

I write in support of Option A which is the VEC preferred option.

I do so with the experience of having served as a councillor in the City of Kew prior to amalgamation in the mid 1990's.

As a representative in North Ward I was voted into council following an extensive role as a community leader in family and childrens services. My two co-councillors had different backgrounds and skill mix. One was a Kew Junction retailer and the other had engineering; private and government business experience. This mix of different skills and life experience as representatives in the same ward I believe was invaluable in the work we were able to do on behalf of the community of North Ward. It would be of significant community benefit to have that model replicated in Boroondara.

I therefore support the proposed introduction of multi-councillor wards comprising of three wards with three councillors each and one ward with two councillors. As I suggested in my Preliminary Submission it is important that there be an uneven number of councillors to ensure that the Council can conduct business, without voting deadlocks, and the necessity of the Mayor having to exercise a casting vote.

That the recommended number of councillors is 11 is more consistent with councillor/population ratios of neighbouring councils. As I advised in my preliminary submission I would appreciate the opportunity to speak to my submission.