

Electoral Representation Review – Boroondara City Council - Response Submission
Camberwell Lacrosse Club – Ashburton – 28 April 2019

The Camberwell Lacrosse Club supports option A – multi-councillor wards. As a local community club, we are in the process of being evicted from our home of 48 years, Dorothy Laver Reserve West. We were devastated to have no local representation at the Council vote, after our local ward Councillor withdrew from Council voting, on the grounds of conflict of interest. The remaining Councillors showed little interest or understanding of the issue and the appalling consultation process. This issue was of unprecedented local interest and over 1200 submissions were made to Council. Yet the local Councillor did not vote. Another Councillor later indicated he thought that the issue was that club members were aggrieved to having to share the facility, whereas the actual proposal was to evict the club. This was after the issue had been campaigned against over several months. It is an indication of the need for change to better safeguard the interests of existing and established community groups, by disrupting the current ward single Councillor representation model. Such poor advocacy for a community club and the local residents should be avoided at all costs. We believe that multi-councillor wards will help create the necessary tension to ensure that Councillors are more critical of the proposals they are voting on and spend the time to assess the impact on the community, rather than just green lighting anything the Council Executive puts forward.