



Objection 63

Barbara Joffe

2 pages

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Date: Sunday, 9 June 2024 10:22:20 PM

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I trust this message finds you well. My name is Barbara Joffe, and I reside at [REDACTED] Malvern [REDACTED]. I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins as part of the current redistribution.

Higgins is not merely a collection of suburbs; it is a vibrant tapestry of communities, each with its unique character and history. From the bustling streets of Prahran to the serene avenues of Malvern, Higgins has always been a microcosm of Melbourne's diverse and dynamic spirit. The proposal to dissolve this seat and merge it into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, threatens to unravel this carefully woven fabric.

The voice of Higgins, and more specifically the voice of Stonnington residents, is at risk of being diluted. Our community has long enjoyed a tailored representation that understands and advocates for our local needs. The abolition of Higgins will fragment this representation, dispersing our concerns across multiple electorates where they may not receive the focused attention they deserve. This dilution will undoubtedly lead to a reduction in our influence in federal politics, leaving many long-standing residents and community groups feeling disenfranchised.

Higgins is steeped in a rich history and boasts a unique community identity. This identity is not something that can be easily transplanted or absorbed into other electorates without significant loss. The sense of belonging and continuity that residents feel will be disrupted, as our communities are split and merged with areas that may have different priorities and concerns. This disruption is not merely administrative; it strikes at the heart of what makes Higgins a cohesive and vibrant community.

Moreover, the proposed changes will inevitably lead to electoral confusion. Voters will face the challenge of understanding new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion risks decreasing voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process that relies on informed and active citizenry.

There is also a very real concern about the impact on local projects and initiatives. Higgins has numerous ongoing projects that are tailored to the specific needs of our community. New representatives, unfamiliar with these needs, may deprioritise or fail to support these initiatives, causing them to lose momentum. The progress we have made as a community could be jeopardised, with long-term consequences for our local development.

In conclusion, I urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. The current electoral structure has served the residents of Higgins well, providing tailored representation and fostering a strong sense of community identity. Maintaining this structure is essential for the continued prosperity and engagement of our residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will give due consideration to the concerns raised and recognise the importance of preserving the seat of Higgins for the benefit of its residents.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Joffe

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