

Electoral Representation Review – Boroondara City Council - Response Submission
Catherine and Robert Money – Hawthorn – 8 May 2019

From Catherine and Robert Money [REDACTED]

Wed 8th May 2019

We are long-term residents of Hawthorn and have followed with interest the affairs of Boroondara Council from the time of its formation. We write to support Options A and B for multi-member wards for the future Council structure. Of the two, Option A is preferable in that it more closely parallels the population spread across the proposed wards. Option C is to be rejected on this score. We believe that improved policy development and decision making will result from the greater variety of views likely to be expressed through the expanded Council membership in the Option A and B proposals. In contrast, the single member ward Option C has the greater danger of less democratic say through opinions expressed by dominant personalities with sectional interests. We note with approval that the great majority of other metropolitan councils have shown themselves in favour of multi-member ward structures, presumably for similar reasons. We see no arguments that would justify Boroondara adopting a different approach. We sincerely hope that current Council support for Option C is not derived from self-interest of individuals wanting to maintain their position and influence.

Option A goes some way towards matching the distinctive character of existing wards and Neighbourhood Character Precincts. These factors are important in providing residents with continuity and depth of understanding of the nature of their wards. We believe the very different boundaries proposed for Option C take no apparent account of this need.