



# Objection 73

Carl Dowd

2 pages

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 June 2024 10:32 AM  
**To:** FedRedistribution - VIC  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection  
**Categories:** [REDACTED]

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Carl Dowd, and I am writing to you from [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I wish to express my profound objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne as part of the recent redistribution efforts.

As a long-standing resident of Stonnington, I have witnessed firsthand the unique and vibrant community that defines Higgins. This electorate is not just a demarcated area on a map but a tapestry woven with the threads of shared history, values, and aspirations. The proposal to dissolve Higgins and merge it into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to unravel this intricate tapestry, diluting the voice of our residents and undermining our collective influence in federal politics.

The residents of Higgins, particularly those in Stonnington, have always enjoyed a tailored representation that resonates with our specific local needs. The abolition of this seat would not only erode this bespoke representation but also silence the voices of long-standing community groups and residents who have tirelessly contributed to the fabric of our society. The unique identity and history of Higgins, which has been meticulously cultivated over the years, would be disrupted, leading to communities being split and absorbed into different electorates with potentially divergent priorities.

Moreover, the political relationships that have been established over time between the residents and the current Member of Parliament are invaluable. These relationships have fostered a sense of trust and advocacy that is crucial for the effective functioning of our democracy. The proposed redistribution would disrupt these relationships, causing potential setbacks in the delivery of services and advocacy for our community.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The residents of Higgins would be left grappling with new electorates, polling places, and representatives, leading to decreased voter engagement and participation. This confusion could have far-reaching implications on the democratic process, as voter apathy and disengagement are real threats to the health of our democracy.

Furthermore, the impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overstated. Ongoing projects that are vital to the community may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives who are

unfamiliar with the specific needs of the Higgins community. This could result in a loss of progress and development that has been painstakingly achieved over the years.

In light of these concerns, I earnestly request the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is crucial for the continued representation and advocacy of the Higgins residents, ensuring that our unique community identity, ongoing projects, and political relationships remain intact.

Thank you for considering my objection. I trust that the AEC will take into account the importance of preserving the seat of Higgins for the benefit of its residents.

Yours sincerely,

Carl Dowd

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