

Hawker Britton

Public Affairs Solutions

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Update to the Queensland Election Brief

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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Political and Parliamentary Outline	4
1. General Election Facts.....	4
2. Elections 1998-2009.....	4
3. Current State of Parliament	4
4. To Win	4
5. Opposition Leadership	4
6. Independent Seats	4
Election Pendulum	5
Most Recent Polling by Newspoll	6
1. Voting Intention	6
2. Two Party Preferred	6
3. Bligh's Performance	6
4. Leader of the Opposition Performance	6
5. Preferred Premier	6

Introduction

Today, Queensland Premier Anna Bligh has announced she will ask Governor Penny Wensley to dissolve parliament on the 19th of February, setting the election for the 24th March 2012.

The announcement was made by the Premier, after receiving a request from the Floods Commission of Inquiry for an extension of time until the 16th of March to complete their work, and allowing the general public to review the report and responses of recommendations by the major parties.

Premier Anna Bligh will seek a sixth consecutive term for the Labor Government in Queensland. It will be the second time she has contested an election as Premier, after replacing Peter Beattie in 2007, who had successfully contested the 2001, 2004 and 2006 State election.

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.

A party requires 45 seats in the Legislative Assembly to govern in majority. The Labor Party currently holds 51 of the seats, the Liberal National Party holds 31, and there are 7 independent members.

The Labor Party can retain a majority government by limiting seat losses to at most 5 seats, a uniform swing of 3%. A loss of seven seats on a uniform swing of 3.2% would reduce Labor to 44 seats and in a minority position in Parliament. The Coalition requires a net gain of 14 seats, a uniform swing of 4.6%, to achieve a majority government.

In between these two swings lies the potential for a hung parliament, in which no party has a majority of seats. In this event, the role of independents and minor parties is decisive as cross bench support is necessary to form government.

The key parties contesting the election include;

- The Australian Labor Party, <http://www.qld.alp.org.au/>, lead by Anna Bligh;
- The Liberal National Party, <http://lnp.org.au/>, lead by Campbell Newman,
- Katter's Australian Party, <http://www.ausparty.org.au/>, lead by Aiden McLindon, and
- The Greens, <http://qld.greens.org.au/>.

Political and Parliamentary Outline

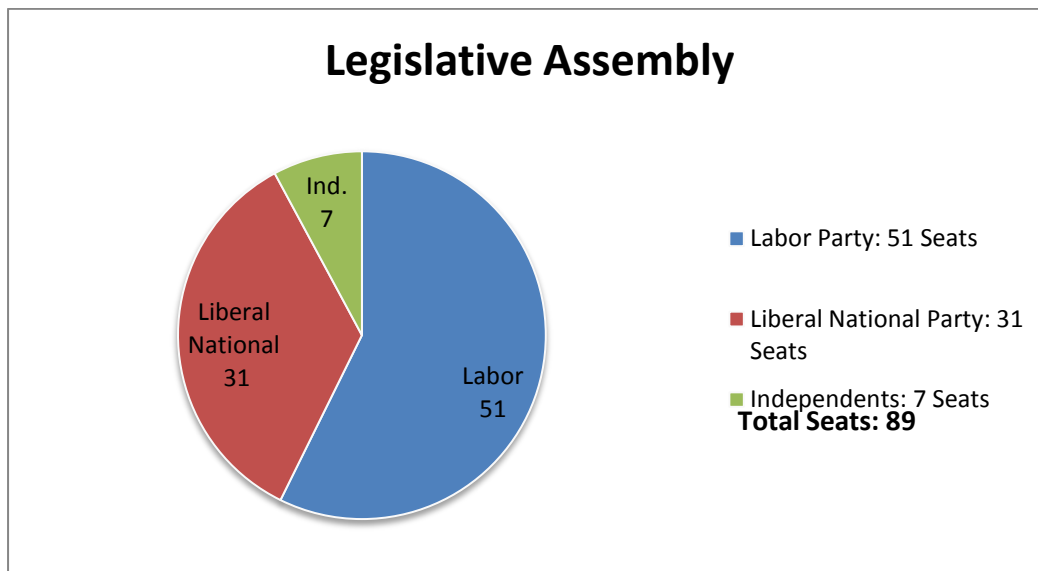
1. General Election Facts

- The Queensland Government has a unicameral parliamentary system
- Queensland has three year non-fixed terms
- The Legislative Assembly has 89 members elected from single member constituencies under the system of optional preferential voting.

2. Elections 1998-2009

Party	1998	2001	2004	2006	2009
ALP	44	66	63	59	51
National Party	23	12	15	17	34
Liberal Party	9	3	5	8	
Total Non-Labor	32	15	20	25	
One Nation	11	3	1	1	0
Independents	2	5	5	4	4

3. Current State of Parliament



4. To Win

- A Party needs 45 Seats to govern as a majority.
- Labor can lose six seats on a uniform swing of -3% and retain a majority
- The Coalition needs to gain 14 seats on a uniform swing of 4.6% to achieve a majority.

5. Opposition Leadership

- Campbell Newman, Leader of the Queensland LNP. Elected as the Lord Mayor of Brisbane on 27 March 2004, Campbell served the people of Brisbane until Sunday 3 April 2011, when he resigned to contest the state seat of Ashgrove.

6. Independent Seats

- There are Seven Independent members of the current Queensland Parliament.
- Two of the Independents are held by Katter's Australian Party.

