



Objection 343

Ali Fahour

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Dear Redistribution Committee,

The Islamic College of Sport (ICS) and Islamic Museum of Australia (IMA) welcomes the opportunity to provide you with an opposition to the proposed redistribution of Wills.

ICS & IMA would like to oppose the removal of parts of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy from Wills and the addition of Fitzroy North, Princes Hill and Carlton North.

It is our view that the proposal to divide Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy from Wills and add Fitzroy North, Carlton North and Princess Hill doesn't consider the 'communities of interest' and 'means of travel and communication' and 'physical features' requirements of a redistribution.

The Islamic College of Sport established in 2023 is a independent Islamic College located at Coburg Football Club and supported by the Bachar Houli Foundation. The community of the Islamic College of Sport come from across multiple areas from Coburg, Pascoe Vale, Glenroy, Hadfield and along the Hume.

The Islamic Museum of Australia established in 2014 uses Art as a vehicle for social cohesion and education working with over 20,000 people each year. The Museum supports Islamic Artists and showcases the beauty of Islam through art, cultural and heritage.

The Muslim communities in Wills are a perfect example of a 'community of interest'. There are community of interest of substantial Muslim (and Arabic speaking) populations in Fawkner, Coburg, Glenroy, Hadfield, Coburg North, and Pascoe Vale, and significantly higher-than-average populations in Brunswick, Brunswick West, Oak Park, and Pascoe Vale South. Our community is connected through infrastructure and services such as Islamic Schools (Islamic College of Sport, Darul Ulum, AIAE King Khalid, Ilim College, Sirius College, Glenroy Private) along with spaces of congregation like mosques and community halls.

Sydney Road, which runs through our community, is home to many Middle-eastern and Islamic businesses, Islamic clothing stores offering modest clothing, financial institutions such as Amanah Islamic Finance, halal butchers and restaurants. Many of these businesses have the Arabic/Islamic translation alongside English writing which shows how strong a community of interest is here.

These sort of businesses and organisations are not present in Fitzroy North, Princes Hill and Carlton North, or in suburbs in Maribyrnong. This is evidence of a community of interest within the suburbs of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy which is different to Fitzroy North, Princes Hill and Carlton North, or in suburbs in Maribyrnong.

Specifically, Coburg is a hub of the Muslim community and Muslim people from of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy congregate in Coburg for socialising, language training, prayer, whereas they do not do this in Fitzroy North, Princes Hill and Carlton North, or in suburbs in Maribyrnong. While there are Islamic communities in Fitzroy North, Princes Hill and Carlton North, or in suburbs in Maribyrnong, the numbers are far lower, as are the services that tailor to Arabic speaking and Muslim communities in those suburbs.

The contribution and strong educational, business and community ties by Muslim Australians in Wills is demonstrative of multicultural story. Cutting the suburbs of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South and Brunswick West in half would change the way these communities access local and federal government services and ultimately be negative for a sense of shared identity.

For these reasons we request that the Committee keeps Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick West and Glenroy in Wills and excludes Fitzroy North, Carlton North and Princes Hill.

This, rather than the proposal, will have due regard to the 'community of interest' consideration and accurately reflect the 'means of travel and communication' in these areas.

Thank you for your consideration

Yours Sincerely



Ali Fahour

Director Islamic Museum of Australia & Islamic College of Sport