

Electoral Representation Review - Boroondara City Council - Preliminary Submission  
Lynne Baker - Balwyn North - 12 March 2019

The current organisation of wards and councillors within the City of Boroondara is effective and representative of the whole of the City. Our city has ten wards which cover a population of close on 180,000 people with one councillor representing each ward. Boroondara includes many differing residential and commercial areas and the current distribution of wards reflects the diverse nature and needs of each area. If wards were to be combined then the needs of each ward would be compromised. I would oppose any recommendation to alter the number of wards within our city. The Boroondara Council currently has ten councillors, one per ward. Any increase to the number of councillors per ward would in my opinion create an unwieldy and ineffective council. If two councillors per ward were to be considered, this would result in twenty councillors. Impractical! As outlined above, Boroondara needs its ten wards, not larger and fewer wards.

Federal and State politics are based on political parties. Local city government in Boroondara is not. This is a bonus for rate payers within the city. Our local government is not aligned with political parties although affiliations may be evident. Ward nominees need to stand on their personal platforms not organised political party platforms. Infiltration of organised political parties into local government has the propensity to negatively impact on the needs of each of the wards. I oppose any recommendation to allow ward candidates to run under the banner of a political party.

In summary, leave the Boroondara Council organisation as it is. It works. If we ratepayers are unhappy with the performance of our councillors we will vote them out.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Baker

