



Objection 143

Marcel Kreis

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 June 2024 10:38 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 Marcel Kreis, and I am writing to you from [REDACTED] Toorak, with a deep sense of urgency and concern regarding the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. As a resident of Stonnington, I feel compelled to voice my strong objection to this proposal, which I believe will have far-reaching negative consequences for our community.

The AEC's proposal to abolish Higgins as part of a redistribution to balance electoral representation due to population changes involves merging our beloved seat into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne. While I understand the need for redistribution, I am convinced that the abolition of Higgins will significantly dilute the voice of its residents, including those of Stonnington, reducing our influence in federal politics and potentially leading to less tailored representation for our local needs.

Higgins is not just a collection of suburbs; it is a community with a unique identity and a rich history. From the vibrant cultural tapestry of Prahran Market to the serene beauty of the Yarra River, our electorate is a microcosm of Melbourne's diversity and spirit. The proposed abolition threatens to disrupt this community identity, splitting us into different electorates with potentially divergent priorities. This fragmentation would undermine the sense of unity and shared purpose that has long defined Higgins.

Moreover, the established relationships that residents have with our current Member of Parliament are invaluable. These relationships have been built over years of service, advocacy, and mutual understanding. The abolition of Higgins would disrupt these connections, potentially leading to a loss of continuity in services and advocacy that are crucial to our community's well-being.

There is also the practical concern of electoral confusion. Merging Higgins into neighbouring electorates will undoubtedly create confusion among voters regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process.

One of my most pressing concerns is the impact on local projects and initiatives. Higgins is home to numerous ongoing projects that are tailored to the specific needs of our community. These initiatives,

ranging from infrastructure improvements to social programs, are at risk of losing momentum or being deprioritised under new representatives unfamiliar with the unique needs of Higgins residents.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully request that the AEC reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is essential for preserving the voice, identity, and well-being of Higgins residents. Our community deserves representation that understands and prioritises our unique needs and aspirations.

Thank you for considering my objection. I trust that the AEC will take into account the importance of maintaining the integrity and representation of the Higgins electorate for the benefit of all its residents.

Yours sincerely,

Marcel Kreis

[Redacted]
Toorak [Redacted]

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