



Objection 315

Romy Blecher

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 26 June 2024 7:43 AM

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 am writing to you as a concerned resident of Higgins, a vibrant and historically significant electorate nestled in the heart of Melbourne. My name is Romy Blecher, and I reside [REDACTED] Malvern East. I am deeply troubled by the recent proposal to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins as part of the redistribution process aimed at balancing electoral representation due to population changes. I urge you to reconsider this decision, which stands to have far-reaching and detrimental effects on our community.

Higgins is not just a geographical entity; it is a tapestry woven with the threads of shared history, community spirit, and local identity. The proposed abolition threatens to unravel this tapestry, diluting the voice of Higgins residents and reducing our influence in federal politics. Our community, particularly in Stonnington, has long benefited from tailored representation that addresses our unique local needs. To merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne would be to diminish our collective voice and potentially lead to less tailored representation.

The community identity of Higgins is distinct and cherished. From the bustling Chapel Street to the serene gardens of Malvern, our electorate boasts a rich history and a unique character that would be disrupted by this redistribution. The absorption of our community into different electorates with potentially different priorities risks fragmenting our identity and undermining the cohesion that has been built over generations.

Furthermore, the abolition of Higgins would disrupt established political relationships. Our residents have developed strong connections with our current MP, who understands the intricacies of our local issues and advocates for our needs in federal parliament. This disruption could lead to a lapse in services and advocacy, leaving our community in a state of uncertainty.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The proposed changes would undoubtedly 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 that is the cornerstone of our society.

Lastly, the impact on local projects cannot be overstated. Higgins has numerous ongoing initiatives and projects that are vital to our community's well-being and development. These projects, tailored to the

specific needs of our residents, may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives unfamiliar with our community's unique challenges and aspirations.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully 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 the continued representation, identity, and well-being of Higgins residents. Our community deserves to have its voice heard and its needs addressed in a manner that honours our history and respects our future.

Thank you for considering my objection. I trust that the AEC will take into account the profound impact this decision will have on the residents of Higgins and act in the best interest of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Romy Blecher

[REDACTED]

Malvern East

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