



# Objection 375

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To the Redistribution Committee,

I am writing to object to the new boundaries proposed for the Federal Election Division of Melbourne, as outlined in the report released on 31 May, 2024.

In particular, I oppose the removal of Carlton North, Princes Hill, Fitzroy North and parts of Brunswick East from our electorate, for the following reasons:

- These suburbs have a longstanding connection to the City of Melbourne and City of Yarra. As a resident of Carlton, we share library and healthcare services, parks (including Princes Park and Edinburgh Gardens), and shopping precincts including Lygon St, Brunswick St and Saint Georges Road, forming a clear community of interest.
- Moreover, the suburbs of Fitzroy North, Carlton North and Princes Hill are of similar demographic to other suburbs within the Division of Melbourne – as opposed to those in Wills. They share likenesses in median house price, weekly income, and highest level of education attained. Whilst the way in which our society has embraced social, cultural and economic diversity is a point of pride, I have concerns that these proposed changes will make it increasingly difficult for the Member of Parliament in Wills to address and act upon varying needs and concerns within the electorate – particularly as demographic differences widen when moving north in the seat.
- Rather than utilising Alexandra Parade as a boundary in the redistribution, a more effective border would be Brunswick Road, which runs along the northern boundary of Princes Park and Princes Hill and the southern boundary of Brunswick and Brunswick East. Major intersections on Brunswick Rd at Royal Parade, Lygon St and Nicholson St experience a significant amount of vehicle and bicycle traffic and would be clearly recognisable borders to maintain.

Ultimately, the proposed changes to the Division of Melbourne are not demonstrative of the community's interests.

I respectfully submit that the changes should be rejected, and thank you for your time in considering this submission.