



Objection 103

Harry Stephens

2 pages

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Date: Saturday, 15 June 2024 3:48:47 PM

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Subject: Objection to the Abolition of the Federal Electoral Seat of Higgins

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Harry Stephens, and I reside at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Armadale. I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. This seat, with its rich history and unique community identity, deserves to remain intact for several compelling reasons.

Higgins is not just a name on a map; it is the heart of Stonnington, a vibrant community with a voice that has resonated in federal politics for decades. The proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to dilute this voice, leaving residents with less tailored representation. The unique needs and concerns of our community risk being overshadowed by the broader priorities of these larger, more diverse electorates.

The abolition of Higgins will undoubtedly disrupt the established relationships that residents have built with their current MP. These relationships are not merely political; they are vital channels through which local concerns are addressed and advocacy is effectively conducted. The dissolution of Higgins could lead to a significant loss of continuity in services and support that residents have come to rely on.

Moreover, Higgins boasts a unique community identity, one that is deeply rooted in its history and the shared experiences of its residents. This identity will be fractured as communities are split and absorbed into different electorates. Each of these neighbouring electorates has its own distinct priorities, which may not align with the specific needs of the Higgins community.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. Voters will be left bewildered about their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process that relies on an informed and active electorate.

The impact on local projects and initiatives is also a pressing issue. Higgins has numerous ongoing projects that are tailored to the specific needs of our community. Under new representatives unfamiliar with these initiatives, there is a real risk that these projects may lose momentum or be deprioritised, to the detriment of the community.

In conclusion, I urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is crucial for the continued representation and well-being of Higgins residents. Our community's voice, identity, and ongoing projects depend on it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Harry Stephens

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