sufficient grounds to change the council's structure to a multi-member ward model at this time.

Yours sincerely

HON NATALIE HUTCHINS MP
Minister for Local Government