



# Objection 64

Jodi Wright-Neville

2 pages

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection  
**Date:** Sunday, 9 June 2024 10:22:33 PM

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I am writing to you with a heavy heart and a fervent plea on behalf of the residents of Higgins, particularly those in the vibrant community of Stonnington. My name is Jodi Wright-Neville, and I am deeply concerned about the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins as part of the redistribution process aimed at balancing electoral representation due to population changes.

Higgins is not just an electoral division; it is a tapestry woven with the threads of our unique community identity, history, and shared aspirations. The proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to unravel this delicate fabric, leaving our community fragmented and our voices diluted.

The Stonnington community, in particular, stands to lose significantly. The abolition of Higgins will undoubtedly dilute the influence of Higgins/Stonnington residents in federal politics, leading to less tailored representation for our local needs. The distinct voice of long-standing Higgins residents and community groups, which has been instrumental in shaping federal policies, will be stifled. This loss of representation is not just a political inconvenience; it is a blow to the democratic engagement and empowerment of our community.

Higgins has a rich history and a unique community identity that sets it apart. From the bustling Chapel Street precinct to the serene parks and gardens, our community is a mosaic of diverse yet harmonious elements. This identity will be disrupted as our communities are split and absorbed into different electorates with potentially divergent priorities. The sense of belonging and shared purpose that binds us together will be compromised.

Moreover, the proposed changes will inevitably lead to electoral confusion. Voters will be left bewildered about their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the very essence of our democratic process.

The impact on local projects and initiatives is another pressing concern. Ongoing efforts to improve our community, from infrastructure developments to social programmes, may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives unfamiliar with the specific needs of the Higgins community. The progress we have made together could be jeopardised, leaving our community at a disadvantage.

In the spirit of the journalistic integrity of someone like Helen Garner, who has always championed the underrepresented and given voice to the voiceless, I urge the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. The importance of maintaining the current electoral structure cannot be overstated. It is essential for the continued representation, identity, and progress of the Higgins community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the AEC will take into account the

profound implications of this proposal and make a decision that truly reflects the best interests of the Higgins residents.

Yours sincerely,

Jodi Wright-Neville

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