

Electoral Representation Review – Boroondara City Council - Response Submission
Dianne Douglas – Camberwell – 8 May 2019

As a resident of Boroondara for over twenty years I have become increasingly disappointed with the representation of the councillors elected to the city council. In this submission I would like to express my support for Option A presented by the Victorian Election Commission.

Living in Junction Ward I have repeatedly found a lack of choice at council elections both in number and range of candidates. Many of the current councillors have been incumbent for long durations with it seems very little competition from alternatives at elections. The current structure seems to make it difficult to offer more choice and hence seems to protect the status quo with less competition for sitting councillors. Boroondara has become both more populous, as well as culturally and socially diverse over the last twenty years and the council representation does not necessarily reflect these changes. The current system seems to protect councillor's interests in preference to the wider community interest. There has been a trend of side stepping local interests and issues brought to council and a deference to council bureaucracy. It is my understanding that multi-councillor wards could provide voters with more candidates to choose from at elections and potentially better representation.

As most of the state councils already have a multi-councillor wards. It is difficult to understand why this more democratic structure has not been adopted in Boroondara.

Dianne Douglas

