

Representation Review - Banyule City Council - Response Submission Fred Harrington OAM - Montmorency - 28 Aug 2019

My belief is that residents are better served when there are multiple Councillor wards.
My experience as a resident of the former West Riding of the then Shire of Eltham was that:

- the three Councillors worked as a team and 'covered' for each other to ensure at least one of them attended the many community meetings/consultations that were held to address the wide range of issues within the Riding. Then after discussion fully represented the residents of their riding.
 - collectively they could 'stand up' for their Riding when Councillors from other Ridings were proposing actions that may have had an impact on the residents of their Riding.
 - collectively they have a vision for many improvements within the Riding such as increased open space and connectivity of open space for the Riding.
 - collectively they were prepared to stand up and defend the position taken by them.
- My experience as a resident of the Hawdon Ward of Banyule with single Councillor representation is:
- the one Councillor has been readily influenced by the Mayor and other Councillors when it comes to the sale of open space within the Ward.
 - the requests of residents for connectivity of open space has been put aside, by the single Councillor, as too hard.
 - work and other commitments has precluded the one Councillor from being fully involved in several important community meetings. Something that would not have happened if there were multiple Councillors.
 - The Mayor having a level of influence over one Councillor. Something that may not have happened if there were multiple Councillors.