



Objection 117

Lisa Woolf

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 17 June 2024 10:03 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,

I trust this message finds you well. My name is Lisa Woolf, and I reside at [REDACTED] Toorak [REDACTED]. I am writing to express my profound objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins as part of the recent redistribution plans. As a resident of Stonnington, I feel compelled to voice my concerns about the potential ramifications this decision may have on our community.

Higgins is more than just a collection of suburbs; it is a vibrant community with a rich history and a unique identity. This seat has long been a bastion of political representation, catering to the specific needs and aspirations of its residents. The proposed merging of Higgins into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to dilute our collective voice, leaving us with less tailored representation in federal politics.

The residents of Stonnington, which forms a significant part of Higgins, have established strong relationships with our current Member of Parliament. These relationships are built on trust, understanding, and a deep knowledge of our local issues. The abolition of Higgins would disrupt these relationships, potentially leading to a loss of services and advocacy that we have come to rely on. It is not merely a matter of political convenience; it is about maintaining the integrity of our community's representation.

Furthermore, the unique community identity and history of Higgins would be severely disrupted. Our community is characterised by its distinct priorities and shared values, which may not align with those of the neighbouring electorates. The merging of Higgins into different electorates would fragment our community, making it difficult to address our specific needs effectively.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The proposed changes would undoubtedly lead to confusion among voters regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process. It is crucial to maintain clarity and continuity to ensure that every resident's voice is heard and valued.

Lastly, I am deeply concerned about the impact on local projects and initiatives. Higgins has numerous ongoing projects that are vital to our community's development and well-being. These projects may lose

momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives who are unfamiliar with our specific needs. It is imperative to ensure that these initiatives continue to receive the attention and support they require.

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 essential for the benefit of Higgins residents and the preservation of our community's unique identity and representation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the AEC will take these concerns into account and make a decision that reflects the best interests of the Higgins community.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Woolf

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