



Objection 361

Penny Goodman

2 pages

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From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2024 8:26 AM
To: FedRedistribution - VIC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Higgins redistribution objection
Categories: [REDACTED]

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

My name is Penny Goodman, and I write to you from the heart of Stonnington, a proud and integral part of the Higgins electorate. With a deep sense of urgency and concern, I wish to formally object to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins as part of your redistribution efforts.

The proposal to dissolve Higgins and merge it into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne is, to put it mildly, disconcerting. The unique identity and robust community spirit of Higgins, which has been cultivated over decades, stands to be irrevocably disrupted.

The people of Higgins, particularly those of us in Stonnington, have long enjoyed a distinct voice in federal politics. This voice, finely attuned to our local needs and aspirations, will be diluted if we are absorbed into other electorates. The intricate tapestry of our community, woven with the threads of shared history and common purpose, risks being unravelled.

Our community identity is not just a matter of pride but a cornerstone of our local governance and advocacy. Higgins has a storied past, one that includes notable figures and landmark events that have shaped our collective consciousness. To merge us with electorates that may have different priorities and challenges is to erode the very fabric of our community.

Moreover, the established relationships between residents and our current Member of Parliament are not easily replicated. These relationships are built on trust, familiarity, and a deep understanding of local issues. Disrupting these connections could lead to a significant lapse in the services and advocacy we currently rely on.

Electoral confusion is another pressing concern. Voters who have long identified with Higgins will face uncertainty regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process.

Finally, there are ongoing local projects and initiatives that are crucial to our community's development and well-being. These projects, which have been championed by our current representatives, may lose momentum or be deprioritized under new representatives who may not fully grasp the specific needs of the Higgins community.

In light of these concerns, I earnestly request that the AEC reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not just a matter of preserving boundaries on a map; it is about safeguarding the voice, identity, and future of the Higgins community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the AEC will take these points into serious consideration for the benefit of all Higgins residents.

Yours sincerely,

Penny Goodman

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