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Dan Le Vaillant

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Melbourne AEC Office
706 Lorimer St
PORT MELBOURNE VIC 3207

To whom it may concern,

Objection to the Victorian Labor Party's proposal to remove the suburb of North Melbourne from the federal Division of Melbourne, and instead include it in the Division of Maribyrnong

I am writing to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to voice my objection to the Victorian ALP's proposal to remove the suburb of North Melbourne from the federal Division of Melbourne and incorporate it into the Division of Maribyrnong.

I am a home-owner in North Melbourne and have been a resident since 2005. I attended the University of Melbourne, currently work in the Central Business District (CBD), am a member of the North Melbourne swimming pool/City Baths and support many of North Melbourne's small business owners who operate in the area.

North Melbourne has been part of the Division of Melbourne since 1922 and identifies as being part of the broader community of the inner North. Evidence of this can be found in local news publications such as the [North West City News](#) and combined North and West Melbourne festivals and cultural celebrations. The Victorian ALP's proposal will create an arbitrary division between North and West Melbourne that is not reflective of how the community views itself, especially after the covid-19 pandemic.

Further to this, while North Melbourne has a village atmosphere it is adjacent to Melbourne's CBD and has a different core constituency when compared to the more suburban areas that constitute the division of Maribyrnong. North Melbourne is more impacted by proposed urban developments and transport infrastructure such as the Arden street Metro rail station and the associated housing developments in the area. It is demographically different from the suburbs that make up the Division of Maribyrnong with many more renters, students (including international students) and people who are reliant on public transport links to access essential services and the CBD. Removing our community from the Division of Melbourne will adversely impact on our ability to shape the way our neighbourhoods will grow in the coming decades.

I am also concerned that the proposal would also exclude a large section of the community who live in the impacted area and either attend various local Schools, the university of Melbourne or work in the biomedical precinct from holding their local member to account for decisions that directly impact these institutions and organisations.

I acknowledge that the AEC is responsible for recalibrating the boundaries of federal divisions and these decisions are not made lightly. However, I believe that the Victorian ALP's proposal regarding which division North Melbourne is represented by would do a disservice to our community and adversely impact on our ability influence important decisions about our neighbourhoods, schools, businesses and essential services.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments when reaching your decision.

Kind regards,



Dan Le Vaillant

12 July 2024