

Representation Review - Banyule City Council - Response Submission
Noel Spink - Eaglemont - 17 Sep 2019

In recent years I have become more interested in the functionality of Banyule City Council. I believe Councils function best when voters are able to deal with **one** person who is elected to represent them.

I believe that the population increase justifies an increase in the number of Councillors elected to represent residents of Banyule.

Additionally the workload of the current Councillors also justifies an increase in the number of Councillors. I ask that the number of Councillors of Banyule Council be increased to nine.

Of great concern to me, as a resident of Griffin Ward is the fact that there are too many Activity centres within Griffin Ward, in comparison to those located in the other Wards. This leads me to support the view that Griffin Ward needs to be substantially decreased in size, so that the workload of all Councillors within Banyule is more equally distributed.

In my view it is far better to have one Councillor representing a Ward. It makes them accountable as our representative. It also makes it far easier to know who should be contacted when wanting to discuss matters pertaining to our Ward.

In my view having "mega sized" Wards with multiple Councillors leads to confusion as to which Councillor is best to contact.

Retention of Wards with single Councillors:

- Removes any possible conflict if Councillors within the same Ward have differing views
- Ensures that your Ward Councillor will always vote in the best interest of their constituents as opposed to voting in a unanimous manner as a block if there were multiple Councillors within a Ward
- Maintains the situation that an independent Councillor has an equal say
- In my view, gives individuals seeking to be independent a better chance of being elected, rather than a representative of a major political party
- Provides for better Community engagement

Of the options offered for consideration by the VEC Banyule City Council Electoral Representation Review, I believe that Option C is the best solution for fair, strong, accountable representation of voters.

Yours faithfully

Noel C Spink