

**Representation Review - Banyule City Council - Preliminary Submission**  
**HESHAM MOBAREK - Watsonia - 24 Jul 2019**

VEC

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22nd July 2019

**SUBMISSION TO VEC RE BAYULE CITY COUNCIL ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW**

I have been a Banyule Business owner for 25 Years and Banyule Resident for 4 years. In this period I have had many opportunities to deal with individual Councillors of Banyule City Council as well as council officers.

My home and business are located in 2 different wards so I have had the opportunity to deal with individual Councillors of these 2 wards as well as all other Councillors collectively and individually in different forums and meetings.

I fully support the current Single-councillor structure for Banyule City Council. In my many years as a Banyule rate payer I have found this system works very well and efficiently serves the Banyule community.

The single member system provides an opportunity for a single contact point with a Ward Councillor who is intimately connected and familiar with the priorities and needs of that ward. This does not in any way hinder our ability to contact other Ward councillors where necessary.

Each Ward councillor is accountable to the residents of the ward on both the level of support and individual responsiveness to the needs of the ward.

This system makes far better sense than a multiple member ward system which is more likely to lead to possible division and competitiveness within a ward.

**7 Wards c.f 9 Wards** - I believe that the extra 2 councillors and the expense would not deliver enough benefit to warrant the change. I believe that the ward councillors have the necessary support of council officers to help manage workload and complex situations hence no real benefit in change to 9 wards.

The current 7 ward single member system has been successful in both having a balance between strong local representation to the direct local area as well as ensure an overall representation of the entire Banyule community.

In my many years of experience I have found the current system has served the Banyule community well and I encourage the VEC to maintain the current electoral arrangements.

I can be contacted on email

[REDACTED] or [REDACTED] for further clarification or information if needed.

Warm regards

Hesham Mobarek B.Pharm M.P.S