



Objection 148

Fred S Grimwade

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2024 9:03 AM
To: FedRedistribution - VIC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Categories: [REDACTED]

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I trust this message finds you well. My name is Fred S Grimwade, and I reside at [REDACTED] Toorak, [REDACTED]. I write to you today with a profound sense of urgency and concern regarding the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins, a decision that I believe would have far-reaching and detrimental effects on our community.

Higgins, with its storied history and vibrant community spirit, is not merely a collection of streets and houses; it is a tapestry of lives intertwined by shared experiences and common aspirations. The AEC's proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to unravel this delicate fabric, diluting the voice of Stonnington residents and potentially leading to less tailored representation for our local needs.

Our community's identity is steeped in history, with Higgins having been represented by notable figures including Prime Ministers and Treasurers. This legacy is not just a matter of pride but a testament to the significant role our electorate has played in shaping national policy. The abolition of Higgins would disrupt this continuity, erasing a unique chapter in Australia's political narrative and dispersing our community into electorates with potentially divergent priorities.

Moreover, the established relationships that residents have with our current Member of Parliament are invaluable. These connections, built over time, facilitate effective advocacy and service delivery. The proposed redistribution risks severing these ties, leading to a disruption of services and a potential loss of momentum for ongoing local projects and initiatives. New representatives, unfamiliar with the specific needs of the Higgins community, may inadvertently deprioritise these efforts, to the detriment of our residents.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The redrawing of boundaries could lead to uncertainty among voters regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion may result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process and the principle of fair representation.

In light of these considerations, I respectfully urge the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not merely a matter of preserving historical

boundaries but is essential for ensuring that the voices of Higgins residents continue to be heard, and their unique needs adequately represented.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the AEC will take into account the profound implications of this proposed change and act in the best interests of the Higgins community.

Yours sincerely,

Fred S Grimwade

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