



The Federal Redistribution 2008
Tasmania



Public Comment on Objection Number 8

Cassy O'Connor MP

3 Page(s)

> AEC Redistribution Committee



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03/10/2008 02:54 PM

To "tas.redistribution@aec.gov.au"
<tas.redistribution@aec.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject AEC Redistribution Committee

Hello,

Please find attached a letter from Cassy O'Connor MP regarding the proposal to rename the Division of Denison.

Kind regards,

Jessica

Jessica Wilson
Executive Assistant to Cassy O'Connor MP
Tasmanian Greens

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> AEC Redistribution Committee

Friday, 3 October 2008

Redistribution Committee for Tasmania
Australian Electoral Commission
2nd Floor, AMP Building
86 Collins St
HOBART TAS 7000
Email: tas.redistribution@aec.gov.au

To Whom it Concerns,

I am writing as an elected Denison representative in the Tasmanian Parliament to express my strong disagreement with the findings of the Australian Electoral Commission's Redistribution Committee Report into the proposed renaming of the Denison Division.

Andrew Inglis-Clark deserves recognition for both his contribution to democratic processes in Tasmania, and to the drafting and content of the Australian Constitution last century. History records that Governor William Denison did not make anywhere near the same contribution to Tasmania or Australia as Andrew Inglis-Clark. The time has come for this to be formally recognised.

Inglis-Clark was a co-founder of the renowned Hare-Clark voting system, widely regarded as an exceptional electoral instrument for advancing democratic principles. For this reason alone, he should be recognised.

Andrew Inglis-Clark was also driven by a conviction that we are all equal before the law – regardless of birth, race, gender, religion or wealth. This is reflected in his contribution to drafting the Australian Constitution, in which he is credited with writing eighty-six clauses in the final document, and ensuring Tasmania played a central role.

In comparison, Governor Denison made a fleeting contribution to Tasmania during his eight year's tenure, and his legacy is marginal at best. He backed the continued transportation of convicts, despite growing local concern, and urged Britain to establish an Upper House in Tasmania, to be overseen by the State's landed gentry.

The claim in the AEC's *Guidelines for naming Divisions* that every effort should be made to retain original Federation Divisional names does not apply to the division of Denison, as this in fact is not an original Federation Division. Such a reason therefore cannot be used as a reason for retaining the name of Denison.

For these reasons, and because the proposed renaming has solid community, and cross-party support, I urge the Australian Electoral Commission to overturn their previous decision, and agree to the renaming of the Division of Denison in honour of Andrew Inglis-Clark.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C O'Connor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cassy O'Connor MP

Member for Denison