

Dear Victorian Electoral Commissioner,\s\s

In my view the current single-member wards structure for Boroondara should be retained. I believe this is the best structure to meet the needs of the Boroondara community because:

- it allows easy access to local representatives;
- 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;
- different neighbourhoods have different needs; and
- it curbs the scope creep of local government.

Local representation ensures these differences are recognised and supported.\s\s

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.

Overall I believe that local councils should focus on their role as deliverer of local services and to some extent addressing local needs which are not covered at a State or Federal level. An excessive and more complex local government will make it harder for constituents to engage with government and also increase the respective tax burden.

Kind Regards,

Jesse White