

**KEY DATES AND EVENTS IN QUEENSLAND ELECTORAL AND  
PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY**

- 1859 Order-in-Council (6 June) provided for separation of Queensland from New South Wales.
- 1860 First Elections Franchise: Adult (21 years) males, three year residence qualification or six months if owner or lessee of property. Multiple registration possible through multiple property ownership. Military and police were disqualified. Voting: First past the post. Parliament: 26 members from 16 electorates for the Legislative Assembly; 11 nominees to the Legislative Council; five-year term.
- 1864 *Additional Members Act 1864*: Six extra one-member electorates.
- 1865 Foundation stone of Parliament House laid by Sir George Bowen.
- 1872 *Elections Act 1872*: Under property qualification, maximum one vote in any one electorate.  
*Electoral Districts Act 1872*: 42 one-member electorates for the 1873 election.
- 1875 *Cook District Representation Act 1875*: One extra member.
- 1878 *Electoral Districts Act 1878*: 42 electorates, 55 members.
- 1885 *Additional Members Act 1885*: 44 electorates, 59 members.
- 1886 *Members' Expenses Act 1886*: First introduction of an expense allowance (£2/2/- per sitting day, maximum £200 per year).
- 1887 *Electoral Districts Act 1887*: 60 electorates, 72 members.
- 1889 *Payment of Members Act 1889*: Payment of members started at £300 per year.
- 1890 *Constitution Act Amendment Act 1890*: Three-year parliaments, effective from the 1893 election.
- 1892 *Electoral Districts Act 1892*: 61 electorates, 72 members.  
*Elections Act 1892*: Introduced “contingent” (optional preferential) voting.
- 1905 *Elections Act Amendment Act 1905*: Female suffrage; property qualification abolished; Indigenous people and certain non-European immigrants still disqualified.
- 1910 *Electoral Districts Act 1910*: 72 one-member electorates, one vote one value with 20% tolerance.
- 1914 *Elections Act Amendment Act 1914*: Compulsory registration and voting.
- 1915 *Elections Act Amendment Act 1915*: Women permitted to be elected to the Legislative Assembly, but not appointed to the Legislative Council.

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- 1922 *Constitution Act Amendment Act 1922*: Legislative Council abolished.
- 1931 *Electoral Districts Act 1931*: Electorates reduced to 62.
- 1942 *Elections Act Amendment Act 1942*: First past the post voting reintroduced.
- 1949 *Electoral Districts Act 1949*: Zonal system introduced whereby electorates were allocated to zones with different quotas - 75 electorates in four zones.
- 1958 *Electoral Districts Act 1958*: 78 electorates, three zones.
- 1959 *Elections Act Amendment Act 1959*: British subjects who were natives of Asia or Africa enfranchised.
- 1962 *Elections Act Amendment Act 1962*: Compulsory preferential voting introduced.
- 1965 *Elections Act Amendment Act 1965*: Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders enfranchised (voluntary).
- 1971 *Elections Act Amendment Act 1971*: Enrolment and voting compulsory for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. Electoral Districts Act: 82 electorates in four zones.
- 1973 *Elections Act and the Criminal Code Amendment Act 1973*: Voting age reduced to 18 years.
- 1979 Parliamentary Annexe completed. Restoration of Parliament House commenced in 1980 including building of Porte Cochere.
- 1982 October. Parliament moved back into the original Legislative Chamber after restoration of Parliament House completed.
- 1985 *Electoral Districts Act 1985*: 89 electorates in four zones.
- 1988 *Parliamentary Service Act 1988*: Established Parliamentary Service Commission and role of the Clerk as the Chief Executive Officer of the Parliamentary Service.  
*Parliamentary Members' Salaries Act 1988*: Members' salaries linked to House of Representatives salaries.
- 1991 *Electoral Districts Act 1990*: (Date of assent 15 April 1991): 89 electorates, zones abolished, optional preferential voting. Provided for electorates less than 100 000 km<sup>2</sup> in area, tolerance of 10% of the average number of electors, and for electorates over 100 000 km<sup>2</sup>, the sum of the number of electors and 2% of the area (in square km) should be within 10% of the average number of electors.
- 1992 *Electoral Act 1992*: provided for the same method of distribution that was used in the 1991 redistribution.  
*Parliamentary Papers Act 1992* Tabled documents may be copied without incurring any civil or criminal liability.

