

Forthcoming Australian and New Zealand Election Dates

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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 election dates

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	25 November 2017	31 October 2020	
Tasmania	15 March 2014	3 March 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	23 September 2017		21 November 2020

Local Government Area election dates

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

	Last election	Actual (Fixed)
Tasmania	14 October 2014	30 October 2018
South Australia	7 November 2014	9 November 2018
Western Australia	21 October 2017	19 October 2019
Queensland	19 March 2016	28 March 2020
New South Wales	10 September 2016	12 September 2020
Victoria	22 October 2016	26 October 2020
Northern Territory	26 August 2017	28 August 2021
Australian Capital Territory	No separate local governments	
Auckland Council, New Zealand	9 October 2016	12 October 2019

Overview of the election cycle in each jurisdiction

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. The Act included transitional clauses to fixed four-year terms, meaning the next election will be held on 31 October 2020. 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. The next state election will be held on 3 March 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 has a three year electoral cycle. The next general election is likely to take place in late 2020. The New Zealand Labour Party currently hold Government in coalition with New Zealand First, with support from the Green Party.

Overview of the local government election cycle in each jurisdiction

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.

Western Australia

Western Australian local government elections are held on the third Saturday in October, every two years. Local government elections are scheduled for 19 October 2019.

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.

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 28 August 2021.

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.