

History of Electoral Development in New South Wales

1788	NSW was proclaimed a British penal colony. The Governor was responsible for maintaining law and order.
1823	British Parliament passed an Act providing for a Legislative Council to advise the Governor and assist him in making laws and ordinances. This Act provided for at least five members and no more than seven, nominated by the Governor.
1843	British Parliament passed an Act to allow the first representative government in Australia. It comprised of a Legislative Council of 36 members, 12 nominees of the Crown and 24 elected members.
1856	Creation of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council to replace the NSW Council. It comprised 54 members representing 32 districts.
1859	Separation of Queensland. Adult male suffrage (21 years of age or older) was introduced but property provisions for enrolment remained.
1874	<i>Triennial Parliamentary Act</i> reduced the Parliament term to three years.
1893	Property provisions relating to eligibility to vote were removed.
1902	<i>Women's Franchise Act</i> enabled women to vote (this was first implemented in the 1904 election).
1910	<i>Parliamentary Elections (Second Ballot) Act</i> provided for General elections to be held subject to the second ballot voting system.
1911	Absent voting introduced.
1918	Postal voting introduced. Proportional representation voting system introduced.
1921	Compulsory enrolment introduced. Polling hours of 8 am to 6 pm introduced. Optional preferential proportional representation voting system introduced.
1928	Compulsory voting introduced. Position of Electoral Commissioner for NSW established. Joint roll established with the Commonwealth. Simple preferential voting was introduced and required the compulsory extension of preferences. Court of Disputed Returns established. Division of State into a Sydney area (43 seats), country area (42 seats), Newcastle area (five seats). Appointment of Returning Officer by the Governor on the recommendation of the Public Service Board.
1935	Candidates to lodge monetary deposit (£25) with nomination.
1946	Restriction on exhibition and size of electoral posters.
1949	State divided into Sydney area (48) and rest of NSW (46 seats). Restrictions on postal voting. Electoral visitor voting introduced for the purpose of taking votes from seriously ill or infirm electors at a place nominated by such electors. Mobile booths for the purpose of taking votes in hospitals introduced. Electoral redistribution to be carried out by the Electoral Commissioner (previously it was conducted by appointed Electoral District Commissioners).
1952	Reappointment of Electoral District Commissioners to carry out electoral redistribution.

1965	<p>Extension of postal voting provisions.</p> <p>Abolition of Electoral Visitor voting.</p> <p>Candidates restricted to nominating for one electoral district only.</p>
1969	State divided into central area (63 seats) and country area (33 seats).
1970	Voting age reduced to 18 (date of commencement was 21 March 1973).
1975	Candidate deposit increased to \$100.
1976	Postal Voting Officers at places outside NSW (overseas and interstate) now able to be appointed for the purpose of issuing postal votes from those places.
1977	Postal voting made available to those prisoners who are unsentenced and serving a prison sentence of not more than 12 months.
1978	Procedure for election of members of the Legislative Council changed to election directly by the people.
1979	Abolition of the Central area and Country area distinction. Optional preferential voting system reintroduced.
1981	<p>State elections</p> <p>Voting in Declared Institutions (appointed nursing homes and similar institutions) made available. Parliamentary term for the Legislative Assembly extended to four years.</p> <p>Election funding</p> <p>Provision made for the public funding of Parliamentary election campaigns and to require the disclosure of certain political contributions and electoral expenditure.</p>
1982	<p>State elections</p> <p>Tick or cross admitted as a formal vote.</p>
1987	<p>State elections</p> <p>Provisional enrolment available for 17 year olds for State purposes.</p> <p>Candidate deposit for the Legislative Assembly increased from \$100 to \$500.</p> <p>Candidate deposit for the Legislative Council increased from \$200 to \$750.</p> <p>'How-to-Vote' material for distribution on election day required to be registered.</p> <p>Group voting tickets available for the Legislative Council.</p> <p>Number of nominators required by a candidate for the Legislative Assembly increased from 6 to 30.</p> <p>Number of nominators required by a candidate for the Legislative Council increased from 6 to 15.</p> <p>Postal voting provisions extended to electors who will be working on election day.</p> <p>Antarctic, itinerant, overseas and silent enrolment introduced for State purposes.</p> <p>Register of general postal voters established for State purposes.</p> <p>Election funding</p> <p>Register of Parties to be kept on an ongoing basis. Authority to refuse registration of a party if the name is the same as, or similar to that of a party already registered or represented in Parliament or uses the word "independent" in conjunction with such a party.</p> <p>Number of members increased from 100 to 200 in respect of which details are required to support application for registration of a party.</p> <p>Threshold for disclosure of donations to parties and groups increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and for candidates from \$200 to \$500.</p> <p>Parties, groups and candidates not required to disclose contributions received where money is paid for a purpose other than expenditure relating to an election.</p>

