

PART TWO—COUNCILS AND PARLIAMENTS

DURATION OF COUNCILS AND OF SESSIONS PRIOR TO RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

1824–1856

RETURN showing NUMBER OF COUNCILS from the First appointed by the Governor up to and including that prior to the inauguration of RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, also, the NUMBER OF SESSIONS in each Council, with dates of opening and prorogation.

Council	Sessions	Session Dates	
		From	To
FIRST COUNCIL	The Imperial Act, 4 Geo. cap. 96 (July, 1823) constituted a council “not exceeding seven nor less than five members” to assist the Governor who presided over the sittings. The members were appointed by the Crown. SESSION 1.—(1824–5.)	25 August, 1824	22 November, 1825
SECOND COUNCIL	SESSION 1.—(1825–6.) SESSION 2.—(1827.) SESSION 3.—(1828.) SESSION 4.—(1829.)	20 December, 1825 26 February, 1827 19 March, 1828 16 February, 1829	16 August, 1826 31 December, 1827 28 October, 1828 20 February, 1829
THIRD COUNCIL	Act 9 Geo. IV cap. 83 (25 July, 1828) provided for an increase in the number of members to “not exceeding 15, nor less than 10”. All members were still appointed by the Crown and the Governor continued to preside at sittings. SESSION 1.—(1829.) SESSION 2.—(1830.) SESSION 3.—(1831.) SESSION 4.—(1832.) SESSION 5.—(1833.) SESSION 6.—(1834.) SESSION 7.—(1835.) SESSION 8.—(1836.) SESSION 9.—(1837.) SESSION 10.—(1838.) SESSION 11.—(1839.) SESSION 12.—(1840.) SESSION 13.—(1841–2.) SESSION 14.—(1842.) SESSION 15.—(1843.) (Extraordinary.)	21 August, 1829 18 January, 1830 20 September, 1831 19 January, 1832 27 May, 1833 13 March, 1834 18 May, 1835 2 June, 1836 30 May, 1837 29 May, 1838 14 February, 1839 28 May, 1840 8 June, 1841 10 May, 1842 24 January, 1843	15 October, 1829 20 May, 1830 8 November, 1831 13 October, 1832 28 August, 1833 28 October, 1834 30 October, 1835 12 August, 1836 13 September, 1837 26 October, 1838 19 November, 1839 16 December, 1840 3 January, 1842 9 September, 1842 23 February, 1843
FOURTH COUNCIL	The Act, 5 and 6 Vic. cap. 76 (July, 1842) constituted a Council of 36 members C12 appointed by the Crown and 24 to be elected by the “inhabitants of the Colony”. This Act also provided for the election by the Council of a Speaker of one of its own members. SESSION 1.—(1843.) SESSION 2.—(1844.) (Extraordinary.) SESSION 3.—(1844.) SESSION 4.—(1845.) SESSION 5.—(1846.) SESSION 6.—(1846.) SESSION 7.—(1847.) SESSION 8.—(1848.)	1 August, 1843 5 March, 1844 28 May, 1844 29 July, 1845 12 May, 1846 8 September, 1846 4 May, 1847 21 March, 1848	28 December, 1843 8 March, 1844 30 December, 1844 13 November, 1845 12 June, 1846 31 October, 1846 2 October, 1847 20 June, 1848
FIFTH COUNCIL	SESSION 1.—(1849.) SESSION 2.—(1850.) SESSION 3.—(1851.)	15 May, 1849 4 June, 1850 28 March, 1851	12 October, 1849 2 October, 1850 2 May, 1851
SIXTH COUNCIL	The provisions of the Act, 5 and 6 Vic. cap. 76, also conferred upon the Council power to increase its numbers. In 1851 advantage was taken of this, and the number was increased from 36 to 54, of whom not more than 36 could be elected members. SESSION 1.—(1851.) SESSION 2.—(1852.) SESSION 3.—(1853.) SESSION 4.—(1854.) SESSION 5.—(1854.) SESSION 6.—(1855.)	14 October, 1851 8 June, 1852 10 May, 1853 9 May, 1854 6 June, 1854 5 June, 1855	22 December, 1851 28 December, 1852 22 December, 1853 16 May, 1854 2 December, 1854 19 December, 1855

COUNCIL REPLACED BY A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND A LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

In 1855, the Sixth Council, under the powers conferred by clause XXXII of the Imperial Act, 13 and 14 Vic. cap. 59 (August, 1850) passed a bill “to confer a Constitution on New South Wales and to grant a Civil List to Her Majesty”. The bill provided inter alia that “There shall be in place of the Legislative Council now subsisting One Legislative Council and One Legislative Assembly . . .”. Assent was reserved, and the Bill was taken to England, where the Imperial Parliament, after inserting some amendments, passed the Act 18 and 19 Vic. cap. 54 (the New South Wales Act, as amended, being annexed thereto) which enabled Her Majesty to assent to the New South Wales Bill. Royal Assent was given on 16 July, 1855, the Act proclaimed on 24 November following, and the first Parliament opened on 22 May, 1856.

