

Post

25-5-94

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Ringwood-Croydon merger preferred

EARLY counting of resident responses to Ringwood Council's survey on amalgamation scenarios suggest a majority of people would prefer a Ringwood and Croydon merger under local government reforms.

The survey sent out recently to more than 16,000 homes detailed four possible merger scenarios including Ringwood/Croydon, Ringwood/Croydon and Nunawading east of Springvale Rd, Ringwood/Nunawading, Ringwood and Nunawading east of Springvale Rd.

Preliminary counting shows 1,500 to 2000 responses (11 per cent) have been returned to council, which according to council corporate manager Scott Chapman is

normal for council surveys.

"The response is certainly within the ballpark of mail surveys of industry standard," he said.

Of the responses 44 per cent of people indicated they would prefer a Ringwood/Croydon merger and 69 percent said they support local government reform.

Ringwood Mayor Margaret Cheevers believes people preferred a Ringwood/Croydon merger because both areas had much in common.

"People see Ringwood and Croydon as very similar in all aspects. The division between Ringwood and Croydon is much more blurred than any of the other communities," Cr Cheevers said.