



Objection 367

Virginia Wallace

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2024 10:56 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 Virginia Wallace, and I am writing to express my profound concern and strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. As a resident of Stonnington, I feel compelled to voice the significant implications this decision would have on our community.

The AEC's proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne in response to population changes is understandable. However, the potential consequences for the residents of Higgins, particularly those in Stonnington, are deeply troubling.

The abolition of Higgins would dilute the voice of our residents, significantly reducing our influence in federal politics. Our community has a long-standing tradition of active participation and engagement in the political process. By dispersing us into various neighbouring electorates, our unique needs and priorities risk being overshadowed by broader, less tailored agendas. The result would be a less effective representation for Stonnington, where local concerns might not receive the attention they deserve.

Higgins is more than just a collection of streets and houses; it is a community with a rich history and a distinct identity. From the bustling Chapel Street to the serene parks of Malvern East, our electorate is a tapestry of diverse yet interconnected neighbourhoods. Splitting Higgins and merging it into different electorates would disrupt this intricate social fabric, potentially leading to a loss of community spirit and cohesion.

Moreover, the established relationships between residents and our current Member of Parliament are invaluable. These relationships have been built over years of dedicated service and advocacy. The abolition of Higgins would not only disrupt these connections but also potentially impact the continuity of services and support that our MP provides. The trust and rapport that have been cultivated cannot be easily transferred or replicated.

Electoral confusion is another critical concern. The redistribution would likely lead to uncertainty among voters regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process.

Lastly, I am deeply worried about the impact on local projects and initiatives. Higgins has several ongoing projects that are crucial to our community's development and well-being. Under new representatives unfamiliar with our specific needs, these initiatives may lose momentum or be deprioritized, to the detriment of our community.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is essential for the continued effective representation and well-being of Higgins residents. Our community's voice, identity, and ongoing projects depend on it.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Virginia Wallace

[REDACTED]

Malvern East [REDACTED]

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