



Objection 408

Ollie Batch

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2024 9:16 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 message finds you well. My name is Ollie Batch, and I am writing to express my deep concern and objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. This proposal, as part of a redistribution effort to balance electoral representation due to population changes, involves merging Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne. While I understand the rationale behind this decision, I believe it will have several adverse effects on the residents of Higgins, which I would like to outline.

Firstly, the abolition of Higgins will significantly dilute the voice of its residents, many of whom have been long-standing members of this vibrant community. Higgins has a rich history and a unique identity that has been carefully nurtured over the years. By merging it with neighbouring electorates, we risk losing the distinct representation that has been tailored to our specific needs and concerns. This dilution of representation will undoubtedly reduce our influence in federal politics, leaving many community groups and individuals feeling unheard and unrepresented.

Furthermore, the proposed changes will likely lead to considerable electoral confusion among voters. The residents of Higgins have grown accustomed to their polling places, representatives, and the overall electoral process within their current boundaries. Introducing new electorates, polling places, and representatives will create uncertainty and confusion, potentially leading to decreased voter engagement and participation. This is a significant concern, as a well-informed and engaged electorate is crucial for a healthy democracy.

Another critical issue is the impact on ongoing local projects and initiatives. Higgins has several projects that are currently in progress, and these initiatives are tailored to the specific needs of our community. By merging Higgins into neighbouring electorates, there is a risk that these projects may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives who may not be as familiar with the unique needs of the Higgins community. This could have long-lasting consequences for the development and well-being of our area.

Higgins is not just a name on a map; it is a community with a rich history and a strong sense of identity. From the bustling streets of Prahran to the leafy avenues of Malvern, our electorate is a tapestry of diverse and vibrant neighbourhoods. The proposed abolition threatens to unravel this tapestry, disrupting

the established relationships residents have with their current MP and the services and advocacy they rely on.

In light of these concerns, I kindly request that the Australian Electoral Commission reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is essential for preserving the unique identity of our community, ensuring effective representation, and safeguarding the progress of ongoing local projects.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will consider the importance of maintaining the seat of Higgins for the benefit of its residents.

Yours sincerely,

Ollie Batch

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