

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA-TASMANIA) INC.



+61429176725
A0048538N Victoria
ABN 31 010 090 247

info@prsa.org.au
www.prsa.org.au
2019-09-17

Response Submission to Electoral Representation [Review](#), Manningham City Council

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

SUMMARY:

Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Victoria-Tasmania) Inc. is pleased that both of the VEC's Options A and B recommend the election of Manningham City Council entirely by proportional representation using the single transferable vote (**PR-STV**).

PRSAV-T Inc's [Preliminary Submission](#) recommended the continuance of the present arrangement for Manningham City Council with three 3-councillor wards. Proportional representation works best when each ward returns the same number of councillors, and when that is an odd number, to avoid [stalemate wards](#).

The total number of councillors should also be an odd number to minimize occasions for the use of Victoria's undemocratic imposition of a [presiding officer's casting vote](#) as well as a deliberative vote in cases of tied votes, where the motion should simply be lost, because there is no real majority of votes for it.

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

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

PRSAV-T Inc's submission makes the following key recommendations for Manningham City Council:

- elections of its councillors should be by proportional representation using the single transferable vote (**PR-STV**),
- each ward should elect the same odd number of councillors, and
- there should be no single-councillor wards.

The manageability of local government elections would be greatly improved if Victoria were to follow the lead of the Senate and other Australian jurisdictions that use PR-STV, and its own practice for *below-the-line* voting for its Legislative Council, and provide for at least partial optional preferential marking of preferences, which it can do by regulation alone. A simple change to [Regulation 22](#) of Victoria's *Local Government (Elections) Regulations 2016* is all that would be required.

PRSAV-T Inc. looks forward to electoral arrangements in Manningham 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.

Geoffrey Goode,
Secretary
Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Victoria-Tasmania) Inc.