

Electoral Representation Review - Boroondara City Council - Preliminary Submission
Lynne Robertson - Kew - 13 March 2019

Dear Victorian Electoral Commissioner

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

- it allows easy access to your local representative; who are committed to their ward
- local representatives have a greater understanding of their local area; many having lived and served in that area for a long period of time.
- single-member wards provide the best representation; and the best results
- it reflects the individual elements of our diverse community; allowing more residents to feel part of a small community in a very large community
- it provides one primary point of contact and ensures a consistent approach; with a name and a face to relate to
- different neighbourhoods have different needs. and should have equal representation

Local representation ensures these differences are recognised and supported. I believe that multi-member wards are not good for Boroondara because:

- multi-member wards can encourage party political affiliations; and bring an unbalanced council

- councillors may be less accessible for residents in some parts of the ward, who are imperative to good councillor, resident, council effectiveness
- all of the Councillors may reside in the same part of the ward, leaving the remaining parts without local representation, and have not the same interest in their concerns
- residents may need to contact multiple councillors to raise awareness of an issue or galvanise support for local projects; which reduces the time to represent other residents
- there is potential for a duplication of work if councillors do not communicate or share their workloads effectively; and takes away the personal contact
- councillors may be overworked due to increased workload; and not support the residents
- councillors may have competing views about how their ward should be run, which may cause friction and be confusing for residents and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynne Robertson

