



Objection 354

John Longo

2 pages

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 June 2024 9:22 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 John Longo, and I am a resident of [REDACTED] Malvern East, within the distinguished and vibrant community of Stonnington. I write to you today with a heavy heart and a fervent plea to reconsider the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins as part of the recent redistribution plan.

Higgins, with its storied history and unique community identity, stands as a testament to the rich tapestry of Melbourne's social and cultural fabric. The AEC's proposal to dissolve this seat, merging it into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, strikes at the very core of our community's representation and cohesion.

The first and most pressing concern is the loss of representation. Higgins has long been a beacon of advocacy and tailored political engagement for its residents. The abolition of this seat will undoubtedly dilute the voice of Higgins and Stonnington residents, reducing our influence in federal politics. The intricate and specific needs of our community, from local infrastructure projects to social initiatives, may be overshadowed by the broader priorities of the larger, amalgamated electorates. This dilution of representation is not just a political loss but a personal one for the many residents who have actively participated in shaping the future of Higgins.

Moreover, the unique community identity and history of Higgins are at risk of being disrupted. Our community is not just a geographical area but a collective of shared experiences, values, and aspirations. The proposed redistribution threatens to fragment this unity, splitting communities and absorbing them into electorates with potentially divergent priorities. The sense of belonging and mutual support that has been cultivated over decades could be irreparably damaged.

The disruption of established political relationships is another critical concern. The residents of Higgins have built strong, trust-based relationships with our current Member of Parliament. These relationships are not merely transactional but are rooted in years of advocacy, service, and mutual understanding. The proposed changes could disrupt these bonds, leading to a potential loss of services and advocacy that have been meticulously tailored to the needs of our community.

Electoral confusion is an inevitable consequence of this redistribution. Voters will be faced with new electorates, unfamiliar polling places, and representatives who may not yet understand the unique dynamics of our community. This confusion could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the very democratic process that the AEC seeks to uphold.

Finally, the impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overstated. Higgins has been the cradle for numerous local projects that address specific community needs. The momentum and prioritisation of these initiatives could be jeopardised under new representatives who may not share the same level of familiarity or commitment to our local concerns.

In light of these concerns, I earnestly request the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not just a matter of political convenience but a crucial step in preserving the integrity, representation, and identity of our beloved community.

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

Yours sincerely,

John Longo
[REDACTED] Malvern East

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