



Objection 166

Sally Cohen

2 pages

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Date: Saturday, 22 June 2024 8:26:00 PM

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Subject: Urgent 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 Sally Cohen, a resident of the vibrant and historically rich community of Stonnington, and I write to you from my home at [REDACTED]. I am reaching out to express my deep-seated objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. As you are undoubtedly aware, this proposal forms part of a broader redistribution effort aimed at balancing electoral representation in response to population changes. However, I believe this decision will have far-reaching and detrimental consequences for our community.

Firstly, the abolition of Higgins will inevitably dilute the voice of its residents. Stonnington, a key part of Higgins, has long enjoyed tailored representation that addresses our unique local needs. The merging of Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to reduce our influence in federal politics, leaving our community's specific needs unmet and our voices unheard.

Higgins boasts a distinctive community identity and history, one that has been carefully nurtured over the years. The seat has been a crucible of cultural and social dynamism, from the bustling Chapel Street precinct to the serene expanses of Central Park. The proposed redistribution would fracture this cohesive identity, splitting our community and absorbing it into electorates with different priorities. This fragmentation risks eroding the sense of belonging and shared purpose that defines Higgins.

Furthermore, the established relationships between residents and our current Member of Parliament are at risk. These relationships, built on trust and mutual understanding, are crucial for effective advocacy and service delivery. Disrupting these connections could lead to a loss of continuity in representation, adversely affecting the support and services our community relies on.

The potential for electoral confusion cannot be overstated. Redrawing the boundaries of Higgins will undoubtedly lead to uncertainty 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.

Lastly, the impact on local projects and initiatives is a significant concern. Higgins has numerous ongoing projects that are vital to our community's development and well-being. The redistribution could lead to these projects losing momentum or being deprioritised under new representatives who may not fully understand or appreciate the specific needs of the Higgins community.

In light of these points, I earnestly request that the Australian Electoral Commission reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is crucial for ensuring the continued representation, identity, and well-being of Higgins residents.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I look forward to your favourable response.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Cohen

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