

SUBMISSION ON LOCAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATION REVIEW

FROM JACK ROACH, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT AND CURRENTLY CONSULTANT TO

THE BOROONDARA RESIDENTS' ACTION GROUP (BRAG)

WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 600+ RESIDENTS OF BOROONDARA.

INTRODUCTION.

I note that the preferred electoral structure was proposed in a submission and slightly amended by VEC but the proposer was not named. WHY? Is political pressure being applied?

There are two other options but none of the three options are acceptable. I also note that in the previous review in 2008 the residents strongly supported single councillors in 10 wards saying in effect, "If it ain't broken don't change it".

I firmly believe that this is still the preferred position.

REASONS FOR NO CHANGE.

- One councillor in each of 10 wards has worked very successfully and I believe that this is also the Council's preference.
- The residents of Boroondara have tended to reject political involvement in council and although several current councillors have political connections it has played no part in council decisions.
- To have multiple councillors in fewer wards would tend to encourage greater political involvement by aligned councillors ganging up against an independent councillor, resulting in decisions along political lines instead of in the best interests of residents.
- I point out that planning decisions made in recent years have been made by the government against the best interests and wishes of Boroondara residents who have made it clear that they expect council must have greater power restored to allow it to work in their best interests.
- The previous Camberwell Council did have multiple councillors in 4 wards and it did not work at all well. We don't want to regress back to those times.

RECOMMENDATION.

Retain single councillors in the current ten wards.

I would appreciate the opportunity to address the panel at the public hearing on the 14th May 2020.

Jack Roach

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