

We strongly favour the current arrangement for Boroondara Council: 10 single-councillor wards, with the current or very similar boundaries to even up the electorates, as this is a long-established area and there is little prospect of vast increases in population within the likely period of subsequent review. The advantages are:

- representation of localised (neighbourhood) subgroups of people, e.g. households in Canterbury differ greatly from those in Ashburton
- councillors are more likely to live in the ward, to use the services available within the local area, e.g. shopping centres and schools, and to be aware of issues within the ward
- having one councillor means that is the identifiable first port of call, to be easily accessible locally and **there is no confusion about where the buck stops**
- having single-councillor wards increases the chances of each being independent and not a *de facto* member of a political party seeking to dominate council
- there is no chance of having preferences decide a councillor that hardly anyone wanted as first preference
- the current council works holistically on issues pertaining to Boroondara; there is no evidence of the current structure leading to excessively local viewpoints.

**We do not want to have multi-councillor wards**, as that just leads to buck-passing. Those councillors that are accessible and amenable get over-burdened with all the work while those councillors there just to further their own interests, e.g. political careers, developers, dodge all the work and responsibilities.

Ann and Ronald Lawrie

