

## Barton Deakin Brief: NSW State Election Key Seats and Regions

8 March 2019

The Government is in caretaker mode and there are less than three weeks before the 2019 NSW State election.

Generally, no new decisions, appointments or contractual commitments are made during caretaker periods. Official caretaker conventions and other pre-election practices, as outlined by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, are [here](#).

The 2019 state election will be held on Saturday 23 March. Barton Deakin's Brief previewing the 2019 State Election can be accessed [here](#).

This Barton Deakin Brief outlines the key seats and regions being contested by the major political parties at the 2019 State Election. Some information in this Brief has been sourced from Antony Green's [ABC NSW Election Guide 2019](#).

## Key Regions

### *The Coast*

Seat/Margin	Primary Candidates				Details
	LIB	NAT	ALP	GRN	
<a href="#">Ballina</a> GRN 3.1%		Ben Franklin (Nationals Candidate)	Asren Pugh (Labor Candidate)	Tamara Smith (Sitting Greens MP)	Ballina is a far north coast electorate that takes in the Nationals-leaning Ballina and Greens-leaning Byron Shire Councils. Incumbent retirement and a campaign dominated by CSG saw the Greens win the seat for the first time, beating Labor on first preferences. Nationals candidate and Upper House MP Ben Franklin, who has a strong local profile, will make this a close contest
<a href="#">Lismore</a> NAT 0.2%		Austin Curtin (Nationals Candidate)	Janelle Saffin (Labor Candidate)	Sue Higginson (Greens Candidate)	A far north coast electorate covering the major regional centre of Lismore and Tenterfield Shire on the Northern Tablelands. National MP is Thomas George is retiring, setting up three-way contest with Labor and the Greens as the latter two are near-equal in first party preference votes.
<a href="#">Tweed</a> NAT 3.2%		Geoff Provest (Sitting Nationals MP)	Craig Elliot (Labor Candidate)		At the top end of the North Coast, Tweed is the state's most northern electorate. It was once a rural seat though is now largely urban, dominated by Tweed Heads and with a very significant retiree population. Federal electoral trends suggest Labor could capture the seat.
<a href="#">Coffs Harbour</a> NAT 14.3%		Gurmeh Singh (Nationals Candidate)	Tony Judge (Labor Candidate)	Sally Townley (Ind. Candidate)	The electorate of Coffs Harbour aligns almost exactly with the City of Coffs Harbour local government area. It has only been held by the Nationals though a combination of factors could see it switch; incumbent Andrew Fraser is retiring, and opponents face local Cr Sally Townley who was a Greens Party member but has resigned to launch an independent push.
<a href="#">Port Stephens</a> ALP 4.7%	Jaimie Abbott (Liberal candidate)		Kate Washington (Sitting Labor MP)		Centres on Port Stephens to the north of Newcastle, includes Seaham to the west and Raymond Terrace to the south. It is traditionally a Labor seat, changing hands in 2007 to the Liberals,

			though faced a 19.5% swing back to the ALP in 2015 due to an ICAC investigation into undeclared donations.
<a href="#">The Entrance</a> ALP 0.4%	Brian Perrem (Liberal Candidate)	David Mehan (Sitting Labor MP)	The Entrance is a Central Coast seat with two distinct ends, one in the northern suburbs of Gosford, and the other around The Entrance and southern shore of Tuggerah Lake. Labor's Grant McBride held the seat until his retirement at the 2011 election. A swing of 17.3% delivered the seat to the Liberal Party's Chris Spence, however Spence did not contest in 2015 due to an ICAC investigation into donations. Labor's David Mehan was narrowly elected after a 12.1% swing assisted by an anti-power privatisation mood. Demographic changes and changing issues make this a potentially close contest.

### Rural and Regional NSW

Seat/Margin	Candidate				Details
	LIB	NAT	ALP	GRN	
<a href="#">Monaro</a> NAT 2.5%		John Barilaro (Sitting Nationals MP)	Bryce Wilson (Labor Candidate)		The seat of Monaro is mainly covered by the city of Queanbeyan but also includes Bombala, Bungendore and Cooma. The seat is a typical bellwether electorate although John Barilaro as Deputy Premier has a strong profile and faces a lesser profile candidate than last election.
<a href="#">Upper Hunter</a> NAT 2.2%		Michael Johnsen (Sitting Nationals MP)	Melanie Dagg (Labor Candidate)		The spine of Upper Hunter covers the New England Highway as it runs up the Hunter valley from Singleton through Muswellbrook and Scone to Murrurundi and Quirindi. The Upper Hunter has only been held by the Nationals. Targeted by the Shooters Fishers and Farmers (SFF) Party and with a declining mining sector since 2015, Labor is in with a chance.
<a href="#">Goulburn</a> LNP 6.6%	Wendy Tuckerman (Liberal Candidate)		Ursula Stephens (Labor Candidate)		The electorate covers all the communities along the Hume Highway from Berrima to Yass with the largest centre being Goulburn. Retiring Liberal Pru Goward faced former Labor Senator Ursula Stephens at the 2015 election where she suffered a 20% swing against her in a seat with redistributed boundaries. Stephens is again contesting the 2019 election, putting the seat in play.
<a href="#">Wagga Wagga</a> IND 9.6%^		Mackenna Powell (Nationals Candidate)	Joe McGirr (Sitting Independent MP)		In the south of the state, the electorate is dominated by metropolitan Wagga Wagga and is traditionally Liberal territory - more than three-quarters of electors living in the Wagga Wagga Council area. Wagga held a by-election in 2018 following ICAC investigations into Daryl Maguire. Liberal Party support declined further when Malcom Turnbull was deposed shortly beforehand. After preferences, McGirr won convincingly. The Liberals agreed to step aside and leave the National Party free to contest Wagga Wagga at the 2019 election. This is an electorate to watch.
<a href="#">Barwon</a> NAT 12.9%		Andrew Schier (Nationals Candidate)	Darriea Turley (Labor Candidate)		The electorate of Barwon is a vast north-west rural electorate of 356,292 square kilometres and is the state's largest electorate, covering 44.5% of the state. Incumbent Kevin Humphries is retiring and with drought, fish deaths and concerns over the Government's handling of the Murray Darling Basin Plan – SFF could prevail with Labor preferences and win a second seat in addition to Orange.
<a href="#">Orange</a> SFF 0.1%^		Kate Hazelton (Nationals Candidate)	Philip Donato (Sitting SFF MP)		Orange is a rural electorate in the State's central west, including the City of Orange, Parkes, Forbes and Cabonne. Andrew Gee resigned to contest a federal seat in 2016, triggering a by-election. Fallout from the greyhounds ban and council amalgamations caused a 21.8% swing after preferences against the Nationals in the by-election, electing the SFF's Donato by 50 votes. This is seen as a difficult seat for the Nationals to regain.

