

Jennifer Smithers

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

I wish to make the following submission to the representation review for Boroondara Council.

Firstly I support an increase to 11 councillors. Other municipalities with a similar population have 11 councillors. An even number of councillors is problematic for decision making as a tied vote is possible which at present in Boroondara is resolved by the mayor having another vote. This is not fair.

I support a shift to multi-councillor wards for the following reasons.

Multi-councillor wards are more democratic. Single-councillor wards suppress diversity of representation, generally the Boroondara council does not have young people ( less than 30 years) nor non Caucasian background as councillors. Large minorities within Boroondara but not geographically concentrated are not represented on council with the current single-councillor ward system.

Multi-councillor wards also allow a larger area to covered by a ward and thus do not fragment neighbourhoods.

Multi-councillor wards also allow for population fluctuations within an area without the need for ward boundary changes.

Thankyou for considering my submission

Jennifer Smithers