



Objection 132

Frank A Robert

2 pages

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Date: Tuesday, 18 June 2024 3:38:36 PM

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I trust this message finds you well. My name is Frank A Robert, and I reside at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] South Yarra, [REDACTED]. I write to you today with a heavy heart and a profound sense of duty, compelled to voice my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne.

Higgins is not just a name on a map; it is the very fabric of our community, woven with threads of history, identity, and shared purpose. The AEC's proposal to dissolve Higgins into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, while perhaps a well-intentioned effort to balance electoral representation, risks unravelling this intricate tapestry.

The abolition of Higgins would inevitably dilute the voice of its residents, particularly those of us in Stonnington. We have long prided ourselves on our ability to influence federal politics in a manner that reflects our unique local needs. The merging of Higgins into larger, more disparate electorates threatens to reduce this influence, leaving us with less tailored representation. Our concerns, aspirations, and the very essence of our community risk being lost in the broader, less specific priorities of larger electorates.

Higgins is steeped in history, a seat that has been home to a distinct community identity for decades. The proposed redistribution would disrupt this identity, splitting our community and absorbing it into electorates that may not share our priorities or understand our unique character. The sense of belonging, the shared history, and the communal spirit that define Higgins would be irrevocably altered.

Moreover, the established relationships between Higgins residents and our current Member of Parliament are not to be underestimated. These relationships are the bedrock of effective advocacy and service. Disrupting them could lead to a period of adjustment where our needs and voices are less effectively communicated and addressed.

The potential for electoral confusion cannot be ignored. Voters may find themselves bewildered by 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 this redistribution aims to enhance.

Lastly, there are ongoing local projects and initiatives within Higgins that are tailored to our community's specific needs. These projects may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives unfamiliar with our local landscape. The progress we have made, the goals we have set, and the future we envision for Higgins could be jeopardised.

In light of these concerns, I earnestly request the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not merely a

matter of convenience; it is a matter of preserving the voice, identity, and future of the Higgins community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I remain hopeful that the AEC will recognise the importance of maintaining the integrity of Higgins for the benefit of all its residents.

Yours sincerely,

Frank A Robert

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