



Objection 90

Andrew Stephens

2 pages

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Date: Friday, 14 June 2024 4:13:52 PM

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

To the Australian Electoral Commission,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Andrew Stephens, and I am writing from my home at [REDACTED] South Yarra, [REDACTED]. As a resident deeply invested in the welfare of our community, I feel compelled to voice my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins.

The AEC's proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, in an effort to balance electoral representation, strikes at the very heart of our community's identity and cohesion. While I understand the necessity of adapting to population changes, I believe that the dissolution of Higgins would have profound and far-reaching consequences.

First and foremost, the abolition of Higgins would dilute the voice of its residents, including those in the vibrant community of Stonnington. This area, with its unique character and needs, would be absorbed into larger, more diverse electorates, potentially leading to less tailored representation. The intricate tapestry of our local issues could become lost in the broader strokes of neighbouring electorates' agendas, leaving our specific concerns unaddressed.

Higgins is not just a name on a map; it is a community with a rich history and a strong sense of identity. The seat has long been a bastion of civic pride, with a heritage that includes notable figures such as Harold Holt and Peter Costello. The proposed redistribution threatens to fragment this identity, scattering our community into electorates with different priorities and challenges. This disruption could weaken the bonds that have been carefully woven over decades.

Furthermore, the established relationships between Higgins residents and our current Member of Parliament are invaluable. These connections, built on trust and mutual understanding, facilitate effective advocacy and service. A new representative, unfamiliar with the intricacies of our community, may struggle to provide the same level of support and continuity, leading to a potential lapse in the attention given to ongoing local projects and initiatives.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The reallocation of Higgins residents to new electorates would undoubtedly cause uncertainty regarding polling places, representatives, and the electoral process itself. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process.

Lastly, I am deeply worried about the impact on local projects and initiatives. The momentum built by our current MP and community leaders could be lost, and new

representatives might not prioritise our specific needs. This disruption could stall or even derail important developments that are crucial to the wellbeing of Higgins residents.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully urge the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is vital for ensuring that the unique voice and needs of Higgins residents are adequately represented in federal politics.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Stephens



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