The Somali Australian Council of Victoria (SACOV) has considered the Victorian Electoral Commission recommendations for the future electoral structure of the Banyule City Council contained in its preliminary report dated 21 August 2019.

SACOV articulated our strong support for the retention of single member Wards in our preliminary submission. We believe that single member wards deliver high quality, accountable and responsive representation to residents in Banyule. We argued that there was merit in expanding the number of wards from seven to nine to provide for a greater opportunity for community representation on the Council.

SACOV is delighted with the Option C recommended by the VEC for nine single member Wards in Banyule. We fully support this option.

SACOV has significant concerns with Options A and B recommended by the VEC as they result in multi-member wards. Under either option the views and aspirations of our community members would be diluted and we would lose our voice with the Council.

SACOV can again confirm that a member of our Executive would be delighted to speak in support of our submission at a public hearing. Our official contact details are below should we be of any further assistance to the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Regards,

Jabiri Ali
President
Somali Australian Council of Victoria