



Objection 49

Fiona Mowbray ^{2 pages}

Formal Objection to the Proposed Abolishment of Higgins Electorate

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed abolishment of the Higgins electorate as part of the current electoral redistribution process. As a resident and community member of the Higgins electorate, I feel strongly that dissolving this electorate would be detrimental for several reasons:

- 1. **Deep Historical Significance**: Higgins has a rich historical significance within Victoria and Australia as a whole. It has been a distinct electoral district for many years, fostering a unique identity among its constituents. Abolishing Higgins would erase this historical continuity and disrupt the community's sense of belonging.
- 2. **Community Cohesion**: The Higgins electorate is home to a diverse and vibrant community that has developed strong social connections and networks over time. This proposal threatens to fragment long-established community ties, making it more difficult for residents to collaborate on local issues and initiatives.
- 3. **Representation and Voice**: The people of Higgins have unique needs and concerns that may not be adequately addressed if they are absorbed into neighbouring electorates. Effective representation requires a deep understanding of the community's specific issues, which could be diluted if Higgins is abolished and its population is divided among several other electorates.
- 4. **Electoral Fairness**: Redistributing the electorate in such a manner could potentially disrupt the balance and fairness of representation. It is crucial that the electoral boundaries ensure effective representation for all voters, and the dissolution of

Higgins may lead to unfair advantages or disadvantages for particular political groups.

5. **Impact on Local Services and Infrastructure**: The existing structure of the Higgins electorate has shaped the allocation of local resources and infrastructure planning. Redrawing these boundaries could complicate ongoing projects and disrupt planning processes that are based on the current electorate layout.

I urge the Commission to reconsider the proposed abolishment of the Higgins electorate and explore alternative redistribution strategies that preserve the integrity and continuity of this historic and important electorate. Maintaining Higgins as a distinct electorate will better serve its residents, preserve community cohesion, and ensure fair and effective representation.

Thank you for considering my objections. I trust that the Commission will take these concerns into account in its final decision.

Sincerely,

Fiona Mowbray