

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Review of Boroondara Ward Councillor Structure ...
Date: Tuesday, 12 March 2019 7:08:25 AM

Attn: Victorian Electoral Commissioner

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in support of maintaining the current single-member ward structure for Boroondara. In doing so, I ask the question "what is the problem we are trying to solve"? In over ten years observing the workings of the council, I have seen no issues where the single-member ward structure has been the cause of a problem or exacerbated the impact of any issue. If it's not broke then why fix it!

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;
- local representatives have a greater understanding of their local area;
- single-member wards provide the best representation;
- it reflects the individual elements of our diverse community;
- it provides one primary point of contact and ensures a consistent approach;
and
- different neighbourhoods have different needs. 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;
- councillors may be less accessible for residents in some parts of the ward;
- all of the Councillors may reside in the same part of the ward, leaving the remaining parts without local representation;
- residents may need to contact multiple councillors to raise awareness of an issue or galvanise support for local projects;
- there is potential for a duplication of work if councillors do not communicate or share their workloads effectively;
- councillors may be overworked due to increased workload; and
- councillors may have competing views about how their ward should be run, which may cause friction and be confusing for residents and businesses.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Stoltz
[REDACTED]