^ Result is from by-election

### Western Sydney

Seat/Margin	Candidate				Details
	LIB	NAT	ALP	GRN	
<a href="#">Penrith</a> LIB 6.2%	Stuart Ayres (Sitting Liberal MP)		Karen McKeown (Labor Candidate)		The electorate covers both sides of the Nepean River including the Penrith CBD, South Penrith and Penrith Lakes recreation area. Traditionally a Labor seat, ICAC findings in 2010 flipped it to Stuart Ayres in a by-election and he has held it since. He faced a 9.9% swing in the 2015 election. With WestConnex and M4 tolls issues, this seat is another one to watch.

### Inner Metro Sydney

A summary of key seats in the inner metro of Sydney is provided in the table below.

Seat/Margin	Candidate				Details
	LIB	NAT	ALP	GRN	
<a href="#">Oatley</a> LIB 6.6%	Mark Coure (Sitting Liberal MP)		Lucy Mannering (Labor Candidate)		Oatley is a St George district electorate in Sydney's south and is bounded by the Georges River, Salt Pan Creek, the Bankstown rail line and King Georges Road. Mark Coure has held the seat since 2011 and increased his margin by 2.8% at the 2015 election, Oatley recording the state's largest swing to the Liberal Party.
<a href="#">Ryde</a> LIB 11.5%	Victor Dominello (Sitting Liberal MP)		Jerome Laxale (Labor Candidate)		Ryde is a lower north shore electorate that runs across the Ryde Council area between Meadowbank on the Parramatta River and Macquarie Park fronting the Lane Cove River. Victor Dominello added 13% to his margin at the 2011 election, a swing that was reversed in 2015. Over-development has become a major local issue and the Mayor and Labor candidate is capitalising on community discontent making it a close contest.
<a href="#">Balmain</a> GRN 4.7%	Elly Howse (Labor Candidate)		Jamie Parker (Sitting Greens MP)		The electorate of Balmain includes the suburbs of Birchgrove, Balmain, Rozelle, Lilyfield, Leichhardt and Annandale, as well as Glebe and most of Ultimo from Sydney City Council. The past three state elections have seen preferences being the decider – Greens extending a 5.6% lead over Labor on first preferences in 2015. 2019 will depend on Labor increasing its primary vote and if Greens infighting and controversy hurts their voter base.
<a href="#">Coogee</a> LIB 2.9%	Bruce Notley-Smith (Sitting Liberal MP)		Paul Pearce (Labor Candidate)		Coogee covers suburbs including Bronte, Clovelly, Tamarama and Waverley. Bruce Notley-Smith is seeking re-election having won the seat from the Labor Party in 2011. In 2015 the Liberal vote was 46.6% against a combined Labor-Green first preference of 51.1%, but with preference leakage and exhaustion the Liberals retained it. Transport and climate change issues likely make this the most vulnerable seat for the Liberal Party.
<a href="#">East Hills</a> LIB 0.4%	Wendy Lindsay (Sitting Liberal MP)		Cameron Murphy (Labor Candidate)		East Hills includes the suburbs of East Hills, Milperra, Revesby, Panania, Padstow, Picnic Point, Padstow Heights and parts of Condell Park and Georges Hall. Liberal MP Glenn Brookes is retiring, leaving a traditionally Labor electorate exposed. The last two elections have been extremely close as will 2019; this time the Liberal candidate has deep local connections and Labor's Murphy is from the Eastern suburbs. Liberals may just hold on.



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## Further Information

Key dates for the 2019 NSW State Election can be accessed [here](#).

Information regarding early voting in the NSW Election, including iVote, Postal and Pre-poll voting, can be accessed [here](#).

An electorate finder published by the NSW Electoral Commission is available [here](#).

Barton Deakin has released a Brief on NSW Government policy (current to 1 March) - click [here](#).

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