



Objection 105

Harry Stephens

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 16 June 2024 7:35 AM

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,

My name is Harry Stephens, and I reside at [REDACTED] Armadale. I am writing to formally object to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins as part of the recent redistribution plan aimed at balancing electoral representation due to population changes.

The seat of Higgins, a cornerstone of Melbourne’s political landscape, has long been a bastion of vibrant community life and active civic engagement. The AEC’s proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne is a move that I believe will have profound and far-reaching negative consequences for the residents of Higgins, particularly those in the Stonnington area.

Allow me to draw your attention to several key reasons why this proposal should be reconsidered:

****Loss of Representation:**** The abolition of Higgins will dilute the voice of its residents, reducing our influence in federal politics. The unique concerns and aspirations of the Higgins/Stonnington community are at risk of being overshadowed by the broader priorities of larger, newly formed electorates. This will inevitably lead to less tailored representation, compromising our ability to advocate effectively for our local needs.

****Community Identity:**** Higgins is more than just an electoral boundary; it is a community with a rich history and a distinct identity. The proposed changes threaten to fragment this community, scattering its members across different electorates with potentially divergent priorities. The sense of belonging and unity that has been cultivated over decades will be disrupted, eroding the social fabric that binds us together.

****Electoral Confusion:**** The redistribution will undoubtedly lead to confusion among voters regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion is likely to result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process. The residents of Higgins deserve clarity and continuity in their electoral representation.

****Impact on Local Projects:**** Higgins is home to numerous ongoing local projects and initiatives that are tailored to the specific needs of our community. These projects may lose momentum or be deprioritised

under new representatives who are unfamiliar with the intricacies of the Higgins community. The progress we have made could be jeopardised, affecting the quality of life for all residents.

The seat of Higgins, with its storied past and dynamic present, is an integral part of Melbourne's identity. From the bustling streets of Prahran to the serene parks of Malvern, our community is a microcosm of the broader Australian spirit. It is imperative that we preserve the integrity of our electoral representation to ensure that the voices of Higgins residents continue to be heard and respected.

In the spirit of informed and engaged citizenship, I kindly request that the AEC reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is crucial for the continued well-being and representation of the Higgins community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the AEC will take into account the concerns of Higgins residents and work towards a solution that upholds the principles of fair and effective representation.

Yours sincerely,

Harry Stephens

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