

Hesham Mobarek

VEC

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17th September 2019

Stage 2 SUBMISSION TO VEC RE BAYULE CITY COUNCIL ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW

I made a submission to the VEC Stage 1 review in July 2019 and would like to also provide my feedback in the stage 2 Review.

As previously mentioned, I am 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 interests are located in different wards, so I have had the opportunity to deal with individual Councillors of these wards as well as all other Councillors collectively and individually in different forums and meetings.

I am a bit disappointed that the 7-councillor option is not presented as an option in stage 2. However, if I was to choose one option, I would prefer option C as it maintains the single councillor per ward which I strongly believes the best outcome for Banyule residents.

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.

Practically speaking a multi councillor ward system would mean I need to deal with 9 councillors for my varying businesses and property issues moving forward.

I would also urge the VEC to reconsider the boundaries in Option C as I can see some glaring Flaws in the suggested boundaries. These include:

- the stepped boundary between Grimshaw and Bakwell Ward
- Boundary between Ibbott and Olympia and Doherty Rd
- the Bakewell and Hawdon ward.

These VEC suggested boundaries seem illogical.

I have reviewed Attachment 2 of Banyule City Council suggested ward Boundaries which seems make a lot more sense and would urge the VEC to closely consider the suggested amendments to boundaries. For example splitting Watsonia down Greensborough Rd makes far more sense than the stepped split of VEC which is awkward and cumbersome.

Representation Review - Banyule City Council - Response Submission
Hesham Mobarek - Watsonia - 17 September 2019

I strongly advocate for the single councillor structure to continue with the necessary amendments to the boundaries as this has effectively served the Banyule community in the past and will continue to serve the Banyule community into the future.

The current single member ward 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.

I would like the opportunity to speak at the public review on the 25th September 2019 to advocate and further elaborate on my views presented.

I can be contacted on email [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] for further clarification or information if needed.

Warm regards

Hesham Mobarek

Pharmacist (B.Pharm M.P.S)