



# Objection 296

Judith Troeth AM

2 pages

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 June 2024 5:06 PM  
**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,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Judith Troeth AM, and I am writing to express my profound concern and objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. As a long-standing resident of Stonnington, I feel compelled to articulate the significant ramifications this decision would have on our community.

The seat of Higgins is not merely a geographical demarcation; it is the heart of a vibrant and cohesive community with a rich history and unique identity. The proposed redistribution, which aims to merge Higgins into neighbouring electorates such as Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, threatens to dilute the voice of Higgins residents, undermining our influence in federal politics and potentially leading to less tailored representation for our local needs.

Higgins has been a cornerstone of federal representation for decades, and its abolition would remove the voice of long-standing residents and community groups who have contributed significantly to the fabric of our society. The electorate has a storied past, having been represented by notable figures such as Harold Holt and Peter Costello, who have championed the interests of our community on the national stage. To dismantle this electorate is to disrupt the continuity of advocacy and service that our residents have come to rely upon.

Moreover, the unique community identity and history of Higgins will be disrupted as our communities are split and absorbed into different electorates with potentially different priorities. Stonnington, in particular, boasts a distinctive character and a strong sense of community that would be fractured by this redistribution. Our local issues, from urban development to heritage preservation, require a dedicated and knowledgeable representative who understands the intricacies of our community.

The proposed changes also risk creating electoral confusion among voters. The reconfiguration of electorates, polling places, and representatives could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation. Residents may find themselves uncertain about their new electoral boundaries, which could result in lower voter turnout and diminished civic involvement.

Furthermore, ongoing local projects and initiatives that are crucial to the development and well-being of our community may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives unfamiliar with the

specific needs of the Higgins community. From infrastructure projects to social programs, the continuity and success of these initiatives depend on the sustained support of a representative who is deeply invested in our community.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully urge the Australian Electoral Commission to reconsider the decision to abolish the seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is essential for preserving the voice, identity, and well-being of Higgins residents. Our community deserves representation that is dedicated, knowledgeable, and attuned to our unique needs and aspirations.

Thank you for considering my objection. I trust that the AEC will take into account the profound impact this decision would have on the residents of Higgins and work towards a solution that upholds the integrity of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Troeth AM

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