



Objection 290

Phillip Pease

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2024 4:17 PM
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,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Phillip Pease, and I am writing to you from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Mentone, with a matter of great concern regarding the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne.

As someone who has witnessed the evolution of Higgins over the years, I am compelled to voice my strong objection to this proposal. The decision to dissolve Higgins and merge it into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne is one that I believe will have far-reaching and detrimental consequences.

Firstly, the loss of representation for the residents of Higgins cannot be overstated. Higgins is not just a geographical area; it is a community with a rich history and a distinct identity. The voices of long-standing residents and community groups, who have actively contributed to the fabric of this electorate, will be diluted. This reduction in influence within federal politics is a disservice to the very people who have shaped Higgins into what it is today.

Moreover, the unique community identity of Higgins is something that should be preserved, not disrupted. The electorate has its own set of priorities and a shared sense of belonging that will be fragmented if it is absorbed into different electorates. This disruption will inevitably lead to a misalignment of priorities and a loss of the cohesive community spirit that Higgins residents cherish.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The proposed changes will undoubtedly lead to confusion among voters regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion can result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process. It is essential that we maintain clarity and continuity to ensure that the residents of Higgins remain engaged and informed participants in our democracy.

Higgins is home to several local projects and initiatives that are crucial to the community's well-being. The potential disruption of these projects, due to new representatives who may not be familiar with the specific needs of Higgins, is a matter of great concern. These initiatives, which have been tailored to address the unique challenges and opportunities within Higgins, risk losing momentum or being deprioritised under new leadership.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is essential for the continued representation, community identity, and democratic engagement of Higgins residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Phillip Pease

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