



Objection 291

Sue Leidler

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2024 4:18 PM
To: FedRedistribution - VIC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Categories: [REDACTED]

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Subject: 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 Sue Leidler, and I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. This decision, part of a redistribution effort to balance electoral representation due to population changes, would see Higgins merged into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne. I wish to outline my concerns and reasons for opposing this change.

Higgins is more than just a collection of streets and houses; it is a vibrant community with a rich history and a distinct identity. The seat of Higgins, named after the esteemed Justice H.B. Higgins, has long been a bastion of civic pride and community engagement. Its abolition would not merely be a redrawing of lines on a map but a severing of the ties that bind our community together.

Firstly, the loss of representation is a significant concern. The abolition of Higgins will dilute the voice of its long-standing residents and community groups, reducing their influence in federal politics. Higgins has always been a strong advocate for its residents, ensuring that their unique needs and concerns are heard at the highest levels of government. This representation is vital for maintaining the quality of life and the services that our community relies on.

Secondly, the unique community identity of Higgins will be disrupted. The seat has a storied history, with a community spirit that has been nurtured over decades. This identity will be fragmented as our communities are split and absorbed into different electorates, each with potentially different priorities. The sense of belonging and shared purpose that defines Higgins will be lost, replaced by a patchwork of communities with no common thread.

Electoral confusion is another critical issue. The merging of Higgins into neighbouring electorates 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. Our residents deserve clarity and continuity, not uncertainty and disarray.

Lastly, the impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overstated. Higgins has numerous ongoing projects that are crucial to the community's development and well-being. These projects, many of which

have been championed by our current MP, may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives unfamiliar with the specific needs of the Higgins community. This would be a disservice to the residents who have invested time, effort, and hope into these initiatives.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that the AEC reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. The current electoral structure is vital for maintaining the representation, identity, and well-being of Higgins residents. Our community's voice must not be silenced, and our unique identity must not be fragmented.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the AEC will take these concerns into account and act in the best interests of the Higgins community.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Leidler

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