



Objection 436

Kurdistan Patriotic Association of Victoria



KURDISTAN PATRIOTIC ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

19/05/2024

Dear Redistribution Committee,

I write to you, on behalf of Kurdistan Patriotic Association of Victoria Incorporated (KPAV), to object the proposed boundaries of the Federal Electoral Division of Wills, as per the proposed redistribution report released on 31 May 2024.

KPAV 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. KPAV strongly opposes the removal of parts of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick West – include as relevant from the Division of Wills.

The key reasons we believe that the entirety of the suburb of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick West – include as relevant should remain in Wills are:

- 1. Our suburb has a longstanding connection to the City of Merri-bek (formerly Moreland) having been part of that Local Government Area. Many people from our Kurdistan Patriotic Association of Victoria Incorporated, are residents in the neighbouring suburbs of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Hadfield and in Glenroy more broadly.
- 2. It is essential that our community is not divided. We have cultural, language and religious needs that need to be protected and nurtured. Advocating to council and the Federal government on behalf of our community for culturally competent services and sufficient funding will be extremely difficult if our community is split into multiple electorate and council areas. Being within one electorate helps us in establishing ourselves in being part of the cultural fabric of our community.
- 3. The new electorate we are proposed to be included in (Maribyrnong) does not reflect our community.
- 4. Our community continues to grow as do our needs many of us experience barriers to employment, education, health equity and access to services. Merri-bek council has many diverse staff and services which are curated to the needs of our community we don't want to build this from scratch with an entirely new council area.
- 5. The sense of belonging, security and connectedness that comes from being part of one suburb and electorate area should not be understated. It has helped us reduce community isolation by building a community hub and staying connected as a community. Removing parts of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick West include as relevant from Wills will cut off the shared collective interests we have as a community group and cut off the relationships we have established as a strong collective.

The removal of large parts of the suburb of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick West – include as relevant from Wills is not reflective of the interests and needs of our

community group, and the community we are a part of at large. For these reasons, we urge the committee to reconsider the proposed boundary changes related to our suburb of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick West – include as relevant.

Thank you for considering our objections.

Kind regards,

Kurdistan Patriotic Association of Victoria

