Victorian Electoral Commission  
Level 11, 530 Collins Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Sir/Madam

Re Submission to Preliminary Report - City of Greater Dandenong

I Bianchina Maria Sampey (also known as Maria Sampey) would like to take this opportunity to lodge an individual submission on the preliminary report released by the Victorian Electoral Commission on the Electoral Review of Greater Dandenong City Council.

Whilst I am generally supportive of Option A (as compared to Option B) as the preferred model released by the VEC, I do believe that this model still contains significant issues that need to be addressed prior to the final recommendation being made.

The proposal to shift the existing Western Boundary of the Silverleaf Ward away from the existing eastern boundary of the cemetery to Elonera/Jacksons Roads creates a pocket of Noble Park North properties that have no natural connection to the remaining sections of Lightwood Ward. In essence, the proposed ward structure creates a hidden pocket of residents who currently better align from communities of interest perspective with Dandenong North.

I would strongly argue that this anomaly needs to be addressed by the VEC. It is my view that residents in this section if properly consulted (and not just via newspaper advertisements) would be extremely concerned with this proposed change.

I fully understand the challenges faced by the VEC in developing a ward structure both for the present and the future. Silverleaf Ward is a ward that is largely fully developed and not growing at the same pace as some other wards. Including more properties in this ward to take its variation percentage closer to +10% would not create any future issues with the longevity of the structure.

In order to achieve a more common-sense outcome with the future ward structure I would propose the following changes to Option A.

1. Move the Western Boundary of Silverleaf Ward back to the natural boundary formed by the Eastern Edge of the Springsvale Cemetery. This would see the existing 1885 voters currently in Silverleaf remain in this Ward;

2. In order to compensate and ensure this doesn’t place Silverleaf over the necessary variation, make the southern border of Silverleaf follow Heatherton Road to Gladstone Road, Gladstone Road to McFees Road, McFees Road to Stud Road and then Stud Road to Monash Freeway. This southern border provides for a significant number of residents currently in Redgum Ward to remain unchanged.
3. The final change proposed, acknowledging the need to reduce Redgum Ward to ideally below a zero percent variation is for the western border of Redgum to follow Gladstone Road, Jones Road and Bennet Street to Cheltenham Road with areas to the west of this then moving into PaperBark Ward.

Making the changes suggested better links communities of interest than the current proposed boundaries in Option A and provides a practical common-sense outcome.

I strongly urge the VEC to consider these amendments.

I would like to speak at the public submission hearing on the 18th September, 2019.

Yours sincerely

Cr Maria Sampey