



Objection 65

Janelle Howell

2 pages

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
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Subject: Urgent Objection to the Abolition of the Federal Electoral Seat of Higgins

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

My name is Janelle Howell, and I write to you today with a heavy heart and a resolute spirit, imploring you to reconsider the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. The AEC's proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, while ostensibly aimed at balancing electoral representation, threatens to undermine the very fabric of our community.

Higgins is not just a name on a map; it is the heartbeat of Stonnington. This community, with its rich tapestry of history and identity, has long been a bastion of civic engagement and local pride. To dissolve Higgins is to dilute the voice of its residents, reducing our influence in federal politics and potentially leading to representation that is less attuned to our specific needs. The unique character of Stonnington, with its vibrant mix of cultures, heritage sites, and community initiatives, cannot simply be absorbed into other electorates without losing its essence.

The abolition of Higgins will also disrupt the established political relationships that residents have cultivated over the years. Our current MP has been a steadfast advocate for our local issues, and the potential disruption to services and advocacy is a grave concern. The residents of Higgins have long-standing ties with their representative, and the dissolution of this relationship will undoubtedly lead to a loss of tailored representation.

Furthermore, the proposed changes will sow seeds of electoral confusion among voters. The reallocation of polling places, the introduction of new representatives, and the redrawing of electoral boundaries will create a labyrinthine scenario that could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation. The clarity and continuity that Higgins provides are invaluable in maintaining a robust democratic process.

The impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overstated. Higgins has been the cradle of numerous local projects, from community gardens to heritage preservation efforts. The momentum of these initiatives, driven by representatives familiar with our community's specific needs, may falter under new leadership unfamiliar with our local landscape.

In light of these concerns, 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 Higgins are too valuable to be sacrificed. Maintaining the current electoral structure is paramount for the continued prosperity and representation of Higgins residents.

Thank you for considering my objections. I trust that the AEC will recognise the importance of preserving the seat of Higgins for the benefit of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Janelle Howell

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