



MEDIA RELEASE

29 May 2023

Geelong Council drops Australia day

The decision by the Geelong City council to abandon January 26 as Australia Day has drawn a strong community backlash according to today's front page of the Geelong Advertiser (29 May).

The Geelong City Council said it based its decision after a "community consultation".

However, of the 957 respondents to the Council's "consultation", 444 were from indigenous peoples.

Even if 51% of indigenous people voted for a change nothing was said about the other 513 respondents from non indigenous people.

Australia Day is a date of such monumental national significance, and means so much to so many, that it should never be able to be cancelled or changed at the whim of a local council or Government of the day.

Indigenous Australians make up around 2.5% of the nation's population and the other 97% are non aboriginal. Most recent polls suggest about 70% of Australians want to keep Australia Day on the 26th of January.

Family Voice is disappointed in the Geelong City Council's decision and regards the Council's decision to alter the date as being unrepresentative of the majority of Geelong ratepayers.

Further details:

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