

**Representation Review - Banyule City Council - Preliminary Submission**  
**David Gentle - Heidelberg - 11 Jul 2019**

I believe that Banyule Council should move from the existing 7 single-member wards to 3 three-member wards, thus increasing the total of councillors from 7 to 9.

My reasons are as follows:

1. Given the population growth in Banyule, 9 councillors would give better representation than 7.
2. Single-member wards are inferior to multi-member wards because, as a constituent, with single-member wards constituents have only one councillor to approach with an issue, whereas with say three member wards one can find the councillor who will best help. I had exactly this experience in Ku-Ring-Gai in Sydney some years ago. I had an issue re traffic in my street and the first councillor I approached in my ward was completely disinterested and unhelpful. The second was terrific and we achieved some measure of success.
3. Multi-member wards are more democratic than single-member wards because of the electoral system of proportional representation. This system is, I believe, universal across Europe for this reason. For example, if there were 10 positions to fill with say 20 candidates, and votes after preferences were 40% for A, 30% for B, 20% for C and 10% for D, then there would be 4xA, 3xB, 2xC and 1xD filling the 10 positions. (Here A, B, C and D represent 4 political parties or groups.) This is clearly very democratic and provides an outcome that truly represents voters fairly. With 10x single member wards in this case, one would expect, by contrast, all 10 positions to be filled with A's and B's only. This is far less democratic.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue for the benefit of the Australian democracy.