



# Objection 44

Andrew David

2 pages

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 7 June 2024 2:37 PM  
**To:** FedRedistribution - VIC  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection  
**Categories:** [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Australian Electoral Commission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you with a heart heavy with concern and a mind brimming with the voices of my fellow residents of Higgins. My name is Andrew David, and I stand before you as a representative of a community that is not just defined by lines on a map, but by the shared experiences, history, and aspirations of its people.

The proposal to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins as part of a redistribution to balance electoral representation due to population changes is a matter of grave concern for us. Higgins, with its rich tapestry of heritage and vibrant community life, is not just an electoral division; it is the beating heart of our local identity. The thought of merging Higgins into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne feels like the tearing apart of a closely-knit fabric.

In the bustling streets of Prahran, the serene parks of Malvern, and the vibrant markets of Toorak, we find a unique blend of cultures and histories that have coalesced into a distinct community identity. The abolition of Higgins threatens to dilute the voice of Stonnington residents, reducing our influence in federal politics and potentially leading to less tailored representation for our local needs. The residents of Higgins have long prided themselves on their active participation in federal politics, a tradition that is now at risk of being eroded.

Moreover, the community of Higgins has fostered long-standing relationships with our current MP, relationships built on trust, understanding, and a deep commitment to addressing our unique concerns. The disruption of these political relationships could lead to a lapse in services and advocacy, leaving our community in a state of uncertainty and disarray.

The confusion that could arise among voters regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives cannot be understated. This electoral confusion could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process that we hold so dear. The residents of Higgins deserve clarity and continuity, not confusion and chaos.

Furthermore, ongoing local projects and initiatives, which have been meticulously planned and passionately pursued, may lose momentum or be deprioritized under new representatives unfamiliar with the specific needs of the Higgins community. The progress we have made, the dreams we have nurtured, and the future we envision for our community are all at stake.

In the words of the renowned journalist Hunter S. Thompson, "In a closed society where everybody's guilty, the only crime is getting caught. In a world of thieves, the only final sin is stupidity." It would indeed be a grave folly to dismantle a community as vibrant and cohesive as Higgins. The AEC must recognise the profound impact this decision will have on the lives of Higgins residents.

I implore the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. The importance of maintaining the current electoral structure for the benefit of Higgins residents cannot be overstated. Let us preserve the voice of Higgins, honour its unique identity, and continue to build a future that reflects the aspirations of its people.

Yours sincerely,  
Andrew David

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