To whom it may concern,

I believe that Greater Dandenong should continue to have 11 Councillors. It is one of the most diverse council areas, and the most multicultural council area in Australia. Greater Dandenong is home not only to residents, but various sporting, religious and community organisations. Then there is also the interests of businesses to consider, from the retail and hospitality precincts in Dandenong and Springvale, to the industrial area of Dandenong South. By maintaining 11 Councillors over Greater Dandenong’s 4 wards, these diverse interest groups have a better chance of having a voice to council.

Greater Dandenong also has a growing population, and its residents are going to need more representation moving forward, not less. I believe better representation can be achieved through the diversity of Councillors that a proportional representation voting system can and has elected in Greater Dandenong over the last 11 years. By electing a more representative council with 11 Councillors over 4 wards, each resident and interest group has a better chance of finding a Councillor who understands their issue. Furthermore, I have deep concerns for the ability of myself and others to be heard in the future, and about the limitations of a single Councillor ward system in a community as diverse as ours.

Yours sincerely,

Mathew Lee Paech