



Objection 306

Astrid

2 pages

Dear Members of the Redistribution Committee,

I am writing to formally express my strong objection to the proposed changes to the boundaries of the Federal Electoral Division of Wills as outlined in the redistribution report released on 31 May 2024.

I am particularly concerned about the proposed removal of parts of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West, and Glenroy from our electorate. These changes, in my view, are not only unnecessary but also potentially harmful to the cohesion and effective representation of our community.

The primary reasons for my objection are as follows:

1. Historical and Community Connections: The suburbs in question have a longstanding and significant connection to the Merri-bek. This relationship is not solely based on geographical proximity but also on the integrated social and civic fabric of our community. Residents depend heavily on the services provided by Merri-bek and dividing them into different electorates would disrupt this cohesion and representation. The prospect of having two Members of Parliament for one suburb within the same Local Government Area would lead to administrative complexities and inefficiencies, thereby disadvantaging the residents.

2. Established Boundaries: The current boundary along Park Street and Lygon Street serves as a natural and easily recognisable divide that has effectively delineated the Electoral Division of Wills and Melbourne for many years. Altering this well-established boundary is likely to result in confusion and disruption for the residents who have long identified with these demarcations.

3. Multicultural Integrity and Representation: The distinct communities of interest within the Electoral Division of Wills and Melbourne are of immense value. Australia prides itself on fostering multicultural harmony, and the Division of Wills epitomizes this ideal. Dividing these vibrant and diverse ethnic groups into separate electorates threatens to weaken the strong community bonds that have been nurtured over time. These communities deserve to remain united within Wills where their unique interests and voices can be effectively represented.

The proposed changes do not appear to consider the true interests and dynamics of our community. They seem to be made without a comprehensive understanding of

the local context and the practical implications for the residents. The integrity and effective representation of our community are at significant risk.

In light of these considerations, I respectfully urge the Committee to reconsider and reject the proposed changes to the Division of Wills.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your consideration of my concerns.