

**Representation Review - Manningham City Council - Preliminary Submission
Manningham City Council - Doncaster - 24 Jul 2019**



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24 July 2019

Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a preliminary submission to the Electoral Representation Review for Manningham City Council.

Manningham Council has been governed successfully under a multi-member ward structure for many years. The city's unique constitution of high density activity centres and semi-rural acreage with a dispersed population has been well supported by its electoral structure and provides the community with fair and equitable representation. Further, Council's current electoral structure provides clear and readily identifiable boundaries given Manningham's balance between city and country.

The potential advantages and disadvantages of the various electoral structures available under the *Local Government Act 1989* are well established and it is not Manningham's intention to explore these here other than to make the following points:

- Multi-member wards avoid the instability associated with wholly single-member wards in areas of rapid and dispersed population growth because larger ward populations tolerate larger shifts and remain within the 10 per cent allowable deviation.
- Multi-member wards offer an effective electoral structure where populations are unevenly distributed as they are in Manningham.
- There is a greater likelihood that a more diverse selection of candidates will stand for election and that significant minorities will have a greater opportunity of being elected and represented under a multi-member ward structure. Increased diversity will ensure a variety of views are represented in Council decision making.

The current number of nine councillors remains appropriate when compared with councils of a similar size. There are no major forecasts in population growth that would give rise to increasing the number of councillors.

Notwithstanding that there have been some areas of growth around activity centres which may require a minor realignment of ward boundaries, Manningham supports the retention of the current 3 x 3 multi-member electoral structure.

Manningham looks forward to the release of the Preliminary Report at which time a more detailed response will be provided to the VEC's preferred electoral structure.

If you require further clarification on any of the matters raised in this submission, please contact Council's Senior Governance Advisor, [REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Andrew Day
Chief Executive Officer