



# Objection 415

John Hannon

1 pages

Dear Redistribution Committee,

I am writing to you concerning the proposed boundaries of the Federal Electoral Division of Wills, as per the proposed redistribution report released on 31 May 2024.

I strongly oppose the removal of parts of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy from the Wills electorate, and the extension of the electorate into North Carlton and North Fitzroy.

The key reasons I believe that these suburbs should not be removed from the electorate of Wills concern the integrity of local government, both geographic and social:

1. These suburbs of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy have a longstanding connection to the council of Merri-bek (formerly Moreland) as part of the Local Government Area. Residents currently access council services via Merri-bek council, currently bounded by Moonee Ponds Creek to the west, and Merri Creek to the east. The proposed redistribution will disconnect residents of parts of the above suburbs from their long-standing council, with the effect shifting them to the adjoining electorate yet separating them from that electorate with the barrier of Moonee Ponds Creek. This will marginalise residents and minimise the representations that can be made on their behalf to council. If these draft proposals are adopted, two Members of Parliament will represent the same suburb within one Local Government Area - this is neither necessary nor a logical approach.
2. The proposed extension of the electorate of Wills into the current electorate of Melbourne includes a different community of interest through the socio-economic composition of North Carlton and North Fitzroy. It also overrides the existing separation of electorates along Park Street and up Lygon street which are historical and recognisable borders separating the two divisions.
3. The distinct communities of interest in the electorate of Wills and the electorate of Melbourne should be given more consideration. The proposed redistribution will separate diverse ethnic groups in Wills into the two surrounding electorates, effectively diminishing the community of interests they have developed within the electorate of Wills. The implications for these communities should be taken into consideration before any decision to remove the proposed suburbs from the electorate of Wills is reached.

Ultimately, the proposed changes to the Division of Wills do not reflect the community's interests. I respectfully submit that the changes should be rejected.

Thank you for taking the time to look at this submission.

Kind regards

John Hannon