



Objection 170

Sai Komaragiri

3 pages

To

Date: 23/06/2024

Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)

Subject: Objection to the Proposed Redistribution of the Division of Wills

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) draft proposals for the redistribution of the federal electoral divisions, specifically the changes affecting the Division of Wills. The current proposal involves the removal of large parts of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, and Brunswick West from Wills and the addition of Carlton North, Princes Hill, and Fitzroy North. I believe these changes will negatively impact the communities involved for several reasons, which I outline below.

1. Community of Interest

The existing boundaries of the Division of Wills encompass communities with strong historical, social, and economic ties. Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, and Brunswick West share common community interests, local services, and cultural ties that have developed over many years. These suburbs have established networks and community organizations that serve the residents effectively. Removing these suburbs from Wills would disrupt these networks and sever long-standing community bonds.

Conversely, Carlton North, Princes Hill, and Fitzroy North have different community profiles and interests more aligned with inner-city Melbourne. The inclusion of these suburbs in Wills would dilute the representation of the existing community interests, potentially leading to underrepresentation of the current Wills residents' needs and priorities.

2. Geographic and Transport Considerations

The proposed changes would create a division with disparate geographic features and transport networks. The current boundaries of Wills are designed to align with natural and infrastructural divisions, facilitating cohesive and effective representation. Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, and Brunswick West are well connected with each other through local transport systems, fostering community interaction and accessibility.

Including Carlton North, Princes Hill, and Fitzroy North would introduce areas that are distinctly separated from the northern suburbs by significant geographical and infrastructural barriers. This could result in challenges for effective representation and accessibility for constituents in a geographically fragmented electorate.

3. Consistency with Council Boundaries

The entire Wills electorate currently falls under the Merri-bek City Council. The proposed changes would result in a divided seat where some residents fall under one council and others under a different council. This division could lead to inconsistencies in representation, local governance, and service provision, complicating the roles and responsibilities of elected representatives. It is crucial to maintain alignment with council boundaries to ensure cohesive local governance and streamlined service delivery.

4. Historical Consistency

The Division of Wills has a long-standing historical identity that is closely associated with the northern suburbs of Melbourne. The proposed changes disregard this historical context, undermining the continuity and identity of the electorate. Maintaining the historical boundaries as much as possible is crucial for preserving the electorate's identity and ensuring that residents continue to feel a sense of connection and belonging to their division.

5. Disruption to Electorate Representation

The proposed boundary changes would result in significant disruption to the electorate's representation. The residents of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, and Brunswick West have established relationships with their current elected representatives and are accustomed to the services and support provided. Redistributing these areas to another division would necessitate re-establishing these relationships, leading to a period of adjustment and potential underrepresentation during the transition.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I strongly object to the proposed redistribution of the Division of Wills as it would sever long-standing community ties, disrupt effective representation, disregard the historical identity of the electorate, and create a divided seat with misaligned council

boundaries. I urge the AEC to reconsider these proposals and maintain the current boundaries of the Division of Wills to ensure the continued effective representation of its residents.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely/



Sai Komaragiri
Resident of Glenroy

