

Queensland State Election 2020 Political Briefing Week 2

Each Friday during the Queensland Election Hawker Britton takes a look back at the week that was and provides insights and analysis on the shape of the race in the lead up to election day on October 31st.

The 2020 State Election is like no other. Whichever party forms government will have the opportunity of a four-year fixed term – the first in Queensland history.

This campaign comes on the backdrop of the once-in-a-generation COVID-19 health and economic crisis which brings great accelerations and disruptions across all facets of the state.

State of the race – Labor and LNP

The second week of the campaign was critical for both of the major parties. With unprecedented levels of pre-poll and postal votes expected to be cast from Monday this week was vital for the campaigns to deliver clear messages to targeted voters. With the addition of Prime Minister Scott Morrison spending an entire week campaigning in the state it was a high stakes moment for the parties.

Labor was able to spend the majority of the week on its core issues of jobs and economic development – particularly in health infrastructure, skills and rail manufacturing sectors. Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk again travelled with the Treasurer Cameron Dick in a barnstorm tour up the Queensland coast from Brisbane to Rockhampton. The Labor campaign returned to Brisbane for the expected Friday national cabinet, before it was postponed belatedly. The Premier and former Deputy Premier Jackie Trad both made statements confirming Ms Trad would not return to the cabinet in a re-elected Labor government. Meanwhile, Deputy Premier Steven Miles continued to play duelling roles in announcing the daily COVID report and running effective negative campaign talking points and attacks, including exposing controversial past comments from LNP Candidate in Mundingburra.

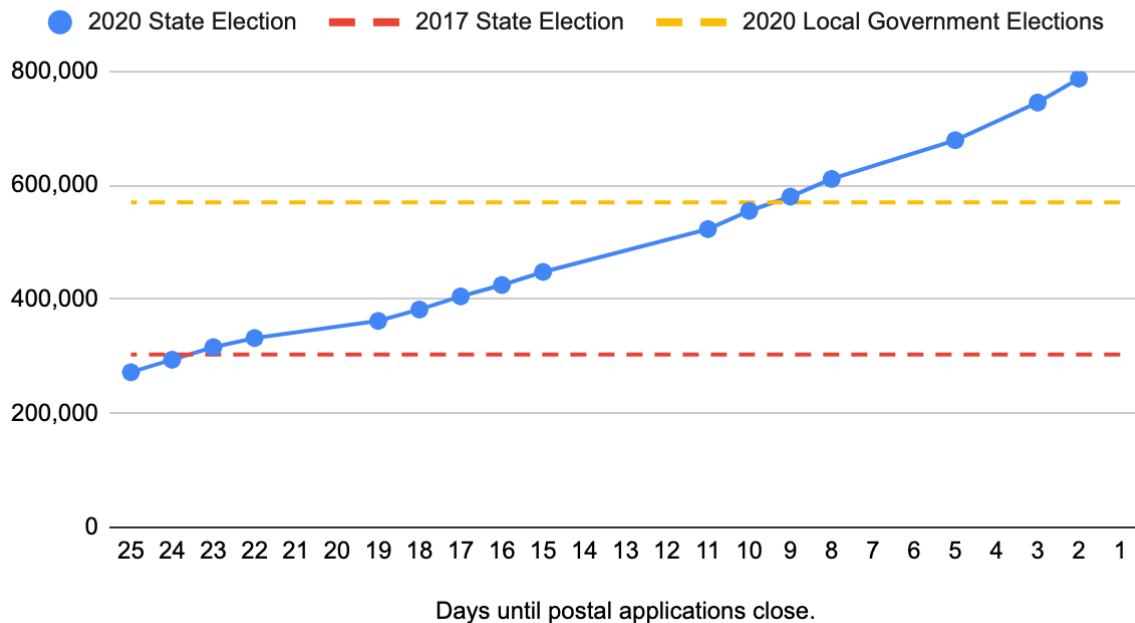
The Liberal-National Party had a significant opportunity this week to capitalise on the visit of Prime Minister Scott Morrison in Queensland from Saturday morning through to Friday. However, the campaign largely squandered the chance to capitalise on the popular Federal leader, with limited joint media appearances with the less favoured state leader. The State Opposition Leader spent the week on the back foot, most notably being forced to respond to claims her own party had referred her fundraising activities to the Electoral Commission and then manage two days of revelations of the social media past of her candidate in Mundingburra. The Prime Minister was scheduled to leave Queensland Friday having campaigned with Ms Frecklington three times over his week-long visit. LNP Deputy Leader Tim Mander spent large parts of the week in Brisbane to provide campaign media comments to journalists from Parliament House.

