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Dear Victorian Electoral Commissioner

I believe Option C should proceed. In my view Option C is the best structure to meet the needs of the Boroondara community because:

- it allows easy access to your local representative;
- local representatives have a greater understanding of their local area;
- single-member wards provide the best representation;
- it reflects the individual elements of the diverse community;
- it provides one primary point of contact and ensures a consistent approach; and
- different neighbourhoods have different needs. Local representation ensures these differences are recognised and supported.

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; and
- councillors may have competing views about how their ward should be run, which may cause friction and be confusing for residents and businesses.

Sincerely,

Lane Watson

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