



**The Federal Redistribution 2008
Tasmania**



Public Comment Number 7

Hon Michael Hodgman QC MP

3 Page(s)

HON MICHAEL HODGMAN QC MP

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for the State of Tasmania
Shadow Minister for Justice
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Liberal Member for Denison



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**The Federal Distribution 2008
Redistribution Committee for Tasmania
2nd Floor
AMP Building
86 Collins Street
HOBART TAS 7000**

Attention: Mr David Molnar

Dear Sir,

Further to my Submission to you dated 5 May, and personally delivered to your office this morning, I wish to add that it has now been drawn to my attention that the distinguished Tasmanian historian James Backhouse Walker (whose opinion is universally respected) said that Denison '*was one of the most enlightened, progressive and able Governors the colony has ever had*'.

In an excellent comment in the Tasmanian Year Book 1970 (page 21) in the Chapter headed *Administration of Sir William Thomas Denison* it is recorded:-

***'Denison, although centre of a political struggle for seven years, was well liked by the colonial population, his departure to take up the post of Governor of New South Wales in 1854 being much regretted by the colonists, who in tribute presented him with a silver service valued at 2000 pounds.'* I suggest that today the 2000 pounds would probably amount to at least \$500,000 – a not inconsequential sum !**

In the same Chapter it is recorded (page 22) that '*Sir William Denison had a high regard for education and the benefits it could bring to the colony*'. He was the Governor who granted five acres of the Queen's Domain for the establishment of the Hobart High School to balance the granting of land to the two denominational schools The Hutchins School and the Launceston Church Grammar School.

The final paragraph under the heading *Departure* is worth quoting verbatim:-

‘Sir William Thomas Denison left the colony on 13 January 1855. His departure was regretted by the colonists as he was the only Governor since Colonel George Arthur to leave the colony without some taint on his character’. (The underlining is mine)

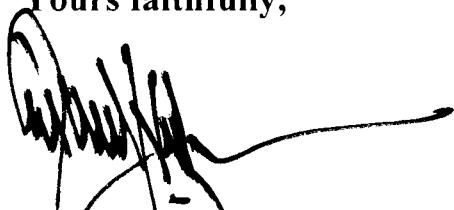
‘Following a period of seven years in New South Wales he was appointed Governor of Madras. In November 1863 following the death of Lord Elgin he temporary became Governor- General of India.’

‘Following his return to England in 1866 he was appointed Chairman of a Royal Commission investigating pollution of British rivers, a position he held until his death on 19 January 1871’.

Sir William Denison was therefore a distinguished Governor of Tasmania and New South Wales and one who actually held the position of Viceroy of India, one of the most senior positions in the British Empire. His record of public service was magnificent, and it is singularly appropriate that the great Electorate of Denison is named in his honour. He was also a friend and contemporary of Sir John Franklin, in whose honour the adjoining Electorate of Franklin is named. As I have said before, Denison and Franklin are a team, a pair and a duo. They were in real life – and it is singularly appropriate that they are honoured in death by having the two Southern-most Electorates in Tasmania (and Australia) named in their honour. This should not be changed by a politically inspired move to glorify Andrew Inglis Clark. There are other ways in which Clark can be honoured and these should be pursued. Tasmania itself has honoured Denison by naming after him the famous Denison Canal (which he inspired); the Denison River; and the Denison Range of Mountains. By comparison, Inglis Clark has only recently had a Law Library named in his honour, only a couple of years ago.

For all the above reasons, I respectfully submit that the name of the Denison Electorate should not be changed to Inglis Clark – or anything else.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael Hodgman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

HON MICHAEL HODGMAN QC MP
HER MAJESTY'S SHADOW ATTORNEY-GENERAL
FOR THE STATE OF TASMANIA

6 May 2008