



## Port Phillip City Council electoral structure review

The community group UnChain Inc thanks the Victorian Electoral Commission for its work on the Port Phillip City Council Electoral Structure Review and responds as follows to its recommendations.

As a fundamental planning principle unChain Inc recommends the VEC's decisions on electoral boundaries reflect the principle of equal numbers of electors in each electoral district. Achieving this target with precision, UnChain Inc accepts, may pose challenges to demographers formulating district boundaries and, in recognition of this logistic challenge, Unchain Inc suggests a tolerance of no more than +/- 5% as a fundamental planning principle. This tolerance, Unchain Inc notes, could be tighter- for example +/- 2%. To the extent possible, Unchain Inc encourages the Commission to set its electoral boundaries as closely as possible to exactly equal numbers of voters in each electoral district.

Having considered the three models proposed as options by the Commission, Unchain Inc strongly recommends adoption of Model 2- on the basis that this model, of the three options offered for consideration, best reflects the coherence of communities of interest in each of these districts, as we understand them. In nominating this model, however, Unchain expresses concern that the numbers of electors Elwood, Kirrip Park, Lakeside and South Melbourne- depart very significantly from the principle of equal electors. Lakeside and South Melbourne have in excess of 12 000 electors whilst Elwood and Kirrip Park have fewer than 10 000 electors- when the average per electoral district each Model proposes is 10 862 residents.

Unchain In strongly urges the Commission to revisit the boundaries presently proposed in Model 2 to achieve a very much more equitable distribution of electors, and notes, for example, that one option towards this outcome would be to extend the northern boundary of the proposed St Kilda electoral district from Dickens Street to Blessington Street.

Finally, Unchain Inc has noted the proposed new names for the electoral districts the Commission proposes in each of the Models it has developed and asserts the desirability of maintaining the traditional suburban names for these districts.

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