

To VEC

From Maree Williams.

Regarding Electoral Representation

#### ODD OR EVEN NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

Currently the Council has 10 councillors across 10 single councilor wards. It is recommended that the number of councillors be an uneven number to ensure that the Council can conduct its important business, without voting deadlocks.

#### NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

It is recommended that the number of councillors be 11. This would be more consistent with ratios of neighbouring councils. 11 is an uneven number which overcomes the previously mentioned problems with 10 or 12 debilitating deadlocks.

#### MULTI COUNCILLOR WARDS

It is recommended that multi-councillor wards be introduced. They provide ratepayers with a clear choice of the nature and calibre of representation. Councillors will be more knowledgeable about and responsive to, the larger, intractable, significant and more complex Council wide issues. I was a Councillor in the 1980's when Kew had 15 Councillors. I represented North Ward and was voted into council following an extensive role as a community leader regarding a broad range of family and childrens services. My co- councillors had different backgrounds and skill mix. One was a Kew Junction retailer and the other had engineering; private and government business experience. Kew went through many changes in that period and we worked together as a team. We were all still in the paid workforce hence were time poor and could not have managed without that team approach. We were very popular and in fact people have approached me in recent years to note their appreciation for the increased services we provided versus the current system of outsourcing community services. My colleagues served several terms but I only did one as my family moved interstate for four years.

Because councillors are elected under the principles of proportional representation, relatively large minority views will be able to be represented on Council. Larger wards should bring with them economies of scale and substantial cost saving to Council, hence flowing to the benefit of ratepayers.

#### BOUNDARIES OF WARDS UNDER A 11 MEMBER MULTI-COUNCILLOR WARD MODEL

It is recommended that the existing ward boundaries be retained as far as possible. However, boundaries should be, as far as possible along very identifiable features.

In conclusion in recent years I; along with many ratepayers have been alarmed by what we call the beautification of our area with fancy footpaths and completely unnecessary seating etc whilst at the same time we are aware of the demise in community services. This I suspect is due to a bias in the current Council. This maybe alleviated by following my advise above and encouraging a younger cohort of candidates to stand for Council. There needs to be changes made to accomodate people that are still in full time employment and juggling the demands of parenting. This cohort are not currently represented in many local councils. I notice that the provision of kindergarten places is still an issue and that was the original reason I became involved in the community in 1980; then the Kew Council.!!

I can speak to my submission.