



Objection 66

Deborah Fewster

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To the AEC

Objection to proposed abolition of Higgins and redistribution of Higgins electors

I write to lodge my objection to the proposal by the AEC to abolish the federal electorate of Higgins and redistribute electors to adjacent seats.

As a resident of Malvern, I understand that under the proposed changes, I would become an elector in Kooyong.

This concerns me greatly.

I have resided in Higgins for the past 14 years. Previously, I resided for 10 years in Kooyong.

In my experience, there is no common history, shared community identity or alignment of interests between electors in Higgins and electors in Kooyong. Indeed, in my experience, for Higgins electors in my part of the electorate, there is closer – although imperfect – alignment of identity, interests, and priorities with Macnamara electors.

I am particularly concerned that the proposed abolition of Higgins will split our local municipality (Stonnington) into five federal electorates. This will impede the council's ability to effectively advocate on federal issues that matter in our local area and make it difficult to secure Commonwealth investment for priority projects identified by Stonnington residents. Our council will be hard pressed to engage five federal MPs – and the fact that each will cover a very small part of Stonnington and bigger parts of other municipalities means that Stonnington will struggle to have its voice heard. In my case, I am concerned that Stonnington's voice will be swamped by Boroondara in Kooyong.

In my view, the proposed boundary split for Prahran under the proposed redistribution is particularly ridiculous and unfair for electors in that part of Higgins, in terms of community representation in the Parliament of Australia.

I believe this proposal will result in a diminution of our community's voice and advocate for the AEC to abandon its recommendation to abolish Higgins and redistribute electors to other electorates.

Yours faithfully,

Deborah Fewster.