

## **T3081 – Banyule Electoral Structure Response Submission**

We welcome VEC’s preferred Option A – three wards of three councillors each, with the proposed boundary map. We believe **Option A** has the following advantages:

1. More councillors to work together for the benefit of their local constituents.
2. Higher likelihood of women or other minorities to want to be a councillor.
3. It hopefully will attract people who are willing and prepared to work together with their peers to encourage discussions, debate and joint problem-solving for the community.
4. More effective representation of different communities of interest, in particular groups or people who are concerned about climate change or sustainability issues.
5. The proposed deviations under this option allows for more population growth (especially compared to Option B). This is particularly important for the South Ward where high growth is expected.

We agree with VEC that Option B *“could appear to create wards defined by socio-economic status and may potentially create community division or result in inequitable councillor workloads.”* In addition to that, the deviation for the North West ward is +5.83% to start with, which does not allow for much room to grow in the next 12 years or next review cycle.

Finally, we urge that the VEC uses this opportunity to adopt new aboriginal ward names, with consultation to the local Aboriginal elders. This will bring the new ward names in alignment with “Banyule” (Banyool) which is an Aboriginal name.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Yennie Starkey, on behalf of T3081

12 September 2019