



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Submission COB20

Elsbeth

I do not support renaming Grey and don't support using the name O'Donoghue.

Thoughts on the name of Grey and O'Donoghue

More than half of the people who provided their 'ideas' supported the idea of keeping the name Grey, just a shame that most of them didn't provide very good reasons as to why.

- Grey was not a Federation seat, Federation was in 1901, not 1903. Just because South Australia, like Tasmania, didn't get their act together in time for the March 1901 election is no reason to try to claim now that it was a Federation seat. New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia managed to organise themselves, so how hard was it really.
- Quite a number of people said that there is no reason to change the name. Were strong reasons provided to change the name – no, I have to agree with J.S.Merriman, although my reasons will differ.
 - The Redistribution Report seems to be saying that the reason to change is the name is that five people wanted to rename Grey for O'Donoghue. Other redistributions I've looked at have only changed where there has been substantial change to the boundaries, but this isn't mentioned in this part of the report. When I look at Table O, it's approximately 3,600 electors being moved. I agree with the Liberals and Benjamin Close that this at less than 3% is not significant. I query the extent to which the Redistribution Committee has provided adequate explanation here.
 - Merriman notes the emphasis placed on birthplace and deathplace by the Redistribution Committee. If we follow this argument through, then the following electorates should be being renamed:
 - Hindmarsh – born and died in the UK
 - Sturt – born in India and died in England
 - Spence – born in the UK and died in SA, but before the concept of Australian citizenship
 - Barker – born in the UK and died in SA, but before the concept of Australian citizenship
 - Boothby – born in the UK and died in SA, but before the concept of Australian citizenship
 - Kingston – while born and died in South Australia, was before the concept of Australian citizenship

By my count, everything should be being renamed except for Adelaide, Makin and Mayo if we're relying on where people were born, died and what their citizenship was.

- Arguments which don't hold any weight are:

- Grey was the third Governor – there isn't an electorate named for the second Governor, so why should there be for the third. And there have been more than 30 Governor's of South Australia, and there are 10 electorates.
- Grey fought in a war – it was the British Army in Ireland!
- Grey attended the National Australasian Convention in 1891 – but as one of three New Zealand delegates. I was interested to read of what he did because my information argued he was in decline and played little part.
- Apparently, he got South Australia out of bankruptcy by suspending public works and decreasing relief to the unemployed, crowds invaded the grounds of Government House in anger.
- What are the implications of the Aboriginal Witnesses Act? What of the arguments that these served as a protective factor?
- How much weight should be given to the fact that he was Premier of New Zealand?

Why wasn't information provided about why the name Grey was chosen in 1903?

I agree with Ella that we should get rid of Grey, but not with the Redistribution Committee that the replacement should be O'Donoghue.

I think the following questions need to be considered when thinking about new names:

- If this person was a man, would we think the activities were enough?
- If this person wasn't First Nations, would we think the activities were enough?
- The naming guidelines state: Usually, electorates should be named after deceased Australians who have rendered outstanding service to their country. Does being the first in your state to do something fit this?

A number of strong arguments have been made the Grey is not the right place to recognise O'Donoghue as her activities were Adelaide based – see OB 22 and OB403 for example. But I don't think someone who was a nurse and public servant is a strong enough reason to rename an electorate.

I also note that there does not seem to be any support from O'Donoghue's family to name an electorate for her. In the absence of having received anything, now is not the time.

Alternative names

Some good arguments have already been made to rename Barker for dancer, actor and choreographer Robert Helpman, or inventor David Unaipon or author Colin Thiele.

For the future, let's name South Australian electorates for:

- the Helpmann family – to recognise both Robert and Sheila, who was a writer and actor for the stage and screen

- Dr Barbra Hardy – environmentalist and scientist
- Maggie Beer – chef and advocate for the oldies
- Nora Heysen – Archibald Prize winner in 1938 and first woman appointed as an official war artist
- Margaret Preston – modernist painter known for paintings of native flora

Some general thoughts for consideration

- Don't you usually find the glossary at the front of a document, not at the end?
- Why alternative terms? Haven't seen anyone complaining about them and surely if someone has a problem they should take it up with the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters as it seems like a decision has been made to ignore the legislation. Presumably I can FOI the decisions made to not use the terminology in the Commonwealth Electoral Act are to the Redistribution Committee making suggestions and comments available, not ideas. Makes me wonder if proper process has been followed. Similarly with what the Electoral Commission invites. The term 'objections' didn't stop 738 being submitted a couple of years ago, or don't you think everyone else is as smart as the people of NSW.
- What is the reason for including maps in the report – do you think the website is so hard to navigate that people can't find them? Seems to be making it harder for people to look at things as most would want to look at the map and text together.
- And the report is harder to follow with sticking the map-up of electorate tables in the middle of the report rather than at the end. I know people who use readers and they gave up on the report, not really being accessible.
- It is hard to distinguish between headings and sub-headings. I assume Proposed electorate of Barker on page 27 is meant to be a subheading, but it looks like Callington and Kanmantoo on page 28 is the same size – is it meant to be subordinate? This is only one example, but it doesn't help readability. On the same page there is a bunch of text in lines – is that a table, in which case it should have a heading, or is it meant to be a dot-pointed list?
- I don't think enough explanation or context was given in the Redistribution Committee report. Past reports have used population data to provide a context for what is going on with the number of electors – why was that dropped?