



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 1983

### MR NIXON'S RETIREMENT

While it is a matter of great regret to me and to the Government that Mr Nixon will be retiring from politics, he has explained to me his wish to pursue other interests and to devote more time to his family, and I completely understand and respect these wishes. His experience and wise counsel will be greatly missed by the Government, the Parliament and the Australian community.

As a Minister in the Holt, McEwen, Gorton and McNahon Governments, as well as in my own Government, Mr Nixon has handled a variety of portfolios and has contributed in many different areas. He has been outstanding in my own administration as Minister for Transport and now as Minister for Primary Industry. He has been involved in difficult negotiations on the primary production and trade side and has earned the liking and respect of his counterpart Ministers in other countries.

Mr Nixon will continue as Minister for Primary Industry up to the time of the next election.

His colleagues and friends, while regretting his departure from the political scene, will wish Mr Nixon well in whatever occupation he chooses to pursue. We have all greatly enjoyed his comradeship in the Parliament and in Government.

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MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY

Parliament House,  
Canberra, A.C.T., 2600  
Telephone (062) 731711

1 February 1983

My dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to inform you that I will not be contesting the seat of Gippsland at the next Federal Election.

I have reached this decision after giving the matter serious consideration and after discussion with my family.

I have been a Member of Parliament for 21 years - 16 of them on the Front Bench. The time has come for me to spend more time with my family and pursue other interests.

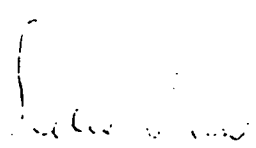
My purpose in writing now is to give you maximum flexibility in any re-arrangements you, with Mr Anthony, wish to make.

As far as my portfolio is concerned, whilst primary industries are going through a traumatic time, policies are either in place or in the pipeline to continue to deal sympathetically with the problems.

I want to say how much I have appreciated our close working relationship and enjoyed working with you since 1975. Because of your many qualities I know you will go from strength to strength.

I am also writing to Mr Anthony.

Yours sincerely,

  
(P.J. Nixon)

The Rt. Hon. J.M. Fraser, C.B., M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600