PARLIAMENTS AND SESSIONS SINCE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

1856–2019

RETURN showing the NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTS from the First Parliament under RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, with dates of nomination, polling, return of Writs, and expiry by dissolution or effluxion of time; also, the NUMBER OF SESSIONS in each Parliament, with dates of opening and prorogation.

NOTE.—The duration of Parliaments 1 to 7, from 1856 to 1874, was limited to five years, but in 1874 the Triennial Parliaments Act was passed, which altered the duration to three years. The maximum period between general elections for the Legislative Assembly extended from three to four years following referendum and Royal Assent of the Constitution (Legislative Assembly) Amendment Act, No. 102, 1981 (Parliament no. 51).

Parliament	Sessions	Session Dates
FIRST PARLIAMENT ¹	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1856–7. SESSION 2, 1857.	11 March to 19 April, 1856. 30 April, 1856. 19 December, 1857. 22 May, 1856, to 18 March, 1857. 11 August, 1857, to 18 December, 1857.
SECOND PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1858. SESSION 2, 1858–9.	13 January to 12 February, 1858. 27 February, 1858. 11 April, 1859. 23 March, 1858, to 26 November, 1858. 8 December, 1858, to 9 April, 1859.
THIRD PARLIAMENT ²	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1859–60. SESSION 2, 1860.	9 June to 7 July, 1859. 30 July, 1859. 10 November, 1860. 30 August, 1859, to 4 July, 1860. 25 September, 1860, to 9 November, 1860.
FOURTH PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1861. SESSION 2, 1861–2. SESSION 3, 1862. SESSION 4, 1863–4. SESSION 5, 1864.	6 December to 24 December, 1860. 31 December, 1860. 10 November, 1864. 10 January, 1861, to 11 May, 1861. 3 September, 1861, to 20 January, 1862. 27 May, 1862, to 20 December, 1862. 23 June, 1863, to 22 April, 1864. 18 October, 1864, to 9 November, 1864.
FIFTH PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1865. SESSION 2, 1865–6. SESSION 3, 1866. SESSION 4, 1867–8. SESSION 5, 1868–9. SESSION 6, 1869.	22 November, 1864, to 18 January, 1865. 24 January, 1865. 15 November, 1869. 24 January, 1865, to 21 June, 1865. 24 October, 1865, to 7 April, 1866. 24 July, 1866, to 22 December, 1866. 2 July, 1867, to 27 April, 1868. 13 October, 1868, to 1 April, 1869. 28 September, 1869, to 13 November, 1869.
SIXTH PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1870. SESSION 2, 1870–1. SESSION 3, 1871–2.	3 December, 1869, to 10 January, 1870. 24 January, 1870. 3 February, 1872. 27 January, 1870, to 7 May, 1870. 11 August, 1870, to 22 June, 1871. 14 November, 1871, to 1 February, 1872.
SEVENTH PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1872. SESSION 2, 1872–3. SESSION 3, 1873–4. SESSION 4, 1874.	13 February to 28 March, 1872. 8 April, 1872. 28 November, 1874. 30 April, 1872, to 13 August, 1872. 5 November, 1872, to 25 April, 1873. 9 September, 1873, to 25 June, 1874. 3 November, 1874, to 26 November 1874.

¹ Fifty-four members elected under the Constitution Act.

² The Electoral Act of 1858 provided for 80 Members (and one to represent the University of Sydney); in 1859 the Assembly consisted of 72 Members in consequence of the erection of a portion of N.S.W. into the separate colony of Queensland by Letters Patent, under authority of the 6th Section of 18 and 19 Vic., cap. 54, published in *Government Gazette* of 1 December, 1859.

(TRIENNIAL PARLIAMENTS ACT PASSED, 6 FEBRUARY, 1874)

