



Objection 99

Katherine Cole

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 15 June 2024 1:06 PM
To: FedRedistribution - VIC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Categories: [REDACTED]

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Katherine Cole, and I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. As a resident of [REDACTED] Glen Iris [REDACTED], I feel compelled to voice my concerns about this significant change.

The AEC's proposal to dissolve Higgins and merge it into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne is understandably aimed at balancing electoral representation due to population changes. However, I believe this decision will have profound and adverse impacts on our community.

First and foremost, the loss of representation is a grave concern. The abolition of Higgins will effectively silence the voices of its long-standing residents and community groups, reducing our influence in federal politics. Higgins has always been a vibrant and active community, and our unique needs and aspirations may not be adequately addressed if we are absorbed into other electorates with different priorities.

Moreover, the community identity of Higgins is deeply rooted in its history and shared experiences. From the bustling streets of Prahran to the serene parks of Malvern, Higgins has a distinct character that binds us together. This identity will be disrupted as our communities are split and absorbed into different electorates, potentially diluting our collective voice and diminishing our sense of belonging.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The redrawing of boundaries will undoubtedly lead to confusion among voters regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process that we hold dear.

Furthermore, the impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overstated. Higgins has numerous ongoing projects that are tailored to the specific needs of our community. These projects may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives who are unfamiliar with the intricacies of our local issues. The continuity and success of these initiatives are vital for the well-being and progress of our community.

In conclusion, I urge the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. The unique identity, established relationships, and ongoing projects within our community are too valuable to be disrupted. Maintaining the current electoral structure is essential for the benefit of Higgins residents and the continued vibrancy of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Katherine Cole

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