



# Objection 58

Susan Tresider

2 pages

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection  
**Date:** Sunday, 9 June 2024 3:57:42 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 Susan Tresider, and I am writing to express my profound concern and objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne as part of the current redistribution plan.

Higgins, with its vibrant and unique community, has long been a cornerstone of Melbourne's political and social landscape. The AEC's proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, while intended to balance electoral representation, threatens to erode the very fabric of our community.

Firstly, the abolition of Higgins will significantly dilute the voice of its residents, particularly those of us in Stonnington. Our community has always been vocal and active in federal politics, ensuring that our local needs are addressed. The merging of Higgins into larger electorates will inevitably lead to less tailored representation, as our unique concerns become just one of many in a larger, more diverse constituency.

Higgins is not just a name on a map; it is a community with a rich history and a strong sense of identity. The seat has been home to notable figures such as Harold Holt and John Gorton, and it has a legacy of progressive and engaged citizenship. Splitting our community and absorbing it into different electorates will disrupt this identity and history, potentially aligning us with areas that have different priorities and needs.

Moreover, the established relationships that residents have with our current MP are invaluable. These relationships have been built over time and are crucial for effective advocacy and service delivery. The proposed changes will disrupt these relationships, leading to a potential loss in the quality of representation and services that we currently enjoy.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The redistribution will undoubtedly 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 very democratic process the redistribution aims to enhance.

Lastly, the impact on local projects cannot be overstated. Higgins has several ongoing initiatives and projects that are tailored to our community's specific needs. New representatives, unfamiliar with these projects, may deprioritise or overlook them, causing a loss of momentum and potentially leaving critical local needs unmet.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal

electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is crucial for the continued effective representation and advocacy for the residents of Higgins, particularly those of us in Stonnington. The unique identity, established relationships, and ongoing projects within our community deserve to be preserved and supported.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Tresider

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