
  
Canterbury Vic 3126  


To whom it may concern

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views on the representation review of Boroondara City Council. I support an increase to 11 councillors and a change from single to multi-member wards, such as was proposed in the 2008 review recommendations.

Electing councillors from multi-member wards is a more democratic way to establish a governing body. This proportional representational system results in members being elected more in proportion to the range of different backgrounds and views of voters within a ward.

For example, in the 2016 local council elections in Studley Ward there were 2 candidates. Each candidate received roughly half the vote but only one was elected. The result disenfranchised a significant number of people who voted for the losing candidate.

If the electoral system allowed more than one candidate to be elected per ward, the increase in the likelihood of election would attract a greater number and more diverse range of candidates. Under the current system typically only a few candidates are attracted to run, and in the worst cases only one, leading to no election at all. This happened in Glenferrie and Maling Wards in 2008 and in Bellevue Ward in 2016.

The 2008 recommendations for change were overturned because sections of the community argued that the current system of single member wards was working well. However the above examples refute this claim.

I support the election of 11 councillors, rather than 10, so that votes cannot be tied and resolved by the mayor having a deciding vote (ie two votes). Across all local councils in Victoria, it would appear that Boroondara is almost alone in having only 10 councillors, despite having a similar voting population to other 11 member councils.

Finally, fewer wards would better link communities of interest. I live in Lynden Ward but identify more with the geographic area of Maling and Junction wards. There is where I shop and socialise.

Thank you for considering my submission. I wish you well in your deliberations.

  
Jenny Henty  
23 Feb 2019