

Electoral Representation Review – Boroondara City Council - Response Submission
Michael Holloway – Kew East – 8 May 2019

I fully support VEC's preferred Option A of 4 wards with 11 councillors in total.

VEC's Option B (5 multi-councillor wards) would be acceptable with some reservations with respect to the boundary between the proposed Belmore and Maling Wards dividing the Balwyn shopping centre.

I do NOT support Option C (11 single councillor wards).

I have many reasons for taking this position however the principal reasons are as follows:

1. Existing ward boundaries do not adequately reflect the natural associations of amenities and community groups that have developed over a long period within the various geographic areas of Boroondara. For example there is little natural and historic affinity between those areas of East Kew and North Balwyn which make up the current ward of Bellevue. \s\s

I assume that these divisions were largely determined by the need to provide balance of voters across the ward boundaries. Continued maintenance of ward boundaries driven solely by this consideration results in a particularly fractured ward structure. It is a technical approach rather than one oriented to serving the needs of the community.

2. Single councillor wards do not provide adequate scope for understanding and representing all the wide variety of communities of interest within a ward and perhaps should not be expected from non-fulltime councillors. \s\s

Multiple councillor wards allow for a greater diversity of views from a ward to be represented. They also allow councillors to pursue special interests without necessarily having others within the community neglected.

3. Multiple councillor wards should also facilitate greater community participation in so far as independent candidates for council are more likely to be successful. I do not like party aligned domination of council business that goes beyond the purview of servicing and advocating for the Boroondara community.

Mike Holloway