



Objection 67

Vicki Christofilopoulos

2 pages

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From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 10 June 2024 6:24 AM
To: FedRedistribution - VIC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Categories: [REDACTED]

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Subject: Objection to the Proposed Abolition of the Federal Electoral Seat of Higgins

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I am writing to you with a deep sense of concern and urgency regarding the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins as part of the current redistribution process. My name is Vicki Christofilopoulos, and as a long-standing resident of the Stonnington community within Higgins, I feel compelled to voice my strong objection to this proposal.

The seat of Higgins, with its rich history and unique community identity, has been a cornerstone of federal representation for our area. The proposed abolition and subsequent merging into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, threatens to dilute the voice of Higgins residents, including those in Stonnington, and diminish our influence in federal politics. This move would undoubtedly lead to less tailored representation for our local needs, which have been meticulously understood and addressed by our current MP.

Higgins is not just a name on a map; it is a vibrant tapestry of communities, each with its own character and aspirations. From the bustling streets of Prahran to the serene parks of Malvern, our electorate has fostered a sense of belonging and shared purpose. The proposed redistribution threatens to disrupt this cohesive identity, scattering our communities into different electorates with potentially divergent priorities. This fragmentation would not only erode our collective voice but also compromise the integrity of our community's historical and cultural fabric.

Moreover, the established relationships that residents have cultivated with our current MP are invaluable. These relationships are the bedrock of effective advocacy and service delivery, ensuring that our specific needs are addressed with the attention they deserve. The proposed changes would disrupt these connections, leading to a potential loss of continuity in services and advocacy that our community relies on.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The redrawing of boundaries and the reassignment of electorates would inevitably lead to confusion among voters regarding their new representatives, polling places, and electoral processes. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process that is the foundation of our society.

Furthermore, the impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overstated. Higgins has a number of ongoing projects that are crucial to the development and well-being of our community. From infrastructure improvements to social programs, these initiatives require consistent support and understanding from our representatives. The proposed abolition risks deprioritising these projects under new representatives who may not be as familiar with the specific needs and nuances of the Higgins community.

In light of these concerns, I earnestly request the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is essential for preserving the unique identity, representation, and continuity that our community has enjoyed for so long.

Thank you for considering my objection. I trust that the AEC will take into account the significant impact this proposal would have on the residents of Higgins and make a decision that truly reflects the best interests of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Vicki Christofilopoulos

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