



Objection 318

Fawkner Netball Club

2 pages

Dear Redistribution Committee,

Fawkner Netball Club welcomes the opportunity to provide you with an opposition to the proposed redistribution of Wills.

Fawkner Netball Club would like to oppose the removal of parts of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy from Wills.

This objection is written in our capacity as the Fawkner Netball Club, based at Charles Mutton Reserve, Fawkner, and focused on the proposed redistribution of Wills.

It is our view that the proposal to divide Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy from Wills and add Fitzroy North, Carlton North and Princess Hill are problematic against the 'communities of interest' 'means of travel and communication' considerations. It is our view that the proposed redistribution does not wholly consider take into account these two considerations.

Fawkner Netball Club was established in 2018, and we have grown extremely quickly in our short period. We now have 20 junior teams and 4 senior teams who take part in Darebin Netball Association. We also have 2 Walking Netball Teams which play every Monday night, and an additional 2 junior teams in the Merri Bek Netball Association, which home courts are also at Charles Mutton Reserve.

We were extremely honoured to win the Merri Bek Sporting club of the year award last year, and was a finalist with Netball Victoria for the most inclusive club in 2023 and was again a finalist for the Net Set Go Club of the year in 2022.

Members of our club live in, and are part of communities in Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South and Brunswick West. These communities are similar, not just because they play Netball at Charles Mutton Reserve, Fawkner, but because they share the same socio-economic and socio-political experiences.

Our Fawkner Netball Club Community has long benefitted greatly from sharing a local council (Merri-Bek), Federal Electorate (Wills) and local services and clubs (such as ours). In particular, the suburbs in the north of Wills (Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy) often have their specific socio-economic and cultural needs neglected by public bodies.

Splitting these suburbs in half, by effectively putting an electoral boundary through them, will carve up these communities and cut through the very heart of the community. The new Pascoe Vale road border being proposed by the Redistribution Committee is not a divider, it is the spine of the community that we represent at Coburg Football Club. Communities on either side of this road are shared and similar, by contrast it is the current and natural Moonee Ponds creek border that properly separates communities.

The shared socio-economic, linguistic, cultural and geographic realities of communities in Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy are indicative of a community of interest. This is very different to communities in Maribyrnong such as Essendon and Aberfeldie.

Additionally, the communities in Fitzroy North, Carlton North and Princes Hill are separated by the well-recognised boundary of Brunswick Road. This border separates those suburbs into different councils, but is also indicative of different socio-economic, cultural and linguistic realities of residents there. As a Netball club, the services and community-led initiatives we provide are tailored to the shared communities in Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe vale south and Brunswick West, rather than for the different communities of in Fitzroy North, Carlton North and Princes Hill. There is a distinction between the two sides of Brunswick Road which we see through our work with the community.

The proposed redistribution also adds two additional Councils – Melbourne City Council and Yarra Council to Wills, and removes suburbs that are in the city of Merri-Bek and puts them into the division of Maribyrnong. Wills is unique in that the majority of the electorate is also in Merri-Bek, and this is indicative of publicly recognised community boundaries. Moving these Merri-Bek/Wills suburbs Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy also has manifest consequences – members of our club would have their communities divided along electoral boundaries while trying to access the same local government services, and our Netball Club initiatives.

Merri-Bek council also has its own formed identity – shaped by its services – that is distinct from the Melbourne City Council and Yarra Council. People in Merri-Bek, particularly Glenroy, Pascoe Vale South, Oak Park share Sydney Road, our Netball ground, retail outlets. Residents in these suburbs do not go to Essendon to grocery shop or buy dinner, nor do they go to retail and shopping outlets in Fitzroy North, Carlton North or Princes Hill.

For these reasons the Fawkner Netball Club request that the Committee re-examines its proposed redistribution of Wills, and implements a different redistribution that collects in one electorate as far as possible the suburbs of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy and excludes Fitzroy North, Carlton North and Princes Hill

This, rather than the proposal, will have due regard to the ‘community of interest’ consideration and accurately reflect the ‘means of travel and communication’ in these areas.

Thank you for your consideration

Yours Sincerely