

Barton Deakin Brief: 2019 Federal Election Seats to Watch

15 May 2019

Overview

The 2019 Federal Election will take place this Saturday, 18 May 2019. As per our [Barton Deakin Election Snapshot](#) brief, the election will see the incumbent Liberal-National Government seek a third term in office against Opposition, the Australian Labor Party. The following brief outlines the current state of play in key marginal seats leading up to the election according to recent polls and betting market odds.

This brief also provides an analysis of prominent ‘seats to watch’, a quick view of the electorates in which the election will be won or lost across Australia and the on the ground issues that could swing voters in these seats.

Current Polling:

Poll	Result	Date
Newspoll	51 (ALP) – 49 (Coalition)	13 May 2019
Fairfax Ipsos	52 (ALP) – 48 (Coalition)	5 May 2019
Galaxy	52 (ALP) – 48 (Coalition)	27 April 2019
Roy Morgan	52 (ALP) – 48 (Coalition)	14 May 2019
Essential	52 (ALP) – 48 (Coalition)	6 May 2019
Ladbrokes Politics	\$1.12 (ALP) - \$6.00 (Coalition)	14 May 2019
Sportsbet	\$1.14 (ALP) - \$5.50 (Coalition)	14 May 2019

Marginal Seats:

According to the Australian Electoral Commission, a seat is marginal if it falls within a 6 per cent margin at the last election.

Electorate	State	Margin**	Sitting Member	Candidate	Betting Markets 14/05/2019	Recent Poll
Dunkley (*)	VIC	-1	Chris Crewther (LIB)	Peta Murphy (ALP)	ALP \$1.14, Coalition \$4.50	
Corangamite (*)	VIC	-0.03	Sarah Henderson (LIB)	Libby Coker (ALP)	ALP \$1.33, Coalition \$3	52-48 (Coalition-ALP)
Capricornia	QLD	0.6	Michelle Landry (LNP)	Russell Robertson (ALP)	ALP \$1.83, Coalition \$1.83	
Forde	QLD	0.6	Bert van Manen (LNP)	Des Hardman (ALP)	ALP \$1.36, Coalition \$3.25	



Gilmore	NSW	0.7	Ann Sudamalis (LIB)	Warren Mundine (LIB), Katrina Hodgkinson (NAT),	ALP \$1.22, Coalition \$4.00	
Flynn	QLD	1	Ken O'Dowd (LNP)	Zac Beers (ALP)	ALP \$1.50, Coalition \$2.50	
Robertson	NSW	1.1	Lucy Wicks (LIB)	Anne Charlton (ALP)	ALP \$1.70, Coalition \$2.05	
Banks	NSW	1.4	David Coleman (LIB)	Chris Gambien (ALP)	ALP \$2.25, Coalition \$1.60	
Dickson	QLD	1.7	Peter Dutton (LNP)	Ali France (ALP)	ALP \$1.70, Coalition \$2.10	
Petrie	QLD	1.7	Luke Howarth (LNP)	Corinne Mulholland (ALP)	ALP \$1.50, Coalition \$2.50	
Hasluck	WA	2.1	Ken Wyatt (LIB)	James Martin (ALP)	ALP \$1.40, Coalition \$3	
Page	NSW	2.3	Kevin Hogan (NAT)	Patrick Deegan (ALP)	ALP \$2.40, Coalition \$1.50	
Boothby	SA	2.7	Nicole Flint (LIB)	Nadia Clancy (ALP)	ALP \$1.60, Coalition \$2.20	53-47 (Coalition-ALP)
La Trobe	VIC	3.2	Jason Wood (LIB)	Simon Curtis (ALP)	ALP \$1.57, Coalition \$2.50	
Bonner	QLD	3.4	Ross Vasta (LIB)	Jo Briskey (ALP)	ALP \$1.65, Coalition \$2.20	
Dawson	QLD	3.4	George Christensen (LNP)	Belinda Hassan (ALP)	ALP \$1.87, Coalition \$1.87	
Pearce	WA	3.6	Christian Porter (LIB)	Kim Travers (ALP)	ALP \$1.90, Coalition \$1.83	51-49 (Coalition-ALP)
Swan	WA	3.6	Steve Irons (LIB)	Hannah Beazley (ALP)	ALP \$1.67, Coalition \$2.25	51-49 (Coalition-ALP)
Leichhardt	QLD	4	Warren Entsch (LNP)	Elida Faith (ALP)	ALP \$1.73, Coalition \$2.15	
Casey	VIC	4.5	Tony Smith (LIB)	Bill Brindle (ALP)	ALP \$2.30, Coalition \$1.60	
Cowper	NSW	4.56	Luke Hartsuyker (NAT), retiring	Rob Oakeshott (IND)	IND \$1.44, Coalition \$2.40	
Reid	NSW	4.7	Craig Laundry (LIB)	Fiona Martin (LIB), Sam Crosby (ALP)	ALP \$1.25, Coalition \$4.00	
Sturt	SA	5.4	Christopher Pyne (LIB), retiring	James Stevens (LIB), Paul Boundy (GRN)	ALP \$3.50, Coalition \$1.30	53-47 (Coalition-ALP)
Brisbane	QLD	6	Trevor Evans (LNP)	Paul Newbury (ALP)	ALP \$2.75, Coalition \$1.44	