	<p>Local government elections</p> <p>Electoral Commissioner made responsible for conduct of Council elections and polls.</p>
1990	<p>State elections</p> <p>Candidate deposit for the Legislative Assembly reduced from \$500 to \$250. Candidate deposit for the Legislative Council reduced from \$750 to \$500. Official agents of registered parties able to nominate candidates for election.</p> <p>Candidate now entitled to a refund of the candidate deposit if the candidate is elected or if the total number of first preference votes polled by the candidate is at least 4% (instead of the previous one fifth) of the total number of first preference votes polled in the candidate's district.</p> <p>Groups nominated for election to the Legislative Council able to lodge three voting tickets but to provide for only one group voting ticket square to be shown on the ballot paper.</p> <p>A tick or a cross by itself now constitutes an informal Legislative Assembly vote.</p>
1991	<p>State elections</p> <p>A redistribution of electoral districts to be carried out if more than one quarter of those districts are malapportioned, that is, the number of electors enrolled in each of those districts differs from the average district enrolment to a greater extent than 5% or less.</p> <p>The Electoral Districts Commissioners carrying out an electoral redistribution to obtain and consider the advice of a recognised demographer.</p> <p>Period fixed within which any legal challenge to a redistribution must be made.</p> <p>The close of the roll in an election on the day of the issue of the writ for the election instead of three days after the issue of the writ.</p> <p>Responsibility for registration of parties transferred from Election Funding Authority to Electoral Commissioner.</p> <p>Official agents of registered parties to nominate candidates for election.</p> <p>Reduce the deposit required to be paid by candidates for election and change the provisions governing the entitlement to a refund of the deposit.</p> <p>Printing of ballot papers to show party affiliation of the candidates and to enact provisions for the registration of parties and their official agents.</p> <p>Groups nominated for election to the Legislative Council to lodge three group voting tickets (instead of only 1 or 2) and to provide for only one group voting ticket square to be shown on the ballot papers.</p> <p>Increased penalties for offences relating to multiple or fraudulent voting.</p> <p>The last day for the receipt of postal votes is the fourth day after election day instead of the seventh day for ordinary postal votes and the tenth day for overseas postal votes.</p> <p>Pre-poll voting at the office of any Returning Officer instead of only at the office of the Returning Officer for the district in which the elector is enrolled.</p> <p>Provisions relating to registered postal voters changed.</p> <p>A ballot paper on which the voter uses a tick or a cross to indicate his or her vote is informal instead of being formal.</p>

	<p>The Electoral Commissioner to advertise an application for the registration of a political party and to take into consideration any objections received within 14 days before deciding to register the party.</p> <p><i>The Constitution Act 1902</i> amended to reduce the number of politicians in the Legislative Council from 45 to 42 and to reduce their maximum term of office from 12 years to eight years.</p> <p><i>The Constitution Act</i> also altered the method of filling casual vacancies in the Council to that which applies in the Senate of the Commonwealth Parliament.</p> <p>Local government elections</p> <p>Electoral Commissioner responsible for preparation of residential rolls for Council elections.</p>
1992	<p>State elections</p> <p>The Governor is now able to enter into an arrangement with the Governor General of the Commonwealth for joint electoral rolls which may also be used for periodic elections for the Legislative Council, referendums, local government elections and matters such as jury rolls. Previously the Governor was only empowered to make such arrangements in relation to Legislative Assembly rolls (sections 21AB, 21B, 21C and 21D).</p> <p>The Electoral Commissioner now has unlimited powers to appoint places where copies of the latest print of the rolls may be obtained (section 30).</p> <p>Electors whose real place of living is not within 20 kilometres, by the nearest practicable route, of a polling place will be able to become registered general postal voters. The concept of "remote subdivisions" has been removed from the Act (sections 23 and 114AA).</p> <p>The provisions dealing with mobile booths in hospitals etc. have been recast to include the gender neutral form. Previously the term "his vote" was used and this has been altered to "the elector's vote" - particularly as these provisions include "women who because of approaching maternity are unable to attend polling places" (section 87A).</p> <p>Scrutineers may now be present in the Returning Officer's office during the whole of the time when pre-poll voting is available. This measure is necessary as a consequence of previous amendments to the Act which extended the time in which pre-poll was available (section 114U).</p> <p>Date for next NSW State General election fixed as 25 March 1995.</p>
1993	<p>Election funding</p> <p>The definition of "gift" extended to include the provision of a service other than volunteer labour, in the absence of or for inadequate consideration.</p> <p>The powers of inspection extended.</p> <p>Provisions in the legislation which enable non disclosure of contributions made for "maintenance" or "administrative" purposes removed.</p> <p>The Authority enabled in certain circumstances to immediate recovery of money paid to a party as an advanced payment.</p> <p>Creation of an offence to give information to an official agent knowing it will result in a false claim or declaration being made.</p> <p>The disclosure period extended from the period ending on election day to thirty days after election day.</p>

