



Objection 45

Angela Brown

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 7 June 2024 10:10 PM

To: FedRedistribution - VIC

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Higgins redistribution objection

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Angela Brown
[REDACTED]

Australian Electoral Commission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my profound concern and objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne, as part of the recent redistribution plan aimed at balancing electoral representation due to population changes. This proposal, which entails merging Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, stands to significantly impact the residents of Higgins, particularly those within the Stonnington community.

Higgins, a seat with a rich tapestry of history and a distinct community identity, has long been a beacon of representation for its residents. The abolition of this seat would dilute the voice of Higgins/Stonnington residents, reducing our influence in federal politics and potentially leading to less tailored representation for our local needs. This is not merely a logistical change; it is a profound alteration that threatens the very essence of our community's political engagement.

The unique community identity and history of Higgins, which has been carefully nurtured over decades, would be disrupted as our communities are split and absorbed into different electorates with potentially divergent priorities. This fragmentation risks eroding the cohesive social fabric that has been a hallmark of Higgins, and the distinct character of our neighbourhoods may be lost in the process.

Moreover, the established relationships that residents have with our current Member of Parliament are at risk. These relationships are not just political; they are built on years of trust and advocacy. The disruption to these relationships could lead to a lapse in services and a decline in the effective representation of our community's needs.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The proposed changes could lead to confusion among voters regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process that is the cornerstone of our society.

Furthermore, the impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overstated. Ongoing projects that are vital to the Higgins community may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives who are unfamiliar with the specific needs and nuances of our community. This could have long-lasting repercussions on the progress and development of our local area.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is paramount for the continued representation and well-being of Higgins residents. The unique identity, established relationships, and ongoing projects within our community must be preserved to ensure that our voices continue to be heard and our needs adequately addressed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Brown

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