THE FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION VICTORIA

Objection 121

Katerine Theodosis

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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.

I am a lifelong resident of Wills, who grew up in Pascoe Vale and currently lives in Hadfield and would be affected by these changes. As someone with multiculturally diverse background, I am very concerned about what these changes will mean for myself and my community. Many members of the Greek community live within Wills, across Pascoe Vale, Coburg, Brunswick West and Brunswick particularly a lot of elderly migrants who rely on Peter Khalil's office and having them separated from the rest of their community would be confusing and detrimental.

As a resident of Hadfield, I and many members of my community have developed a strong rapport with Peter Khalil MP and his staff, with whom we have developed a strong relationship with over the past eight years, since he became the elected representative of Wills.

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 that I can make on their behalf 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.

Ultimately, as a resident of the Division of Wills, I regard the proposed changes to the Division of Wills as not demonstrative of our community's interests. I respectfully submit that the changes should be rejected.

Thank you for taking the time to look at this submission.

Katerine Theodosis.