



Objection 84

Marcia Griffin

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 14 June 2024 9:59 AM

To: FedRedistribution - VIC

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Higgins redistribution objection

Categories: [REDACTED]

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Marcia Griffin, and I am writing to you from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Toorak. I wish to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne as part of the redistribution process aimed at balancing electoral representation due to population changes.

As a resident of Stonnington, I am deeply concerned about the impact this decision will have on our community. The abolition of Higgins will dilute the voice of Higgins/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, which has been meticulously built over the years, will be disrupted as our communities are split and absorbed into different electorates with potentially different priorities.

Higgins has always been more than just a collection of streets and houses; it is a vibrant community with a distinct identity. From the bustling markets of Prahran to the serene parks of Toorak, the electorate of Higgins has a rich tapestry of history and culture that binds us together. This sense of belonging and shared identity is at risk of being eroded if Higgins is merged into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne.

Furthermore, the abolition of Higgins will lead to significant electoral confusion among voters. Many residents will be unsure about their new electorates, polling places, and representatives, which could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation. The disruption of established political relationships is another concern. Residents have built strong relationships with our current MP, and this continuity is crucial for effective representation and advocacy. The proposed changes will disrupt these relationships, potentially affecting the services and support that residents rely on.

Moreover, ongoing local projects and initiatives in Higgins may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives who are unfamiliar with the specific needs of our community. Projects that are crucial to the development and well-being of our community, such as the redevelopment of local infrastructure and support for small businesses, could be at risk.

In conclusion, I urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. The unique identity, established relationships, and ongoing projects in Higgins are too valuable to be disrupted. Maintaining the current electoral structure is essential for the benefit of Higgins residents and for the continued prosperity of our community.

Thank you for considering my objection. I hope that the AEC will take into account the concerns of Higgins residents and work towards a solution that preserves our community's integrity and representation.

Yours sincerely,

Marcia Griffin

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