

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 April 2019 6:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Boroondara City Council Representation Review

Jocelyn McDonald
Project Manager, Electoral Representation Reviews
Victorian Electoral Commission

Thank you for the opportunity to say what I think about your proposals for changing the electoral system in Boroondara.

First I would like to say I cannot understand why you persistently try to change the system we have now. The last time this was tried it was obvious that we did not agree with the changes you suggest and yet here you try again.

Let me introduce myself.

I am Mary Drost OAM and am Acting President of the Boroondara Residents Action Group. Our group currently has about 600 members. Since the inception of the group I have been Vice President but now that the President has retired I am Acting President.

I am also the Convenor of Planning Backlash Inc a coalition of 300 resident groups across Melbourne.

I am opposed to the VEC's preferred option and first and second alternative options. I believe Boroondara should remain with ten single councillor wards. Should the Council's preferred electoral structure not be accepted by the VEC, grudgingly I would support an eleven single councillor ward electoral structure because this is the best of a bad set of options put forward by the VEC.

Why the VEC ignored the majority support for the retention of ten single councillor wards - which has worked effectively since the City of Boroondara was formed speaks loudly and clearly about the VEC bias towards multi-member wards and prejudice towards the proportional voting system.

I welcome the opportunity to speak to my submission at the public hearing on Tuesday 14th May 2019.

Going back some years I was a Councillor of the City of Camberwell, before amalgamation, when we were made Boroondara. When I was a Councillor we had 4 wards and 3 councillors per ward and elections every year when one councillor per ward was elected.

So I have seen what it is like with multi councillor wards and as we have it now which is one councillor per ward and 10 wards. I find this an excellent system far better than multi councillor wards. I certainly don't want to see it changed. Nor do I see any reason to have 11 wards. Just leave us as we are, it works well.

Mary Drost OAM
Acting President
Boroondara Residents Action Group



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