

The 2021 Western Australian Election Update

Note: These figures are the ABC news/election predicted results 10 days after the WA election on 13 March, not the final results.

Website: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/elections/wa/2021/guide/lc-results>

Legislative Council

The **upper house** of the WA Parliament, the **Legislative Council**, comprises **36 members**, **Labor 22, Liberal 7, Nationals 3, Greens WA 1, Daylight Saving Party and Legalise Cannabis WA, each one**. This Labor government has a **majority of 6** in the **upper house**. Previous Labor governments did not have a majority, and to pass legislation, had to rely on **support from minor parties**.

Party	2017 Seats	2021 Seats	% Vote
Labor	14	22	61.05
Liberal	9	7	17.80
Nationals	4	3	2.88
Greens WA	4	1	5.99
Pauline Hanson One Nation	2		1.44
Shooters Fishers & Farmers	1		1.46
Western Australia Party	1		0.70
Liberal Democrats	1		0.61
Legalise Cannabis WA		2	1.92
Daylight Saving Party		1	0.23
Total	36	36	94.08

Legalise Cannabis WA and Daylight Saving parties win seats in Western Australia's Legislative Council

Key points:

- The Legalise Cannabis and Daylight Saving parties have won seats
- They received 2 and 0.2 per cent of the primary vote, respectively
- ABC election analyst Antony Green called the system 'ridiculous'

Notes - the percentage votes in the above table are based on above the line votes only. The percentages will be updated when below-the-line totals are published by the WA Electoral Commission.

Pender Pedler

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Reference: Antony Green WA Election Results

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Legislative Assembly

The last two seats to be decided have been won by **Labor, Churchlands** by Christine Tonkin, **Nedlands** by Katrina Stratton. The lower house comprises **Labor 53, Nationals 4, and Liberals only 2, David Honey** in Cottesloe and **Libby Mettam** in Vasse, a western suburb of Busselton.

Party	2017 Seats	2021 Seats	Change
Labor	40	53	+ 13
Liberal	13	2	- 11
Nationals	6	4	- 2
Total	59	59	0

Last Thursday, Mark McGowan announced the Labor ministry of **17, 14** from the lower house and **3** from the upper house, who were sworn in on Friday.

Legislative Council

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Party	2017 Seats	2021 Seats
Labor	14	24
Liberal	9	7
Nationals	4	3
Greens WA	4	
Pauline Hanson One Nation	2	
Shooters Fishers & Farmers	1	
Western Australia Party	1	
Daylight Saving Party		1
Legalise Cannabis WA		1
Total	36	36

WA Upper House Voting System Reform

Last week, I outlined a case for **reform of the Upper House voting system**, its **bias** in favor the **rural regions**, giving a **3 to 1 weighting** in favor of **rural voters** over **Perth metropolitan voters**.

How did:

- **Greens WA**, with **4 seats** in 2017, **failed to gain a seat in 2021**; but
- the two **single issue** micro-parties, **Daylight Saving** and **Legalise Cannabis WA**, with **no policies** other than wanting WA to adopt daylight saving and legalise marijuana, **each gain a WA council member?**

More than **95%** of WA voters vote **above the Line**.

- Mark your **party of choice**. Your order of preference for **all candidates** will be as lodged by your **party**.

Fewer than **5%** vote **below the Line**

- Mark your **order of preference** for **all candidates**, 1 to 64.

Glen Druery has carved out a **lucrative career** helping **single issue** micro-parties **manipulate state upper house voting systems**. Using his **business card** as a **senior adviser** for **Federal Senator Derryn Hinch**, he contacted the **candidates** of **six micro-parties** with the **deal**:

- **Do as I say**, and you are **likely** to be elected.
- List **your party**, then **each of the other five micro-parties** with the **Electoral Commission** as your parties of choice.
- **Cost: \$50,000 success fee** for each candidate elected, plus a **signing fee** for each party.

When counting **upper house votes**, to determine the **six members** for each of the **six regions**:

- a **successful candidate** must achieve a **quota** of votes;
- **if no candidate** has a **quota**, **eliminate** the candidate with the **fewest votes** and **transfer** these votes to the **next preferred candidate**.

When **first preferences** in the Mining and Pastoral Region **were counted**, the **Daylight Saving Party's Wilson Tucker**, had **just 53 votes**, **less than 0.2%** of **all first preferences**. However, his vote count gradually increased as candidates from the other five micro-parties were eliminated and their votes eventually, were transferred to him. Election analyst **William Bowe** was reported a week ago in the **West Australian**:

- If he, Mr Tucker, wins, it will be the **crowning absurdity of this system** and it will make it **unarguable that it needs to be reformed**.
- The election of a candidate for the **Daylight Saving Party** and **Legalise Cannabis WA** secured **\$50,000** plus the **signing fee** for Mr Druery **from each party**.

Further Information

1. After a two-year **Freedom of Information** battle, **The Sunday Age** newspaper obtained Mr Druery's government expenses in the two-year period prior to the **2018 Victorian election**. He charged **taxpayers \$155,000 in travel between Canberra and Melbourne and other expenses**, helping **micro parties win the balance of power** in the state's **upper house**.
2. **It is against federal government rules for a parliamentary staffer to personally benefit from publicly funded travel**.
3. Using his business card when contacting the WA upper house candidates, **Mr Druery** implied that he is a senior adviser for Senator Hinch. This is **not true** as **Derryn Hinch** was a Federal Senator **only from 2016 to 2019**.

Reform of the WA Upper House Voting System will involve:

1. A review of upper house voting systems of both Australian states and the Federal Senate;
2. The choice of the preferred upper house voting system;
3. Writing the legislation for the preferred voting system; and
4. Passing the legislation in time for it to be implemented for the 2024 WA elections.

Pender Pedler
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