Objection 162

Janice Dunn

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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.

I strongly oppose the removal of parts of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy from our electorate.

The central reasons I believe that these suburbs 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 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.

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 look at this submission.

Janice Dunn