



Objection 46

Anna

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 7 June 2024 10:13 PM

To: FedRedistribution - VIC

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Higgins redistribution objection

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To the Australian Electoral Commission,

My name is Anna, and I am writing to express my deep concern and objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. The AEC's decision to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, as part of a redistribution to balance electoral representation due to population changes, threatens to dismantle the very fabric of our community.

Higgins, which includes the vibrant community of Stonnington, has long been a bastion of unique identity and robust representation. The proposed abolition would not merely be a matter of redrawing lines on a map; it would dilute the voice of Higgins and Stonnington residents, reducing their influence in federal politics and potentially leading to less tailored representation for our local needs. The rich tapestry of our community, woven over decades, would be torn apart, leaving threads of our identity scattered across new electorates with potentially divergent priorities.

Consider the loss of representation for the long-standing residents and community groups of Higgins. These individuals and organisations have played a pivotal role in shaping our electorate's character and ensuring that our collective voice is heard in the corridors of power. To merge us into neighbouring electorates is to risk silencing this voice, reducing our influence in federal politics, and undermining the advocacy that has been built over years of dedicated effort.

Moreover, the community identity of Higgins is not something that can be easily reconstituted. Our history, our shared experiences, and our local culture are integral to who we are. Splitting our community and absorbing it into different electorates would disrupt this identity, leading to a fragmentation that cannot be mended by administrative fiat. Each part of Higgins has its own story, its own needs, and its own aspirations, which are best served by a dedicated representative who understands and champions our cause.

The impact on local projects is another grave concern. Higgins is home to numerous ongoing initiatives that are crucial to our community's development and well-being. These projects, tailored to the specific needs of our residents, risk losing momentum or being deprioritised under new representatives unfamiliar with our unique context. The continuity and success of these initiatives depend on the stable and knowledgeable representation that Higgins currently enjoys.

In conclusion, I urge the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. The proposed changes threaten to dilute our representation, disrupt our community identity, and jeopardise

the progress of local projects. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not just a matter of political convenience; it is essential for the continued prosperity and cohesion of the Higgins community.

Yours sincerely,

Anna

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