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Cameron Gracie

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Comment on S25 Darren McSweeney, S7 Michael Hedger & S20 Cheston Mak

As a proud local business owner and resident in Ascot Vale, situated within the federal electorate of Maribyrnong, I strongly disagree with the proposals by Mr Darren McSweeney, Mr Michael Hedger and Mr Cheston Mak to abolish the Maribyrnong electorate and redistribute parts or the entirety of Ascot Vale into the Melbourne electorate.

The economic corridor encompassing Ascot Vale, Moonee Ponds, Essendon, and Essendon Fields has a rich history of robust business activities and tightly knit communal connections. Our unity is deeply rooted in geographical proximity, shared social and sporting clubs, the local governance under Moonee Valley City Council, alignment with the state electorate of Essendon, and our common representation in the federal electorate of Maribyrnong.

Disbanding the Maribyrnong electorate would inherently lead to the fragmentation of these interconnected regions, disrupting the well-established economic and communal bonds. Additionally, the proposition to detach Ascot Vale from its longstanding counterparts and incorporate it into the Melbourne electorate overlooks the genuine affiliations we share. Ascot Vale's interactions primarily revolve around local activities, such as shopping, socializing, and work engagements within our immediate vicinity, including Moonee Ponds, the Highpoint Shopping Centre across the river and Essendon Fields.

Preserving the electoral integrity of Maribyrnong is crucial in maintaining the cohesion of our community. The enduring ties that bind us should be respected, and any restructuring should be approached with a thorough understanding of the intricate connections that have flourished over the years.