



Comment on objections 71

Josef

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Dear Committee,

I am currently a resident of the existing division of Higgins. However, I have previously lived in Macnamara, Goldstein and Chisholm.

I know the committee has proposed the abolition of the division of Higgins. I believe this is the correct approach as the division of Higgins is diverse and the communities within it share similar characteristics with neighbouring electorates. It is because of this that I strongly endorse the commission's proposed redistribution of Macnamara, Kooyong and Melbourne.

I note numerous objections have suggested that South Yarra should be moved into Macnamara instead of Melbourne. I strongly disagree with this. Residents in South Yarra travel up to Richmond through Chapel st and Church st. I believe it is the correct decision of the commission to move South Yarra into the electorate of Melbourne. Many residents walk, run and cycle across the Yarra in this area, and there is certainly a culture of share-houses that exists across both suburbs.

As a resident of Prahran East, I reject the objections which propose we be transferred into Macnamara. The division of Macnamara includes the suburbs of Caulfield, Balaclava and Elsternwick, connecting east-west in St Kilda with the suburbs of Middle Park, Albert Park and Port Melbourne connecting north-south. There are vertically no transport options for me to travel to Middle Park. However, I do believe that the commission's proposal to place Prahran East into Kooyong best represents our community.. I note there were some submissions which suggest Prahran East should be connected with South Yarra, Windsor and the rest of Prahran. I do not think this is the correct approach as I spend none of my time in the areas of South Yarra which are proposed to be in the division of Melbourne, nor the suburbs of Macnamara. It makes much more sense to keep us united with Armadale, Malvern and Toorak as we are in the existing division of Higgins. However, given the abolition of Higgins I know the commission would need to move some residents to neighboring electorates. I believe the move of South Yarra and Prahran to Melbourne makes the most amount of sense given Chapel Street is a prominent travel destination for people all across Melbourne. Particularly the restaurants and bars.

I feel much more connected with Malvern, Toorak and Armadale than I do towards Middle Park, Albert Park or Port Melbourne. I regularly go to Malvern Central and there are multiple trams which run towards the rest of Kooyong.

In conclusion, I care deeply about my community and I believe that the original proposal is the most appropriate and I thank the commission for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Kind regards,

Josef