Response Submission to Electoral Representation Review, Greater Dandenong City Council

This submission is also accessible, with active hyperlinks, at http://www.prsa.org.au/2019_response_dandenong.pdf

SUMMARY:
Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Victoria-Tasmania) Inc. is pleased that both recommended options will continue to enable Greater Dandenong City to benefit from the use of proportional representation using the single transferable vote (PR-STV).

PRSAV-T Inc. recognizes that, under the current Local Government Act, with the maximum number of councillors set at 12, it is not possible for a large council to have an odd number of councillors if all wards are to have the same odd number of councillors.

The present arrangement - and future arrangements proposed in both Options A and B - provide for an odd number of councillors, viz. 11, but a much fairer and sounder, and less lop-sided, option of having 9 councillors instead would avoid the present, and proposed, lack of parity, and the stalemate ward.

PRSAV-T Inc. strongly opposes any single-councillor wards.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:
PRSAV-T Inc’s submission makes the following key recommendations:

- Elections in Greater Dandenong City should be by proportional representation (PR-STV).
- The number of councillors to be elected for Greater Dandenong City should be reduced to 9.
- There should be three 3-councillor wards.
- PRSAV-T Inc. strongly opposes any single-councillor wards.

PRSAV-T Inc looks forward to electoral arrangements in Greater Dandenong City that empower voters and leave candidates and voters satisfied that community views are fairly reflected in the representation determined as a result of each poll, with uncontested seats minimized, as is most likely with multi-councillor wards.

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