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Comment on suggestions to the Victorian Redistribution Committee, AEC

I make the following independent submission to the Victorian Redistribution Committee on a small number of the suggestions which include discussion of the Maribyrnong electorate, including the abolition Maribyrnong.

As a local government representative for the Moonee Valley City Council, which is situated entirely within the boundary of the seat of Maribyrnong, I strongly recommend that the redistribution maintain this in the interests of effective representation for this community. The seat of Maribyrnong has been a feature of this part of Melbourne for over 100 years, uniting a number of suburbs that are linked by the Maribyrnong River. While the river runs through the electorate, it is a feature that unites rather than divides our communities.

The City of Moonee Valley benefits greatly from its location entirely within the boundary of Maribyrnong, with clear and strong representation in Federal Parliament. Dividing the suburbs of Aberfeldie, Airport West, Ascot Vale, Avondale Heights, Essendon, Essendon North, Essendon West, Flemington, Keilor East, Moonee Ponds, Niddrie, Strathmore, Strathmore Heights and Travancore, would be detrimental to outcomes for the residents and voters in our city. There is a clear community of interest created by this local government area which should remain intact within the existing seat of Maribyrnong.

Further, I would support the suggestion that the suburb of Maribyrnong be returned to the seat, as there are clear links between Maribyrnong and the eastern side of the river, which as I have mentioned is a feature that unites the suburbs and residents that border it. It will also help to reduce confusion that was created when the suburb of the same name was removed from the electorate.

I hope the AEC will prioritise stability in the west as we experience accelerating growth in these suburbs. Reducing the number of federal representatives in the west would be a blow to democracy in our region. I appreciate that redistributions are required but support the principle of minimal change where required, to reduce confusion and allow stability for representation.