

Electoral Representation Review - Boroondara City Council - Response Submission  
David Balding - Hawthorn - 13 April 2019

As a Boroondara resident and voter, I would like to support option A - 11 councillors in 4 wards. I believe that the current single-member ward system does not serve residents well, because issues about which a large minority of voters are passionate do not rise to the top in any single ward. Single-member wards lead to a lack of diversity in many respects but in particular, many policy positions are broadly the same in every ward and can gain widespread support overall without getting any councillor elected promoting that position.

Surveys show that a large proportion of residents want better walking and cycling facilities and many voters are passionate about the quality of life gain that would result from being able to cycle safely around Boroondara. Yet Council continues to do next to nothing on this front, because this issue isn't the top priority for a majority of voters in any one ward. Thus council gives little representation to this issue, frustrating many residents. Worse, the council does its best to make traffic congestion worse by offering too much free parking - that walkers and cyclists are forced to subsidise through their rates yet they make our city worse not better - and council forces developers to provide too much parking thus increasing traffic. My complaint is that these issues don't get enough debate because council is not sufficiently representative of the opinions of voters, because one-member wards encourage uniformity.

David Balding [REDACTED]