

Electoral Representation Review – Boroondara City Council - Response Submission
Alex Currell – Balwyn North – 7 May 2019

The VEC has made a good case for Option A in its Preliminary Report, and I support this option. My second preference is for Option B. I strongly oppose the retention of single member wards (Option C).

The great weakness of any single ward option is that it tends to leave many viewpoints without a voice on the Council, as evidenced by the current Council's lack of diversity. The single member wards of Option C do not represent natural communities of strong common interest. Whilst it is obviously important that Councilors are responsive to local issues, Council should also reflect the range of community views about the larger issues confronting the municipality. Only a system of proportional representation can ensure that differing community perspectives on Council policies and its future direction are adequately represented.

The four ward multi-councilor structure of Option A strikes a good balance between local and wider (proportional) community representation. The four wards are geographically logical and respect identified communities of interest. Electors will almost certainly have a greater choice of candidates than under a single member ward structure, and proportional representation within the wards should result in a Council that better reflects diverse community opinions.

Option A is clearly the best of the three options in the VEC's report, and a major improvement on the current structure.

Yours sincerely

Alex Currell