



# Objection 36

Martin John Reich

1 page

To the Australian Electoral Commission

**Objection to the proposed naming of the new Division of Hawke**

I would like to object to the proposed naming of the new Division of Hawke on the basis that in naming the electorate after Robert James Lee Hawke AC, that the Australian Electoral Commission would be guilty of inconsistency and could be accused of left-wing bias thereby bringing the agency into disrepute.

The Australian Electoral Commission recently set the precedence by re-naming an electorate after allegations were made about John Batman, one of the founding pioneers of Melbourne. The allegations claimed that John Batman had mistreated indigenous people during the Tasmanian Black War of the 1820' and 30's some 200 years ago. This action attempts to judge someone for their historic actions based on today's standards.

If this is to be the new standard for the naming of electorates then the Australian Electoral Commission will need to give serious consideration to the proposed naming of the new electorate of Hawke.

It was widely rumoured that, Bob Hawke, whilst head of the ACTU was a womaniser and had repeatedly cheated on his wife Hazel whilst she was at home raising their children. Furthermore, it has been alleged, in a 25 page affidavit lodged in the NSW Supreme Court, that he deliberately covered up the rape of his own daughter, Rosslyn Dillon, to ensure that it would not adversely impact on his political aspirations of becoming Prime Minister of Australia. Whilst these allegations of misconduct occurred in the 1970's and 80's, by todays standards they would be totally unacceptable and most likely incite a major public outcry.

It must be clear to the Australian Electoral Commission that the recent public outrage on the treatment of women would preclude anyone with allegations against them such as those surrounding Bob Hawke from having the honour of an electorate being named after them.

I therefore submit that naming the newly created Division after Robert James Lee Hawke AC would amount to an insult to all women but especially those women who have been badly treated by men and or have been the victims of sexual assault.

I remain yours faithfully,

Martin Reich