



Objection 373

Kynan Barlow

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Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to the Higgins electorate in Victoria and the potential abolishment of the seat.

The proposed creation of the 'Melbourne' electorate, which encompasses a significant portion of Victoria's social housing estates, including areas such as North Melbourne, Collingwood, Carlton, Fitzroy, South Yarra, Prahran and Richmond (Australia's largest social housing estate) raises serious concerns about voter segregation based on socio-economic status.

By drawing these boundaries, the Commission appears to be deliberately grouping together voters from similar socio-economic backgrounds, potentially marginalising their voices and creating an imbalanced representation. This approach risks perpetuating and exacerbating existing inequalities, as it may reinforce the very social and economic divisions that our democratic system aims to transcend. Not to mention the perception that voters in these areas tend to favour certain political parties.

Furthermore, the lack of transparency and communication surrounding these proposed changes is deeply concerning. As an independent body, the Commission has a responsibility to act with the utmost transparency and integrity. Every voter has a right to know how and why these changes are being made and a mailed letter explaining the proposed changes and their implications would be an appropriate and necessary step towards ensuring an informed and engaged electorate.

The abolishment of the Higgins electorate and the creation of the 'Melbourne' electorate will significantly impact the voting landscape in Victoria. I urge the Commission to reconsider these proposed changes.

Yours sincerely,

Kynan Barlow