



# Objection 447

Ahmed and Ghassaq

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Dear Redistribution Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to write an objection to the redistribution of boundaries in Victoria. We are a family living in Gowanbrae and we are writing in our capacity as residents of Gowanbrae, and former residents of Wills before Gowanbrae was removed from Wills in 2019.

We would like to oppose the removal of Glenroy, Pascoe Vale South, Oak Park and Brunswick West from Wills. We would also like to ask that Gowanbrae is re-added to Wills. We are basing these asks on the 'communities of interest' issue. We feel we are a shared community with Wills and want this reflected in the electoral boundaries.

In Gowanbrae, we shared and still share a lot with suburbs in Wills, more than Maribyrnong. We are in catchment zones for Glenroy West primary and Glenroy Secondary school, so most of the people at those schools are in Wills except us.

Since the very beginning of our suburb, we were in Wills, before being moved in 2019. We are essentially the only suburb in Merri-bek local council that is not also in Wills. This means local government services are tailored to suburbs in Wills, including those further south like Brunswick, but not to us. We use Merri-bek services – particularly childhood and aged care services.

We generally identify more with the socio-economic circumstances of people in Fawkner and Hadfield and communities further south in Wills, rather than that of Maribyrnong and further north. Our professions and houses are similar to those in Wills and so are our lifestyles – young, aspirational families.

Gowanbrae is also multicultural, and of similar faiths and cultures to Wills, quite different to suburbs in Maribyrnong like Kensington and Essendon.

Please consider our reasons in order to return us to Wills.

Kind regards  
Ahmed and Ghassaq  
Residents of Gowanbrae