Parliament	Sessions	Session Dates
EIGHTH PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1875. SESSION 2, 1875—6. SESSION 3, 1876—7.	8 December, 1874, to 12 January, 1875. 25 January, 1875. 12 October, 1877. 27 January, 1875, to 11 August, 1875. 16 November, 1875, to 22 August, 1876. 12 December, 1876, to 11 October, 1877.
NINTH PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1877—8. SESSION 2, 1878—9. SESSION 3, 1879—80.	24 October to 12 November, 1877. 26 November, 1877. 9 November, 1880. 27 November, 1877, to 21 May, 1878. 10 September, 1878, to 24 July, 1879. 28 October, 1879, to 13 July, 1880.
TENTH PARLIAMENT ³	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1880—1. SESSION 2, 1881. SESSION 3, 1882.	18 November to 2 December, 1880. 14 December, 1880. 23 November, 1882. 15 December, 1880, to 6 April, 1881. 5 July, 1881, to 20 December, 1881. 22 August, 1882, to 21 November, 1882.
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs SESSION 1, 1883. SESSION 2, 1883 (2). SESSION 3, 1883—4. SESSION 4, 1884. SESSION 5, 1885. SESSION 6, 1885 (2).	30 November to 21 December, 1882. 28 December, 1882. Dissolved, 7 October, 1885. 3 January, 1883, to 2 May, 1883. 29 May, 1883, to 2 June, 1883 (Tramways). 9 October, 1883, to 1 November, 1884. 19 November, 1884, to 27 November, 1884. 17 March, 1885, to 27 March, 1885 (Soudan). 8 September, 1885, to 2 October, 1885.
TWELFTH PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1885—6. SESSION 2, 1887.	16 October to 31 October, 1885. 10 November, 1885. 26 January, 1887. 17 November, 1885, to 25 October, 1886. 18 January, 1887, to 25 January, 1887.
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1877 (2). SESSION 2, 1887—8. SESSION 3, 1888—9.	4 February to 26 February, 1887. 2 March, 1887. 19 January, 1889. 8 March, 1887, to 13 July, 1887. 20 September, 1887, to 24 July, 1888. 23 October, 1888, to 17 January, 1889.
FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1889. SESSION 2, 1889 (2). SESSION 3, 1890. SESSION 4, 1891.	1 February to 16 February, 1889. 22 February, 1889. 6 June, 1891. 27 February, 1889, to 10 October, 1889. 26 November, 1889, to 21 December, 1889. 29 April, 1890, to 20 December, 1890. 19 May, 1891, to 2 June, 1891.
FIFTEENTH PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1891—2. SESSION 2, 1892—3. SESSION 3, 1893. SESSION 4, 1894.	17 June to 3 July, 1891. 11 July, 1891. 25 June, 1894. 14 July, 1891, to 1 April, 1892. 30 August, 1892, to 13 June, 1893. 26 September, 1893, to 8 December, 1893. 17 January, 1894, to 11 June, 1894.
SIXTEENTH PARLIAMENT ⁴	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1894—5.	17 July, 1894. 3 August, 1894. 5 July, 1895. 7 August, 1894, to 5 July, 1895.
SEVENTEENTH PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1895.	24 July, 1895. 10 August, 1895. 8 July, 1898. 13 August, 1895, to 20 December, 1895.

³ The Electoral Act of 1880 provided for 72 Electorates and 108 Members, with provision for expansion, under which the Members increased to 141, until the Act was repealed by the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act of 1893 providing for single electorates returning 125 Members.

⁴ The Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act of 1893 provided for single electorates returning 125 Members.

