



# Objection 299

Malcolm Allen

2 pages

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 June 2024 5:32 PM  
**To:** FedRedistribution - VIC  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I am writing to you as a deeply concerned resident of Stonnington, within the vibrant and historically significant federal electoral seat of Higgins. My name is Malcolm Allen, and I wish to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the Higgins electorate as part of the recent redistribution plan.

Higgins is not merely a collection of suburbs; it is a community with a rich tapestry of history and identity. The proposed merger of Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne threatens to dilute the unique voice of our residents. The community of Stonnington, for instance, has long been an active participant in federal politics, contributing significantly to the nation's political discourse. The dissolution of Higgins will inevitably lead to a reduction in tailored representation for our local needs, leaving us as mere fragments in larger, less focused electorates.

Our electorate is renowned for its political engagement, boasting one of the most active communities in the country. The legacy of Higgins includes producing some of Australia's most influential political leaders, a testament to the robust political culture that thrives here. Breaking Higgins into five parts will not only disrupt this culture but also potentially stifle future contributions to the nation's leadership.

The unique identity of Higgins is woven into the very fabric of our daily lives. From the leafy streets of Toorak to the bustling markets of Prahran, our community shares a collective history and set of priorities that are distinct from those of neighbouring electorates. Absorbing our community into electorates with different priorities risks eroding this identity and creating confusion among voters. This confusion could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation, undermining the democratic process.

Moreover, the established relationships between residents and our current Member of Parliament are invaluable. These relationships facilitate effective advocacy and service delivery, which are at risk of being disrupted under new representatives unfamiliar with the specific needs of the Higgins community. Ongoing local projects and initiatives may lose momentum or be deprioritized, to the detriment of our community.

In conclusion, I urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is essential for preserving the unique identity, representation, and political engagement of the Higgins community. The voice of Higgins

residents must continue to be heard in federal politics, ensuring that our local needs and contributions are not lost in the shuffle of redistribution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Allen  
Stonnington Resident

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