



# Objection 77

Ira Felinski

2 pages

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection  
**Date:** Wednesday, 12 June 2024 8:27:43 AM

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Subject: Objection to the Abolition of the Federal Electoral Seat of Higgins

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I trust this message finds you well. My name is Ira Felinski, and I reside in the vibrant community of Prahran, [REDACTED], within the federal electoral seat of Higgins. I am writing to express my deep concern and strong objection to the proposed abolition of the Higgins electorate as part of the current redistribution efforts.

Higgins is not just a name on a map; it is a community with a rich history and a distinct identity. Since its establishment in 1949, Higgins has been a bastion of civic engagement and local pride. The electorate encompasses areas such as Toorak, South Yarra, and Armadale, each contributing to a unique tapestry that defines our shared experience. The proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to unravel this carefully woven fabric.

The abolition of Higgins would undoubtedly dilute the voice of its residents, particularly those in Stonnington. Our community has long enjoyed tailored representation that addresses our specific needs and aspirations. Merging Higgins into larger, more diverse electorates risks reducing our influence in federal politics, leaving our local concerns overshadowed by broader, and often divergent, priorities.

Moreover, the unique community identity of Higgins is at stake. The electorate has fostered a sense of belonging and continuity that would be disrupted if communities were split and absorbed into different electorates. This disruption is not merely a matter of lines on a map; it is a fundamental alteration of the social and cultural landscape that has been cultivated over decades.

The established relationships between Higgins residents and our current Member of Parliament are another critical consideration. These relationships have facilitated effective advocacy and service delivery, ensuring that local projects and initiatives receive the attention they deserve. The proposed changes would disrupt these relationships, potentially leading to a loss of momentum for ongoing projects and a deprioritisation of local needs by new representatives unfamiliar with our community's specific context.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. Voters in Higgins are accustomed to their current polling places and representatives. Redrawing the boundaries would likely lead to confusion regarding new electorates, polling locations, and representatives. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process.

Finally, the impact on local projects cannot be overstated. Higgins is home to numerous initiatives that are tailored to our community's needs. From local infrastructure projects to

community programmes, these initiatives rely on consistent support and understanding from our representatives. The proposed redistribution risks disrupting this continuity, with new representatives potentially lacking the historical context and commitment to see these projects through to completion.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is crucial for preserving the unique identity, representation, and ongoing progress of the Higgins community.

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

Yours sincerely,

Ira Felinski

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