



Comment on objections 3

Michael Kroger

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2024 9:14 AM

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 am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne, a decision that has profound implications for the residents of Stonnington and the broader Higgins community.

Higgins, a seat steeped in history and significance, has long been a cornerstone of our political landscape. It has been represented by some of Australia's most notable political figures, including Harold Holt and John Gorton. This heritage is not merely symbolic; it is a testament to the enduring voice and influence of Higgins residents in federal politics.

The proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne is deeply concerning for several reasons:

Firstly, the abolition will dilute the voice of Higgins/Stonnington residents, reducing their influence in federal politics and potentially leading to less tailored representation for our local needs. The unique needs and aspirations of our community risk being overshadowed by the broader priorities of larger, amalgamated electorates.

Secondly, the community identity of Higgins, with its rich history and distinct character, will be disrupted. The residents of Stonnington and other areas within Higgins share a unique bond and a sense of belonging that will be fractured as communities are split and absorbed into different electorates. This is not just a matter of geography but of shared values, traditions, and experiences that have been cultivated over decades.

Moreover, the established relationships between residents and the current Member of Parliament are invaluable. These relationships have fostered trust and effective advocacy, ensuring that the voices of Higgins residents are heard and their concerns addressed. The proposed changes threaten to disrupt these relationships, potentially leading to a loss of services and advocacy that are finely attuned to the specific needs of our community.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The merging of Higgins into neighbouring electorates will undoubtedly lead to confusion among voters regarding their new electorates, polling places, and

representatives. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process and the very principle of fair representation.

Lastly, the impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overlooked. Ongoing efforts that are vital to the community may lose momentum or be deprioritized under new representatives unfamiliar with the specific needs and priorities of Higgins residents. This could have long-term repercussions on the progress and development of our local area.

Given these substantial concerns, I urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not only crucial for preserving the unique identity and influence of Higgins residents but also for ensuring that our community continues to receive the representation and advocacy it deserves.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the AEC will take these points into serious consideration and act in the best interests of the Higgins community.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Kroger

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