



# Objection 168

John Michaelis

2 pages

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection  
**Date:** Sunday, 23 June 2024 7:25:38 PM

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Subject: Urgent Appeal Against the Abolition of the Federal Electoral Seat of Higgins

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is John Michaelis, and I write to you from [REDACTED] Malvern, Vic, with a matter of profound importance to myself and the community of Higgins.

It has come to my attention that the AEC has proposed to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins as part of a redistribution to balance electoral representation due to population changes. This proposal, which involves merging Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, is a cause for considerable concern among the residents of Higgins.

Higgins is not just a collection of streets and houses; it is a vibrant community with a rich tapestry of history and identity. From the bustling Glenferrie Road to the serene parks of Malvern, the seat of Higgins encompasses a unique blend of heritage and modernity. The proposed abolition threatens to fragment this cohesive community, diluting our voice and diminishing our influence in federal politics.

The community identity of Higgins is distinct and cherished. Our shared history, values, and priorities bind us together. The abolition of Higgins would disrupt this unity, forcing us into electorates with potentially divergent priorities. The sense of belonging that we have cultivated over the years would be compromised, and the unique character of our community would be at risk of being lost.

Moreover, the established relationships between residents and our current MP are invaluable. These relationships are built on trust and a deep understanding of local issues. The proposed redistribution would disrupt these connections, potentially leading to a loss of tailored representation and advocacy for our community. The services and initiatives that have been championed by our current MP may lose momentum or be deprioritized under new representatives unfamiliar with the specific needs of Higgins.

Additionally, the proposed changes could lead to significant electoral confusion. Voters may find themselves uncertain about their new electorates, polling places, and representatives, which could result in decreased voter engagement and participation. The clarity and simplicity of the current electoral structure should be preserved to ensure that all residents can exercise their democratic rights with confidence and ease.

I implore the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the seat of Higgins. The unique community identity, established political relationships, and potential for electoral confusion are critical factors that must be taken into account. Maintaining the current electoral structure is essential for the benefit of Higgins residents and the preservation of

our community's integrity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the AEC will give due consideration to the concerns of the Higgins community and make a decision that reflects the best interests of all residents.

Yours sincerely,

John Michaelis

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