

To whom it may concern,

RE: Submission on options in Boroondara City Council Representation and Subdivision Review Preliminary Report

Thank you for the opportunity to take part the review of the Boroondara local government area representation and subdivision structure. I am seeking fairer and more democratic governance of my municipality and believe this can be achieved through amendments to the current ward structure.

In response to the options put forward in the VEC Preliminary Report, I support a proposal to implement Option A, the preferred option within the report. This option will result in Boroondara City Council consisting of eleven councillors elected from four wards (three three-councillor wards and one two-councillor ward).

Although my first preference would be to have an unsubdivided municipality, I believe that this first step of reducing the ward numbers and increasing Councillor numbers per ward is a reasonable compromise that will improve the situation and allow a smooth transition.

There are two key reasons I support this option.

Firstly, electing an average of three Councillors per ward, rather than one, is more democratic. More Councillors per ward will result in a more diverse councillor group to represents the community, as a larger portion of the community can elect a Councillor that they feel represents their own values.

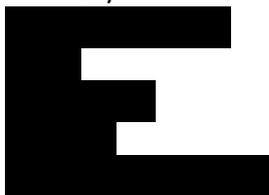
Secondly, after almost ten years working in four different Local Government Authorities and seeing Councillors advocating for their 'share' of resources, I believe that it is better when decisions are made by a group of Councillors, rather than one, based on what is best for their constituents. These decisions are usually based around funding resources and events in their ward. When this is done strategically and more perspectives are considered, better value is delivered to the community.

I would also like to express my disappointment in Boroondara City Council's lobbying for 'no change' during this review process. I question whether it is democratic or in the community's best interest for a Council to use ratepayer funded time and materials to advocate for one outcome rather than allow its constituents to have individual perspectives.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this review.

Regards

Liz Drury

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