

Electoral Representation Review – Boroondara City Council – Preliminary Submission
Diana Killen - Kew East - 08 March 2019

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To VEC Boroondara Council review

I support a change to multi-member wards as was originally proposed by the VEC in 2008, and the election of 11 Councillors rather than the current 10. My primary reasons are as follows :

- Multi-member wards are more democratic as the current system disregards the votes of electors in particular wards unless they have voted for the successful candidate. In Bellevue ward in 2016 citizens were denied an opportunity to vote for Council members as there was only a single sitting candidate.
- Multi-member wards make Councillors more accountable to the whole municipality, not just a small section of it. A proportional representation system for the whole area covered by Council is far more democratic.
- Single Councillor wards split people’s interests – someone working in one ward may feel strongly on certain issues, but is constrained to vote for candidates in the ward in which they are domiciled.
- Single Councillor wards need far more frequent boundary changes to address population growth than do multi-member Wards.
- 11 Councillors provides parity with Councils of similar size to Boroondara, and obviates the casting vote of the Mayor in the event of a tied vote on a specific issue; with 10 Councillors this gives the Mayor a de facto second vote.
- The current Boroondara Council is unrepresentative of the Boroondara population, of which 24% in the 2016 Census were young people and 15% of Chinese ancestry. Elections for multi-member wards across the whole municipality could address demographic change and would therefore be far more democratic.

Yours sincerely

Diana Killen

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