



## Role of the Opposition

### The Opposition in Parliament

The Opposition is the largest non-government party or coalition of parties in the Legislative Assembly.

### The Role of the Opposition

The Opposition's main role is to question the government of the day and hold them accountable. Opportunities for scrutinising the policies and administration of the Government are provided in Question Time, the Address-in-Reply debate, Budget debates, debates on legislation, notices of motion and No Confidence Motions. Members of the Opposition who are members of parliamentary committees have a further opportunity to scrutinise new legislation as part of the committee process.

The Opposition also utilises the media to reach the electorate with its views and to establish an identity as an alternative government.

### The Leader of the Opposition

In the Queensland Parliament, official recognition was given to the position of Leader of the Opposition in 1909 through the granting of a salary to that office in the amount of 10 pounds per week.

The Leader of the Opposition is elected by opposition Members of Parliament as their leader and spokesperson. Although not constitutionally recognised, the Leader of the Opposition is provided with a special salary, entitlements and facilities.

### Traditional Role of the Leader of the Opposition

The duties of the Leader of the Opposition include:

- leading the Opposition in parliamentary and policy debate;
- holding the Government accountable and presenting the views of an alternative government;
- chairing the meetings of Shadow Cabinet;
- leading and publicising the development of party policy;
- identifying as an alternative Premier;

- leading the party in an election; and
- representing their electorate.

### Shadow Cabinet

The Opposition appoints Shadow Ministers who, with the Leader of the Opposition, collectively form a Shadow Cabinet. The role of a Shadow Minister is to follow closely the areas and responsibilities and activities of Government Ministers. It is also the duty of the Shadow Cabinet to respond to Government policy initiatives and offer alternative policies to the electorate.

### Democracy at Work

The role of an Opposition is a most important role and the effectiveness of Parliament largely depends on the strength of the Opposition.

### Present Leader of the Opposition

Mr David Crisafulli MP has been a Member of the Queensland Parliament since 2017.

Mr Crisafulli is currently also the Shadow Minister for Tourism, and has previously served in various ministerial and shadow ministerial roles.

### Opposition Leaders, from 1898 - present

30.08.1898 - 12.05.1899	GLASSEY, T
Australian Labor Party	
12.05.1899 - 01.12.1899	DAWSON, A
Australian Labor Party	
01.12.1899 - 07.12.1899	PHILP, R
Ministerialist	
07.12.1899 - 16.07.1900	DAWSON, A
Australian Labor Party	
16.07.1900 - 17.09.1903	BROWNE, WH
Australian Labor Party	
17.09.1903 - 28.06.1904	PHILP, R
Opposition	
28.06.1904 - 27.08.1904	RUTLEDGE, A
Opposition	
19.09.1904 - 19.11.1907	PHILP, R
Opposition	
19.11.1907 - 15.02.1908	KIDSTON, W
Ministerialist	
15.02.1908 - 29.10.1908	PHILP, R
Opposition	

# Queensland Parliament Factsheet

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16.11.1908 - 06.09.1912	BOWMAN, D	Australian Labor Party	
Australian Labor Party		02.12.1989 - 09.12.1991	COOPER, TR
06.09.1912 - 22.05.1915	RYAN, TJ	National Party	
Australian Labor Party		10.12.1991 - 19.02.1996	BORBIDGE, RE
24.06.1915 - 08.09.1915	MACARTNEY, E	National Party	
Liberal Party		19.02.1996 - 26.06.1998	BEATTIE, PD
08.09.1915 - 27.06.1917	TOLMIE, J	Australian Labor Party	
Liberal Party		29.06.1998 - 02.03.2001	BORBIDGE, RE
27.06.1917 - 15.02.1918	TOLMIE, J	National Party	
National Party		02.03.2001 - 04.02.2003	HORAN, MJ
15.02.1918 - 28.01.1920	MACARTNEY, E	National Party	
National Party		04.02.2003 - 14.09.2006	SPRINGBORG, LJ
28.01.1920 - 28.07.1920	VOWLES, WJ	National Party	
National Party		14.09.2006 - 29.01.2008	SEENEY, JW
28.07.1920 - 11.07.1923	VOWLES, WJ	National Party	
Country Party		29.01.2008 - 27.07.2008	SPRINGBORG, LJ
11.07.1923 - 09.04.1924	TAYLOR, C	National Party	
Queensland United Party		28.07.2008 - 02.04.2009	SPRINGBORG, LJ
09.04.1924 - 12.05.1925	MOORE, AE	Liberal National Party	
QUP/Country		02.04.2009 - 22.03.2011	LANGBROEK, J-PH
12.05.1925 - 15.12.1925	MOORE, AE	Liberal National Party	
CPP		22.03.2011 - 26.03.2012	SEENEY, JW
15.12.1925 - 11.05.1929	MOORE, AE	Liberal National Party	
Country and Progressive National Party		10.05.2012 - 31.01.2015	PALASZCZUK, A
27.05.1929 - 11.06.1932	SMITH, WF	Labor Party	
Australian Labor Party		20.02.2015 - 06.05.16	SPRINGBORG, LJ
15.08.1932 - 15.07.1936	MOORE, AE	Liberal National Party	
CPNPCountry		06.15.16 - 11.12.2017	NICHOLLS, T
15.07.1936 - 21.05.1941	MAHER, EB	Liberal National Party	
Country Party		12.12.2017 - present	FRECKLINGTON, D
21.05.1941 - 23.10.1945	NICKLIN, GFR	Liberal National Party	
Country-National Party		12.11.2020 - present	CRISAFULLI, D
23.10.1945 - 03.08.1957	NICKLIN, GFR	Liberal National Party	
Country Party			
15.08.1957 - 29.03.1958	WOOD, LA		
Australian Labor Party			
14.04.1958 - 18.08.1958	DONALD, J		
Australian Labor Party			
18.08.1958 - 11.10.1966	DUGGAN, JE		
Australian Labor Party			
12.10.1966 - 01.07.1974	HOUSTON, JW		
Australian Labor Party			
01.07.1974 - 07.12.1974	TUCKER, PJ		
Australian Labor Party			
19.12.1974 - 28.11.1978	BURNS, TJ		
Australian Labor Party			
28.11.1978 - 20.10.1982	CASEY, ED		
Australian Labor Party			
20.10.1982 - 29.08.1984	WRIGHT, KW		
Australian Labor Party			
29.08.1984 - 02.03.1988	WARBUTON, NG		
Australian Labor Party			
02.03.1988 - 02.12.1989	GOSS, WK		



*Queensland's current Leader of the Opposition,  
David Crisafulli MP.*