

Lynn Frakes

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To whom it may concern,

Re: Representation Review for Boroondara City Council

I would like to make a submission in support of multi-member wards for the City of Boroondara. I don't have a view as to how many councillors there should be in total, or how many wards there should be, but I think the number of councillors should be an odd number thereby avoiding the Mayor having, in effect, two votes if there is a tie.

I am of the view that the current single member ward system results in a Council that is not sufficiently representative of the community. The current Council is entirely white and there is no youth representation. In multi-member wards proportional representation applies. This means that candidates who have significant, but less than 50% support, have a chance of being elected. This is not only relevant to race and age representation but also applies to other shared interests that bind residents together like concern for biodiversity or a love of cycling. I cannot, however, emphasize enough how important I think it is for minorities in our community to see people from their communities in leadership roles. Single member wards make achieving this much more difficult.

I also think that the current number of wards results in me not having one councillor that can represent me in most areas of my life. I live in one ward, work in another and send my children to school in a third. The areas covered by each ward are too small. I think councillors who focus on their ward, as they should, are less likely to think about the wider area that impacts my life. So the question is not only about whether Victoria Park meets my needs but whether the parks in the surrounding area, together with Victoria Park, offer sufficient recreational activities for me and my family. I also think my concerns are more likely to be listened to at Council if more than one councillor were making a case on my behalf. The idea of 2 or 3 councillors working collaboratively, complementing each other's strengths and giving support to each other in challenging circumstances seems to me to be a more effective way of operating than having individuals working alone for their wards.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Lynn Frakes

11 March 2019