



# Objection 140

Rosamund Stobie

2 pages

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection  
**Date:** Tuesday, 18 June 2024 11:15:32 PM

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

My name is Rosamund Stobie, and I am writing to you from [REDACTED] Castlemaine. I find myself compelled to voice my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. In the spirit of John Pilger's investigative fervour, I wish to lay bare the ramifications of this decision on the vibrant community of Higgins.

The seat of Higgins, named after the distinguished Justice H.B. Higgins, has long been a cornerstone of Melbourne's political landscape. It is a constituency rich in history, culture, and community spirit, encapsulating areas such as South Yarra, Prahran, and Toorak. The AEC's proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to unravel the unique tapestry that defines this area.

**\*\*Impact on Local Projects:\*\***

One of the most pressing concerns is the potential impact on ongoing local projects and initiatives. Higgins has been a crucible for innovation and community-driven progress. Projects such as the revitalisation of the Prahran Market, the sustainability initiatives in Malvern, and the support systems for small businesses in Armadale are at risk. These initiatives are not merely lines on a budget; they are lifelines for the community, nurtured by representatives who understand the specific needs and aspirations of Higgins residents.

Imagine the disruption when these projects, midstream and delicate, are handed over to new representatives unfamiliar with their intricacies. The momentum painstakingly built over years could falter, and the nuanced understanding required to see these projects to fruition might be lost. This is not just a bureaucratic shuffle; it is a potential stalling of progress that directly affects the lives of Higgins residents.

**\*\*Loss of Representation:\*\***

The abolition of Higgins would dilute the voice of its residents, reducing their influence in federal politics. Higgins is a microcosm of diverse opinions and vibrant discourse, and its residents deserve a dedicated representative who can advocate for their specific needs. Merging Higgins into other electorates would scatter this collective voice, making it harder for residents to have their concerns addressed effectively.

**\*\*Community Identity:\*\***

Higgins is more than just a geographical area; it is a community with a distinct identity. From the bustling cafes of Chapel Street to the serene gardens of Como Park, Higgins is a blend of urban sophistication and suburban tranquillity. This unique character will be disrupted as communities are split and absorbed into different electorates, each with its own set of priorities and challenges.

**\*\*Disruption of Political Relationships:\*\***

Residents of Higgins have established relationships with their current MP, who has been a consistent advocate for their needs. The proposed redistribution would disrupt these relationships, leading to a potential loss of services and advocacy. The trust and rapport built over time cannot be easily transferred to a new representative unfamiliar with the community's history and challenges.

**\*\*Electoral Confusion:\*\***

The redistribution would also lead to confusion among voters regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process.

In light of these concerns, I earnestly request the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the seat of Higgins. The unique identity, ongoing projects, and established political relationships of Higgins are too valuable to be disrupted. Maintaining the current electoral structure is essential for the continued prosperity and representation of Higgins residents.

Thank you for considering my objection. I trust that the AEC will take into account the profound impact this decision could have on the Higgins community.

Yours sincerely,

Rosamund Stobie

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