	<p>A person or organisation incurring electoral expenditure of more than \$1,500 required to lodge a declaration with the Authority detailing the expenditure. Details also required of persons or organisations donating more than \$1,000 for the purpose of enabling this electoral expenditure to be incurred.</p> <p>Reduction of the disclosure threshold for donations from \$2,500 to \$1,500 in respect of a party, from \$2,500 to \$1,000 in respect of a group and from \$500 to \$200 in respect of a candidate.</p> <p>Illegal for parties, groups or candidates to receive amounts of \$1,500, \$1,000 or \$200 respectively in the absence of details of the name address of the donor being disclosed.</p> <p>Disclosure required of the identity of donors at fund raising events in the same manner as ordinary political donations.</p> <p>Disclosure required of the total amount of subscriptions paid to a party including a statement of the subscription rates and the number of subscribers at those rates.</p> <p>The Political Education Fund established.</p> <p>Local government elections</p> <p>Extension of voting rights to occupiers and rate paying lessees in all council areas.</p> <p>The number of councillors for each local government area limited to 15.</p> <p>The elected Mayor of a local government area cannot also hold office as a councillor for that area.</p> <p>The introduction of candidates' resumes for public inspection at polling booths.</p> <p>The restriction on the General Managers or employees of a council acting as the Returning Officer or Substitute Returning Officer for an election in their council area.</p> <p>Nonvoters action at local government elections transferred to the Electoral Commissioner.</p> <p>The system of groups appearing on ballot papers abolished.</p> <p>A system of registration of political parties similar to that contained in the <i>Parliamentary Electorates & Elections Act</i> introduced.</p> <p>Candidates endorsed by a Registered Political Party may have the party affiliation appear on the ballot paper adjacent to their names. Independent candidates may also have the word "independent" shown on the ballot paper adjacent to their name.</p> <p>Parties and candidates contesting local government elections required to disclose details of political contributions received and electoral expenditure incurred.</p>
1994	<p>State elections</p> <p>Requirement that the copy of a roll used in an election be transmitted to Returning Officers before nomination day repealed. The legislation requires that the roll be transmitted as soon as practicable after the issue of the writ for the election.</p> <p>Repealed the provision requiring publication in the Government Gazette of a list of parties and registered officers entered in the Register of Parties maintained under Part 4A of the <i>Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1994</i>.</p>

1995	<p>State elections</p> <p>The legislation is amended to permit a 'tick' or a 'cross' to constitute a formal vote where this indicates a voter's clear intention.</p> <p>It is made an offence for any person to encourage a voter to vote by means of a "tick" or a "cross" in Legislative Assembly elections.</p> <p>Fixed terms were introduced. General elections to be held on the fourth Saturday in March every four years.</p> <p>Politicians prevented from calling early General elections or changing rules relating to the duration of Parliament without a referendum.</p>
1997	<p>State elections</p> <p>The number of Legislative Assembly electoral districts reduced from 99 to 93.</p>
1999	<p>State elections</p> <p>Party registration rules changed. The number of eligible members required to register a party is increased from 200 to 750 and one member cannot be relied upon by two or more parties to constitute the required number.</p> <p>Parties must submit annual returns to confirm continuing eligibility.</p> <p>Parties must be registered for 12 months to be eligible to have its registered party name or abbreviation placed on ballot papers and to be treated as a party in connection with the nomination of candidates, party endorsement on ballot papers, registration of electoral material and election funding.</p> <p>Legislative Council voting procedures were changed.</p> <p>A party or group may only have a group voting square 'above the line' if there are at least 15 candidates in the group.</p> <p>A person can vote by placing '1' in a group voting square and may make a second or subsequent preference by placing a '2' and subsequent numbers in the group squares.</p> <p>Changes were made to allow the layout of the Legislative Council ballot paper to be more compact.</p>
2001	<p>Local government elections</p> <p>Changes are made to reflect changes as made for conduct of State elections above. Parties are now required have at least 100 members to be eligible for registration and must submit annual returns to confirm continuing eligibility.</p> <p>Changes are made to the procedures for voting at council elections.</p>
2002	<p>Local government elections</p> <p>Distribution of electoral material on election day is prohibited unless material has been registered by the Electoral Commissioner.</p>
2003	<p>Local government elections</p> <p>Provision is made for local government elections to be held on the fourth Saturday in September in every fourth year after 2004.</p>
2006	<p>For a summary of electoral legislation changes in 2006, see Electoral Act information at page 34.</p>

