

## **Queensland 2017 election**

## October 2017

The Queensland Premier, the Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, yesterday visited the Acting Governor, the Honourable Chief Justice Catherine Holmes, requesting the dissolution of Queensland Parliament and for a general election to be held on Saturday 25 November 2017.

A general election was due by 5 May 2018. This is the last Queensland election under non-fixed three year terms. Following a referendum in 2016, following this election Queensland is transitioning to fixed four year terms, with subsequent elections to be held on the last Saturday in October every four years. Under the enabling legislation's transition provisions, the election subsequent to this one will be held on Saturday 31 October 2020.

Earlier this year a mandated electoral redistribution came into effect, which also included the addition of four seats, following a vote of Parliament in 2016 to increase the number of seats from 89 to 93.

A summary of the parties' standings under the new boundaries is as follows:

Parties	ALP	LNP	PHON	KAP	Independents	TOTAL
Seats on current margin	42	41	1	2	3	89
Seats on new notional margin*	48	42	N/A	2	1	93

This election will also see the implementation of compulsory preferential voting.

The Queensland Election contest will test the influence of minor parties, most notably Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party (One Nation). The Australian Labor Party's Queensland branch (ALP) has ruled out a preference swap deal One Nation and similar independents, as it has done since 1998. If, after the election neither major party is able to form a majority, either in their own right or in coalition with a minor party/ies, a new election would be held.

Issues expected to feature in the election include:

- Energy prices;
- Cost of living;
- Infrastructure; and
- Regional development.

## **Further information**

For further information on the Queensland (state) electoral redistribution is available in the Occasional Paper <u>here</u>.

For further information, contact Eamonn Fitzpatrick on +61 401 719 488.

 $<sup>{</sup>f *}$  New notional margins are based on voting patterns from the 2015 state election.