



Objection 351

Paul Henshall

2 pages

Australian Electoral Commission
Attention; Federal Redistribution-Vic

Proposal to Abolish Division of Higgins by AEC

I strongly support to retain the Division of Higgins based on the following;

- The historical context and impact of the Higgins name spans from the very early post- Federation period to contemporary Australia.
- In 1907 Justice Henry Higgins of the Arbitration Court, adjudged a fair and reasonable wage to be 7 shillings a day for a labourer, and that judgement formed the basis of the basic wage and minimum wage measures which thereafter underpinned Australia's economic development from those earliest Federation days to the present.
- That judgement by Henry Higgins had an immensely significant impact which was shared by all Australians across the whole of the nation, and thus the continuation of the Division of Higgins should be seen as a shared recognition of that national interest.
- Fair and reasonable are concepts and measures that are now seen to be traditionally embedded in the Australian ethos.
- Henry Higgins had earlier served as a Foundation Member elected to Australia's First Parliament, and that important link to our Inaugural Federal Election should continue to be recognised.
- Also, Henry Higgins later served as a longstanding Justice of the High Court of Australia.
- Higgins has the notable and unique distinction of two former Members having served as Prime Ministers.
- Higgins has also provided two Treasurers, including by a significant margin, Australia's longest serving Treasurer.
- The significant status of Justice Henry Higgins, as well as the parliamentary history of the seat, should be recognised and supported by all political parties that have held or contested that seat – the push to retain Higgins is not a partisan issue.
- It is also so very important that the City of Stonnington, being a solid Community of Interests, should not be divided and spread across 5 Federal electorates – and that Stonnington interests continue to be represented through a SINGLE Federal Member in Canberra. At City of Stonnington council meeting held of 24 June 2024 the Council fully objected to the abolition of Higgins.

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The AEC should consider another division in place of Higgins.

I fully recommend to the AEC to reconsider their proposal to abolish Higgins

Yours Sincerely
Paul Henshall

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Malvern [REDACTED]

26 June 2024