

Victorian Electoral Commission

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12 March 2019

RE: Electoral Representation Review of Boroondara City Council

My name is Greg Scarfe and I am a resident of North Balwyn. My family settled in North Balwyn in 1949 and I have lived here most of my life.

I am writing today to support and encourage the reform of the Boroondara Council in order to establish Multi-councillor wards and proportional representation.

Certainly, Boroondara residents need an electoral system which provides a genuine voice for more electors. It is important to observe the trend that local governments in Australian states and territories are increasingly moving towards multi-councillor wards.

Indeed as a additional ratepayer of Mornington Peninsula, I have first-hand experience of a local council based on multi-councillor wards and my experience of that is an overwhelmingly positive one.

The influences of electoral "dummy" candidates is significantly less in multi-councillor wards. This is an important feature which further increases ratepayer confidence in their proper and fair representation in their local council.

With multi-councillor wards, the elector has the ability to approach one several or all representatives in order to present and explain their particular case. It is more likely that representatives of diverse background and life experience will relate to the wide range of ratepayers and will subsequently will set a higher overall standard of performance than is currently the case, where the elected councillors in Boroondara have been seen to undertake a largely ceremonial role, but not always an efficient one.

It also seems logical that the workload may be more every spread amongst a multi-councillor ward, whilst still allowing councillors 'down-time' or absence due to their own work or family commitments.

I propose, therefore, that Boroondara Council should remain with existing boundaries but be subdivided into 4 multi-councillor wards, containing with three councillors each, consistent with a large and now growing population.

Yours sincerely

GP Scarfe