

Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street \s\s
Melbourne\s\s
Victoria 3000

Re: Local Representation Review: City of Boroondara

I am writing to support Option C of the Preliminary Report, City of Boroondara, Local Council Representation Review.

I have noted the arguments made in favour of Options A and B but at present there appears to be no peer reviewed, evidence based research supporting the diverse views of submitters and as such, consider these views to be either anecdotal or ideologically founded.

In relation to the principles guiding the VEC's electoral structure, concern is expressed over principle 3 which relates to "communities of interest, consisting of people who share a range of common concerns, such as geographic, economic or cultural associations". This principle has potential to alienate those in the electoral structure who do not share those concerns and consider they are disadvantaged in that those within the structure may be seen to gain favouritism. As such, this principle has capacity to create an embedded bias and is rejected on those grounds.

Having lived in the municipality for over 20 years and engaged extensively with Council over a wide range of topics, I prefer the current ward structure of one councillor per ward. I note that Option C proposes 11 wards with 11 councillors. It is proposed that the eleventh ward is to be named Riversdale which is consistent with the current location-based naming system.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Burton

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.