

SUBMISSION TO BANYULE COUNCIL REPRESENTATION REVIEW JULY 2019

SUBMITTOR DETAILS FOR PUBLICATION

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I consent to my submission being published with my full name and location.

SUBMISSION

Proposed number of councillors and wards

My preference is for nine councillors in three wards with three members elected from each ward.

The estimated average number of voters represented by each councillor, based on the February 2019 figures, would be 11,018 voters. The average number of voters in each ward would be 33,053 voters.

This seems to be a typical ratio of voters to councillors in Melbourne councils located within 20 km of the CBD, it also allows for the population growth which will occur over the next decade.

Proposed ward boundaries

Based on the estimated population figures by suburb for February 2019 my preferred ward boundaries are:

Northern ward would comprise the suburbs of Bundoora, Watsonia North, Watsonia, Greensborough, St Helena and Eltham North with 31,835 voters which is 3.7% below the proposed average across the council.

This ward is approximately based on the existing Grimshaw, Bakewell and Beale wards.

Central ward would comprise the suburbs of Macleod, Rosanna, Yallambie, Viewbank, Briar Hill, Montmorency, a very small part of Eltham and Lower Plenty with 33,697 voters which is 2.0% above the proposed average across the council.

This ward is approximately based on the existing Ibbott and Hawdon wards.

Southern ward would comprise the suburbs of Heidelberg West, Heidelberg Heights, Bellfield, Ivanhoe, Heidelberg, Eaglemont and Ivanhoe East North with 33,626 voters which is 1.7% above the proposed average across the council.

This ward is approximately based on the existing Olympia and Griffin wards.

I have no suggestion to offer for ward names.

Reasons for proposing three councillors to each ward

I believe three councillors to represent each ward will encourage strategic thinking across council and enable more diverse representation to be elected to council.

The vote required to elect a councillor from a three councillor ward will be 25% plus one vote. This is a significant number of electors who at present may be unable to elect their preferred candidate under the single member ward preferential system.

I believe larger wards with three councillors will enable voters and groups to find at least one councillor or possibly two or three councillors who will be willing to represent them and advocate for them at council.