



Objection 431

Wendy Rushby

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Dear Redistribution Committee,

I write to you as a local member of Wills, 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 support the current boundaries in Wills as the local area has been a strong community hub that enables us to remain connected through our cultural, language and religious needs. I strongly oppose the removal of parts of (Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick East) from the division of Wills.

The key reasons I believe that the entirety of the suburb of (Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick East) should remain in Wills are

1. Our suburb has long standing connection to the City of Merri-bek (formerly Moreland) having been part of that Local Government Area. Many people from our community are residents in the neighbouring suburbs of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Hadfield and in Glenroy more broadly.
2. It is essential that our community is not divided. We have cultural, language and religious needs that need to be protected and nurtured. Advocating to council and the Federal government on behalf of our community for culturally competent services and sufficient funding will be extremely difficult if our community is split into multiple electorate and council areas. Being within one electorate helps us in establishing ourselves in being part of the cultural fabric of our community.
3. The new electorate we are proposed to be included in (Maribymong) does not reflect our community.
4. Our community continues to grow as do our needs – many of us experience barriers to employment, education, health equity and access to services. Merri-bek (Moreland) council has many diverse staff and services which are curated to the needs of our community – we don't want to build this from scratch with an entirely new council area.
5. The sense of belonging, security and connectedness that comes from being part of one suburb and electorate area should not be understated. It has helped us reduce community isolation by building a community hub and staying connected as a community. Removing parts of (Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick East) from Wills will cut off the shared collective interests we have as a community group and cut off the relationships we have established as a strong collective.

The removal of large parts of the suburb of (Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick East).

Thank you for considering my objections

King regards

Wendy Rushby

