



Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to support the preferred Option A with multi member wards, which was outlined in the preliminary report prepared by the Representational Review for the City of Boroondara.

I feel that this format of representation will improve representational democracy in our local government area. I was not aware until this review process started that we were one of the few councils which still has single member wards

I am very grateful to have another opportunity to respond to this issue as I think it is very important. For a long time It has appeared to me that we have been caught in some sort of feudal time warp in this area. The same type, and often the exact same candidates seem to win office continually. In the twenty odd years that I have lived here there has seemed to be little opportunity for diversity of representation.

Although I am interested in local issues I have felt disengaged from the local government process as it seems impossible to effect any change. It has appeared to me that the council is run by people with vested interests and I have been really concerned about some of the decisions they have made. Particularly their ongoing use of very expensive consultants.

I feel this is particularly the case for residents in Kew East, which is on the boundary of Boroondara. it is almost impossible for us to get any attention from our council. For example a few years ago a local residents group tried to encourage the council to buy a property for a local community centre. Despite numerous submissions to council this request was denied, even though other suburbs in the council area have multiple community centres and council could find \$10million not long after to improve its website.

I think if we had multi member wards there would be an opportunity for different voices to be heard and perhaps we could become a more socially progressive area, less driven by vested interested.

Kind regards

Josephine Williams

6 May 2019

PS I found this report very interesting and I really appreciated the approach taken by the review.