

The existing electoral structure for Boroondara works well, provides clear accountability for the community and addresses the communities of interest that exist. I endorse the recommendations in the submission by the City of Boroondara about ward boundary changes, the 10 wards and 10 councillors as the preferred structure for the next phase of Boroondara's future.

As a councillor for 14 years, I've worked in this model for our community and think it is preferable to the alternatives. I have worked with Councillors from other LGA's who would prefer the present Boroondara model to that of the multi-member wards they were granted in the last round of electoral reviews.

For those who are proposing the proportional model of representation there are three primary concerns.

1. Proportional representation is not delivering proportional outcomes.\s\s

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As evidenced most recently in the Federal and State upper houses, people with the least votes can get elected. Often those with very narrow political interests are being elected on the minimum of cast votes. That's not representative, that is not democracy.

2. It's likely that any attempt at a multi-member ward subdivision (that takes in the communities of interest requirements) will reinstate the old three cities of Kew, Hawthorn and Camberwell as evidenced by the previous reviews modeling. This would divide Boroondara, not unite it. Today we are Boroondara, the City of Harmony. Let's keep it that way.\s\s

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Additionally the increased ward sizes would put the resourcing for self-funded, community focussed candidates, out of their reach. The need for financial and people resources to run a campaign in a multi-member ward, that will most likely be three times larger in area, voters and dwellings, makes for a situation that takes the local out of the local government and leads it open to sponsored candidates, most likely making the local government the domain of those parties that endorse and fund candidates in local governments as evidenced in other local governments where multi-member wards are now in place.

3. Most importantly, it ain't broke, and it don't need fixing!

Let's simply make the Boroondara recommended boundary adjustments, taking in the considerations of the smaller communities of interest, and move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a written submission, I look forward to the opportunity to make a verbal submission.

Best regards,
Phillip Healey