Early voting

In another major acceleration of trends under COVID-19 early voting in both pre-poll and postal votes are expected to be in record highs. The Electoral Commission has strongly encouraged voters to make use of the entire two week 'voting period', commencing Monday 19th.

As of publishing there had been over 787, 000 postal vote applications easily surpassing the numbers of postal votes applied for in the previous state election and the postal votes cast for the local government in March of this year at the start of the COVID pandemic lockdowns.

Postal Vote Applications



Labor's Policy Week

The Labor Government made a series of significant announcements over the course of the week.

- The Government committed \$30 Million to Surf Life Saving Queensland on Saturday in Burleigh
- On Sunday Labor announced it would hire 9, 475 frontline health staff over the next four years
- On Monday, seven new 'satellite hospitals' were announced for the Redlands, Brisbane Southside (near QEII Hospital), Pine Rivers (Petrie / Strathpine area), Gold Coast, Ipswich, Caboolture and Bribie Island
- In Maryborough on Tuesday the Premier announced a \$1 Billion pipeline of train works to be done in Queensland including twenty new trains
- On Wednesday the Government committed to invest \$45 million to upgrade and build industry linked training facilities and trade training centres at 26 schools across Queensland as part of the 'local schools, local jobs' initiative
- In Rockhampton on Thursday the Premier announced a plan to return rail manufacturing to the area including securing land at the old Aurizon workshops

LNP's Policy Week

The LNP has made a series of announcements this week.

- On Saturday Deb Frecklington announced a \$300 car registration rebate to be delivered before Christmas 2020
- Joining with the Prime Minister on Sunday the LNP Leader announced plans to partner with Rheinmetall Defence Australia to build a new technology precinct at Redbank
- The LNP committed to reintroduce Newman-era bikie laws

- On Monday in Hervey Bay the LNP announced it would spend \$300 million to fast track wait listed surgeries
- In Redcliffe on Tuesday Deb Frecklington announced the LNP would abolish the luxury vehicle tax on campervans
- On Wednesday the LNP announced \$50 million to cyclone-proof Queensland homes in the central, north and far-north of the state
- The LNP announced an unemployment target of 5%
- Speaking in Townsville on Thursday the LNP Leader announced it would partner with James Cook University to contribute to a Tropical Aquaculture Accelerator

In case you missed it

Hawker Britton: Seats to watch - <http://www.hawkerbritton.com/2020/10/queensland-state-election-seats-watch/>

COVID-19 Update and Roadmap

There are currently only two active cases of COVID-19 in Queensland.

A public health alert was issued for Townsville, Palm Cove, Cairns and Brisbane - <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/news-events/doh-media-releases/releases/public-health-alert-brisbane,-cairns,-palm-cove-and-townsville>

Two weeks ago, the Queensland Government announced its COVID-Safe Roadmap, charting the next three months of responding to the virus and the pathway to easing restrictions. You can see it in detail here - <http://www.hawkerbritton.com/2020/10/queenslands-covid-safe-roadmap/>

Feedback or insights?

If you or your company has a particular campaign policy issue, insight or analysis you feel is missing from this briefing or that you'd like further information about please contact me on estein@hawkerbritton.com or call 0431 744 115 at any time.

Regards,

Elliot.

Elliot Stein | Queensland and Northern Territory Director
Hawker Britton