* Notionally Labor-held seat after 2018 boundary redistribution

** Two-party preferred as per 2018 boundary redistribution



Electorate	State	Margin*	Sitting Member	Candidate	Betting Markets 10/05/2019	Recent Poll
Herbert	QLD	0.02	Cathy O'Toole (ALP)	Phillip Thompson (LNP)	ALP \$2.00, Coalition \$1.70	52-48 (Coalition-ALP)
Cowan	WA	0.7	Anne Aly (ALP)	Isaac Stewart (LIB)	ALP \$1.20, Coalition \$4.50	51-49 (ALP- Coalition)
Longman	QLD	0.8	Susan Lamb (ALP)	Terry Young (LNP)	ALP \$1.12, Coalition \$5	
Lindsay	NSW	1.1	Emma Hussar (ALP)	Diane Bemer (ALP), Melissa McIntosh (LIB)	ALP \$1.77, Coalition \$1.95	52-48 (Coalition-ALP)
Macnamara	VIC	1.2	Michael Danby (ALP), retiring	Josh Burns (ALP), Kate Ashmor (LIB), Steph Hodgins -May (GRN)	ALP \$1.80, Coalition \$13 Green \$2	
Griffith	QLD	1.4	Terri Butler (ALP)	Olivia Roberts (LIB)	ALP \$1.06, Coalition \$9	
Macquarie	NSW	2.2	Susan Templeton (ALP)	Sarah Richards (LIB)	ALP \$1.07, Coalition \$7	
Braddon	TAS	2.3	Justine Keay (ALP)	Gavin Pearce (LIB)	ALP \$1.25, Coalition \$4	
Eden-Monaro	NSW	2.9	Mike Kelly (ALP)	Fiona Kotvojs (LIB)	ALP \$1.07, Coalition \$8	
Isaacs	VIC	3	Mark Dreyfus (ALP)	Liberal candidate dis- endorsed	ALP \$1.02, Coalition \$2.50	
Perth	WA	3.3	Patrick Gorman (ALP)	Jim Grayden (LIB)	ALP \$1.07, Coalition \$8	
Lyons	TAS	3.8	Brian Mitchell (ALP)	Jessica Whelan (LIB)	ALP \$1.14, Coalition \$5.50	
Bendigo	VIC	3.9	Lisa Chesters (ALP)	Sam Gayed (LIB)	ALP \$1.08, Coalition \$8.50	
Moreton	QLD	4	Graham Perrett (ALP)	Angela Owen (LIB)	ALP \$1.06, Coalition \$9	
Richmond	NSW	4	Justine Elliot (ALP)	Matthew Fraser (LIB)	ALP \$1.07, Coalition \$8	
Hotham	VIC	4.2	Clare O'Neil (ALP)	George Hua (LIB)	ALP \$1.02, Coalition \$10	
Dobell	NSW	4.8	Emma McBride (ALP)	Jilly Pilon (LIB)	ALP \$1.06, Coalition \$8	
Bass	TAS	5.4	Ross Hart (ALP)	Bridget Archer (LIB)	ALP \$1.14, Coalition \$5	52-48 (ALP- Coalition)
Jagajaga	VIC	5.6	Jenny Macklin (ALP), retiring	Kate Thwaites (ALP) Richard Welch (LIB)	ALP \$1.04, Coalition \$11	
Lilley	QLD	5.7	Wayne Swan (ALP), retiring	Anika Wells (ALP), Bard Carswell (LNP)	ALP \$1.01, Coalition \$11	
McEwan	VIC	6.0	Rob Mitchell (ALP)	Philip Fusco (LIB)	ALP \$1.01, Coalition \$13	

* Two-party preferred as per 2018 boundary redistribution



Other Seats to Watch:

Electorate	State	Margin*	Sitting Member	Candidate	Betting Markets 10/05/2019	Recent Poll
Wentworth	NSW	1.22	Kerryn Phelps (IND)	Dave Sharma (LIB)	Coalition \$1.25, IND \$3.75	
Chisholm	VIC	2.9	Julia Banks (IND), retiring from this seat	Jennifer Yang (ALP), Galdys Liu (LIB)	ALP \$1.28, Coalition \$4	
Indi	VIC	4.1	Cathy McGowan (IND), retiring	Helen Haines (IND) Mark Byatt (NATS), Steve Martin (LIB)	Coalition \$1.8, IND \$2	
Stirling	WA	6.1	Michael Keenan (LIB), retiring	Vince Connelly (LIB), Melita Markey (ALP)	ALP \$1.87, Coalition \$1.87	
Deakin	VIC	6.5	Michael Sukkar (LIB)	Shireen Morris (ALP)	ALP \$1.87 Coalition \$1.87	51-49 (Coalition-ALP)
Flinders	VIC	7	Greg Hunt (LIB)	Julia Banks (IND) Joshua Sinclair (ALP)	ALP \$2.25, Coalition \$1.65	49-51 (Coalition-ALP)
Warringah	NSW	11.55	Tony Abbott (LIB)	Zali Steggall (IND)	Coalition \$1.67, IND \$2.10	
Farrer	NSW	20.6	Sussan Ley (LIB)	Kevin Mack (IND)	IND \$1.60 Coalition \$2.00	

Key Electorates:

Given that the election will be fought and won in the marginal seats, issues affecting voters on the ground in each electorate are significant. Salient issues that could be responsible for swings in voting include climate change policy, cost of living, taxes and local infrastructure.

Bass

First term incumbent Labor MP Ross Hart will face Liberal candidate Bridget Archer in the marginal seat of Bass. The north-eastern Tasmanian seat has been held by both Labor and Liberal MPs and has not returned an incumbent member for 18 years. The seat will also be contested by Carl Cooper from the Nationals who will direct preferences to the Liberal Party. Key election issues for constituents in the Bass electorate include health and the cost of living.

Boothby

Incumbent Liberal MP Nicolle Flint holds a margin of just 2.8 per cent and will face Labor's Nadia Clancy in the seat of Boothby. Located in the south-eastern suburbs of Adelaide, Boothby has traditionally been a Liberal seat, but suffered from a high Nick Xenophon Team (NXT) primary vote in the 2016 election. The re-branded NXT ('Centre Alliance') are not running a candidate in the 2019 election, which should result in a more traditional distribution of primary votes between the Labor and Liberal parties. Campaigns are being run by GetUp! on climate change and on Nicolle Flint's support of Peter Dutton in the 2018 leadership change which ousted then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. The cost of living and congestion are other key election issues in the seat.



Chisholm

In Chisholm, current Independent and former Liberal member Julia Banks is not re-contesting her seat but will be running against current Health Minister Greg Hunt in the seat of Flinders. Chisholm will be contested by Liberal candidate Gladys Liu and ALP candidate Jennifer Yang. This contest is significant in terms of candidature alone, as it is the first time that both major parties have pre-selected two Asian women. This is an important factor due to the demographic of the seat, where one in five people have Chinese ancestry, according to 2016 Census data. Prior to 2016, Chisholm was held by Labor for 18 years and by the Liberals for 10 years. Key issues for constituents in Chisholm are the cost of living, taxation policy and foreign policy.

Corangamite

Currently held by Liberal MP Sarah Henderson, the highly marginal seat of Corangamite has become notionally Labor seat following electoral boundary redistributions. Labor candidate Libby Coker is recontesting the seat after managing a small swing against Ms Henderson in the 2016 election. Issues that could influence the election outcome in Corangamite are climate policy, cost of living, franking credit reform and transport.

Cowper

Following the retirement of current Nationals member Luke Hartsuyker, Nationals candidate Patrick Conaghan will run against Independent Rob Oakeshott, a former state and federal MP. Although the Nationals command a margin of over 12 per cent, the high-profile nature of candidate Rob Oakeshott will have a significant effect on the result. The key policy areas that will influence the election outcome will be aged care, health, jobs and climate change/environmental policy, the latter being the primary issue dividing the two lead candidates.

Dickson

The seat of Dickson is currently held by Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton, on a notional margin of 1.7 per cent. Labor candidate Ali France will be contesting the seat, and her public image been assisted by number of GetUp! campaigns against Mr Dutton. Key issue areas for the electorate, which is largely aspirational and mortgage-belt but also home to numerous industrial areas, include climate change, tax policy, housing and the cost of living.

Farrer

Long standing incumbent Liberal MP Sussan Ley will be challenged for the seat of Farrer by Independent candidate Kevin Mack. As one of the safest Liberal-held seats in the country, Farrer would not usually be on the radar of 'seats to watch'. However, Mr Mack, Mayor of Albury, has mounted a significant campaign against Ms Ley over drought and water policies. Mr Mack's strong focus on rural and regional targeted policies and calls for action on climate change, combined with Ley's travel allowance and parliamentary expenditure issues in 2016 have tightened the contest for this seat.

