

**I write to advocate for OPTION A**

I strongly feel the single councillor ward structure is **\*\*highly defended and coveted by Councillors as they have Boroondara 'stitched up' so to speak. \*\***

This is why they are lobbying their professional networks as hard as they can, and spending tens of thousands of dollars on advertising to sway the VEC decision their way.

As an average, lone citizen helplessly watching this council destroy its community, I implore the VEC to please help the residents of Boroondara achieve accountability of these Councillors and put them on a fast track to honest and collaborative governance. One which does not hide behind non-disclosure at every possible turn.

Most of the councillors have proven themselves to be out of touch with community values, and in the dealings with the public I have personally witnessed they have been rude, dismissive and hostile to any shred of questioning or criticism.

They seem to believe they are above reproach, and above scrutiny.

Many of them have enjoyed almost unchallenged terms in their wards for far too long, and most appear to believe that Boroondara is somehow "different" to other municipalities, which indemnifies them from any change.

This is outrageous arrogance and superiority, akin to a 'Ruling Class' mentality. To think we can be 'stuck' with some of them for years upon years with sole control of a ward is a terrible prospect. I was disgusted recently to view a number of abusive emails sent to residents by councillors lashing out at scrutiny over potential conflict of interests, and other questions in the public interest. It beggars belief that most of the Councillors are not shy in the least of abusing and threatening residents, as well as trying to intimidate them through threatening to contact their employers and destroy their careers.

It is a nasty state of affairs within Boroondara politics these days indeed, and these councillors showed a ruthless 'scorched earth' approach to anybody who dared to question them.

It could be argued that Boroondara under the current CEO has become a dictatorship full of censorship and fear within.

The best way to clean up Boroondara council is to start with obvious problems - and the single councillor stronghold is an obvious problem.

A single councillor cannot possibly represent the wide community, and it is grossly unjust that they can make a single (often unpopular or downright destructive) vote without discussion or the need for negotiation with other councillors representing other groups in the community.

Boroondara has had it too good - for too long.

**It is a pity that this was not changed by the VEC and Minister back in 2008.**

Perhaps if we had introduced multi councillor wards a decade ago we wouldn't have seen the millions of dollars blown on web sites, consultancy fees and some of the community infuriating decisions that have been made behind a wall of secrecy.

I have lived in this municipality for almost fifty years, and I have never seen this council more secretive, self serving and irresponsible than they are right now.

It is my hope that in my lifetime we return to a council who once viewed us as residents whom they served and represented.

WE NEED CHANGE.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Campbell