

Electoral Representation Review - Boroondara City Council - Response Submission
Ros Chandler - Surrey Hills - 7 May 2019

Thankyou for recieving this submission.

In the interests of a more democratic representational Council I support Option A as my preferred option ie that " **Boroondara City Council consist of eleven councillors elected from four wards (three three-councillor wards and one two-councillor ward). " **I consider this is more consistent with the 3 main principles underlie all the VEC's work on representation reviews. I definitely do not support option C

1. 3 or 2 counsellors per ward will give a greater representation to residents and prevent the lack of representation of many ward residents when there is, like at present, only one counsellor and psrticularly if there is a "dominant" group in the Council.
2. Whilst there is a desire for "one vote, one value" when there is a dominant group in council and only one counsellor per ward they are often the only ones known and available to represent and this can entrench their position leading to a "dominant view. This can undermine more forward thinking policies eg action in council on climate change which is much needed.

3. Ensuring communities of interest are as fairly represented as possible.

"Each local council contains a number of communities of interest. Where practicable, the electoral structure should be designed to ensure they are fairly represented, and that geographic communities of interest are not split by ward boundaries. This allows elected councillors to be more effective representatives of the people and interests in their particular local council or ward".

Our local community of Surrey Hills as an area is very important to our family and has and continues to resource our quality of life. Care should be taken not to split the ward boundaries and to ensure we have a variety of voices ie Counsellors to listen to, interact with and advovate for the community .