



# Objection 80

Harry Mowbray

2 pages

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 June 2024 7:17:08 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

My name is Harry Mowbray, and I reside at [REDACTED]. I write to you with a heart full of concern and a voice echoing the sentiments of many in my community regarding the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. This proposition, which aims to balance electoral representation due to population changes, involves merging Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne. While the intention may be to create a more balanced representation, the ramifications of such a move are profound and far-reaching.

The seat of Higgins is not just a demarcated boundary on a map; it is a vibrant tapestry woven with the threads of history, community, and shared identity. The residents of Higgins have long enjoyed a unique voice in federal politics, a voice that stands to be diluted and diminished if this abolition proceeds. The influence of long-standing Higgins residents and community groups will be significantly reduced, leaving them with a weakened platform to advocate for their needs and aspirations.

Higgins is steeped in history, with a community identity that has been meticulously nurtured over decades. This identity is not merely a collection of individual stories but a collective narrative that binds us together. The proposed redistribution threatens to disrupt this narrative, splitting our communities and absorbing them into electorates with potentially divergent priorities. This fragmentation would not only erode our sense of belonging but also compromise the coherence of our communal voice.

Moreover, the established relationships that residents have with the current Member of Parliament are invaluable. These relationships are built on trust, familiarity, and a deep understanding of local issues. The proposed changes would disrupt these relationships, potentially leading to a loss of services and advocacy that are tailored to the specific needs of our community.

Electoral confusion is another significant concern. The redistribution could lead to a bewildering array of new electorates, polling places, and representatives. This confusion is likely to deter voter engagement and participation, undermining the very democratic principles that this redistribution seeks to uphold. The clarity and simplicity of the current electoral structure are essential for maintaining high levels of voter engagement and ensuring that every voice is heard.

Lastly, the impact on local projects and initiatives cannot be overstated. Higgins is home to numerous ongoing projects that address the specific needs of our community. These initiatives are driven by representatives who are intimately familiar with the local context.

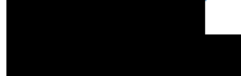
Under new representatives, there is a real risk that these projects may lose momentum or be deprioritised, to the detriment of the community.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is not merely a matter of convenience; it is a necessity for preserving the integrity, identity, and voice of the Higgins community.


Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the AEC will take these concerns into account and act in the best interests of the residents of Higgins.

Yours sincerely,

Harry Mowbray

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

---

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the contact information area.