



Objection 423

Michael A Jabour

1 page

Michael A. Jabour

Glen Iris VIC

The Australian Electoral Commission (Attn: Redistribution Secretariat)
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601

28 June 2024

Re: Planned abolition of the Federal Division of Higgins

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to place on the formal record my objection to the proposed abolition of the Federal Division of Higgins in the forthcoming election. I have lived in this electorate all my life that houses a number of different communities that have different needs and requirements. From the highly diverse eastern region heading towards Burwood, to the traditional areas of Malvern, Glen Iris and parts of Tooronga, this area has had the unique privilege of providing two Prime Ministers to our proud and successful nation.

Victoria was mismanaged beyond all recognition by the State Government during the Covid pandemic and as a result had a temporary change in its population where many were forced through questionable lockdowns and other punitive and draconian measures to relocate potentially temporarily either to country areas, interstate or overseas. It is clear from the community that I live in that these moves are temporary and likely to be a small 'blip' on the spectrum of population density within this area.

Any changes in demographic have the potential to be temporary given a once in hundred-year event of the pandemic and changes of this sweeping nature would be premature without the benefit of a longer-term analysis to see whether the demographic has changed temporarily as I assert, or whether are permanent in which case such a determination could be made at a later date.

There are other electorates that have had significantly changing populations that have not incurred the wrath of an electoral distribution of this magnitude and as such I consider it premature to make such a savage change within such a short time of an all-encompassing event such as the pandemic and the terrible response to it.

I would consider it unfair that Victoria be penalised for the terrible handling of the pandemic that caused a temporary change in its population that is clearly the driving force behind this change – don't penalise the state and its people again due to something not in its control, but in the control of its incompetent government. This would simply add insult to injury to its people who need more representation, not less.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael A. Jabour