



Objection 313

Roger Velik

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 26 June 2024 7:20 AM

To: FedRedistribution - VIC

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Higgins redistribution objection

Categories: [REDACTED]

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Subject: Urgent 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 Roger Velik, and I reside at [REDACTED] Glen Iris [REDACTED]. I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. This significant change, as part of a redistribution to balance electoral representation due to population changes, is deeply concerning for several reasons that I believe merit your urgent attention.

The seat of Higgins is more than just a delineation on a map; it is the heart of a vibrant community with a rich history and a unique identity. From the bustling streets of Prahran to the leafy avenues of Malvern, Higgins has always been a melting pot of cultures, ideas, and aspirations. The proposed merger into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to dilute the voice of Higgins residents, particularly those in Stonnington, and reduce our influence in federal politics. This dilution could lead to less tailored representation, leaving our local needs and concerns unaddressed.

Higgins has long been a bastion of community spirit, where residents and community groups have established strong, enduring relationships with our current Member of Parliament. The abolition of this seat would disrupt these relationships, potentially leading to a loss of services and advocacy that have been meticulously built over the years. The unique community identity of Higgins, with its rich tapestry of history and shared experiences, would be fragmented, absorbed into electorates with potentially different priorities. This disruption is not just a loss of a seat but a loss of a community's soul.

Furthermore, the proposed changes could lead to significant electoral confusion. Voters may find themselves bewildered by new electorates, unfamiliar polling places, and representatives they have never engaged with before. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process that is the bedrock of our society.

The impact on local projects and initiatives is another pressing concern. Higgins is home to numerous ongoing projects that are vital to our community's development and well-being. These initiatives, carefully nurtured and championed by our current representatives, may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives who are unfamiliar with the specific needs of the Higgins community. This could have far-reaching consequences, stalling progress and innovation that are crucial to our local area.

I implore the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not just a matter of preserving boundaries; it is about safeguarding the voice, identity, and future of a community that has thrived under its current representation. The residents of Higgins deserve to have their unique needs and aspirations recognised and addressed within the federal political landscape.

Thank you for considering my concerns. 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,

Roger Velik

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