

Hawker Britton

Government Relations Strategy

Queensland Labor and the State Election

January 2015

On Tuesday 6 January 2015 Queensland Premier the Hon Campbell Newman MP announced that the next Queensland state election will be held on 31 January 2015.

The LNP currently holds 73 of the 89 seats in the Assembly. The Labor Opposition, led by the Hon Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, holds 9 seats. The remaining seats are held by three representatives of Katter's Australian Party and four independent MPs.

The Queensland Legislative Assembly

Queensland is unique among Australian states in having a unicameral parliamentary system, meaning there is only one house of parliament. All members sit in the Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly has 89 members elected from single member constituencies under the system of optional preferential voting. A party needs 45 seats to govern as a majority.

Queensland has three-year non-fixed terms. The last election was held on 24 March 2012. Labor, led by former Premier the Hon Anna Bligh, was defeated by the opposition Liberal National Party (LNP) led by the Hon Campbell Newman MP. The LNP received a swing of 8.1 per cent and took a large majority of seats in the Assembly.

Election results 2001–2012

Party	2001	2004	2006	2009	2012
ALP	66	63	59	51	7
LIB/NAT/LNP	15	20	25	34	78
OTHER	8	6	5	4	4

Current composition of the Legislative Assembly

Since the last state election, the LNP Government has had three of its MPs defect to minor parties and two quit the Parliament.

Queensland Labor candidates have been elected in three successive by-elections: Jackie Trad in South Brisbane, Yvette D'Ath in Redcliffe and Dr Anthony Lynham in Stafford. All three MPs were appointed to the Shadow Cabinet.

As a result, the LNP currently holds 73 seats in the Assembly. The Labor Opposition holds 9 seats. The crossbench consists of three representatives of Katter's Australian Party and four independents.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the Stafford By-election is available [here](#).

Changes to Queensland electoral law

On 22 May 2014 the [Electoral Reform Amendment Bill 2013](#) was passed in the Legislative Assembly, amending Queensland's [Electoral Act](#). The legislation implemented significant changes to Queensland's electoral system, including but not limited to:

- a substantial reduction in taxpayer funding to political parties for campaigns;
- an increase to the threshold at which donations must be declared, from \$1000 to \$12,400;
- the removal of spending limits in each electorate; and
- the requirement that voters produce ID at polling booths (such as utilities bill).

The Human Rights Law Centre Human Rights Law Centre [responded to the changes](#) stating that the votes of 'tens of thousands of vulnerable people are threatened by voter ID laws. Those most at risk are elderly and young voters, people in remote rural regions, people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the homeless'.

These laws applied to the Stafford By-election held on 19 July 2014.

Leader of the Opposition: The Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP

Anastacia Palaszczuk was elected as the Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and became the Opposition Leader following the 2012 State Election. She also holds the position of Shadow Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. She previously held the positions of Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Disability Services in the former Labor Government.



Prior to entering politics, Anastacia worked as a policy adviser to a number of Labor ministers, including Minister for Communities, Disabilities and Seniors Warren Pitt and former Minister for the Environment Dean Wells.

Anastacia contested and won the seat of Inala at the 2006 QLD state election following her father's, Labor MP Henry Palaszczuk's, retirement. Her father had held the seat of Inala from 1992 – 2006.

Anastacia Palaszczuk grew up in the Brisbane suburb of Durack. Anastacia is a patron of Inala Community House, Project Love & Care, Wolston Park Golf Club and the Darra-Oxley Pony Club.

Queensland Labor's Election Policies

Queensland Labor has released over thirty policies it will be taking to the upcoming election. The policies cover a range of areas, from jobs and the economy to health and education, law and order and industrial relations.

Queensland Labor's election policies are available [here](#).



The Queensland Labor Shadow Ministry

Annastacia Palaszczuk Member for Inala	Leader of the Opposition Shadow Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
Tim Mulherin Member for Mackay	Deputy Leader of the Opposition Shadow Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Racing, Local Government, Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games
Curtis Pitt Member for Mulgrave	Manager of Opposition Business Shadow Minister for Treasury and Trade, Energy and Water Supply, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Jo-Ann Miller Member for Bundamba	Opposition Whip Shadow Minister for Health, Natural Resources and Mines
Desley Scott Member for Woodridge	Deputy Opposition Whip Shadow Minister for Community Services and Child Safety, Mental Health, Women and Seniors, Multicultural Affairs
Bill Byrne Member for Rockhampton	Shadow Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, Construction and Public Works, National Parks, Sport and Recreation
Jackie Trad Member for South Brisbane	Shadow Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Environment and Heritage Protection, Small Business and Consumer Affairs, The Arts
Yvette D'Ath Member for Redcliffe	Shadow Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Training, Disability Services, Housing
Dr Anthony Lynham Member for Stafford	Shadow Minister for Education, Science, IT and Innovation, Primary Industries and Fisheries, Assisting the Leader on the Public Service