



# Objection 92

Jo Learner

2 pages

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 June 2024 6:06 PM  
**To:** FedRedistribution - VIC  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

My name is Jo Learner, and I reside at [REDACTED] Ashburton, [REDACTED]. I am writing to formally object to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne as part of the recent redistribution plan.

The seat of Higgins is not just a demarcation on a map; it is a vibrant community with a rich history and a unique identity. From the leafy streets of Malvern to the bustling hubs of Prahran and South Yarra, Higgins encapsulates a diverse yet cohesive community that has thrived under its current representation. The proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to dilute the voice of its residents and disrupt the strong sense of community that has been meticulously built over the years.

The loss of representation is a significant concern. Higgins residents, including long-standing community groups, have cultivated a relationship with their elected MP, ensuring their voices are heard in federal politics. The abolition of this seat would reduce their influence, leaving them at the mercy of broader electorates with different priorities and potentially less tailored representation.

Furthermore, the community identity of Higgins is at stake. This electorate has a storied history, named after Harold Holt, a former Prime Minister, and has been a focal point for progressive social and economic policies. Splitting this community and absorbing it into different electorates will disrupt the fabric of local life, leading to a disjointed representation that fails to capture the unique essence of Higgins.

Electoral confusion is another pressing issue. The redrawing of boundaries will undoubtedly lead to voter bewilderment regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion could result in decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process.

Moreover, the impact on local projects cannot be overlooked. Higgins has numerous ongoing initiatives that are tailored to the specific needs of its community. These projects risk losing momentum or being deprioritised under new representatives who may not be familiar with the intricacies and priorities of the Higgins community.

Higgins is an electorate with a strong local identity, and its dissolution would be a loss not just for its residents but for the broader Melbourne community. The unique blend of cultures, histories, and

aspirations that define Higgins would be irrevocably altered, leading to a loss of the very characteristics that make it special.

In light of these concerns, I earnestly request that the Australian Electoral Commission reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is crucial for the continued representation and well-being of Higgins residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Learner

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