Premiers of New South Wales, 1856 - present

Name	Served as Premier
Stuart Alexander Donaldson (B 16.12.1812 - D 11.1.1867)	06.06.1856 - 25.08.1856
Charles (later Sir Charles) COWPER (B 26.4.1807 - D 19.10.1875)	26.08.1856 - 02.10.1856 07.09.1857 - 26.10.1859 10.01.1861 - 15.10.1863 03.02.1865 - 21.01.1866 13.01.1870 - 15.12.1870
Henry Watson (later Sir Henry) Parker (B. 01.06.1808 -02.02.1881)	03.10.1856 - 07.09.1857
William Forster (B.16.10.1818 - D. 30.10.1882)	27.10.1859 - 08.03.1860
John (later Sir John) Robertson (B. 15.10.1816 - D. 08.05.1891)	09.03.1860 - 09.01.1861 27.10.1868 - 12.01.1870 09.02.1875 - 21.03.1877 17.08.1877 - 17.12.1877 22.12.1885 - 25.02.1886
James (later Sir James) Martin (B. 14.05.1820 - D.04.11.1886)	16.10.1863 - 02.02.1865 22.01.1866 - 26.10.1868 16.12.1870 - 13.05.1872
Henry (later Sir Henry) Parkes (B.27.05.1815 - D.27.04.1896) (Free Trade 1889 - 1891)	14.05.1872 - 08.02.1875 22.03.1877 - 16.08.1877 21.12.1878 - 04.01.1883 20.01.1887 - 16.01.1889 08.03.1889 - 22.10.1891
James Squire Farnell (B. 25.06.1825 - D. 21.08.1888)	18.12.1877 - 20.12.1878
Sir Alexander Stuart (B. 21.03.1824 - D. 16.06.1886)	05.01.1883 - 06.10.1885
George Richard (later Sir George) Dibbs (B. 12.10.1834 - 05.08.1804) (Protectionist 1891 – 1894)	07.10.1885 - 21.12.1885 17.01.1889 - 07.03.1889 23.10.1891 - 02.08.1894
Sir Patrick Alfred Jennings (B. 20.03.1831 - 11.07.1897)	26.02.1886 - 19.01.1887
George Houston (later Sir George) Reid (B. 25.02.1845 - D.12.09.1918) (Free Trade)	03.08.1894 - 13.09.1899
Sir William John Lyne (B.06.04.1844 - 03.08.1813) (Protectionist)	14.09.1899 - 27.03.1901
John (later Sir John) See (b.14.11.1845 - D.31.01.1907) (Progressive)	28.03.1901 - 14.06.1904
Thomas Waddell (b.1854 - D. 25.10.1940) (Progressive)	15.06.1904 - 29.08.1904
Joseph (later Sir Joseph) Hector Carruthers (b. 21.12.1856 - D. 10.12.1932) (Liberal Reform)	30.08.1904 - 01.10.1907
Charles (later Sir Charles) Gregory Wade (b. 26.01.1863 - D. 26.09.1922) (Liberal)	02.10.1907 -20.10.1910
James Sinclair Taylor McGowen (b. 16.08.1855 - D. 07.04.1922) (ALP)	21.10.1910 - 29.06.1913
William Arthur Holman (b. 04.08.1871 - D. 05.06.1934) (ALP) (Nationalist)	30.06.1913 - 15.11.1916 15.11.1916 - 12.04.1920
John Storey (b. 15.05.1869 - D. 05.10.1921) (ALP)	12.04.1920 - 05.10.1921
James Dooley (b. 26.04.1877 - D.02.01.1950) (ALP)	10.10.1921 - 20.12.1921 20.12.1921 - 13.04.1922 Acting Premier from: 05.10.1921

