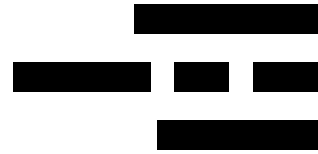


Eugene V Sibelle



Victorian Electoral Commission

Re: Representation Review for Boroondara City Council

I would like to make a submission in support of multi-member wards for the City of Boroondara.

I do not have a fixed view on the number of councilors for each ward as this can be determined with a view to one vote one value. However, I believe that the current single member wards do not serve the community well.

The current single member wards deliver a council that is less diverse that I would desire. Members of the council represent a narrow group of people. The council has achieved gender balance and that is great however I believe that is not the only consideration for representation.

For example, resident with different views to the majority may be spread over existing wards and while being a minority in all existing wards, they may still be a significant group in aggregate.

The Council area is increasingly diverse with many people from non-European backgrounds.

I myself do not find the council representative of my interests. It is not just the majority opinion that should rule in a thriving democracy. I believe, that minorities should have voice and the electorate structure should be designed to achieve this outcome for the good of our community.

The single member electorates always make it difficult for minorities to get their voices heard.

I think our community would be stronger and more vibrant with multi-member wards that seek to encourage people from diverse backgrounds to stand for public office and to build a better community.

Thank you.

Eugene V Sibelle