



Objection 96

Gavin Mahoney

1 page

10 April 2018.

Mr Tom Rogers
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Electoral Commissioner (Victoria)
Level 8 Casselden Place
2 Lonsdale St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000.

Dear Mr Rogers,

I wish to object to the recent redistribution of Federal Electoral seats within Victoria.

My objection is not in relation to the boundaries, more importantly it is in relation to the actual naming of the proposed newly created Federal Seat in Melbourne's Western suburbs, namely "**Fraser**".

As you would be aware Melbourne's Western suburbs historically and overwhelmingly have a tradition of returning Labor members of Parliament both at the State (Assembly & Council) and Federal (House of Representatives and Senate) levels, even at the Local Government level.

Based on the politically historical significance of the voting intent of Melbourne's Western Region it is highly disingenuous, indeed incongruent to be calling the newly established seat Fraser, after former Liberal Party Leader and Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser.

I note from your guidelines that you favour (*should where possible*) naming seats after former Prime Ministers.

Could I suggest that you consider renaming the seat of "Wannon" to "Fraser" (the seat that he actually represented whilst in Parliament).

I would like to further suggest that you rename the proposed seat of "Fraser" to "**Harvester**" in recognition of the "Harvester decision" (1907) resulting from the locally based "Sunshine Harvester Plough Factory" that became the basis of the national minimum wage system in Australia. It was a 'living' or 'family' wage, set at a level which would supposedly allow an unskilled labourer to support a wife and three children, to feed, house, and clothe them. By the 1920s it applied to over half of the Australian workforce.

It became known as the 'basic wage'. Additional amounts were paid to more skilled workers, for example an additional 3 shillings to a fitter or other tradesperson. These additional amounts were known as 'margins'. In the Harvester Decision, a fair and reasonable wage for more skilled employees was for example 10 shillings a day for 'journeymen', or tradesmen.

Today, the region is made up of many existing and retired semi-skilled migrants who depend on the application of the minimum wage principles (1907) to maintain their family and living standards.

By calling the newly created seat "**Harvester**" gives the community a sense of familiarity and enhances the regions rich industrial history.

It would provide a sense of genuine significant historical ownership empowering the community to be proud of our past history.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the people in (parts) of Sunshine and Sunshine West over the past 25 years have been subject to being displaced into the Federal seats of Burke, Gorton, Lalor, Gellibrand and now Fraser!

I understand communities of interest, pockets of growth and regions of significance, when drawing lines on maps.

But I would like you to understand that familiarity within ones region leads to a strengthened democratic process and an ownership of that process.

I do hope you seriously consider my proposal.

Yours sincerely

Gavin Mahoney

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