



Objection 51

Sam Hayward

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 8 June 2024 2:44 PM
To: FedRedistribution - VIC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Categories: [REDACTED]

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Subject: Urgent Appeal Against the Abolition of the Federal Electoral Seat of Higgins

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Sam Hayward, and I reside at [REDACTED], within the heart of the Higgins electorate. I write to you today with a deep sense of urgency and concern regarding the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins as part of the redistribution aimed at balancing electoral representation due to population changes.

As a resident of Stonnington, I have witnessed firsthand the unique and vibrant community that defines Higgins. This electorate is not just a geographical area; it is a tapestry woven with threads of shared history, common values, and a distinct identity that has been cultivated over many years. The proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to unravel this carefully crafted tapestry, diluting the voice of Higgins residents and potentially leading to less tailored representation for our local needs.

The residents of Higgins, including those in Stonnington, have long enjoyed a strong and influential presence in federal politics. The abolition of this seat would not only remove the voice of longstanding Higgins residents and community groups but also diminish our influence in shaping the policies and decisions that directly impact our lives. Our community has established deep-rooted relationships with our current Member of Parliament, relationships that are vital for effective advocacy and service delivery. Disrupting these relationships would be a disservice to the people of Higgins, who rely on their elected representative to champion their unique needs and aspirations.

Moreover, Higgins is a community with a rich history and a distinct identity. From the bustling streets of Toorak to the serene parks of Malvern, our electorate is a microcosm of Melbourne's diverse and dynamic character. The proposed redistribution would fragment this identity, splitting our communities and absorbing them into different electorates with potentially different priorities. This disruption would not only undermine the sense of belonging that residents feel but also create confusion among voters regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. Such confusion could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation, further weakening our democratic process.

Additionally, ongoing local projects and initiatives, which have been meticulously planned and executed to address the specific needs of the Higgins community, may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new

representatives unfamiliar with our unique challenges. The impact of this disruption would be felt acutely by residents who depend on these projects for their well-being and quality of life.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not merely a matter of preserving boundaries; it is about safeguarding the voice, identity, and future of a community that has contributed significantly to the fabric of our nation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the AEC will take into account the profound implications of this decision and act in the best interests of the Higgins residents.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Hayward

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