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Tony Fisher

This submission response focuses on the Greens' suggestions with regards to the Maribyrnong electorate (suggestion 61).

The Greens' submission suggests that the Maribyrnong River is "one of the strongest boundaries in the state." This is framed merely from a geographical lens and fails to take into account the importance the River plays as a central meeting point for residents in surrounding suburbs. Locals on both sides of the River utilise the tracks alongside it for walking and running. Residents from both sides of the river also partake in any number of organised sporting pursuits at venues close to the river, while the river may be a geographical boundary, in terms of community activity it appears not to be the case. Highpoint Shopping Centre in Maribyrnong is a central shopping hub for residents right across the Maribyrnong electorate, particularly for those suburbs within the Moonee Valley City Council LGA.

For most residents of the current Maribyrnong electorate, travelling to Gladstone Park and Westmeadows would see them take the Tullamarine Freeway, meaning there is a greater disconnect between the local communities of those suburbs, relative to common links the suburb of Maribyrnong has with the surrounding suburbs across the Maribyrnong River in the Maribyrnong electorate.

Most commuters from Gladstone Park and Westmeadows, who need to travel into the Melbourne CBD, would be taking the freeway, largely bypassing commuting through the suburbs of the Maribyrnong electorate. Similarly, the closest train stations for both suburbs are all within the Calwell and Wills electorates. These stations are namely Broadmeadows, Jacana and Glenroy.