



# Comment on objections 30

Dhruba Gupta

2 pages

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 July 2024 12:39 PM  
**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 you from the heart of Toorak, where the spirit of Higgins resonates through every street, every park, and every community gathering. My name is Dhruba Gupta, and I reside at [REDACTED]. I wish to express my profound objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins, a decision that stands to fracture the very essence of our community.

In the style of renowned journalist George Megalogenis, let us delve into the intricate tapestry that is Higgins. Established in 1949, Higgins has been more than just a political boundary; it has been a cradle of vibrant community life, a guardian of local interests, and a beacon of representation. The proposed redistribution, which seeks to merge Higgins into the neighbouring electorates of Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, threatens to unravel this rich tapestry.

Firstly, the dissolution of Higgins will undoubtedly dilute the voice of its residents, particularly those in Stonnington. Our community has long been a mosaic of diverse yet unified voices, each contributing to a harmonious yet dynamic discourse in federal politics. The abolition will scatter these voices, diminishing our collective influence and leading to representation that may not be as finely attuned to our local needs.

Moreover, Higgins is not just a geographical area; it is a community with a unique identity and history. From the bustling Toorak Village to the serene banks of the Yarra River, our electorate has fostered a sense of belonging and continuity. The proposed changes will disrupt this identity, fragmenting communities and absorbing them into electorates with potentially divergent priorities. The soul of Higgins, cultivated over decades, risks being lost in this bureaucratic shuffle.

Furthermore, the established relationships between residents and our current MP, who has been a steadfast advocate for our needs, will be disrupted. These relationships are not merely political; they are the lifelines through which services and advocacy flow. The abolition of Higgins will sever these connections, causing uncertainty and potentially hindering the delivery of essential services.

The confusion that will arise among voters cannot be understated. The reconfiguration of electorates will lead to bewilderment regarding new polling places, representatives, and electoral boundaries. This confusion is likely to result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process.

Finally, the impact on local projects and initiatives is a grave concern. Higgins has been the bedrock for numerous local projects that address the specific needs of our community. Under new representatives, these projects may lose momentum or be deprioritised, as the new MPs may not be as familiar with the unique challenges and opportunities within Higgins.

In conclusion, I implore the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. The preservation of our current electoral structure is paramount for the continued prosperity and representation of Higgins residents. Let us not dismantle a community that has thrived under its current boundaries, but rather, let us strengthen it by recognising its unique identity and significance.

Yours sincerely,

Dhruba Gupta

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