

Dear Victorian Electoral Commissioner

In my view the current single-member wards structure for Boroondara should be retained. It is the best structure to meet the needs of the Boroondara community because:

- local representatives have a greater understanding of their local area; it allows easy access to your local representative;
  - it reflects the individual elements of our diverse community, and different neighbourhoods have different needs; single-member wards provide the best representation of these needs
  - it provides one primary point of contact and ensures a consistent approach
- I believe that multi-member wards are not good for Boroondara because:
- multi-member wards can encourage party political affiliations;
  - councillors may be less accessible for residents in some parts of the ward;
  - all of the Councillors may reside in the same part of the ward, leaving the remaining parts without local representation;
  - residents may need to contact multiple councillors to raise awareness of an issue or galvanise support for local projects;
  - there is potential for a duplication of work if councillors do not communicate or share their workloads effectively;
  - councillors may be overworked due to increased workload; and
  - councillors may have competing views about how their ward should be run, which may cause friction and be confusing for residents and businesses

In summary, single-member wards are efficient, and most importantly, more representative of local needs. I have had positive experiences with this system and do not see the need to change it (and introducing a host of problems in the process).

Regards,  
Janice Lai