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**SUBMISSION RE ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW
FOR THE
CITY OF STONNINGTON**

The status quo should be retained in Stonnington.

Ward boundaries should remain the same as no ward is outside the 10% tolerance.

I lived in the City of Prahran which had multi-member wards and I believe that the single member wards system in the City of Stonnington functions more efficiently....In multi-member wards one is never quite sure just which councillor is 'my' councillor.

I regularly attend Council meeting and am familiar with the operation of Council. I have seen three Councils operating in Stonnington and, although no government is perfect, I am convinced that what we have now is preferable to multi-member wards.

All residents of Stonnington have access to all councillors via mail, phone, fax and email so residents are not confined to contact with only one councillor. All councillors are accessible in the present system.

In general, I observe that councillors show particular concern for their own wards and general concern for all wards. For example, re Planning Applications, I regularly hear councillors begin their dissertations with, "I visited this site...." and this is said whether the proposal is in his/her particular ward or in another ward. This demonstrates that councillors are aware that, in having to vote on all issues, they see the need to know the needs of the whole municipality. This does not mean that councillors do not show particular interest in and awareness of issues in their own wards.

Single member wards mean that Councillors must demonstrate accountability to the residents in their own wards. If they do not meet residents' expectations they can be replaced at the next election by simple preferential voting.

In wards with more than one councillor, residents can play one off against the other. If councillors in such wards have different views residents are left in limbo.

Although it is acknowledged that within **all** governments factions exist, I believe that multi-wards encourage this. Single member wards tend to discourage it and this is a positive factor in this system.

For councillors in what could be deemed a precarious situation, the proportional representation voting system in multi-member wards is a plus. They do not have to work hard to win. Councillors in such wards do not necessarily share the work load evenly and effectively.

In my experience of both systems I have seen that the work load in the single member wards is shared effectively across the whole council.

In single member wards

1. Councillors are more likely to be truly local representatives, accessible and aware of local issues.
2. Every community of interest is likely to be represented.
3. It is less likely that one particular point of view or sectional interest will dominate Council.
4. Local issues are not over-ridden.
5. Faction fighting is less of an issue.
6. The workload of council is more equally and effectively shared.
7. Single member wards emphasise accountability.
8. The system of single member wards and preferential voting are the means by which we can ensure fair and equitable representation.

We have fair and equitable representation now and we do not need it to be arbitrarily changed.