

Forthcoming Elections May 2017

This Hawker Britton Occasional Paper outlines forthcoming elections for Australian Federal, State, Territory and Local Government Area jurisdictions and New Zealand Federal and Local Government jurisdictions.

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Federal, State and Territory elections

The following table outlines the possible (or actual where fixed) dates for the next Federal, State and Territory elections (Lower Houses only).

	Last election	Actual (Fixed)	Latest date
Federal	2 July 2016		18 May 2019
South Australia	15 March 2014	17 March 2018	
Victoria	29 November 2014	24 November 2018	
Queensland	31 January 2015		5 May 2018
Tasmania	15 March 2014		26 May 2018
New South Wales	28 March 2015	23 March 2019	
Northern Territory	27 August 2016	22 August 2020	
Australian Capital Territory	15 October 2016	17 October 2020	
Western Australia	11 March 2017	13 March 2021	
New Zealand	20 September 2014	23 September 2017	

Federal

Federally, Members of the House of Representatives are elected to three year terms, and Senators elected to six year terms, with half of them being elected every three years. Senators commence their term on 1 July following a general election. There is no constitutional requirement that elections for the House of Representatives and state Senators be held simultaneously. These elections are however, generally held concurrently primarily to avoid the duplication of costs.

For a House of Representatives and half Senate election to be held concurrently the election must be held at any time within one year prior to the Senate places turning over, according to s13 of the Constitution.

If a House of Representatives election is called outside of this time period, the responsibility for the half Senate only election falls to the respective states, with governors issuing writs for the (half) Senate election.

Because the 2016 election was a Double Dissolution, the terms of all Senators ended. The term of State Senators, who were elected in 2016 and allocated three years, will expire on 30 June 2019. The term of State Senators, who were elected in 2016 and allocated six years, will expire on 30 June 2022.

The earliest date for a concurrent House of Representatives and half Senate election would be Saturday 4 August 2018. As the latest possible date for a half-Senate election is Saturday 18 May 2019, the latest possible date for a simultaneous (half-Senate and House of Representatives) election is also 18 May 2019. The Coalition currently hold Government.

South Australia

The South Australian House of Assembly has a fixed four-year term. Elections are held on the third Saturday in March every four years. A revision of South Australia's state electoral boundaries occurred in late 2016, and will take effect at the next election on Saturday 17 March 2018. The Labor Party currently hold Government.

Victoria

The Victorian Legislative Assembly has a fixed four-year term. The election is held on the last Saturday in November every four years. The next election will be held on Saturday 24 November 2018. The Labor Party currently hold Government.

Queensland

In 2016, a referendum was held to provide for fixed four-year terms for the Legislative Assembly in Queensland, after the current term of Parliament. Subsequently the *Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Amendment Act 2015* was enacted in May 2016. Queensland is currently going through an electoral redistribution. The Queensland Electoral Commission's Redistribution Commission's final boundary determinations to be released in late May, with the new boundaries coming into effect in mid-June. In last 2016, the Queensland Parliament also voted to increase the number of state seats by four from 89 to 93. These new four seats will be included as part of the electoral redistribution. The next election will be contested on the new boundaries, including the additional four seats; provided that the electoral redistribution process has concluded by the time an election is called. The Labor Party currently hold Government.

Tasmania

The Tasmanian House of Assembly term expires four years from the return of the writs for its election. The Governor must issue writs of election between five and ten days thereafter. Nominations must close on a date seven to 21 days after the issuance of the writ, and polling day must be a Saturday between 15 and 30 days after nominations close. As such, the next election is to be held no later than the end of May 2018. The Coalition currently hold Government.

New South Wales

The New South Wales Legislative Assembly has a fixed four-year term. Elections are held on the fourth Saturday in March every four years. The next election will be held on Saturday 23 March 2019. The Coalition currently hold Government.

Northern Territory



The Northern Territory's unicameral Parliament has a four-year term. The election is held on the fourth Saturday of August every four years. The next election is due on Saturday 22 August 2020. The Labor Party currently hold Government.

Australian Capital Territory

The Australian Capital Territory's Legislative Assembly has a fixed four-year term. Elections are held on the third Saturday in October every four years. The next election will be held on Saturday 17 October 2020. The Labor Party currently hold Government.

Western Australia

Western Australia's Legislative Assembly has a fixed four-year term. The election is held on the second Saturday in March every four years. The next election will be held on Saturday 13 March 2021. The Labor Party currently hold Government.

New Zealand

New Zealand general elections generally occur every three years. New Zealand law requires elections at least once every three years and two months, though elections are often held after three years, traditionally in November. The next election has been called for Saturday 23 September 2017. The National Party currently hold Government.



Local Government Area election dates

The following table outlines the most recent and forthcoming LGA election dates.

	Last election	Actual (Fixed)
Northern Territory	24 March 2012	26 August 2017
Western Australia	17 October 2015	21 October 2017
Tasmania	14 October 2014	30 October 2018
South Australia	7 November 2014	9 November 2018
Queensland	19 March 2016	28 March 2020
New South Wales	10 September 2016	12 September 2020
Victoria	22 October 2016	26 October 2020
Australian Capital Territory	No separate local governments	
Auckland Council, New Zealand	9 October 2016	12 October 2019

Northern Territory

The *Local Government Act 2016*, as in force at 1 May 2016 outlines the Northern Territory Electoral Commission to conduct Northern Territory local government elections. The next round of local government elections is scheduled for 26 August 2017.

Western Australia

Western Australian local government elections are held on the third Saturday in October, every two years. Local government elections are scheduled for 21 October 2017.

Tasmania

Tasmanian local government elections are held on the last Tuesday in October, every two years. The next round of local government elections is scheduled for 30 October 2018. The Tasmanian 2018 local government elections will occur in the same year of the state election.

South Australia

South Australian local government elections are held every four years in November. Voting for the next round of local government elections is scheduled to close on 9 November 2018 and counting will begin on 10 November 2018. The South Australian 2018 local government election will occur in the same year of the state election.

Queensland

Queensland local government elections are held every four years, on the final Saturday in March. The next round of local government elections is scheduled for 28 March 2020.

New South Wales

New South Wales' local government elections are held on the second Saturday in September, every four years. The next round of local government elections is scheduled for 12 September 2020.

**Victoria**

Victorian local government elections are held on the last Saturday of October, every two years. The next round of local government elections is scheduled for 26 October 2020.

Australian Capital Territory

The Australian Capital Territory does not have local governments.

Auckland Council, New Zealand

A general election of members of every local authority, local board, or community board must be held on the second Saturday in October every three years. The Mayor of Auckland is Phil Goff, who was a previous Labour Member of the New Zealand Parliament. The next Auckland Council election is scheduled for 12 October 2019.