

Sally Marsland

March 12, 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a preliminary submission regarding possible changes to the City of Boroondara Council structure. I, and my family (husband and 2 sons), are in support of a shift to multi-councillor wards and an increase to 11 councillors.

We moved to this electorate over a decade ago from the City of Yarra and I have long been bemused by the predictability of the council make-up here; largely white, older individuals who seem remarkably homogenous. This is also something that our teenage sons, who are interested in the subject of visible representation of diverse communities in general, have also remarked on. Surely multi-councillor wards would enable more democratic, diverse and competitive elections and increase the range of representation across communities? I am not in a position to fully understand the council electoral system but the following is a summary of my thoughts:

- The City of Boroondara Council would benefit from having **multi-councillor wards** and an **odd** number of councillors would reduce the mayor needing to break the voting ties that can occur with an even number of councillors.
- **11** seems an appropriate number given comparison with councils of similar sizes, eg. Moreland and Monash City.
- Proportional representation should be a fundamental and fair basis for the system.
- Fewer wards with multiple councillors would surely be better able to accommodate shifting population growth across particular areas, with less need for boundary shifting.
  - Surely this would also increase the number of candidates to choose from; in 2016 in our Studley Ward we only had two candidates to choose from.
  - This would also hold the councillors to greater accountability by a larger population.

Thank you again, I appreciate it our system enables submissions from the general population.

Yours sincerely

Sally Marsland