

**South Australian election results**

**March 2014**

On Saturday 15 March 2014 the South Australian state election was held. Labor won 23 of the 47 Lower House seats, with the Liberals securing 22 seats. The remaining two seats, Fisher and Frome, were won by independents Dr Bob Such and Mr Geoff Brock respectively.

On Sunday 23 March 2014 Independent MP for the seat of Frome, Mr Geoff Brock announced he would support a Labor minority government in South Australia. This followed the announcement by Dr Such on 23 March 2014 that he would be seeking two months' leave from the Parliament due to health-related issues. Until such time as Dr Such returns, Labor will have an effective two-seat majority on the floor of the Parliament on matters of confidence and supply.

Mr Brock has been given the roles of Minister for Regional Affairs and Local Government in the new Labor government.

This secures Labor's fourth consecutive term in office in South Australia.

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**Background to the election**

Labor has held power in South Australia for the past 12 years.

The Liberal Party needed to gain six seats in the 2014 election in order to form a majority. Following the redistribution conducted since the 2010 state election, the Liberal party required a notional state-wide 2.6 per cent swing to win government.

The ALP held five seats on margins of less than 2.5 per cent, and held eleven seats by less than 5 per cent. Most of these seats were within the Adelaide and its surrounding suburbs.

Bright was the most marginal Labor seat in the state, being redistributed as a notional Liberal seat.

The other four of the five most marginal seats were Ashford, Elder, Hartley and Mitchell, and are all located in the suburbs of Adelaide. Most of the sitting ALP MPs in these seats recontested, except for Patrick Conlon who stepped down as Member for Elder.

The further six Labor electorates with margins of less than 5 per cent included three in the north-east of Adelaide: Florey, Newland and Wright. The other three are seats were Colton to the west of Adelaide, Mawson at the southern end of Adelaide and Light on the northern fringe of Adelaide.

## Results

### Changing seats

Seat	Sitting Candidate	Held by	Prediction	Swing
<a href="#">Hartley</a>	Grace Portolesi (ALP)	0.1%	LIB gain	2.6% to LIB
<a href="#">Mitchell</a>	Alan Sibbons (ALP)	2.4%	LIB gain	3.6% to LIB
<a href="#">Bright</a>	Chloe Fox (ALP)	-0.5%	LIB gain	3.7% to LIB
<a href="#">Mount Gambier</a>	Don Pegler (IND)	0.5%	LIB gain	7.7% to LIB (LIB v IND)

### Marginal seats retained by the ALP

Seats	ALP Candidate	Held by	Prediction	Swing
<a href="#">Colton</a>	Paul Caica	3.6%	ALP retain	2.2% to LIB
<a href="#">Wright</a>	Jennifer Rankine	4.9%	ALP retain	1.8% to LIB
<a href="#">Newland</a>	Tom Kenyon	2.6%	ALP retain	1.2% to LIB
<a href="#">Elder</a>	Annabel Digance	2.0%	ALP retain	0.1% to LIB
<a href="#">Light</a>	Tony Piccolo	2.8%	ALP retain	0.0% to LIB
<a href="#">Mawson</a>	Leon Bignell	4.5%	ALP retain	1.0% to ALP
<a href="#">Florey</a>	Frances Bedford	3.6%	ALP retain	1.1% to ALP
<a href="#">Ashford</a>	Stephanie Key	0.6%	ALP retain	1.3% to ALP

## **Negotiations**

Following the initial results of the 2014 South Australian election on 15 March, Dr Such and Mr Brock commenced discussions with both Premier Weatherill and Opposition Leader Marshall. The Government remained in caretaker mode throughout the discussions.

As twenty-four seats are needed to form a minority government in South Australia, the Liberal Party required the support of both Mr Brock and Dr Such.

On Sunday 23 March Dr Such announced that he would be seeking two months' leave from the South Australian Parliament due to health-related issues.

Following the release of this statement, Mr Brock announced that he would support a Labor minority government in South Australia on matters of confidence and supply. He also announced that he would accept an offer made to him by Premier Weatherill to become the Minister for Regional Development and the Minister for State and Government Local Relations.

Mr Brock's support will see a fourth successive South Australian Labor government.

Following the announcement of Mr Brock's support, Premier Weatherill also indicated that the government would shortly be announcing updated policy on the regions, small business, the structure of government and the electoral system.

## **The South Australian Labor minority government (2002–2006)**

After the 2002 election produced a hung parliament, Labor formed government with independent support.

At the 2002 election Labor won two seats from the Liberals: Adelaide (Jane Lomax-Smith) and Colton (Paul Caica). As a result, Labor held 23 seats, Liberals 20 seats, SA Nationals one seat, and three seats were held by independents.

On 13 February 2002 independent Peter Lewis announced that he had signed an agreement to support a Labor Government in exchange for holding a constitutional convention and various concessions for his electorate. As a result of the agreement, he was also appointed speaker of the House of Assembly.

The Kerin Liberal Government followed parliamentary precedent established by the Hon Don Dunstan MP following the 1968 election, and refused to resign until after Opposition Leader Mike Rann MP and Labor demonstrated that they had majority support on the floor of the House of Assembly.

On 5 March 2002 the Liberal Government was defeated on the floor of the House of Assembly. The Hon Mike Rann MP was appointed Premier on 6 March 2002.