



James Wilkinson (1854-1915)

Member for Moreton (Queensland) 1901-1906

James Wilkinson was born in Ipswich, Queensland. Wilkinson worked on the railways and was a founding member of the Railway Employees Association and the Engine-drivers and Firemen's Association of Queensland. He became the editor and controller of the *Queensland Railway Times* in 1890. As one of the founding members of the labour movement in Queensland, Wilkinson was elected to represent the seat of Ipswich in the Queensland Legislative Assembly 1894-96. He was a prominent speaker and writer in the Moreton district of Queensland in favour of federation.

In 1901, Wilkinson was elected to represent the federal seat of Moreton in the House of Representatives at the first federal election. Originally an Independent Labor member, he joined the Labor Party prior to successfully contesting the federal election of 1903. He lost his seat in 1906 largely due to an electoral redistribution.

The electorate of Moreton was named after its locality. Captain Cook named Moreton Bay in 1770, after the Earl of Morton.