



Objection 215

Maria Ellul

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 24 June 2024 8:26 PM

To: FedRedistribution - VIC

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Higgins redistribution objection

Categories: [REDACTED]

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Maria Ellul, and I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins as part of the redistribution to balance electoral representation due to population changes.

The proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne is a matter of great concern for many residents, including myself. The impact of this decision would be far-reaching and detrimental to the community of Stonnington, which has long been an integral part of Higgins.

Firstly, the abolition of Higgins would significantly dilute the voice of its residents in federal politics. The community of Stonnington, with its unique needs and priorities, would find its influence reduced and its representation less tailored to local needs. This dilution of representation is not merely a political inconvenience but a genuine threat to the effective advocacy and service delivery that our community has come to rely on.

Higgins is not just an electoral boundary; it is a community with a rich history and a distinct identity. The seat has long been a bastion of civic pride, with residents deeply connected to their local MP and the political processes that shape their lives. The proposed changes would disrupt this unique community identity, splitting and absorbing our neighbourhoods into electorates with potentially different priorities. This fragmentation would erode the sense of belonging and shared purpose that has been carefully cultivated over many years.

Moreover, the established relationships between residents and the current MP are invaluable. These relationships facilitate effective communication, advocacy, and service delivery. Disrupting these connections would create a vacuum of uncertainty and inefficiency, hindering the ability of residents to address their concerns and needs effectively.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The proposed changes would 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 democratic process and disenfranchising many residents.

Finally, the impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overstated. Higgins has numerous ongoing projects that are crucial to the community's development and well-being. The introduction of new representatives unfamiliar with the specific needs of Higgins could lead to these projects losing momentum or being deprioritised, to the detriment of the community.

In conclusion, I 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 continued representation, identity, and well-being of the Higgins community. The unique needs and priorities of Stonnington residents deserve to be recognised and preserved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Ellul



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