



Comment on objections 54

Dhruba Gupta

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
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Subject: Objection to the Abolition of the Federal Electoral Seat of Higgins

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I trust this message finds you well. My name is Dhruva Gupta, and I reside at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Toorak. I am writing to express my deep concern and objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne.

Higgins, a seat with a rich tapestry of history and community spirit, is facing a significant transformation under the AEC's redistribution plan. This proposal, aimed at balancing electoral representation due to population changes, would see Higgins merged into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne. While I understand the necessity of equitable representation, I must highlight several critical reasons why this decision would be detrimental to our community.

First and foremost, the abolition of Higgins would severely dilute the voice of Higgins and Stonnington residents. Our unique community, with its long-standing history and vibrant identity, would be absorbed into broader electorates, potentially leading to less tailored representation for our local needs. The distinctive character of Higgins, with its mix of heritage homes, bustling shopping strips, and green spaces, deserves a dedicated voice in federal politics. The nuanced needs of our community, from preserving our historical sites to advocating for local infrastructure improvements, could be overshadowed in larger, more diverse electorates.

Furthermore, the established relationships between Higgins residents and our current Member of Parliament are invaluable. These connections have fostered a sense of trust and advocacy that would be disrupted by the redistribution. The abolition of Higgins would mean that our community groups and long-standing residents would lose their direct line to a representative who understands and champions their specific concerns. This loss of representation could lead to a decline in the efficacy of our political engagement and advocacy.

Additionally, the impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overstated. Higgins has several ongoing projects that are crucial to the community's development and well-being. From local park upgrades to community health initiatives, these projects require consistent support and understanding from our representatives. The redistribution could result in these initiatives losing momentum or being deprioritised under new representatives who may not be as familiar with the specific needs and history of the Higgins community.

Moreover, the proposed changes would likely cause electoral confusion among voters. The redistribution would necessitate a re-education of voters regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the very democratic process the redistribution

aims to uphold.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully request that the AEC reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is essential for the continued representation and well-being of Higgins residents. Our community's unique identity, established political relationships, and ongoing local projects deserve the stability and dedicated representation that the seat of Higgins provides.

Thank you for considering my objection. I hope that the AEC will take into account the significant impact this decision would have on our community and choose to preserve the seat of Higgins for the benefit of its residents.

Yours sincerely,

Dhruba Gupta

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