

Electoral Representation Review - Boroondara City Council - Response Submission
Russell Shiels - Glen Iris - 7 May 2019

I strongly support Option A.

I am very aware that councillors are often aligned with the major political parties. Service on local councils is often seen as a stepping stone into State or Federal politics.

As a graphic designer, I was employed to produce election materials for party-supported campaigns in two municipalities. These campaigns were successful. I became very aware of strategies such as preferencing by dummy candidates. The current system allows this to happen. In Boroondara, conservative councillors could receive, for example, 55% of the votes in each subdivision, and form a council which is 100% conservative, and aligned to a political party. Thereby leaving 45% of voters without any representation.

The fairest and most widely representative system is clearly, in my view, Option A.