

From: Geoff Kloot [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 11:32 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Reminder - Manningham City Council Electoral Representation Review

As you indicate, the guiding principle to our democratic voting system is "One vote, One value". That can be quite readily achieved by have the minimum allowable number of five Councillors elected by all of the voters of Manningham. However, that does not preclude all five living in say Warrandyte, and therefore being most concerned about bushfires when most of the voters have limited concern for this issue. So I would suggest that an insubdivided electoral structure is not in the best interests of Manningham as a whole. This leads to the use of a structure which is subdivided into wards.

Taking the subdivided model to its extreme leads us to single Councillor wards. In my view, this in turn leads to an undesirable level of parochialism with the larger number of wards eg 12, resulting in the Councillor being "mainly interested" in a small physical area of the municipality. A generous comentator would say that all Councillors act in the best interests of all the ratepayers in the municipality whereas a realist would suggest their primary interest is the people who elected them. The other concern that I have with single Councillor wards is that when a Councillor is absent, which is not unreasonable when they have other lives to lead, the ward is not represented.

So at this point I am advocating a subdivided structure with at least two Councillors in each ward.

It is noted that the outcome of the current of the Council Representation Review has to operate for about 12 years. Looking at the current number of voters per Councillor of about 10,000, Manningham voters are well represented compared to the voters in many other Melbourne metropolitan municipalities. Even if there were 30,000 voters added to the roll in the next 12 years, voter representation in Manningham would still be comparable with that of many urban municipalities in Victoria. Of course in many of those the representation would also change probably upwards ie more voters per Councillor, over that same period. That suggests to me that having nine Councillors in the municipality would be reasonable for the next 12 years. Having said that then having three wards seems to me to be a logical structure.

In regard to the ward boundaries, it could be expected that in the area east of Blackburn Road there will generally be new site devopments whilst to the west, will generally be infill and replacement. The effect of that should be to keep a reasonable balance of voters within the three wards. However, consideration could be given to moving the ward boundary from Blackburn Road to Andersons Creek Road over the length where both roads exist to slightly redress the imbalance between the numbers of voters in Heide Ward and Mullum Mullum Ward.

In summary, I am suggesting that Manningham Council should remain with nine Councillors serving three wards, with three representing each ward. Consideration should be given to moving the ward boundary from Blackburn Road to Andersons Creek Road over the length where both roads exist to slightly redress the imbalance between the numbers of voters in Heide Ward and Mullum Mullum Ward.

Regards

Geoff Kloot