



Objection 394

Josephine Ryan

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To the Redistribution Committee

I am writing to object to aspects of the proposed redistribution of the electorate of Wills. My objections address the following criteria:

- i) community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests;
- ii) means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division;

I write as a long time resident of Wills who has observed the working of politics in the area for many years. A Federal or State politician needs to be well connected to local government issues and processes. For example, Wills constituents have been very exercised by local planning arrangements and state and federal representatives are expected to engage with the issues, even when they are more the responsibility of local government. Also some matters are the responsibility of local and other tiers of government. A representative who wants to assist a voter to achieve the best aged care outcome must be able work in both systems. In other words communication with local government is critical for an effective federal politician.

The proposed Wills redistribution will reduce the opportunities for the Wills representative to work effectively with local government in the electorate because the Federal MP for Wills will have need to work with two additional local government areas (Melbourne and Yarra) as well as Merri-bek council. The Maribyrnong representative will gain population from Glenroy, Oak Park and Pascoe Valley South who remain in Merri-bek local government area rather than join the rest of the electorate who are in the Moonee Valley local government area. For the Wills representative it would enhance their local communication and effectiveness if they retained the Merri-bek suburbs of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Valley South and Brunswick West; instead *not* be given responsibility for the proposed areas of Brunswick East, Princess Hill, Carlton North and North Fitzroy, which are currently in the Melbourne federal electorate and mostly in the local areas of Yarra and Melbourne.

I would also argue that the proposed redistribution has the potential to be disadvantageous to the community interests of the suburbs of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale and Brunswick West because these suburbs will be split between two Federal representatives. These areas have a high percentage of recent immigrants as well as a being very diverse in terms of ethnic background. These characteristics make it critical that the communities are well served by their representatives. Splitting them between two electorates does not seem advantageous in terms of creating close connections with their local member.