



Objection 386

Federation of Nepalese Community Associations of
Australia

2 pages



Dear Redistribution Committee,

Federation of Nepalese Community Association of Australia (FeNCAA) and the Australian Nepalese Multicultural Centre (ANMC) welcome the opportunity to provide you with an opposition to the proposed redistribution of Wills.

We would like to oppose the removal of parts of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick West and Glenroy from Wills and oppose the addition of Fitzroy North, Princes Hill and Carlton North to Wills.

It is our view that the proposal to divide Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick West and Glenroy from Wills and add Fitzroy North, Carlton North and Princess Hill are not demonstrative of the 'communities of interest' and 'means of travel and communication' and 'physical features' considerations.

FeNCAA is the peak advocacy body representing 92 organisations in all states and Territories of Australia. It includes 17 community associations from Victoria, including the Australian Nepalese Multicultural Centre (ANMC), Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV), Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria (DBSV), Yeti Football Club (YFC), Australian Nepalese Senior Citizen Society (ANSCS), Tamang Society of Victoria (TSV), Magar Samaj Victoria (MSV) and Australia Nepal Public Link (ANPL). We are providing a joint submission because the view of the entire community and different Nepalese bodies we represent is consistent – we all support the current boundaries in Wills as the local area, which has been a strong community hub that enables us to remain connected through our cultural, language and religious needs.

The contribution of Nepalese migrants has become a significant part of our wonderful multicultural story. The Nepalese community is so strong in Wills, we often refer to it as 'Little Nepal'. This includes Nepalese people in Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South and Brunswick West who we work with at the FeNCAA and ANMC. It is essential that our community is not divided by boundaries or electorates. We have cultural, language and religious needs that need to be protected and nurtured. Our community languages, Cultural Activity, Sports and recreations, Health and Wellbeing Sessions, Mental Health and safety Training with young family, youth, children, women, seniors and international students are all able to thrive because of the existing community infrastructure and organisational realities in Wills. This is evidence of a clear community of interest.

At FeNCAA and ANMC, we work with the organised community in Wills, bordered by the logical and current natural boundary of the Moonee Ponds Creek, which has different communities on the other side. The Nepalese community's infrastructure and organisational presence – Nepalese restaurants, cultural services, social groups, language centres, aged care services is almost exclusively on the side of the Moonee Ponds Creek that is in Wills. This includes Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy. There is a Nepalese library, multiple Nepalese restaurants and businesses on Sydney Road, Glenroy, Brunswick West.

The Nepalese community in Wills is a defined community and a new and emerging migrant group. This means the relationships with neighbours, local government services (Merri-Bek), school catchments and community organisations have been developed through hard work and commitment to the community. We rely on a coordinated approach

In contrast, the Nepalese community's presence south of Brunswick Road (Fitzroy North, Carlton North, Princes Hill) and west of Moonee Ponds Creek (Maribyrnong division) is limited.

Rupturing the suburbs of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South and Brunswick West would continue to work for the united Nepalese voices and multicultural advocate practices within the mini Nepalese



community. The proposed relocation of new boundaries will totally separate the community unity, connections and shared wellbeing. Thus FeNCAA and ANMC strongly oppose the new boundaries, because it would negatively impact our ability to support the Nepalese community to access local and federal government services and negatively impact our new and emerging migrant community which has worked so hard to build home and community in Wills.

Carving up the suburbs of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South and Brunswick West along with proposed Pascoe Vale Road boundary will cut through the Nepalese community and split half into a community and suburbs that are very different. As a results community will disconnect and relationships develops over the periods of decays will mislead by the proposed boundary.

For these reasons we request that the Committee implements a different redistribution that keeps Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick West and Glenroy and excludes Fitzroy North, Carlton North and Princes Hill.

This, rather than the proposal, will have due regard to the 'community of interest' consideration and accurately reflect the 'means of travel and communication' in these areas.

Thank you for your consideration

Yours Sincerely

Bom Yonzon
President
Federation of Nepalese Community Associations of Australia (FeNCAA)
27th June 2024