



Objection 131

Phillip Starkins

2 pages

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Date: Tuesday, 18 June 2024 3:31:10 PM

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

My name is Phillip Starkins, and I reside at [REDACTED] East Malvern, [REDACTED]. 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 recent redistribution to balance electoral representation due to population changes.

Higgins, a name that resonates with history and a unique community spirit, is on the brink of being dissolved and merged into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne. This proposition, while perhaps well-intentioned, carries with it several profound implications that I believe have not been fully considered.

First and foremost, the abolition of Higgins will significantly dilute the voice of Higgins/Stonnington residents. This community, which has long prided itself on its active engagement in federal politics, will find its influence markedly reduced. The tailored representation that we have come to rely on, representation that understands our local needs and priorities, will be lost in the broader and more generic concerns of larger electorates.

Moreover, the community identity of Higgins, which has been carefully nurtured over decades, will be disrupted. Higgins is not just a name on a map; it is a tapestry of interconnected communities, each with its own history and unique character. Splitting these communities and absorbing them into different electorates with potentially different priorities risks eroding the very fabric that binds us together.

The relationships that residents have established with our current Member of Parliament are another critical aspect to consider. These relationships are not merely political; they are personal and built on trust and understanding. The proposed changes will disrupt these relationships, potentially affecting the services and advocacy that our community relies on.

Electoral confusion is another inevitable consequence of this proposal. Voters will be left grappling with new electorates, unfamiliar polling places, and representatives they do not know. This confusion could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the very democratic process the redistribution seeks to uphold.

Lastly, the impact on local projects cannot be overstated. Ongoing initiatives, which are vital to the development and well-being of our community, may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives unfamiliar with the specific needs of the Higgins community. These projects, which range from local infrastructure improvements to community health initiatives, are the lifeblood of our area.

In light of these concerns, I earnestly request that the AEC reconsider the decision to abolish the seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not just a matter of convenience; it is essential for the continued representation and well-being of Higgins residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Phillip Starkins

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