Flinders

In Flinders, incumbent member Greg Hunt will run against Labor candidate Joshua Sinclair and Independent Julia Banks. Flinders has been a traditionally a safe Liberal seat however, following Julia Banks' resignation from the party and her decision to contest the seat of Flinders, it is likely that preferences may be traded between Labor and Ms Banks. Constituents of Flinders rank climate policy and cost of living as the major policies affecting their vote.



Gilmore

Gilmore will see a three-cornered contest between Nationals candidate The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson, Liberal candidate Warren Mundine and Labor candidate Fiona Phillips, following the resignation of incumbent Liberal MP Ann Sudamalis. The seat is the most marginal in NSW and sees the Liberal Party in front by just 0.7 per cent. Grant Shultz, the former Liberal candidate is also running as an Independent which will further complicate the division of the electorate's vote. The allocation of preference flows will be crucial in deciding the winning candidate for this seat. Key election issues for Gilmore include infrastructure, aged care and health.

Herbert

Incumbent Labor member Cathy O'Toole will be contested by Liberal candidate and ex-serviceman Phillip Thompson OAM. Ms O'Toole holds the seat by just 0.1 per cent. Herbert has traditionally been a Coalition seat, however, has seen some terms under Labor control. With the marginal seat being home to a large mining population, party positioning on the Adani mine will be a key concern of constituents. Further policies that will influence the polling booths are cost of living, defence, high electricity prices and job security.

Indi

Current Independent MP Cathy McGowan is retiring from the seat but has placed her support behind Independent candidate Helen Haines. Indi is also being challenged by Liberal candidate Steve Martin and Nationals candidate Mark Byatt. Traditionally a Coalition seat, McGowan managed to swing a large personal vote in her favour in previous elections. Independent Ms Haines seeks to capitalise on this swing and her campaign has relied heavily on McGowan's endorsement. Preference flows will be a large factor in determining the two-candidate preferred winner of the seat.

Lindsay

Incumbent Labor MP Emma Husar was not re-endorsed for the 2019 election. Former State MP Diane Bemer will contest the Western Sydney seat for the Labor Party and will be challenged by Liberal candidate Melissa McIntosh. With a narrow margin of just 1.1 per cent in favour of the Labor Party, recent polling shows that the Liberal's are ahead 52-48 2PP. A key election issue concerning the constituents of Lindsay is cost of living.

Pearce

Incumbent Liberal MP and current Attorney-General Christian Porter will be challenged by Labor candidate and former police superintendent Kim Travers. The outer northern electorate of Pearce has been a blue-ribbon seat since its foundation in 1993. However, in 2016, Mr Porter suffered a 5.7 per cent swing against him. The seat has been targeted by GetUp! in a similar campaign to those being run in Dickson and Warringah.

Stirling

Following the retirement of Liberal MP and former Minister Michael Keenan, ex-serviceman Vince Connelly was pre-selected as the Liberal candidate for Stirling. Mr Connelly will be challenged by Labor candidate Melita Markey. The northern Perth electorate of Stirling is borderline marginal and will be a tight contest between the major parties.



Swan

Incumbent Liberal MP for the marginal seat of Swan, Steve Irons, will be challenged by Hannah Beazley, the daughter of former Labor leader and member for Swan Kim Beazley. The division of Swan is located in east Perth and is geographically split between traditionally Liberal and Labor voters. Since it's foundation, the seat has been shared evenly between the Labor and Liberal Party.

Warringah

Former Prime Minister and long-standing incumbent MP for Warringah Tony Abbott will face a difficult challenge from Independent candidate Zali Steggall. Mr Abbott has held the seat since 1994, and although not marginal, is being strongly contested by Ms Steggall. Activist groups GetUp! and Vote Tony Out are mounting heavy campaigns against Mr Abbott over climate change and his social conservatism. Polling in the seat has been volatile, as the candidates have split the traditional conservative vote, and the outcome is set to be extremely close. The key issues that have divided the candidates for Warringah are climate change, tax policy and franking credits and Mr Abbott's political history.

Wentworth

Following former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's resignation and the subsequent 2018 by-election, incumbent and Independent MP Kerryn Phelps will once again be challenged by Liberal candidate Dave Sharma. The formerly blue-ribbon seat is now on a margin of just 1.22 per cent in favour of Dr Phelps and is a key seat for the Coalition to target in order to retain government. Election policies that effect the constituents of Wentworth include climate change, cost of living and tax policy.

Further Information:

Barton Deakin has released a range of briefs on the Federal election and the 2019-20 Federal Budget. Click the following link to browse our most [recent briefs](#), or sign up to our distribution list to receive them in your inbox, as they are released.

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