



Objection 52

Kate Davis

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, 8 June 2024 9:57 PM

To: FedRedistribution - VIC

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Higgins redistribution objection

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Subject: Objection to the Proposed Abolition of the Federal Electoral Seat of Higgins

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I trust this message finds you well. My name is Kate Davis, a resident of the Stonnington community within the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. I am writing to express my deep concern and strong objection to the proposed abolition of the Higgins electorate as part of the current redistribution efforts.

As a resident of Stonnington, I am acutely aware of the profound implications this decision holds for our community. The abolition of Higgins will not merely redraw lines on a map; it will dilute the voice of Higgins and Stonnington residents, reducing our influence in federal politics and potentially leading to less tailored representation for our local needs. The unique community identity and history of Higgins, a seat that has long stood as a testament to our collective values and aspirations, will be disrupted as our communities are split and absorbed into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne.

Our electorate has been a beacon of vibrant political engagement and community cohesion. The relationships we have established with our current Member of Parliament are not merely political; they are personal and deeply rooted in years of mutual trust and understanding. Disrupting these established relationships could lead to a significant loss in the quality of services and advocacy that our community has come to rely upon.

Moreover, the proposed changes are likely to sow seeds of electoral confusion among voters. With new electorates, polling places, and representatives, there is a genuine risk of decreased voter engagement and participation. This confusion could erode the democratic process, leaving many feeling disenfranchised and disconnected from the political landscape.

The impact on local projects and initiatives is another pressing concern. Higgins has been the cradle for numerous local projects, from community health initiatives to educational programmes and infrastructure developments. These projects, tailored to the specific needs of the Higgins community, may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives unfamiliar with our unique challenges and aspirations.

Higgins is more than just a name on an electoral map; it is a community with a rich history and a strong sense of identity. The proposed abolition threatens to unravel the very fabric of our community, leaving us fragmented and voiceless in the larger political discourse.

In light of these concerns, I earnestly request that the AEC reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not just a matter of preserving lines on a map; it is about safeguarding the voice, identity, and future of the Higgins community.

Thank you for considering my objection. I hope that the AEC will take into account the profound impact this decision will have on the residents of Higgins and choose to maintain our electorate for the benefit of all.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Davis

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