

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Cc:

Subject:

To whom it may concern,

I am deeply concerned at the intervention by Boroondara council described in the VEC's preliminary report". It is appropriate that individual councillors should have their opinions heard in representation reviews. While they will almost always have a bias towards whatever system elected them, they can also make a claim to being more familiar with the system than almost anyone else. It also seems to be common practice for the council as a whole to make a submission, problematic as this may be when there is no consensus.

However, for council to devote resources to mobilising residents to make submissions that benefit the existing councillors by maximising their own chances of getting re-elected has disturbing implications for democracy.

Indeed this approach reflects the problems of single member wards, which act to amplify the voices of specific sectors, whether they be narrow majorities or the largest minority, at the expense of diverse other opinions.

I urge the VEC to take this abuse of process into consideration when reaching its final decision, and to support Option A or B, either of which would be more likely to check these matters

Thank you for your consideration.

Bryan Robert Long

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Via Boroondara Citizens for Better Democracy, www.boroondarademocracy.com

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