



We don't need another referendum about Council

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At the last Council election we also [held a referendum](#) on whether our city should be divided into wards. That exercise – really just the thought bubble of one Councillor — cost us \$24,000 and the idea went on to be soundly rejected by the community.

At our Council meeting tonight we were asked to consider if there was any other change we wanted to put to a referendum for the local government elections that are scheduled for September next year. Would we like 13 Councillors instead of 12? A popularly elected Mayor? To revisit the Wards issue?

I took the view that these suggestions wouldn't improve the quality of democracy in our city.

Some of our Councillors made a very conspicuous show [only a couple of months ago](#) of rejecting a

CPI-rise in the fee paid to Councillors — a virtue-signalling exercise that would save Council a grand total of \$7,132p.a. Nevertheless, tonight the same ones took a shine to the idea of holding another referendum that would cost *another* \$24K (or more) to put to voters, and in the case of increasing Councillor numbers, another \$80K+ in pay across the 4 years of a Council term.

I confess, I found that a trifle inconsistent.

So I voted for the status quo. I'm happy to report I was in the majority. I suggest that the money we save by not entertaining thought bubbles like this will be better spent on better roads, parks and services.

Category

1. Uncategorized

Tags

1. Hawkesbury Council
2. Council Wards
3. Council Referendum

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