

Electoral Representation Review – Boroondara City Council - Response Submission
Caroline Vogels – Glen Iris – 7 May 2019

To whom it may concern,

I would like to see option C maintained

Approximately 10 years ago I attended a VEC public hearing and spoke about the importance of single councillor wards. 10 years on, in my mind the importance of single councillor wards has been further cemented.

My community of interest is the Boroondara Farmers Market, the Gardiner Creek bike path and Glen Iris surrounds. To connect with my local councillor, I do not need to make an appointment, I just need to go the Farmers market or bicycle along the Gardiners Creek path on a Sunday as I will be assured of meeting our local councillor Coral Ross. For more than 15 years Coral has been available, via email or locally at several locations to discuss concerns regarding traffic, traffic accidents, the Farmers Market, parking, inappropriate residential development applications, trees, dogs off lead in on lead parks, noise emanating from the Monash freeway, The Toronga /Coles development and planning permits that affect our business which is located in our community of interest, to name a few.

For me as I get older, and have more potential to be isolated, I think there is particular importance that needs to be given to keeping personal connections. The last thing I would like is to go to the homogeneous structure of multiple faceless councillors that hide behind each other and handball any difficult conversation.

As stated in the options 'ensuring communities of interest are as fairly represented as possible., the electoral structure should be designed to ensure they are fairly represented, and that geographic communities of interest are not split by ward boundaries. This allows elected councillors to be more effective representatives of the people and interests in their particular local council or ward.' This is a wonderful precis of how I think it should work.

Caroline Vogels