Parliament	Sessions	Session Dates
EIGHTEENTH PARLIAMENT	SESSION 2, 1896. SESSION 3, 1897. SESSION 4, 1898. POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1898 (2). SESSION 2, 1899. SESSION 3, 1899 (2). SESSION 4, 1899 (3). SESSION 5, 1900.	12 May, 1896, to 16 November, 1896. 27 April, 1897, to 10 December, 1897. 21 June, 1898, to 8 July, 1898. 27 July, 1898. 13 August, 1898. 11 June, 1901. 16 August, 1898, to 23 December, 1898. 21 February, 1899, to 30 March, 1899 (Federation). 11 April, 1899, to 21 April, 1899 (Federation). 18 July, 1899, to 23 December, 1899. 12 June, 1900, to 5 December, 1900.
NINETEENTH PARLIAMENT ⁵	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Expired SESSION 1, 1901. SESSION 2, 1902. SESSION 3, 1903. SESSION 4, 1904 ⁷ .	3 July, 1901. 17 July, 1901. 16 July, 1904. 23 July, 1901, to 20 December, 1901. 28 May, 1902, to 20 December, 1902. 16 June, 1903, to 1 December, 1903. 19 January, 1904, to 21 January, 1904.
TWENTIETH PARLIAMENT ^{5,6}	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Expired SESSION 1, 1904 (2). SESSION 2, 1905. SESSION 3, 1906. SESSION 4, 1907.	6 August, 1904. 20 August, 1904. 19 August, 1907. 23 August, 1904, to 21 December, 1904. 13 June, 1905, to 9 December, 1905. 26 June, 1906, to 18 December, 1906. 2 July, 1907, to 12 July, 1907.
TWENTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1907 (2). SESSION 2, 1908. SESSION 3, 1908 (2). SESSION 4, 1909. SESSION 5, 1910.	10 September, 1907. 26 September, 1907. 14 September, 1910. 2 October, 1907, to 20 December, 1907. 10 March, 1908, to 11 April, 1908. 21 July, 1908, to 19 December, 1908. 29 June, 1909, to 17 December, 1909. 14 June, 1910, to 20 August, 1910.
TWENTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT ⁸	POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1910 (2). SESSION 2, 1911. SESSION 3, 1911–12. SESSION 4, 1912. SESSION 5, 1913.	14 October, 1910. 31 October, and 10 November, 1910. 6 November, 1913. 15 November, 1910, to 23 December, 1910. 16 May, 1911, to 1 August, 1911. 23 August, 1911, to 28 March, 1912. 23 July, 1912, to 5 December, 1912. 22 July, 1913, to 15 October, 1913.
TWENTY-THIRD PARLIAMENT ⁸	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1913 (2). SESSION 2, 1914. SESSION 3, 1914–15. SESSION 4, 1915–16. SESSION 5, 1916.	15 November, 1913. 6 December, 1913. 23 and 29 December, 1913. ⁹ 21 February, 1917. ¹¹ 23 December, 1913, to 30 December, 1913. ¹⁰ 3 March, 1914, to 18 April, 1914. 7 July, 1914, to 23 February, 1915. 15 June, 1915, to 26 April, 1916. 18 July, 1916, to 21 December, 1916.
TWENTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT ⁷	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1917. SESSION 2, 1917–18. SESSION 3, 1918. SESSION 4, 1919.	3 March, 1917. 24 March, 1917. 10, 16, and 23 April, 1917. ¹² 18 February, 1920. 17 April, 1917, to 18 April, 1917. 17 July, 1917, to 20 March, 1918. 12 June, 1918, to 19 December, 1918. 19 August, 1919, to 29 December, 1919.

⁵ Expired by effluxion of time.

⁶ The Electorates Redistribution Act 1904, provided for 90 Members. Women's Franchise Act 1902, came into force.

⁷ Redistribution of Seats.

⁸ Second Ballots were held under the Parliamentary Elections (Second Ballot) Act 1910.

⁹ Writs for Albury and Raleigh not returned on due date—Proclamation issued to validate.

¹⁰ Parliament sat for one day only.

¹¹ Life of Parliament extended under Legislative Assembly Continuance Act 1916.

¹² An opinion was given in 1916, by Crown Law Officers, that Parliament expires three years after the day prior to the original date of the return of Writs.

Parliament	Sessions	Session Dates
TWENTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1920. SESSION 2, 1920 (2). SESSION 3, 1921.	28 February, 1920. 20 March, 1920. ¹³ 21 April, 1920. 17 February, 1922. 27 April, 1920, to 28 April, 1920. 10 August, 1920, to 5 January, 1921. 30 August, 1921, to 28 December, 1921.
TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT ¹⁵	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Expired SESSION 1, 1922. SESSION 2, 1922 (2). SESSION 3, 1923. SESSION 4, 1924. SESSION 5, 1925.	25 February, 1922. 25 March, 1922. 19 April, 1922. 18 April, 1925. 26 April, 1922, to 9 May, 1922. 4 July, 1922, to 29 November, 1922. 7 August, 1923, to 22 December, 1923. 1 July, 1924, to 23 December, 1924. 24 March, 1925, to 7 April, 1925.
TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1925 (2). SESSION 2, 1925–26. SESSION 3, 1926. SESSION 4, 1926 (2). SESSION 5, 1926–27.	27 April, 1925. 30 May, 1925. 20 June, 1925. 7 September, 1927. 24 June, 1925, to 26 June, 1925. 12 August, 1925, to 25 January, 1926. 9 February, 1926, to 25 March, 1926. 22 September, 1926, to 3 December, 1926. 20 December, 1926, to 4 April, 1927.
TWENTY EIGHTH PARLIAMENT ¹⁶	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1927. SESSION 2, 1928. SESSION 3, 1928–29. SESSION 4, 1929–30.	14 September, 1927. 8 October, 1927. 29 October, 1927. ¹⁴ 18 September, 1930. 3 November, 1927, to 16 December, 1927. 17 April, 1928, to 26 June, 1928. 11 September, 1928, to 3 April, 1929. 17 September, 1929, to 27 June, 1930.
TWENTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1930–31–32.	2 October, 1930. 25 October, 1930. 21 November, 1930. 18 May, 1932. 25 November, 1930, to 16 May, 1932.
THIRTIETH PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1932. SESSION 2, 1932–33. SESSION 3, 1933. SESSION 4, 1933–34. SESSION 5, 1934–35.	25 May, 1932. 11 June, 1932. 30 June, 1932. 12 April, 1935. 23 June, 1932, to 4 July, 1932. 6 September, 1932, to 9 January, 1933. 21 June, 1933, to 20 July, 1933. 22 August, 1933, to 26 February, 1934. 24 April, 1934, to 12 April, 1935.
THIRTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1935. SESSION 2, 1935–36. SESSION 3, 1936–37. SESSION 4, 1937–38.	18 April, 1935. 11 May, 1935. 10 June, 1935. 24 February, 1938. 12 June, 1935, to 17 June, 1935. ¹⁰ 11 September, 1935, to 29 July, 1936. 20 October, 1936, to 25 March, 1937. 4 August, 1937, to 18 February, 1938.
THIRTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1938. SESSION 2, 1938–39–40. SESSION 3, 1940–41.	4 March, 1938. 26 March, 1938. 26 April, 1938. 18 April, 1941. 12 April, 1938, to 14 April, 1938. ¹⁰ 22 June, 1938, to 12 June, 1940. 24 September, 1940, to 18 April, 1941.

