



Objection 489

The Australian Association of Kastorians

2 pages

THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF KASTORIANS "KASTORIA" INC

219 ELIZABETH STREET, NORTH COBURG, VIC, 3058

28 June 2024

Dear Redistribution Committee,

I write to you, on behalf of The Australian Association of Kastorians "Kastoria", to object the proposed boundaries of the Federal Electoral Division of Wills, as per the proposed redistribution report released on 31 May 2024.

Our organisation supports 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. Our organisation strongly opposes the removal of parts of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South and Brunswick West from the Division of Wills. We oppose this because we have a shared community identity in the current boundaries which will be severed by the changes proposed. We don't have this shared identity with the new proposed boundaries or new electorate.

Our club was formed in 1988 with the aim to allow members to maintain contact with people who share the same background, language and culture, in order to pass these on to future generations.

In the past 5 years, we have developed strong connections with the Merri-bek Council, the State Government and Federal Government. As a community, our shared interests lie in the current boundaries and council, as service delivery is harmonised and the services are representative of our community and similar communities. We have been successful in obtaining \$40,000.00 from Merri-bek Council and \$29,465.00 from the State Government for infrastructure funding to upgrade our facilities. In 2022/2023, we built a new kitchen and bathroom facilities. The improvements we made to our building allow better access and meet DDA compliance. We also have ongoing funding from Merri-bek Council and the Victorian Government to assist with day to day running costs. Last year, we had a grand

opening of our renovated building where the members had the opportunity to thank the members and councillors from the state and local government who have assisted the club by providing funding. A link to the news article can be found here:

<https://neoskosmos.com/en/2023/05/24/news/community/kastoria-association-celebrates-official-opening-of-renovated-building/>. This shows that our community has worked hard to establish a shared identity and lay our roots in the organisational and governance – at local, state and federal levels. This is indicative of an established physical presence of our community in Wills and a community of interest.

Additionally, the new electorate we are proposed to be included in (Maribyrnong) has not had contact with our community over the past 40 years. We would have to start from scratch building our shared community across different local, state and federal governments.

Thank you for considering our objections.

Kind regards,

Dimitra Temelcos

On behalf of The Australian Association of Kastorians “Kastoria” Inc.

Email: [REDACTED]