



Objection 89

Tommy Auwardt

2 pages

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From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2024 4:11 PM
To: FedRedistribution - VIC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Categories: [REDACTED]

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Tommy Auwardt, and I am writing to express my profound concern and objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. As a long-standing resident of this vibrant community, I feel compelled to highlight several critical reasons why this decision would be detrimental to the residents of Higgins.

The AEC's proposal to dissolve Higgins and merge it into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, ostensibly to balance electoral representation due to population changes, will have far-reaching consequences that I believe have not been fully considered.

Firstly, the loss of representation for Higgins residents is a grave concern. The abolition of our seat will dilute the voice of our community, reducing our influence in federal politics. Higgins has a long and storied history, and its residents have consistently engaged with and contributed to the political landscape. This proposed change would undermine our ability to advocate for our unique needs and priorities effectively.

Moreover, Higgins is not just a collection of streets and houses; it is a community with a distinct identity and history. From the bustling Glenferrie Road to the serene Fawkner Park, our electorate is characterised by a unique blend of cultural heritage and modern vibrancy. Splitting our community and absorbing it into different electorates with potentially different priorities would disrupt this identity, causing a fragmentation that would be difficult, if not impossible, to repair.

The potential for electoral confusion is another significant issue. Voters in Higgins have established routines and relationships with their current polling places and representatives. Redrawing the boundaries and merging us into other electorates could lead to widespread confusion, decreased voter engagement, and lower participation rates. This confusion would not only affect the upcoming elections but could have long-term repercussions on the democratic engagement of our community.

Additionally, the impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overstated. Higgins has numerous ongoing projects that are vital to our community's development and well-being. These initiatives, whether they are infrastructure improvements, community programs, or environmental projects, require consistent advocacy and support. New representatives, unfamiliar with the specific needs and nuances of

our community, may deprioritise or overlook these projects, leading to a loss of momentum and potentially leaving them unfinished.

I implore the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. The importance of maintaining our current electoral structure cannot be overstated. Our community's voice, identity, and ongoing projects depend on it. I trust that the AEC will take these concerns into account and recognise the value of preserving the integrity and representation of the Higgins electorate.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Tommy Auwardt

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