¹⁰ Parliament sat for one day only.

¹³ Parliaments elected under Proportional Representation (Act No. 40, 1918).

¹⁴ Parliament elected under Proportional Representation (Act No. 40, 1918).

¹⁵ Expired by effluxion of time.

¹⁶ Parliament elected under Single Seat Electorates (Act No. 12, 1926).

Parliament	Sessions	Session Dates
THIRTY-THIRD PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1941. SESSION 2, 1941–42. SESSION 3, 1942–43. SESSION 4, 1943–44.	22 April, 1941. 10 May, 1941. 17 June, 1941. 24 April, 1944. 28 May, 1941, to 2 June, 1941. ¹⁰ 23 July, 1941, to 8 July, 1942. 23 September, 1942, to 8 September, 1943. 28 September, 1943, to 24 April, 1944.
THIRTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1944. SESSION 2, 1944–45. SESSION 3, 1945–46. SESSION 4, 1946. SESSION 5, 1946–47.	28 April, 1944. 27 May, 1944. 22 June, 1944. 29 March, 1947. 22 June, 1944, to 28 June, 1944. ¹⁰ 20 September, 1944, to 4 April, 1945. 18 September, 1945, to 22 May, 1946. 27 August, 1946, to 2 October, 1946. 6 November, 1946, to 29 March, 1947.
THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT ¹⁷	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1947. SESSION 2, 1947–48. SESSION 3, 1948–49–50.	3 April, 1947. 3 May, 1947. 27 May, 1947. 22 May, 1950. 28 May, 1947, to 11 June, 1947. 23 September, 1947, to 15 September, 1948. 19 October, 1948, to 22 May, 1950.
THIRTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT ¹⁸	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1950. SESSION 2, 1950–51–52. SESSION 3, 1952–53.	25 May, 1950. 17 June, 1950. 19 July, 1950. 14 January, 1953. 12 July, 1950, to 19 July, 1950. 12 September, 1950, to 30 April, 1952. 18 August, 1952, to 4 January, 1953.
THIRTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1953. SESSION 2, 1953 (2). SESSION 3, 1954 ¹⁹ . SESSION 4, 1954–55. SESSION 5, 1955–56.	19 January, 1953. 14 February, 1953. 14 March, 1953. 6 February, 1956. 11 March, 1953, to 18 March, 1953. 12 August, 1953, to 6 January, 1954. 4 February, 1954, to 9 June, 1954. ¹⁹ (Session opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.) 25 August, 1954, to 11 May, 1955. 24 August, 1955, to 6 February, 1956.
THIRTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1956. SESSION 2, 1956–57. SESSION 3, 1957–58. SESSION 4, 1958–59.	10 February, 1956. 3 March, 1956. 5 April, 1956. 16 February, 1959. 10 April, 1956, to 9 May, 1956. 22 May, 1956, to 19 June, 1957. ²⁰ 21 August, 1957, to 30 April, 1958. 20 August, 1958, to 16 February, 1959.
THIRTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1959. SESSION 2, 1959–60. SESSION 3, 1960–61. SESSION 4, 1961–62.	20 February, 1959. 21 March, 1959. 16 April, 1959. 5 February, 1962. 21 April, 1959, to 27 May, 1959. 12 August, 1959, to 29 June, 1960. 24 August, 1960, to 17 May, 1961. 16 August, 1961, to 5 February, 1962.
FORTIETH PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1962.	9 February, 1962. 3 March, 1962. 6 April, 1962. 31 March, 1965. 10 April, 1962, to 30 May, 1962.

¹⁰ Parliament sat for one day only.

¹⁷ Writ for Cobar by-election (12 March, 1949) not returned on due date Proclamation issued to validate.

