



# Objection 422

Harry Black

2 pages

Dear Redistribution Committee,

I am writing to you to object to the proposed boundaries of the Federal Electoral Division of Wills, as per the proposed redistribution report released on 31 May 2024. As a long-term resident of Pascoe Vale South and Coburg, I strongly oppose the removal of parts of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy from our electorate. Further, as a recent mover to Fitzroy North, I also oppose the addition of Fitzroy North to the electorate.

The central reasons I believe that parts of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy should not be removed from the electorate of Wills are:

1. These suburbs have a longstanding connection to the council of Merri-bek (formerly Moreland) having been a part of the Local Government Area. Residents currently access services via Merri-bek council - splitting up residents into two different electorates will minimise the representations that my federal representative can make on my behalf to council to ensure their concerns are addressed. 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 the logical approach to take.
2. Part of the border between the Electoral Division of Wills and the Electoral Division of Melbourne which runs along Park Street and up Lygon street acted as suitable and recognisable borders separating the two divisions.
3. There are distinct communities of interest in the Electoral Division of Wills and the Electoral Division of Melbourne that must be considered more fully. Whilst it is a symbol of pride that Australia has developed a proud and harmonious multicultural society, splintering these diverse ethnic groups in the Division of Wills into the two surrounding electorates diminishes the community of interests they have developed within the electoral Division of Wills.

These implications must be more fully considered before any decision to remove the proposed suburbs from the Division of Wills is reached.

Further, the reasons I believe that Fitzroy North should not be incorporated into Wills are:

1. The primary transport corridors of Fitzroy North are the tram routes 86 and 11. Currently these two routes connect the Melbourne Electorate with Cooper. The proposed addition of Fitzroy North to Wills would bifurcate these transport corridors and their associated economic and cultural communities. In a similar vein, Fitzroy North is poorly connected to the majority of the Wills electorate, with no connecting tram or train routes.
2. Fitzroy North shares little in the way of social or economic commonality to the majority of the Wills electorate. Fitzroy North residents overwhelmingly

commute to work in the city, dine in Collingwood or Northcote, and participate in community life across Fitzroy.

3. Fitzroy North has been a long-standing part of the Melbourne Electorate, and is formed primarily of older couples and families. It would be disruptive to transition to a new electorate, given the highly established recognition many in the community already enjoy with their local electorate.

Ultimately, the proposed changes to the Division of Wills as not demonstrative of the community's interests. I respectfully submit that the changes should be rejected. Thank you for taking the time to consider this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Harrison Black  
Fitzroy North