



Objection 326

Anonymous 22

2 pages

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Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
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Subject: Objection to the Proposed Abolition of the Federal Electoral Seat of Higgins

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is [REDACTED] and I write to you with a heavy heart and a resolute mind regarding the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. This seat, steeped in rich history and community spirit, is more than just a delineation on a map—it is the heartbeat of a unique and vibrant community.

The proposal to dissolve Higgins and merge it into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne is deeply concerning for several reasons. Foremost among them is the loss of representation. The residents of Higgins have long enjoyed a tailored and responsive relationship with their elected representative. The dissolution of this seat threatens to dilute their voice in federal politics, making it harder for their specific needs and concerns to be heard and addressed.

Higgins is not just an electoral division; it is a community with a distinct identity and a storied past. Named after the eminent Henry Bournes Higgins, a man whose contributions to Australia include the establishment of the minimum wage, the seat embodies his legacy of fairness and justice. To abolish Higgins is to disregard this heritage and disrupt the fabric of a community that has grown and thrived under its banner.

Furthermore, the disruption of established political relationships cannot be understated. The current MP has forged strong connections with the residents, advocating for local projects and initiatives that are crucial to the community's development. The potential realignment into new electorates could see these efforts lose momentum, as new representatives may not be as familiar with the specific needs and ongoing projects of the Higgins area.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. Voters accustomed to their polling places and representatives will face uncertainty and potential disengagement as they navigate the new electoral boundaries. This could lead to decreased voter participation, undermining the democratic process.

Lastly, the impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be ignored. Higgins is home to numerous ongoing efforts aimed at improving the community, from infrastructure developments to social programs. The reallocation of these projects to new representatives may result in deprioritisation or even abandonment, to the detriment of the residents who rely on them.

In closing, I urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the seat of Higgins. Retaining this seat is not only a matter of preserving historical legacy

but also of ensuring that the residents of Higgins continue to receive the representation and advocacy they deserve. The current electoral structure has served this community well, and its preservation is vital for the continued prosperity and cohesion of Higgins.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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