



# Objection 102

Kate O'Sullivan

2 pages

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection  
**Date:** Saturday, 15 June 2024 3:43:55 PM

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Kate O'Sullivan, and I reside at [REDACTED] Middle Park. I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne.

As a resident of Higgins, I have witnessed firsthand the profound sense of community and the unique identity that has been fostered here over many years. Higgins is not just a collection of streets and houses; it is a vibrant tapestry of diverse cultures, histories, and aspirations. The proposed redistribution, which seeks to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, threatens to unravel this intricate fabric.

The abolition of Higgins would result in a significant loss of representation for its residents. For decades, Higgins has been a steadfast voice in federal politics, advocating for the needs and concerns of its community members. The dissolution of this seat would dilute our collective influence, leaving long-standing residents and community groups with a diminished capacity to effect change at the federal level. The unique needs and priorities of Higgins residents may be overshadowed by the broader agendas of the larger, amalgamated electorates.

Furthermore, the community identity of Higgins is deeply rooted in its history and shared experiences. From the bustling streets of Prahran Market to the serene expanses of Fawkner Park, Higgins is a microcosm of Melbourne's rich cultural heritage. The proposed redistribution would disrupt this sense of belonging, as communities are split and absorbed into electorates with potentially different priorities and values. The unique character of Higgins, which has been carefully nurtured over the years, would be at risk of being lost.

The potential for electoral confusion cannot be overstated. Voters may find themselves bewildered by new electorates, unfamiliar polling places, and representatives they have had no prior connection with. This confusion could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process. The clarity and continuity that Higgins residents have come to rely on would be replaced by uncertainty and disorientation.

Lastly, I am deeply concerned about the impact on local projects and initiatives. Higgins has been home to numerous community-driven projects that have significantly improved the quality of life for its residents. These initiatives, whether they are related to infrastructure, social services, or cultural events, are often championed by representatives who have an intimate understanding of the community's needs. The introduction of new representatives, unfamiliar with the specific challenges and aspirations of Higgins, could

result in these projects losing momentum or being deprioritised.

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 not merely a matter of preserving boundaries on a map; it is about safeguarding the voice, identity, and future of a community that has contributed so much to the fabric of Melbourne.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the AEC will take into account the unique and irreplaceable value of the Higgins electorate and make a decision that reflects the best interests of its residents.

Yours sincerely,

Kate O'Sullivan

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