

**Ruth Wardlaw**

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To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to make a submission to the Victorian Electoral Commission with regard to its consideration of how residents of Boroondara should best be represented within their Council. I am proposing an increase to 11 of the number of councillors, and a move to larger multi-councillor wards which would better represent the diversity that there is within the Council area.

I believe that larger and multi-councillor wards would encourage people who share common interests and concerns with others across the boundary of their ward to become more interested in the work of the Council and in the election of their councillors.

For example in Maranoa it is very easy for me to think that I only need to become involved when there seems to be the danger of “inappropriate development” in the area. The development and use of the library and the community centre on the other hand are instances of great assets which will benefit from the engagement of many different groups in the community.

I believe that a greater sense of being involved in Council matters would arise with the opportunity for more diversity in the makeup of the Council and larger wards. Greater accountability would also be ensured by the council being responsible to a larger number of people. Electing more than one councillor should also add to the interest in the elections themselves and its outcome.

My reason for opting for 11 councillors, is that I think it very important to have an uneven number in order to prevent the possibility of a mayor having to vote twice. Nine would be preferable to 10. It appears that other councils with similar voter numbers have that number. (However 9 would be preferable to 10)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make my submission.

Ruth Wardlaw