¹⁸ Number of Members increased to 94 (Act No. 23, 1949).

¹⁹ First Parliament in Australia to be opened by the Reigning Sovereign.

²⁰ First sitting of Second Session commemorated Centenary of Responsible Government in New South Wales.

Parliament	Sessions	Session Dates
FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT	SESSION 2, 1962–63–64. SESSION 3, 1964–65. NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1965. SESSION 2, 1965–66. SESSION 3, 1966–67. SESSION 4, 1967–68.	4 September, 1962, to 3 June, 1964. 25 August, 1964, to 10 February, 1965. 5 April, 1965. 1 May, 1965. 28 May, 1965. 23 January, 1968. 26 May, 1965, to 9 June, 1965. 24 August, 1965, to 20 April, 1966. 9 August, 1966, to 26 April, 1967. 1 August, 1967, to 23 January, 1968.
FORTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1968. SESSION 2, 1968–69. SESSION 3, 1969–70–71.	31 January, 1968. 24 February, 1968. 22 March, 1968. 13 January, 1971. 26 March, 1968, to 22 May, 1968. 7 August, 1968, to 7 May, 1969. 6 August, 1969, to 13 January, 1971.
FORTY-THIRD PARLIAMENT ²¹	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1971. SESSION 2, 1971–72. SESSION 3, 1972–73. SESSION 4, 1973.	22 January, 1971. 13 February, 1971. ²² 16 March, 1971. 19 October, 1973. 16 March, 1971, to 16 June, 1971. 4 August, 1971, to 24 May, 1972. 16 August, 1972, to 9 May, 1973. 8 August, 1973, to 19 October, 1973.
FORTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1973–74. SESSION 2, 1974–75. SESSION 3, 1975–76.	25 October, 1973. 17 November, 1973. 7 December, 1973. 2 April, 1976. 4 December, 1973, to 5 June, 1974. 7 August, 1974, to 4 June, 1975. 5 August, 1975, to 2 April, 1976.
FORTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Return of Writs Dissolved SESSION 1, 1976. SESSION 2, 1976–77–78. SESSION 3, 1978.	8 April, 1976. 1 May, 1976. 21 May, 1976. 12 September, 1978. 25 May, 1976, to 23 June, 1976. 24 August, 1976, to 15 May, 1978. 15 August, 1978, to 12 September, 1978.
(PERIODIC COUNCIL ELECTIONS SINCE RECONSTITUTION)		
Parliament and Council	Sessions	Session Dates
FORTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Day of Issue of Writ, Return of Writs Writ returned Legislative Assembly Dissolved SESSION 1, 1978–79. SESSION 2, 1979–80. SESSION 3, 1980–81. SESSION 4, 1981.	18 September, 1978. 7 October, 1978. 12 September 1978. 3 November, 1978. 6 November, 1978. 28 August, 1981. 7 November, 1978, to 20 June, 1979. 14 August, 1979, to 21 May, 1980. 12 August, 1980, to 24 June, 1981. 12 August, 1981, to 28 August, 1981.
FORTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Day of Issue of Writ Return of Writs Writ returned Legislative Assembly Dissolved SESSION 1, 1981–82. SESSION 2, 1982. SESSION 3, 1982–83. SESSION 4, 1983–84.	3 September, 1981. 19 September, 1981. 28 August, 1981. 23 October, 1981. 23 October, 1981, extended to 26 October, 1981. 5 March, 1984. 28 October, 1981, to 26 May, 1982. 30 June, 1982, to 4 August, 1982. 17 August, 1982, to 9 June, 1983. 16 August, 1983, to 5 March, 1984.

²¹ Number of Members increased to 99 (Act No. 44, 1973).

²² Notification issued to extend to twenty-one days the adjournment of the poll because of magnitude of flooding (Barwon Electorate), G.G. No. 17, 12 February, 1971.

Parliament and Council	Sessions	Session Dates
FORTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT THIRD PERIODIC ELECTION	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Day of Issue of Writ Return of Writs Writ returned Legislative Assembly Dissolved SESSION 1, 1984. SESSION 2, 1984–86. SESSION 3, 1986–87–88.	9 March, 1984. 24 March, 1984. 5 Mar, 1984. 30 April, 1984. 30 April, 1984. 22 February, 1988. 1 May, 1984, to 25 July, 1984. 14 August, 1984, to 5 February, 1986. 19 February, 1986, to 22 February, 1988.
FORTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT FOURTH PERIODIC ELECTION	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Day of Issue of Writ Return of Writs Writ returned Legislative Assembly Dissolved SESSION 1, 1988. SESSION 2, 1988–89–90. SESSION 3, 1990–91. SESSION 4, 1991.	26 February, 1988. 19 March, 1988. 22 February 1988. 22 April, 1988. 21 April, 1988. 3 May, 1991. 27 April, 1988, to 10 August, 1988. 17 August, 1988, to 14 February, 1990. 21 February, 1990, to 6 February, 1991. 20 February, 1991, to 3 May, 1991.
FIFTIETH PARLIAMENT FIFTH PERIODIC ELECTION	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Day of Issue of Writ Return of Writs Writ returned Legislative Assembly Expired SESSION 1, 1991–92. SESSION 2, 1992–93 ²³ . SESSION 3, 1993. SESSION 4 1994.	8 May, 1991. 25 May, 1991. 3 May, 1991. 28 June, 1991. 28 June, 1991. 3 March, 1995. 2 July, 1991, to 29 January, 1992. 20 February, 1992, to 13 January, 1993. ²³ (Session opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.) 24 February, 1993, to 24 December, 1993. 1 March, 1994, to 7 December, 1994.

