



# Comment on objections 4

Simon Kroger

2 pages

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 July 2024 9:13 AM  
**To:** FedRedistribution - VIC  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection

**Categories:** [REDACTED]

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

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Simon Kroger, and I reside at [REDACTED] Malvern East. I am writing to formally object to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne, a decision that, in my view, will have significant and far-reaching consequences for our community.

The seat of Higgins is not merely a boundary on a map; it is a vibrant tapestry of history, identity, and community spirit. As a resident of Stonnington, I am deeply concerned that the abolition of Higgins will dilute the voice of our residents, reducing our influence in federal politics and potentially leading to less tailored representation for our local needs. Stonnington, with its unique blend of heritage and modernity, deserves a distinct voice in Parliament, one that understands and advocates for our specific concerns.

Higgins is a seat steeped in history, having hosted two Prime Ministers—Harold Holt and John Gorton. This historical significance is not just a point of pride but a testament to the important role Higgins has played in shaping Australia's political landscape. The proposed redistribution threatens to erase this legacy, merging our community into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne, each with their own distinct priorities and identities.

The community identity of Higgins is unparalleled. From the bustling streets of Chapel Street to the serene parks of Malvern, our electorate is a microcosm of Melbourne's diversity and vibrancy. This unique identity will be disrupted as our communities are split and absorbed into different electorates. The established relationships residents have with our current MP, relationships built on trust and mutual understanding, will be severed, leading to potential disruptions in services and advocacy.

Furthermore, the abolition of Higgins will inevitably lead to electoral confusion. Voters will be left grappling with new electorates, polling places, and representatives, which could result in decreased voter engagement and participation. This confusion is not merely an inconvenience; it is a threat to the democratic process itself.

Local projects and initiatives, many of which are in progress and tailored to the specific needs of the Higgins community, may lose momentum or be deprioritised under new representatives unfamiliar with our needs. The risk is that our community's unique challenges and opportunities will be overlooked in the broader priorities of larger, amalgamated electorates.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully request that the AEC reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is crucial for ensuring that the residents of Higgins continue to have a strong, distinct voice in federal politics, one that is attuned to our unique identity, history, and needs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Kroger

[REDACTED]

Malvern East

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