



# Objection 104

William Allen

2 pages

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 16 June 2024 2:20 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,

My name is William Allen, and I write to you with a heavy heart and a resolute spirit, echoing the sentiment of many fellow residents of Stonnington, as I vehemently object to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne.

Higgins is more than a mere delineation on a map; it is a vibrant community, steeped in history and rich in cultural tapestry. From the leafy boulevards of Toorak to the bustling markets of Prahran, Higgins is a microcosm of Melbourne's diversity and dynamism. The AEC's proposal to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, threatens to unravel the very fabric of our community.

The proposed abolition will inevitably dilute the voice of Higgins and Stonnington residents, diminishing our influence in federal politics. This loss of representation is not just a numerical adjustment; it is a fundamental erosion of our democratic voice. The unique needs and aspirations of our community, honed over decades of dedicated representation, risk being lost in the broader, less tailored agendas of the surrounding electorates.

Higgins boasts a distinct community identity, forged through shared experiences and common goals. This identity will be disrupted as our communities are fragmented and absorbed into electorates with potentially divergent priorities. The historical continuity and collective memory of Higgins, embodied in landmarks like the historic Como House and the vibrant Chapel Street precinct, deserve preservation, not dissolution.

Moreover, the established relationships between Higgins residents and our current Member of Parliament will be irrevocably disrupted. These relationships, built on trust and mutual understanding, are crucial for effective advocacy and service delivery. The abolition of Higgins will sever these bonds, leading to potential neglect of our community's specific needs.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The redrawing of boundaries will undoubtedly lead to voter bewilderment regarding their new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion risks decreasing voter engagement and participation, undermining the very essence of our democratic process.

The impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overstated. Higgins is home to numerous ongoing projects, from community health initiatives to environmental conservation efforts. These projects, tailored to the unique needs of our community, may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives unfamiliar with our local context.

Lastly, it is imperative to highlight the broader implications of this decision. Women are under-represented in parliament, and women of colour, in particular, face even greater marginalisation. The abolition of Higgins, a seat that has been a beacon of progressive representation, smacks of a transparently misogynistic and racist agenda. It is utterly unacceptable for the AEC to pursue such a course of action, further entrenching systemic inequities.

In conclusion, I earnestly request the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not just a matter of preserving boundaries; it is about safeguarding the democratic representation, community identity, and ongoing progress of Higgins residents.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Yours sincerely,

William Allen

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