

Barton Deakin Brief: South Australian Election Results**17 March 2014**

The results of the South Australian election, which took place last Saturday, are currently inconclusive. Approximately 160,000 pre-poll and postal votes are yet to be counted.

On current projections, the Liberal Party is likely to gain four seats, giving it 22 seats in the 47-seat House of Assembly. Labor is expected to retain 23 seats.

The outcome of the election is likely to depend on which party the two independents, Bob Such and Geoff Brock, choose to support.

Two-party preferred vote

A majority of South Australians voted for a change of government. The Liberal Party received a primary vote of 44.3 per cent, and is on track to record a two-party preferred vote of 52.5 per cent. The Liberal Party won 51.7 per cent of the two-party preferred vote in the 2010 election and fell six seats short of forming majority government.

South Australia's electoral laws were amended by a referendum in 1991 to introduce a "fairness clause", requiring the Electoral Commission to adjust boundaries after each election so that the party that won more than 50 per cent of the state vote should win half the seats.

The Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, argued yesterday that the two independent MPs should form government with the party which won a clear majority of the two-party preferred vote.

Independent MPs

Both Mr Such and Mr Brock sit in traditionally conservative electorates, and the Liberal Party came in second in both seats. Liberal Leader Steven Marshall will meet with both Independents today.

Fisher

Mr Such is a former Liberal minister who left the party in 2000. He served as Speaker of the House of Assembly from April 2005 to April 2006. Mr Such is a popular local member who holds the seat of Fisher with a large margin. He has held the seat of Fisher since 1989.

Bob Such has maintained he would support the party with the higher vote in his electorate. The Liberals finished a clear second.

Frome

Geoff Brock won the seat of Frome in a 2009 by-election, defeating the Liberal candidate Terry Boylan. He was previously Mayor of the Port Pirie Regional Council for six years.

Mr Brock said during the campaign that he would look to support the party offering the best regional policies, the party that has the higher vote Frome and the party that has the higher vote statewide. The Liberals tick each box.

Key seats

The following table outlines the current two-party preferred margin in key seats both parties are still hoping to win:

ELDER		
Annabel Digance (Labor)	Carolyn Habib (Liberal)	Margin
8168	7422	746

COLTON		
Paul Caica (Labor)	Joe Barry (Liberal)	Margin
9225	8654	571

LIGHT		
Tony Piccolo (Labor)	Cosie Costa (Liberal)	Margin
8442	7711	731

MITCHELL		
Corey Wingard (Liberal)	Alan Sibbons (Labor)	Margin
8133	7900	233

For more information on the South Australian election results, contact Michael Fitzgerald on +61 412 809 016 or Melanie Brown on +61 424 558 340.