



# Comment on objections 106

North and West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre

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To the Redistribution Committee,

North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre is a not-for-profit charity situated in the heart of North & West Melbourne. We understand the diverse community of North & West Melbourne and have served this neighbourhood for over 45 years. Our Centre is proudly run by a loyal and committed team of volunteers and paid staff. We run programs that cater to the needs of community members. We aim to foster belonging and believe our cohesive community here belongs together in the electorate of Melbourne.

We are shocked by the proposal to separate North and West Melbourne. It's in our name and our Centre has been set up in this way because these communities really are one. People living in either suburb frequently travel between the two, to socialise, for medical appointments, retail, dining, work and culture.

Residents here have voted in Melbourne for a very long time, we understand for over 100 years. People living here feel a strong loyalty and pride in our neighbourhood and the identity of an inner-city suburb is important to us. Both North and West Melbourne overlook the CBD, as does Carlton and Fitzroy. The Citylink is a significant boundary in our minds and separates communities to the west from our inner-city ring of suburbs.

We also run programs in Docklands and feel it is important to note that these programs and activities are closely connected to those we run in North & West Melbourne and although there are differences to the communities they serve, we feel the similarities are stronger.

As NWMNC we run large community events such as the iconic Queensberry Cup, Spanish Language Fiesta, Eid festival and NAIDOC Week celebrations. These events are well attended by residents in North and West Melbourne and Docklands along with people from the CBD, Carlton, Fitzroy and beyond. We share this information as evidence of the times our connected community come together here in North Melbourne.

It is also important to mention that during the local council amalgamations during the Kennet era, a part of North Melbourne became part of the City of Moonee Valley whilst the rest remained part of City of Melbourne. This caused numerous issues and differences in terms of services provided and the sense of community in North Melbourne. These issues became so significant that North Melbourne was reunited under City Melbourne about 10 years later. We believe that the same sort of issues will arise by splitting North & West Melbourne into different electorates.

North and West Melbourne are very much one community in our mind and a significant community of interest. We urge you to consider this as you are redrawing the electorate boundaries of Victoria. We hope your initial proposal to use the Citylink as the boundary of our electorate remains, and that suggestions to carve out North Melbourne alone are ignored.

Kind regards,



**Craig Barry**

Acting Executive Director

**North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre**