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I support submission S57 by the Australian Labor Party and the general theme that Maribyrnong has a stronger connection to the electorate of Maribyrnong than the suburb of Gowanbrae which has traditionally been in the electorate of Wills.

As a resident of the Maribyrnong electorate, I would like to see the suburb of Maribyrnong rejoin the electorate. There is a strong connection between the suburb and the electorate and the activities that take place along the river are enjoyed on both banks.

Due to the number of crossings between the two banks of the river, many recreational activities such as running and walking along the waterfront are shared and equally accessible to both sides. For many people in the suburb of Maribyrnong they must travel over the river and into the electorate of Maribyrnong for business and recreational purposes.

Finally, I think it makes sense for the suburb to remain in the electorate to minimise confusion about the location. Because many people in the suburb of Maribyrnong have strong connection with the electorate of Maribyrnong many automatically assume they are within the matching division. This could be overcome by reincluding the suburb back into the electorate, where it belongs.

I hope my comments assist the commission in making its decision and I look forward to seeing the outcome.

Regards

Elie Abouzeid

Resident and business owner in Maribyrnong