



To whom it may concern

I write to support the VEC's preferred Option A described in the preliminary report of the Representational Review for the City of Boroondara.

Option A, with 3 wards of 3 councillors and 1 ward with two councillors, exhibits many features which will improve representational democracy in the municipality:

- It increases the number of councillors thus reducing the voter-to-councillor ratio to a number consistent with councils of a similar size across Melbourne.
- It increases the likelihood that more candidates from a wider range of backgrounds and interests will be attracted to nominate for election as they will have a greater chance of being elected. Thus significant minorities within the municipality will have a better chance of being represented.
- It increases the size of the wards to ensure that fewer communities of interest are divided and that uneven population growth does not result in boundary changes between reviews (which can result in dividing communities).

In instances where contentious issues arise, I think there is a better chance of good solutions being negotiated when there are 3 councillors per ward. Also, as the report points out, workloads can be shared and absences effectively covered with multiple councillors in a ward.

It should be noted that while I prefer Option A, I also consider Option B to be a significant improvement on the current situation or that presented as Option C.

Councillors elected by a simple majority, after preferences are allocated, cannot fairly represent the municipality's growing social and cultural diversity.

Congratulations on a very thorough review, a comprehensible report and a worthy conclusion.

I would like to have the opportunity to speak to this submission at the public hearing.

yours faithfully



Jenny Henty
22 April 2019