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- 1995 *Parliamentary Committees Act 1995*: Abolished the Parliamentary Service Commission and placed administration of the Parliament under the control of the Speaker. Provided legislative basis for Statutory Committees of the Legislative Assembly.
- 1995 The election of Kenneth Davies in the seat of Mundingburra was declared void in December 1995. A by-election on 3 February 1996 resulted in Liberal Francis Tanti being elected. With the numbers on both sides of Parliament equal Liz Cunningham, the Independent member for Gladstone was required to select who she would support. As a result, the Coalition formed Government in February 1996.
- 1996 Parliamentary Secretaries appointed to assist particular Ministers.
- 1999 July redistribution of Electoral Districts, the first by a Commission under the *Electoral Act 1992*. Of the 89 electorates, most changes were in the growing urban and coastal urban communities. Persisted with tolerance of 10% of the number of electors for electorates under 100,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and retained five electorates of over 100,000 km<sup>2</sup>.
- 2000 19 October. It was resolved at a meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Qld Branch) that a Member of the Legislative Assembly should be known as MP rather than MLA.
- 2001 *Constitution of Queensland 2001*: Consolidated Queensland's constitutional legislation. *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*: Provides for the powers, rights and immunities of the Legislative Assembly; appointment of its officers and committees; qualification for membership of the Legislative Assembly.
- 2002 On 8 August, the Queensland Parliament approved a process allowing petitions to be sent to Parliament electronically. This form of petitioning is known as an 'e-petition'.
- 2002 From 3-5 September, the Queensland Parliament sat in Townsville, the first time it had sat outside Brisbane in its history. More than 8,000 people visited the Parliament, over 50% being school children from schools as far away as Yam Island, Mount Isa and Rockhampton. A government subsidy assisted students further than 200 kms from Townsville.
- 2004 On 18 June, new Standing Rules and Orders, which took effect from 31 August 2004, were adopted by the Queensland Parliament.
- 2005 Centenary of Queensland Women's Suffrage.
- 2005 From 4-6 October, the Queensland Parliament sat in Rockhampton, marking the second occurrence of a regional sitting in the history of the Parliament.
- 2007 A single repository database for all papers tabled in the Queensland Parliament was developed, which is accessible on the Queensland Parliament's website.
- 2008 February. Record of Proceedings replaced the *Queensland Parliamentary Debates* (Hansard), being the full text of what is said in the House, the proceedings of the House and an electronic gateway to all papers tabled in the House.

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- 2008 August. Redistribution of Electoral Districts, the second by the independent Commission established under the *Electoral Act 1992* (Qld). The number of electorates remained at 89. Major changes were made to 16 seats, and new names introduced. Persisted with tolerance of 10% of the number of electors for electorates under 100,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and retained five electorates of over 100,000 km<sup>2</sup>.
- 2008 From 28-30 October, the Queensland Parliament sat in Cairns, only the third time in its history that it has sat outside Brisbane.
- 2010 The Queensland Parliament celebrated its sesquicentenary during the May sitting week. Many events were held to celebrate this historic milestone.
- 2011 10 March. The Committee of the Legislative Assembly was established by resolution of the House to consider issues arising from the December 2010 report of the Committee System Review Committee. Its other responsibilities are for the ethical conduct of members of the Legislative Assembly; parliamentary powers, rights and immunities; and the standing rules and orders.
- 2011 May. *Queensland Parliament (Reform and Modernisation) Act*: Provided for a major restructuring of the parliamentary committee system with the establishment of seven portfolio based committees with the roles of examining each Bill before the House for the policy to be given effect by the Bills, the application of fundamental legislative principles and the lawfulness of items of subordinate legislation in the portfolio area. In addition, the committees undertake the Estimates process for Appropriation Bills in relation to their portfolio responsibility.
- 2011 12 May. Former member Mr Gordon Richard Nuttall appeared before the Bar of the House for 37 minutes. This was the first time in the history of the Legislative Assembly that a prisoner had addressed the House. On that same day, the House resolved that Mr Nuttall was guilty of 41 counts of contempt and ordered that he be fined \$2000 for each offence.
- 2011 From 24 to 26 May, the Queensland Parliament sat in Mackay being only the fourth time it had sat out of Brisbane. Over 4,500 people attended the sittings including over 2,500 school children.
- 2011 *Parliamentary Service Amendment Act 2011* (proclaimed on 17 August 2011): transferred responsibility for the administration of the parliamentary service from the Speaker to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly (CLA). The Speaker remains responsible for the control of Conduct on the precinct and maintains powers and rights traditionally held by the Speaker on behalf of the Legislative Assembly.
- 2012 15 May. Honourable Fiona Simpson MP was elected as Queensland's first female Speaker. Ms Simpson was elected to the Speaker's chair after being nominated by Premier Campbell Newman MP during the first morning's sitting of the 54th Parliament.
- 2012 21 August. The first live broadcast of Question Time occurred via the Australian Public Affairs Channel, or A-PAC.

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- 2013 25 September. The Speakers of the Queensland Parliament and the Parliament of Papua New Guinea entered into a Parliamentary Partnership Agreement, formally supporting the continuing evolution of the PNG Parliament, through parliamentary capacity building programs.
- 2014 25 August. The 150th anniversary of the formal establishment of the Queensland Parliament's Hansard was celebrated.
- 2015 24 March. The Member for Nicklin, Peter Wellington was elected the first independent speaker of the Queensland Parliament since William Armstrong, who held the position from 1911 to 1915.
- 2016 19 March. Referendum passed to approve the Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Amendment Bill 2015 (Qld). The Bill amended the *Constitution of Queensland 2001* (Qld) to provide for fixed four year terms for the Legislative Assembly.
- 2016 5 May. The *Electoral (Improving Representation) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016* (Qld) received royal assent. The Act increased the number of members of the Legislative Assembly from 89 members to 93. The Act also introduced full preferential voting.
- 2017 May. Redistribution of Electoral Districts, the third by the independent Commission established under the *Electoral Act 1992* (Qld). The number of electorates increased to 93. Two electorates were removed and six new electorates were formed. Ten electorates were renamed. Four electorates over 100 000 km<sup>2</sup> were retained.