(Section 24 of the Constitution Act 1902, inserted by—specified that the Legislative Assembly, unless sooner dissolved under Section 24B, expires on the Friday before the first Saturday in March each 4 years.)

FIFTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT ²⁴ SIXTH PERIODIC ELECTION	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Day of Issue of Writ Return of Writs Writ returned Legislative Assembly Expired SESSION 1, 1995–96. SESSION 2, 1996–97. SESSION 3, 1997–98–99.	6 March, 1995. 25 March, 1995. 6 March, 1995. 28 April, 1995. 28 April, 1995. 5 March, 1999. 2 May, 1995, to 27 January, 1996. 16 April, 1996, to 30 July, 1997. 16 September, 1997, to 3 February, 1999.
FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT SEVENTH PERIODIC ELECTION	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Day of Issue of Writ Return of Writs Writ returned Legislative Assembly Expired SESSION 1, 1999. SESSION 2, 1999–2000–01–02. SESSION 3, 2002–03.	11 March, 1999. 27 March, 1999. 8 March, 1999. 7 May, 1999. 5 May, 1999. 28 February, 2003. 11 May, 1999, to 11 August, 1999. 7 September, 1999, to 20 February, 2002. 26 February, 2002, to 31 January, 2003.
FIFTY-THIRD PARLIAMENT EIGHTH PERIODIC ELECTION	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Day of Issue of Writ Return of Writs Writ returned Legislative Assembly Expired SESSION 1, 2003–04–05–06. SESSION 2, 2006–07.	6 March, 2003. 22 March, 2003. 28 February 2003. 29 April, 2003. 29 April 2003. 2 March, 2007. 29 April, 2003, to 19 May, 2006. 22 May, 2006, to 15 January, 2007.

²³ Session opened by Reigning Sovereign.

²⁴ Parliament elected for 4-year fixed term (Act No. 32, 1902) (by referendum 25 March, 1995).

Parliament and Council	Sessions	Session Dates
FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT NINTH PERIODIC ELECTION	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Day of Issue of Writ Return of Writs Writ returned Legislative Assembly Expired SESSION 1, 2007–08–09–10.	8 March, 2007. 24 March, 2007. 5 March, 2007. 2 May, 2007. 2 May, 2007. 4 March, 2011. 8 May, 2007, to 22 December, 2010.
FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT TENTH PERIODIC ELECTION	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Day of Issue of Writ Return of Writs Writ returned Legislative Assembly Expired SESSION 1, 2011–12–13–14 SESSION 2, 2014–15	10 March, 2011. 26 March, 2011. 5 March, 2011. 30 April, 2011. 30 April, 2011. 6 March, 2015. 3 May, 2011, to 8 September, 2014. 9 September, 2014, to 2 March, 2015.
FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT ELEVENTH PERIODIC ELECTION	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Day of Issue of Writ Return of Writs Writ returned Legislative Assembly Expired SESSION 1, 2015–16–17–18–19	12 March, 2015. 28 March, 2015. 7 March, 2015. 30 April, 2015. 30 April, 2015. 1 March, 2019. 5 May, 2015, to 25 February, 2019.
FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT TWELFTH PERIODIC ELECTION	NOMINATION DAY POLLING DAY Day of Issue of Writ Return of Writs Writ returned Legislative Assembly will expire SESSION 1, 2019–	6 March, 2019 23 March, 2019 4 March, 2019 3 May, 2019 1 May, 2019 3 March, 2023

