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Glenice Thomas

In response to S41 by Phillip Drake. The Keilor community, encompassing Keilor North, Keilor Lodge, Keilor Downs, and Taylor Lakes, is tightly knit, with robust communal bonds intertwined with their existing economic, transport, and social connections. Preserving this cohesion should take precedence. However, the Keilor community lacks significant affiliations with Maribyrnong. The closest area in Maribyrnong is Melbourne Airport and Tullamarine, characterized by a small population and a lack of strong communal ties to the broader Keilor region.

The central hub of the Maribyrnong electorate lies in the Moonee Ponds/Essendon area, which has limited connections to the larger Keilor community. To bridge these areas, one would need to traverse the Western Ring Road and the Calder Freeway, posing significant barriers to fostering stronger communal, social, and economic ties between Keilor and Moonee Ponds/Essendon. The geographical separation considerably hampers opportunities for meaningful collaboration and community-building efforts between these distinct regions.

A realistic addition to the Maribyrnong electorate would involve incorporating the suburb of Maribyrnong itself, offering tangible advantages to its residents while mitigating potential confusion. Currently, inhabitants of the Maribyrnong electorate and neighbouring suburbs frequently traverse existing boundaries for various purposes, including shopping, employment, and access to services, particularly within the communities surrounding Highpoint Shopping Centre.

Moreover, the Maribyrnong River holds paramount significance for residents and communities on both sides, serving as a focal point for athletics and robust transportation connections. This geographical feature further underscores the interconnectedness and shared identity of the electorate and suburb of Maribyrnong. Importantly, the residents take pride in the Indigenous origins of their name, adding a rich cultural dimension to their sense of community and heritage.