

Electoral Representation Review - Boroondara City Council - Preliminary Submission
Bradley Beck - Camberwell - 12 March 2019

To the VEC

Dear Sir/Madam

I have lived in Lynden Ward for approaching 20 years and have been well served by the single councillor for each Ward model. I have had a clear and well known point of reference under the existing model which has permitted and promoted direct and independent representation on matters that affect the Boroondara area as a whole, but also permits an important direct representation in relation to Ward specific matters.

Dual Councillor representation for any Ward is a waste of resources and an unnecessary cost. The process of electing our Ward Councillor gives all the necessary checks and balances to ensure fair representation to all residents of both the particular Ward and, for Boroondara as a whole through their elected Councillor.

The concept of electing a certain number of Councillors to Boroondara in general, without connection to a specific Ward, is in my opinion a materially unsatisfactory dilution of the representation in relation to local issues and concerns. Eroding our local direct representation in this way plays into the hands of vested interests and supported political groups at the expense of direct independent representation.

I am not opposed to minor boundary modifications to the existing Wards to ensure approximately equal representation for all voters, but see no reason to change the existing number of Wards. Our existing representation is very effective and provides sufficient direct local connection to be fair to all voters.

More Wards or more Councillors seems unnecessary and wasteful at this time.

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely

Brad Beck