

Jane L Nathan

VEC

To whom it may concern,

Local Democracy is slowly being eroded by minorities and political control.

For healthy communities to thrive and survive with busy residents and ratepayers who can be easily divorced from the broader community across the generations and socio demographic needs Local Government must be understood, it must allow for easy access, clarity of representation and be accountable.

Option C is the only option offered that allows for independent, genuine community representatives to have any chance of gaining election.

In eleven single-councillor wards councillors are more likely to:

be truly local representatives

be easily accessible to residents

have a greater understanding of the local area and issues

single member wards establish clear lines of representation and responsibility between individual councillors and their constituents.

it is difficult for poorly performing councillors to 'hide' behind colleagues in the same ward
no dragging in a mate on preferences

election of councillors who are more likely to be known in their community

Councillors are more visible, responsive and accountable

Greater representation and understanding of geographical communities of interest

one primary point of contact ensuring a consistent approach

****Multi-member wards are not good for community involved democratic representation ****

large multi-member wards encourage party political affiliations.

councillors may be less accessible for residents in some parts of the ward.

all of the Councillors may reside in the same part of the ward, leaving the remaining parts without local representation;

residents may need to contact multiple councillors to raise awareness of an issue or galvanise support for local projects;

there is potential for a duplication of work as councillors will need to understand others positions within the ward and may lead to lack of communication

Mixture of single and multi did not work in City of Melbourne

Councillors may not share their workloads effectively

councillors can have competing views about issues and how their ward should be run, leading to personality issues and factional friction.

Yours sincerely

Jane Nathan