



Objection 405

Lily

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27th June 2024

Augmented Electoral Commission
Australian Electoral Commission

Objection to the proposed federal redistribution

Dear Commission Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the proposed redistribution of Victorian electorates. This submission will focus on the proposed boundaries of the division of Wills, and by extension that of Maribyrnong.

I write in objection to the proposed boundary changes of Wills, specifically in the area of Brunswick West and Pascoe Vale South. The reasons I believe these suburbs should remain wholly within the division of Wills are outlined below.

- A. I have lived for many years between the suburbs of Brunswick West, Pascoe Vale South, and Coburg. These areas are fundamentally connected, sharing communities either side of the Citylink. My social and civil life has always centred on areas like Sydney Road and Melville Roads during my time living here. Citylink does not represent a sufficient border to be considered as the ideal electoral boundary, when alternatives such as the Moonee Ponds Creek exist in such close proximity. From sports clubs to school zones, it is not worth separating the areas of Brunswick West and Pascoe Vale South that exist either side of the Citylink.
- B. The services delivered by the Merri-Bek Council encompass the whole areas of Brunswick West and Pascoe Vale South, as well as the rest of the current boundaries of Wills. Separating parts of Brunswick West and Pascoe Vale South that belong to the Merri-Bek council and adding them to the Federal division of Maribyrnong will limit our ability to organise and seek representation as a community. Community groups frequently organise based on council area, including the Merri-Bek Bicycle User Group and Climate Action Merri-Bek. Federal divisions and council areas are of course not 1:1, however the historical connection of Merri-Bek to Wills over many years must be taken into account and preserved.
- C. Taking into account travel within an electorate is important, and the Citylink is truly not a barrier to travel within Brunswick West and Pascoe Vale South. Albion Street, Moreland Road, and Reynard Street flow quickly and are used very frequently by locals. They connect a single community, not different ones.

The proposed changes to the division of Wills are, in my view, not demonstrative of the community's interests and I ask that these segments be rejected.

Yours Sincerely,

Lily [REDACTED]