



Comment on suggestions 29

Keilor Resident

2 pages

6 December 2023

Dear Electoral Commissioner

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments to submissions entered with respect to the upcoming Victoria Federal Redistribution.

I am an individual who takes interest in community matters. I am not a member of a political party or associated organisation or body. I work in customer service and engage with a large and varied group of people from across greater Melbourne every week.

I have voted in many Federal elections and have voted for candidates representing various political parties. This is an important statement to include as I have voted for candidates and parties based on policies and election commitments to serve the majority and best interests of the community in which I live.

As it happened, I was in Essendon North just prior to 2023 Referendum Day and called in to a nearby polling booth to cast my vote. I overheard many people in the queue being asked to state their electorate by AEC staff. I witnessed the confusion of some who stated 'Maribyrnong' when subsequently established that they reside in the suburb of Maribyrnong rather than the electorate of Maribyrnong. It makes sense to return the suburb of Maribyrnong to the electorate of Maribyrnong to eliminate confusion.

Further, in relation to the electorate of Maribyrnong, I understand the name is of Indigenous origin referring to native wildlife and the Maribyrnong River in Indigenous language. Given the outcome of the 2023 Referendum, in my view it might be seen as a further act of segregation and division by Indigenous Australians to make any changes to this electorate other than boundary adjustments.

The primary reason for my submission is to rebuff the comments made in the submission of Dr Mark Mulcair (submission 32) in relation to Keilor. Dr Mulcair states "*There are some good east-west links along the Calder Freeway and Old Calder Highway, and I also think that*

socio-demographically, Keilor fits better with the more middle-class suburbs in Maribyrnong than with most of Gorton."

Dr Mulcair's submission was no doubt well intentioned, although he should be aware that electorate boundaries are not set based on resident wealth, age, income, educational level or plainly the number of Ferraris owned. Keilor is a founding suburb of the Brimbank LGA, with adjacent suburbs bearing the Keilor name in Keilor Downs, Keilor Rise, Keilor Lodge, Keilor North, Keilor East and Keilor Park, most of which fall within the electorate of Gorton. The Brimbank LGA spreads three federal electorates, mainly shared between Gorton and Fraser and a very small part in Maribyrnong.

Residents of Keilor and neighbouring suburbs utilise Watergardens Shopping Centre in Sydenham for a majority of local business and retail needs. All the larger banking institutions, major retailers and supermarkets have a significant and long-term presence, including government services, medical and dental professionals, veterinary practices and community services. Opposite Watergardens on the other side of the Melton Highway are a number of long established national retailers including Bunnings and Harvey Norman. All in Gorton.

Ask any resident of Keilor the location of their local Bunnings and they'd answer Taylors Lakes (Gorton).

To conclude, I submit that Keilor should remain in the federal electorate of Gorton in line with the historical and current factors summarised above. If any changes need to be made to the electorate of Maribyrnong, then the return of the suburb by the same name should be effected. I, again, caution any moves to alter or change the existence of the federal electorate of Maribyrnong's name given its Indigenous origin and history.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Resident of Keilor 3036