

Representation Review - Banyule City Council - Preliminary Submission Craig Langdon - Bellfield - 23 Jul 2019

SUMMARY

My primary advocacy is to support the retention of the current structure of seven wards with single representation.

Previously as State Member for Ivanhoe with the history of servicing as a Councillor for the City Of Heidelberg which had five Wards of three Councillors I had advocated for nine Councillors. Having now served as a Councillor in a single ward within a Council of seven wards I can personally testify how much better the Council conducts itself. Banyule has not had the issues other Councils have had with larger number of Councillors and multi wards.

Representing the Olympia Ward with the largest number of residents I have never found that to be a burdeon or an enormous work load. Therefore I would dispute that the number of Wards need to increase to assist Councillors to better represent the City and the ratepayers.

I certainly acknowlege there needs to be adjustments to the boundary of the Ward and that has to be done with care. The areas within postcode 3081 must be retained within the Olympia Ward. Given much of the Ivanhoe area west of the Donaldson Reserve and shared trail has more in common with Bellfield than other parts of Ivanhoe. The area is linked by the Oriel Bus Route. Much of the area was previously established by the then Housing Commision and while the stock is dramatically deminishing there is that common theme. Olympia Ward is subject to housing renewal more than any other area within Banyule. The Ivanhoe area east of the Donaldson Reserve is older established housing with few if any former Commission Housing. The houses in this area better reflect the Griffin Ward housing. It would be fair to say West Ivanhoe has very little in common with the Fairy Hills area. Institutions such has the Banyule Community Health Centre and the Olympic Adult Education would no doubt endorse this concept. The Somali population also basically resides with the area as well.

While I have submitted a proposed boundary change for all Wards I do so only as part of the proposal to keep Olympia Ward within the boundarys I have suggested. I do not propose to understand their areas as well as the Ward I represent.

Craig Langdon