DURATION OF PARLIAMENTS SINCE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Parliament	Return of Writs	Dissolved/Expired	No. of Sessions	Duration of Parliament		
				y.	m.	d.
First	30 April, 1856	19 Dec., 1857	2	1	7	19
Second	27 Feb., 1858	11 April, 1859	2	1	1	15
Third	30 July, 1859	10 Nov., 1860	2	1	3	11
Fourth	31 Dec., 1860	10 Nov., 1864	5	3	10	10
Fifth	24 Jan., 1865	15 Nov., 1869	6	4	9	22
Sixth	24 Jan., 1870	3 Feb., 1872	3	2	0	10
Seventh	8 April, 1872	28 Nov., 1874	4	2	7	20
Eighth	25 Jan., 1875	12 Oct., 1877	3	2	8	18
Ninth	26 Nov., 1877	9 Nov., 1880	3	2	11	14
Tenth	14 Dec., 1880	23 Nov., 1882	3	1	11	9
Eleventh	28 Dec., 1882	7 Oct., 1885	6	2	9	9
Twelfth	10 Nov., 1885	26 Jan., 1887	2	1	2	16
Thirteenth	2 Mar., 1887	19 Jan., 1889	3	1	10	17
Fourteenth	22 Feb., 1889	6 June, 1891	4	2	3	15
Fifteenth	11 July, 1891	25 June, 1894	4	2	11	14
Sixteenth	3 Aug., 1894	5 July, 1895	1	0	11	2
Seventeenth	10 Aug., 1895	8 July, 1898	4	2	10	28
Eighteenth	13 Aug., 1898	11 June, 1901	5	2	9	29
Nineteenth	17 July, 1901	16 July, 1904	4	3	0	0
Twentieth	20 Aug., 1904	19 Aug., 1907	4	3	0	0
Twenty-first	26 Sept., 1907	14 Sept., 1910	5	2	11	19
Twenty-second	{ 31 Oct., 1910 10 Nov., 1910	6 Nov., 1913	5	2	11	26
Twenty-third	{ 23 Dec., 1913 29 Dec., 1913	21 Feb., 1917	5	3	1	29
Twenty-fourth	{ 10 April, 1917 16 April, 1917 23 April, 1917	18 Feb., 1920	4	2	10	8
Twenty-fifth	21 April, 1920	17 Feb., 1922	3	1	9	27
Twenty-sixth	19 April, 1922	18 April, 1925	5	3	0	0
Twenty-seventh	20 June, 1925	7 Sept., 1927	5	2	2	18
Twenty-eighth	29 Oct., 1927	18 Sept., 1930	4	2	10	20
Twenty-ninth	21 Nov., 1930	18 May, 1932	1	1	5	27
Thirtieth	30 June, 1932	12 April, 1935	5	2	9	12
Thirty-first	10 June, 1935	24 Feb., 1938	4	2	8	14
Thirty-second	26 April, 1938	18 April, 1941	3	2	11	23
Thirty-third	17 June, 1941	24 April, 1944	4	2	10	8
Thirty-fourth	22 June, 1944	29 Mar., 1947	5	2	9	8
Thirty-fifth	27 May, 1947	22 May, 1950	3	2	11	26
Thirty-sixth	19 July, 1950	14 Jan., 1953	3	2	5	27
Thirty-seventh	14 Mar., 1953	6 Feb., 1956	5	2	10	24
Thirty-eighth	5 April, 1956	16 Feb., 1959	4	2	10	11
Thirty-ninth	16 April, 1959	5 Feb., 1962	4	2	9	19
Fortieth	6 April, 1962	31 Mar., 1965	3	2	11	25
Forty-first	28 May, 1965	23 Jan., 1968	4	2	7	26
Forty-second	22 Mar., 1968	13 Jan., 1971	3	2	9	22
Forty-third	16 Mar., 1971	19 Oct., 1973	4	2	7	4
Forty-fourth	7 Dec., 1973	2 April, 1976	3	2	3	27
Forty-fifth	21 May, 1976	12 Sept., 1978	3	2	3	23
Forty-sixth	3 Nov., 1978	28 Aug., 1981	4	2	9	28
Forty-seventh	23 Oct., 1981	5 Mar., 1984	4	2	4	10
Forty-eighth	30 April, 1984	22 Feb., 1988	3	2	9	22
Forty-ninth	22 April, 1988	3 May, 1991	4	3	0	6
Fiftieth	28 June, 1991	3 Mar., 1995	4	3	8	3
Fifty-first ¹	28 April, 1995	5 Mar., 1999	3	3	10	3
Fifty-second	30 April, 1999	28 Feb., 2003	3	3	10	1
Fifty-third	29 April, 2003	2 Mar., 2007	2	3	10	1
Fifty-fourth	2 May, 2007	4 Mar., 2011	1	3	10	3
Fifty-fifth	30 April, 2011	6 Mar., 2015	2	3	10	7
Fifty-sixth	30 April, 2015	1 Mar., 2019	1	3	10	1
Fifty-seventh	1 May, 2019	Still in session				

¹ Introduction of fixed four year terms approved by referendum on 25 March, 1995.