



Objection 141

Rosamund Stobie

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 19 June 2024 6:59 AM

To: FedRedistribution - VIC

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Higgins redistribution objection

Categories: [REDACTED]

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

My name is Rosamund Stobie, and I am writing to you from [REDACTED] Castlemaine. I wish to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. This proposal, part of a redistribution to balance electoral representation due to population changes, involves merging Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne.

As a resident deeply connected to the Higgins community, I find this proposal deeply troubling. Higgins is not just a name on a map; it is a vibrant, unique community with a rich history and a distinct identity. The proposed abolition threatens to dilute the voice of Higgins residents, reducing our influence in federal politics and potentially leading to less tailored representation.

Higgins is a tapestry of diverse communities, each with its own unique character and priorities. From the bustling streets of Prahran to the leafy avenues of Malvern, Higgins is a microcosm of Melbourne itself. The community identity that has been carefully nurtured over decades will be disrupted as our communities are split and absorbed into different electorates with potentially different priorities. This is not just a loss of a seat; it is a loss of our collective voice and identity.

Furthermore, the established relationships residents have with the current MP are invaluable. Our MP understands the unique needs and challenges of the Higgins community, and this understanding translates into effective advocacy and services. The proposed abolition will disrupt these relationships, leading to a potential loss of services and advocacy that are tailored to our specific needs.

One of my primary concerns is the impact on local projects and initiatives. Higgins has a number of ongoing projects that are crucial to the community, from infrastructure improvements to social programs. These projects have been carefully planned and are being executed with the specific needs of Higgins residents in mind. The proposed abolition threatens to disrupt these projects, as new representatives unfamiliar with our community may deprioritise or even abandon them. This would be a significant setback for our community, undermining the progress we have made and stalling future development.

Moreover, the proposed changes will undoubtedly lead to electoral confusion. Voters will be uncertain about their new electorates, polling places, and representatives, which could lead to decreased voter

engagement and participation. This is a critical issue, as a well-informed and engaged electorate is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy.

In conclusion, I urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. The unique identity, established relationships, and ongoing projects of the Higgins community are too valuable to be lost in a redistribution. Maintaining the current electoral structure is crucial for the benefit of Higgins residents and for the continued progress and prosperity of our community.

Thank you for considering my objection. I trust that the AEC will take into account the significant impact this proposal will have on the Higgins community and will act in the best interest of its residents.

Yours sincerely,

Rosamund Stobie

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