

**Representation Review - Banyule City Council - Response Submission
Watsonia Neighbourhood House - Watsonia - 16 Sep 2019**

I strongly support Banyule Option C for nine single councillor wards. Single member ward structure provides us with better opportunity to develop a positive working relationship with our ward councillor who understands our organisation and the grass roots work we do in our community. Our experience is that our councillor is accessible and proactive in his advocacy for community needs and priorities. Multi councillor wards could dilute responsiveness and compromise outcomes if there are conflicting points of views amongst the councillors. Increased numbers of councillors would create an additional burden to our operations as we seek to maintain our productive connections with council.

We would like to see greater diversity in our council representatives and therefore support the realignment of ward boundaries to create two additional wards. The proposed boundaries proposed in Option C has the most appropriate consideration of communities of interest.