Name	Served as Premier
Sir George Warburton Fuller (b. 22.01.1861 - D. 22.07.1940) (Nationalist)	20.12.1921 13. 04.1922 - 17.06.1925
John Thomas Lang (b. 21.12.1876 - D.27.09.1975) (ALP)	17.06.1925 - 18.10.1927 04.11.1930 - 13.05.1932
Thomas (later Sir Thomas) Rainsford Bavin (b. 05.05.1874 - D. 31.08.1941) (Nationalist)	18.10.1927 - 03.11.1930
Bertram (later Sir Bertram) Sydney Barnsdale Stevens (b. 02.01.1889 - D. 24.03.1973) (U.A.P)	13.05.1932 - 05.08.1939
Alexander Mair (b. 25.08.1889 - D. 03.08.1969) (U.A.P)	05.08.1939 - 16.05.1941
William (later Sir William) John McKell (b. 26.09.1891 - D. 11.01.1985) (ALP)	16.05.1941 - 06.02.1947
James McGirr (b. 06.02.1890 - D. 27.10.1957) (ALP)	06.02.1947 - 02.04.1952
John Joseph Cahill (b. 21.01.1891 - D. 22.10.1959) (ALP)	02.04.1952 - 22.10.1959
Robert James Heffron (b. 10.09.1890 - D. 27.07.1978) (ALP)	23.10.1959 - 30.04.1964
John Brophy Renshaw (b. 08.08.1909 - D. 28.07.1987) (ALP)	30.04.1964 - 13.05.1965
Robin (later Sir Robert) William Askin * (b. 04.04.1907 - D. 09.09.1981) (Liberal)	13.05.1965 - 03.01.1975
Thomas Lancelot Lewis (b. 23.01.22 - (Liberal)	03.01.1975 - 23.01.1976
Sir Eric Archibald Willis (b. 15.01.1922 - D. 10.05.1999) (Liberal)	23.01.1976 - 14.05.1976
Neville Kenneth Wran (b.11.10.1926 - (ALP)	14.05.1976 - 04.07.1986
Laurie John Ferguson+ (b. 04.09.1925 - 17.09.1902) (ALP)	16.05.1983 - 29.07.1983
Barrie John Unsworth (b. 16.04.1934 - (ALP)	04.07.1986 - 25.03.1988
Nicholas Frank Greiner (b. 27.04.1947 - (Liberal)	25.03.1988 - 24.06.1992
John Fahey (b. 10.01.1945 - (Liberal)	24.06.1992 - 04.04.1995
Robert John Carr (b. 28.09.1947 - (ALP)	04.04.1995 - 03.08.2005
Morris Iemma (b. 21.7.1961 - (ALP)	03.08.2005 -

*name changed to Robert William Askin by deed poll 14 December 1971; knighted (K.C.M.G.) 1 January 1972.

+Acting Premier while Premier Wran stood down during Street Royal Commission

New South Wales General Election Dates, 1901 - 2003

Date	Parliament
3 July 1901	19th Parliament
6 August 1904	20th Parliament
10 September 1907	21st Parliament
14 October 1910	22nd Parliament
6 December 1913	23rd Parliament
24 March 1917	24th Parliament
20 March 1920	25th Parliament
25 February 1922	26th Parliament
30 May 1925	27th Parliament
8 October 1927	28th Parliament
25 October 1930	29th Parliament
11 June 1932	30th Parliament
11 May 1935	31st Parliament
26 March 1938	32nd Parliament
10 May 1941	33rd Parliament
27 May 1944	34th Parliament
3 May 1947	35th Parliament
17 June 1950	36th Parliament
14 February 1953	37th Parliament
3 March 1956	38th Parliament
2 March 1959	39th Parliament
3 March 1962	40th Parliament
1 May 1965	41st Parliament
24 February 1968	42nd Parliament
13 February 1971	43rd Parliament
17 November 1973	44th Parliament
1 May 1976	45th Parliament
7 October 1978	46th Parliament
19 September 1981	47th Parliament
24 March 1984	48th Parliament
19 March 1988	49th Parliament
25 May 1991	50th Parliament
25 March 1995	51st Parliament
27 March 1999	52nd Parliament
22 March 2003	53rd Parliament