



Objection 106

Marcia Griffin

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 16 June 2024 9:23 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 am writing to you with a heavy heart and a deep sense of concern regarding the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins, as part of the recent redistribution to balance electoral representation due to population changes. My name is Marcia Griffin, and I reside at [REDACTED] Toorak. As a long-standing resident of Higgins, I feel compelled to voice my objections and highlight the significant repercussions this proposal will have on our community.

The seat of Higgins, encompassing the vibrant community of Stonnington, has long been a cornerstone of federal representation. The proposed merger into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to dilute the unique voice of Higgins residents. This dilution will inevitably lead to less tailored representation for our local needs, leaving our community at a disadvantage in federal politics.

Higgins is not just a geographical entity; it is a community with a rich history and a unique identity. From the bustling streets of Toorak to the serene parks of Malvern, our community has thrived on its shared values and common goals. The abolition of Higgins will disrupt this identity, splitting our communities and absorbing them into different electorates with potentially divergent priorities. This fragmentation will undermine the sense of unity and shared purpose that has been the hallmark of Higgins.

Moreover, the established relationships between Higgins residents and our current Member of Parliament are invaluable. These relationships have fostered a sense of trust and accountability, ensuring that our voices are heard and our concerns addressed. The proposed redistribution will disrupt these relationships, leading to a potential loss of services and advocacy that are tailored to the specific needs of our community.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The proposed changes will undoubtedly 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 bedrock of our society.

Furthermore, the impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overstated. Higgins has numerous ongoing projects that are vital to the well-being and development of our community. The redistribution

may lead to these projects losing momentum or being deprioritised under new representatives who may not be familiar with the specific needs and nuances of the Higgins community.

In light of these concerns, I earnestly request the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is crucial for the continued representation and well-being of Higgins residents. Our community's unique identity, established relationships, and ongoing projects deserve to be preserved and nurtured.

Thank you for considering my objections. I trust that the AEC will take into account the profound impact this decision will have on the residents of Higgins and make a choice that reflects the best interests of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Marcia Griffin

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