

Dear Sirs/Madam,

Submission on Boroondara City Council Representation and Subdivision Review

I appreciate the opportunity to take part the review of the Boroondara City Council area representation and subdivision structure.

It is clear to me that we need fairer and more democratic governance in our municipality and I believe this can be achieved through amendments to the current ward structure.

.1.Councillors

The number should be increased to a minimum of 11 to allow for broader representation of our community. This number would help bring the municipality closer to similar sized municipalities. It would also have the benefit of increasing the diversity of political views within Boroondara, which is a more diverse community than it once was and should be recognised as such i.e. race, religion and wealth. The odd number will also help prevent tied votes allowing the Mayor to have effectively two votes.

2. Structure

My first preference is to have unsubdivided ,i.e. no wards and have **all** councillors serve Boroondara as a whole, providing a more even, balanced approach b) My second preference is to have the municipality divided into a fewer number of wards, with a three ward structure being acceptable. To compare similar sized municipalities nearby, Darebin has three wards, Whitehorse five wards, Monash four wards and Moreland three wards. Adjacent Stonnington, Yarra and Glen Eira, all have three wards.

The main reasons for supporting a reduction in ward numbers and increasing the number of councillors are twofold and are detailed below;

- The proportional representation method of voting is much more democratic and very likely to result in a more diverse councillor group that reflects the diverse nature of the electorate.
- Infrastructure and community services needs be planned in a holistic way across the whole municipality and as necessary involving adjoining municipalities and other appropriate governments departments and organisations to get the best outcome for all.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Regards

Graham Ross

