

Response to preliminary report of the Boroondara City Council Representation Review.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the preliminary report of the Boroondara City Council Representation Review.

Overall, I prefer option A.

Both options A and B address two of my major concerns. Firstly, they would both result in me living, working and my children having attended school (and thus relationships built) in the same ward instead of in three different wards which is the result of option C and is the current situation. Secondly, as they both offer multi-member wards they both offer the opportunity for different communities of interest to be represented. Option A does this better as it offers more 3 member wards.

Option B is somewhat problematic because it splits the Balwyn shopping centre in half. Having been a local trader (not in Balwyn) for many years in Boroondara, I think it would be better to have Councillors who felt they had responsibility for the whole of a shopping centre, not just one side of the street. This is another reason why I prefer Option A.

All options result in an uneven number of Councillors which is my preferred outcome so that the Mayor does not effectively get an additional vote if there is a tie.

The only problem I see with both Option A and Option B is that they result in both the Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn and the Burke Road, Camberwell shopping centres, which are the largest in the electorate, being in the same ward. Traders often have issues that they need to raise with Council so having more Councillors in this Ward is a good idea. Option B does offer this, three Councillors in Swinburne Ward instead of 2 in all other wards.

Overall, I think the positives of Option A outweigh those of Option B and so Option A is my preferred outcome. If the boundary of the Belmore Ward in Option B could be moved to Mont Albert Road then Option B would be my preferred option. I am looking forward to the possibility of having a more representative Council where a greater diversity of views and interests are valued.

I do not wish to speak to this submission at the public hearing if it is held.

Lynn Frakes

