



Objection 316

Suzanne Birdseye

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 26 June 2024 7:45 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 as Suzanne Birdseye, a long-standing resident of Stonnington within the federal electoral seat of Higgins. I wish to express my profound objection to the proposed abolition of the Higgins electorate as part of the redistribution plan aimed at balancing electoral representation due to population changes.

Higgins, with its rich history and vibrant community, is more than just a geographical area; it is a tapestry of diverse voices and shared experiences. The proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to unravel this tapestry, diluting the voice of Higgins residents and diminishing our influence in federal politics.

Our community of Stonnington, renowned for its picturesque streets and thriving local businesses, stands to lose tailored representation that understands and champions our unique local needs. The current Member of Parliament for Higgins has cultivated meaningful relationships with residents and community groups, fostering a sense of trust and advocacy that would be disrupted by this proposed change. The established rapport between the MP and the community cannot be easily replicated, and the loss of this connection could result in our local issues being overlooked or misunderstood.

Higgins boasts a unique community identity, one that has been carefully nurtured over the years. This identity is woven into the fabric of our daily lives, from the bustling Prahran Market to the serene Fawkner Park. The redistribution threatens to fragment this identity, as our communities are split and absorbed into different electorates with potentially divergent priorities. The essence of what makes Higgins special could be lost in the process.

Furthermore, the proposed abolition would likely lead to electoral confusion among voters. The task of reorienting oneself to new electorates, polling places, and representatives is no small feat. Such confusion could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the very democratic principles the AEC seeks to uphold.

The impact on local projects and initiatives is another pressing concern. Higgins is home to numerous ongoing projects that are crucial to the wellbeing and development of our community. These initiatives, whether they pertain to infrastructure, social services, or cultural events, may lose momentum or be

deprioritised under new representatives unfamiliar with the specific needs and aspirations of the Higgins community.

In conclusion, I urge the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not merely a matter of convenience; it is essential for preserving the voice, identity, and future of the Higgins community. The unique character and needs of Higgins deserve continued and dedicated representation.

Thank you for considering my objection. I trust that the AEC will take into account the significant impact this decision would have on the residents of Higgins and act in the best interest of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Birdseye

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