

Our Ref: LD/LG/CM

Cassandra Marr  
Liberal Candidate for Sunbury  
PO Box 428  
Sunbury VIC 3429

Dear Ms Marr

The Australian Services Union (ASU) represents workers who live and/or work in the City of Hume not only at the Council, but in workplaces such as Western Water, VicRoads, Sunbury Community Health and various other social and community services organisations.

Just prior to the last state election the Liberal-National Government gazetted for Sunbury to split from the City of Hume. They relied on a poll that was conducted prior to the details of the split, particularly the details in relation to rates and services, being made public.

ASU members were horrified at the impact that this would have on not only their employment but also the impact on their family, friends, clients and the wider City of Hume community.

Our members campaigned to reverse this decision and received solid support from the community, particularly in Sunbury. We collected over 7,000 signatures on a petition that was tabled in parliament.

Following the election, the Labor Government engaged independent Transition Auditors who found that the separation should not proceed due to “the long-term and significant financial impact on Sunbury residents”.

The Auditors recommended against the split for the following reasons:

- it had the potential to increase council rates by 14 per cent, significantly reduce services and create an unviable, unsustainable Council;
- the previous Liberal Government’s process to split the councils was significantly flawed, based on a legally questionable 10-year transition period and an uncertain and potentially unenforceable share of the voluntary rates from Melbourne Airport;
- the process had lacked adequate community consultation and had failed to explain the detrimental impact on local residents; and
- the Auditors also recommended principles for government to follow in any future proposal to restructure existing council boundaries.

We are concerned about renewed commitments that a Liberal National Government will establish a stand-alone City of Sunbury within the first 100 days of taking office, without any

Authorised by ASU Branch Secretary Lisa Darmanin

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**Australian Services Union • Victorian and Tasmanian Authorities and Services Branch • ☎ 1300 855 570**

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**Branch Secretary**

Lisa Darmanin

**Branch Executive President**

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further reassessment of the viability of such a proposal or consultation with the Hume or Sunbury communities.

Can you please advise your position on the separation of Sunbury from Hume without any further assessment or consultation and whether you would be available to meet with the ASU to discuss our members concerns?

We request a response by Friday 9 November 2018. If you wish to meet to discuss further please contact Rachel Acton on 9342 3404.

Yours Sincerely



**LISA DARMANIN**  
**BRANCH SECRETARY**

Authorised by ASU Branch Secretary Lisa Darmanin

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