



THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
TASMANIA

Comment on public suggestion number 6

Don Morris

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12 December 2016

The Redistribution Committee for Tasmania
GPO Box 520
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Dear Committee

There have again been a number of suggestions from members of the public urging the Commission to change the name of the federal electoral division of Denison to "Inglis Clark". Similar suggestions were made in 2008, at the time of the previous redistribution. I make the same points that I made in my submission to the Committee at that time.

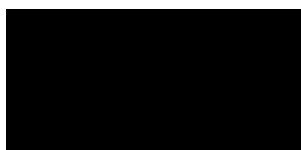
The Hon. Andrew Inglis Clark (Senior) (1848-1907) was the principal draftsman of the Australian Constitution and one of our State's most distinguished sons. He is worthy of memorialising by having a federal electorate named in his honour. He is certainly more deserving than Sir William Denison, whose own time in Tasmania can charitably be characterised as undistinguished.

Redistribution Committees have been hesitant to disturb the names of 'federation seats'. I remind the Committee that Tasmania had no federal electorates in the First Parliament; the State was not divided into electorates until 1903. Two of the 1903 seats have already been re-named. The division of Darwin was re-named Braddon by resolution of the House of Representatives in 1955 and the division of Wilmot was replaced with the division of Lyons in the 1984 redistribution.

However, it is important to reiterate to the Committee that the surname is **Clark**, not 'Inglis Clark.' He is described as Clark in all the accurate references, including the *ADB*, the proceedings of the 1890 and 1891 Australasian Federation Conferences and in the late Judge Frank Neasey's seminal biography. Inglis was the maiden name of his mother, Ann. In the common practice of the time, her pre-marriage surname was given to one of the sons of the marriage of Alex and Ann Clark. In turn, Andrew Inglis Clark gave each of his eight children the second name 'Inglis'. But it was a family name, not part of his, or their, surname. The best evidence of how the family itself treated the name is that the unpublished biography manuscript written by Clark's son Carrel was titled *Draft Life of A. I. Clark*.

I adjure the Committee to consider this when deciding whether to change the name, so that an error is not made.

Yours sincerely,



(Don Morris)