



Objection 151

Robert Nicholson

2 pages

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Date: Thursday, 20 June 2024 8:34:12 PM

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

My name is Robert Nicholson, and I reside at [REDACTED] Toorak. I write to you today with a deep sense of concern regarding the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. As a resident and an engaged member of this community, I feel compelled to object to this proposal, which I believe is both ill-conceived and 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 is ostensibly aimed at balancing electoral representation due to population changes. However, this decision overlooks several critical factors that warrant a reconsideration.

Firstly, the loss of representation for Higgins residents is a grave concern. The abolition of our seat will undoubtedly dilute our voice in federal politics, reducing our influence and potentially leading to less tailored representation. Higgins has a unique demographic and a distinctive set of priorities that may not align with those of the neighbouring electorates. By merging us into larger and disparate electorates, the specific needs and aspirations of Higgins residents risk being overshadowed.

Moreover, the community identity of Higgins is rich and storied. Our electorate is not merely a collection of streets and houses but a vibrant tapestry of history, culture, and shared experiences. From the bustling streets of Prahran to the leafy avenues of Toorak, Higgins encompasses a diverse yet cohesive community. Disrupting this unity by splitting and absorbing our communities into different electorates threatens to erode our collective identity and heritage.

The established relationships between residents and our current MP are another crucial aspect that stands to be disrupted. These relationships are built on trust, understanding, and ongoing advocacy. A sudden change in representation could lead to a disconnect, hampering the delivery of services and the continuation of important advocacy work. Residents have developed a rapport with our current MP, and this continuity is vital for effective representation.

Electoral confusion is yet another concern. The proposed changes will inevitably 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 very democratic process the AEC seeks to uphold.

Furthermore, ongoing local projects and initiatives in Higgins may lose momentum or be deprioritized under new representatives unfamiliar with our community's specific needs. These projects, which are often tailored to the unique characteristics of Higgins, are vital for our continued development and well-being.

It is also important to highlight a significant flaw in the AEC's analysis. There is an undeniable explosion of densifying developments within Higgins. Our 300m street alone has been a construction site for the past three years, with at least three projects underway at any given time. This trend is mirrored across our inner-city electorate. Developers are naturally drawn to areas like Higgins, where demand is high and profits are substantial, rather than to outer suburban seats which are largely not experiencing such densification. Additionally, one of the AEC's objectives is to minimise the number of local councils in each seat. The current proposal fails to achieve this objective, further questioning its validity.

In light of these points, I earnestly request the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is crucial for ensuring that the residents of Higgins continue to receive the representation and advocacy they deserve. Our community's unique identity, ongoing projects, and established relationships must be preserved for the benefit of all.

Thank you for considering my objection. I trust that the AEC will take these concerns into account and act in the best interests of the Higgins community.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Nicholson

[REDACTED]

Toorak

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