



Objection 221

Maria Ellul

2 pages

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Date: Monday, 24 June 2024 8:47:11 PM

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Stonnington, currently within the federal electoral seat of Higgins, to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of this seat. My name is Maria Ellul, and I reside at [REDACTED]. The decision to dissolve Higgins and merge it into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne is deeply troubling for several reasons.

Firstly, the abolition of Higgins will undoubtedly dilute the voice of its residents. Higgins has a rich history and a unique community identity that has been cultivated over many years. By splitting our community and absorbing it into different electorates, the distinct needs and priorities of Stonnington residents will be overshadowed. The nuanced and tailored representation we currently enjoy will be lost, replaced by a more generalised and less effective advocacy.

Higgins is not just a name on a map; it is a vibrant community with its own identity. From the bustling streets of Prahran to the leafy avenues of Malvern, our electorate is a tapestry of diverse yet interconnected neighbourhoods. The history of Higgins, named after Justice H.B. Higgins, is steeped in a legacy of progressive politics and community spirit. This identity will be fractured if our electorate is dissolved, disrupting the sense of belonging and continuity that binds us together.

Moreover, the established relationships between residents and our current Member of Parliament are invaluable. Our MP has been a steadfast advocate for local issues, and the dissolution of Higgins will disrupt these crucial connections. New representatives, unfamiliar with the specific needs and ongoing projects of our community, may not prioritise our concerns. This could lead to the loss of momentum for local initiatives and a decline in the quality of representation.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The redrawing of boundaries and the reallocation of voters to new electorates will inevitably lead to confusion regarding polling places, representatives, and electoral processes. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process.

Finally, the impact on local projects cannot be overstated. Higgins has numerous ongoing initiatives that are vital to our community's development and well-being. These projects, whether they are infrastructure improvements, community services, or cultural events, rely on the support and advocacy of our current representative. A new MP, unfamiliar with the intricacies of these initiatives, may deprioritise them, leading to a loss of progress and potential benefits for our community.

In conclusion, I urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is crucial for preserving the unique identity, effective representation, and ongoing development of our community. The residents of Higgins deserve to have their voices heard and their needs met through a dedicated and tailored representation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Ellul

[REDACTED]

Stonnington, VIC

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