

**Representation Review - Banyule City Council - Preliminary Submission
Rowan Harrison - Eaglemont - 23 Jul 2019**

22 July 2019



Victorian Electoral Commission,
Level 11, 530 Collins Street,
Melbourne. 3000



RE: BANYULE Local Council Representation Review.

I consider that the number of councillors be increased to **9** and each be a single ward.

As councillors are considered 'part-time', it is currently grossly unreasonable to expect the existing Griffin Ward councillor to represent 2 Major Activity Centres, 1 Medical Precinct and 3 minor activity centres. Griffin Ward also covers 4 railway stations. Only 1 other councillor has a Major Activity Centre (Bakewell Ward).

I suggest that the Griffin Ward northern boundary be moved to the south side of Banksia Street. There could be a new "Warringal" ward covering Heidelberg to Rosanna shopping centre and parts of Heidelberg Heights.

The amount of high rise construction in progress and applied for in both Ivanhoe and Heidelberg, as well as the eastern end of Bell Street, needs very careful predictions as to future voter numbers over say the next 6 years.

The current and proposed applications for the half dozen towers (eastern end of Bell Street) plus the recently completed one will have a dramatic increase in voter numbers of Olympia Ward (currently 9.74% over deviation).

It appears that the Act is only considering voter equality – not resident numbers.

A ward councillor has to represent all residents (e.g. need for more child care centres). A voter need not be a resident and could live outside of Banyule. Also a voter could reside in one ward and have a property/ business in another ward, but is unable to vote in both wards. This can also lead to incorrect voter numbers represented (i.e.: voters vs ratepayers).

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Depending upon the outcome for a possible "Warringal" ward, I have not considered what boundary changes are needed to accommodate a ninth ward towards the north of Banyule. I consider it preferable for each ward to have a population of approx. 13,000 with voting numbers in the 10 – 11,000 range.

I will not be attending any public hearings held at Greensborough.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours faithfully,



Rowan Harrison

