I support Option B boundary changes for the following reasons;

1. Divides Red Gum more evenly potentially reduces the workload for Red Gum Ward councillors who currently represent 68% of the area within the City of Greater Dandenong.
2. The geographical travel time for Councillors within Red Gum will be significantly reduced. Allowing them to better supporting their constituents in a smaller geographic area.
3. Aligns southern Keysborough residents with the north area of Keysborough who they have more common shared essential services such as Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough Secondary College, Noble Park train station and other Public transport, medical facilities, kindergartens, recreation and parkland usage and Community Hubs.
4. Additionally, aligns southern Keysborough residents with wider Keysborough which is better option to keeping communities of interest together.
5. Allows Councillors of these new wards boundaries the ability to focus on the whole suburb rather than concerning themselves with how to services constituents on two sides (two suburbs) divided by major physical barriers such as Eastlink.
6. Aligns wider Dandenong residents together with their closest essential services.
7. This Option acknowledges that Dandenong contains a higher proportion of residents born overseas and greater levels of social disadvantage compared to Keysborough.
8. Wards in Option B contain areas that are projected to experience residential and commercial development and there is a mix of land uses within each ward. This shares the pressures and challenges of development across wards and spreads the workload between councillors equitably.
9. While Option B necessitates more boundary adjustments and affects a greater number of voters compared to Option A (16,276 voters or 15.98% of all voters). This Option provides clear boundaries for VEC staff to direct constituents on election days reducing confusion. i.e Eastlink/ Heatherton Rd as the boundary or Keysborough as a suburb. As a past VEC election employee a major road and suburb is easier to communicate boundaries to individuals with English as a Second language.
10. I would highly recommend that if Option B was to be rolled out in 2020, that constituents are provided with a how to vote card with a reference number tied to the electoral book. This will resolve many of the communication issues experienced in previous elections for individuals with English as a Second language. Along with resolve any spelling issues with individuals’ names.