



Objection 47

Elena

2 pages

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] on behalf of [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, 7 June 2024 10:14 PM
To: FedRedistribution - VIC
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Categories: [Redacted]

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Australian Electoral Commission
[Commission's Address]
[City, State, Postcode]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you with a heavy heart and a deep sense of responsibility as a resident of Stonnington within the federal electoral seat of Higgins. My name is Elena, and I am compelled to voice my strong objection to the proposed abolition of our beloved seat. This decision, while aimed at balancing electoral representation, threatens to unravel the very fabric of our community.

Higgins is more than just a name on a map; it is a rich tapestry of history, identity, and collective spirit. Established in 1949 and named after Justice H.B. Higgins, this electorate has been a cornerstone of Melbourne's political landscape. From the leafy streets of Toorak to the vibrant precincts of Prahran, our community thrives on its unique blend of heritage and progress.

The proposed redistribution, which seeks to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, is poised to dilute the voice of Higgins residents. This dilution is not merely a statistical adjustment but a significant erosion of our influence in federal politics. The specific needs and aspirations of Stonnington residents risk being overshadowed by the broader priorities of these larger, amalgamated electorates.

Furthermore, the abolition of Higgins threatens to sever the deep-rooted connections between our community and our current Member of Parliament. These established relationships are the bedrock upon which effective advocacy and tailored representation are built. Disrupting these bonds could lead to a loss of momentum for ongoing local projects and initiatives, many of which are critical to our community's development and well-being.

Consider the unique identity of Higgins—a seat that has been home to a diverse yet cohesive community. Our shared history and collective experiences have fostered a strong sense of belonging and mutual

support. Absorbing our community into disparate electorates with potentially different priorities risks fracturing this unity and undermining our ability to advocate effectively for our local needs.

Moreover, the potential for electoral confusion cannot be understated. Voters may find themselves bewildered by new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation, further disenfranchising the very people this redistribution aims to serve.

The impact on local projects is another pressing concern. Initiatives that have been carefully nurtured under the current representation may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives unfamiliar with the specific needs of the Higgins community. This disruption could stall progress and diminish the quality of life for Stonnington residents.

In light of these concerns, I earnestly request that the Australian Electoral Commission reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not just a matter of preserving boundaries; it is about safeguarding the identity, representation, and future of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the AEC will take into account the profound implications of this decision and act in the best interests of Higgins residents.

Yours sincerely,

Elena

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