

To whom it may concern,

**RE: Preliminary submission on Boroondara City Council Representation and Subdivision Review**

Thank you for the opportunity to take part the review of the Boroondara local government area representation and subdivision structure. I am seeking fairer and more democratic governance of my municipality and believe this can be achieved through amendments to the current ward structure.

This submission addresses three components of the review; councillor numbers, electoral structure and ward names.

**Councillor Numbers**

I propose an increase in the number of Councillors to at least 11 to allow for broader representation of our community. This number would bring Boroondara closer to similar sized municipalities of Whitehorse, Darebin, Monash and Moreland. It would also increase the diversity of political views within Boroondara, which is a culturally and demographically more diverse community than it once was and should be recognised as such.

**Electoral Structure**

I propose a first and second preference for the electoral structure, both of which would result in less division of the municipality.

- a) My first preference is to have no wards and have all councillors serve Boroondara as a whole
- b) My second preference is to have the municipality divided into a fewer number of wards, with a three ward structure being acceptable. To compare similar sized municipalities nearby, Darebin has three wards, Whitehorse five wards, Monash four wards and Moreland three wards. Other nearby municipalities include Stonnington, Yarra and Glen Eira, all with three wards.

I have two key reasons for supporting reduction of ward numbers and increase of the number of councillors.

Firstly, the proportional representation method of voting is more democratic and likely to result in a more diverse councillor group that represents the community. This is because the results more closely reflect

Secondly, I have experience of almost ten years working in four different Local Government Authorities and have often seen Councillors advocating for their 'share' of resources and funding in their ward. Although this may be sought in good faith to represent their constituents, it often leads to poor value for the community. Provision of infrastructure and community services needs be planned strategically across the entire municipality and done in partnership with neighbouring municipalities and other governments to get best value for ratepayers and residents.

**Ward Names**

If the option to maintain some subdivision of Boroondara into wards is chosen, I propose that any wards should be named after land attributes that are significant to traditional owners or natural attributes in aboriginal languages. This could include significant place, people or even indigenous plant or animal names in aboriginal languages. These names must be developed through meaningful consultation with traditional owner groups and aboriginal people in our community.

The Boroondara area still has a very European colonial feel and is behind the rest of Victoria in genuinely recognising the natural and cultural heritage, and traditional owners of the land we inhabit. This includes both recognising the rights and values of aboriginal people and managing the land to respect indigenous values.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this review.

Regards

Liz Drury

[Redacted signature block]