Election Pendulum

Labor (51)		Liberal National (31)	
Chatsworth	ALP 0.1%	Redlands	LNP 0.1%
Everton	ALP 1.4%	Cleveland	LNP 0.3%
Broadwater	ALP 2.0%	Burdekin	LNP 0.5%
Cook	ALP 2.2%	Mirani	LNP 0.6%
Barron River	ALP 2.3%	Gaven	LNP 0.7%
Toowoomba North	ALP 3.2%	Coomera	LNP 1.9%
Whitsunday	ALP 3.2%	Mudgeeraba	LNP 3.9%
Southport	ALP 3.5%	Aspley	LNP 4.5%
Townsville	ALP 4.0%	Clayfield	LNP 5.8%
Springwood	ALP 4.1%	Glass House	LNP 5.8%
Cairns	ALP 4.2%	Indooroopilly	LNP 5.9%
Mansfield	ALP 4.4%	Bundaberg	LNP 6.0%
Ferny Grove	ALP 4.5%	Caloundra	LNP 6.2%
Kallangur	ALP 4.6%	Hervey Bay	LNP 6.5%
Pine Rivers	ALP 4.6%	Currumbin	LNP 6.9%
Mount Ommaney	ALP 4.8%	Kawana	LNP 6.9%
Burleigh	ALP 4.9%	Lockyer	LNP 7.6%
Pumicestone	ALP 5.0%	Toowoomba South	LNP 8.2%
Mount Coot-tha	ALP 5.3%	Moggill	LNP 10.3%
Redcliffe	ALP 5.6%	Mermaid Beach	LNP 10.8%
Mount Isa	ALP 5.7%	Maroochydore	LNP 12.8%
Brisbane Central	ALP 6.0%	Buderim	LNP 14.3%
Albert	ALP 6.5%	Gregory	LNP 14.3%
Mundingburra	ALP 6.6%	Hinchinbrook	LNP 14.7%
Greenslopes	ALP 6.9%	Surfers Paradise	LNP 16.5%
Ashgrove	ALP 7.1%	Callide	LNP 19.4%
Murrumba	ALP 7.2%	Noosa	LNP 20.0%
Stafford	ALP 7.3%	Condamine	LNP 20.5%
Keppel	ALP 7.6%	Southern Downs	LNP 21.1%
Bulimba	ALP 7.8%	Warrego	LNP 24.3%
Mulgrave	ALP 8.1%	Gympie	LNP 27.2%
Thuringowa	ALP 8.5%		
Yeerongpilly	ALP 8.7%		
Morayfield	ALP 9.1%		
Algerter	ALP 9.2%	Others (7)	
Stretton	ALP 9.5%	Nanango	IND 2.9% v LNP
Ipswich West	ALP 9.6%	Gladstone	IND 6.1% v ALP
Capalaba	ALP 9.7%	Beaudesert	KAP 8.3% LNP v ALP
Sunnybank	ALP 10.8%	Burnett	IND 11.1% LNP v ALP
Lytton	ALP 12.2%	Dalrymple	KAP 15.8% LNP v ALP
Sandgate	ALP 12.4%	Nicklin	IND 16.3% v LNP
Logan	ALP 13.9%	Maryborough	IND 16.8% v LNP
Nudgee	ALP 14.3%		
South Brisbane	ALP 15.0%		
Waterford	ALP 16.5%		
Ipswich	ALP 16.7%		
Mackay	ALP 16.7%		
Rockhampton	ALP 17.9%		
Bundamba	ALP 21.2%		
Inala	ALP 21.5%		
Woodridge	ALP 25.4%		

Most Recent Polling by Newspoll

1. Voting Intention

	LABOR	LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY	THE GREENS	OTHERS
Newspoll Jan - Mar 2011	38	37	10	15
Newspoll Apr - May 2011	31	51	7	11
Newspoll Jul - Sep 2011	27	50	8	15
Newspoll Oct - Dec 2011	31	44	10	15

2. Two Party Preferred

	LABOR	NON-LABOR
Newspoll Oct - Dec 2010	41	59
Newspoll Jan - Mar 2011	52	48
Newspoll Apr - May 2011	40	60
Newspoll Jul - Sep 2011	39	61
Newspoll Oct - Dec 2011	44	56

3. Bligh's Performance

	SATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	UNCOMMITTED
Oct - Dec 2010	24	67	9
Jan - Mar 2011	49	43	8
Apr - May 2011	40	50	10
Jul - Sep 2011	38	52	10
Oct - Dec 2011	39	50	11

4. Leader of the Opposition Performance

^ Denotes question that asked "are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Mr Campbell Newman is doing his job as Leader of the LNP?"

	SATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	UNCOMMITTED
Oct - Dec 2010	38	38	24
Jan - Mar 2011	33	40	27
Apr - May 2011[^]	50	22	28
Jul - Sep 2011[^]	51	27	22
Oct - Dec 2011[^]	45	33	22

5. Preferred Premier

	MS ANNA BLIGH	MR JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK	UNCOMMITTED
Oct - Dec 2010	31	41	28
Jan - Mar 2011	53	26	21
	MS ANNA BLIGH	MR CAMPBELL NEWMAN	UNCOMMITTED
Apr - May 2011	35	49	16
Jul - Sep 2011	34	48	18
Oct - Dec 2011	39	43	18