

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REFERENDA

RESEARCH SERIES



STATE ELECTORAL OFFICE
South Australia

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DISCLAIMER

Every effort has been made to check the accuracy of the data and references contained in this report. The State Electoral Office would appreciate advice of any necessary corrections.

Jasha Bowe

Assistant Electoral Officer - Research

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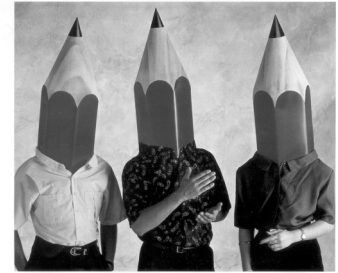
1. INTRODUCTION

A referendum, or plebiscite, is a poll which allows eligible electors to express an opinion on the adoption of, or changes of a specific nature to, public policy issues or their constitution.

In Australia referenda have to be initiated by the Commonwealth, State or Territory parliaments, though in some countries the citizens themselves can initiate proceedings by a process known as Citizens Initiated Referenda (CIR).

Australia's first ever referendum was held in South Australia in 1896. Experience demonstrated that, often as a result of personal agendas within the Parliament, general elections had frequently failed to afford conclusive evidence of the state of the popular will. A referendum was therefore considered a means of obtaining a verdict on important public issues. Following its successful use in South Australia, the process was adopted countrywide, at both State and Federal level, to ascertain public opinion on matters of significant public interest or constitutional change.

**LET YOUR PENCIL
DO THE TALKING.**



On Saturday February 9th you must vote in the State Referendum.
The numbers of voters in the electorates of the South Australian Parliament have drifted out of balance since the 1985 election. These numbers cannot be put back into balance without an amendment to the South Australian Constitution. Parliament has agreed but it cannot become law unless you agree too. If you vote YES, the Constitution will be amended and the boundaries of electorates altered, so that each contains about the same number of voters. If you vote NO, the electorates will remain unchanged until the late '90s.
On February 9th let your pencil do the talking - vote.

STATE REFERENDUM
VOTE
FEBRUARY 9th

Advertisement for the 1991
South Australian Referendum

2. REFERENDA ISSUES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Referenda may ask for the opinion of the public on matters being debated by Parliament. These have included issues such as education, the operation of drinking and shopping hours and daylight saving.

The South Australian Constitution Act 1934 sets out the legislative framework within which the government can operate. Changes to certain sections of that Act can only be made after approval by both houses of Parliament in conjunction with a majority of persons voting at a referendum. This restriction resulted in the most recent referendum in 1991, relating to changes to the frequency of electoral boundary redistributions and the criteria to be observed in their determination.

3. THE PROCESS FOR ENACTING A REFERENDUM

Currently the processes for enacting a referendum are as follows:

- (1) A Bill containing the proposed changes is laid before, and discussed by, both houses of Parliament.
- (2) After the Bill passes through Parliament, the electorate (the people) votes on the issue at a referendum.
- (3) If a majority of voters at the referendum approve of the Bill, it *may* be sent to the Governor for official consent and *may* become law. Only once, in 1899, has a constituent approved bill - relating to the extension of the Legislative Council franchise - not become law in South Australia.

4. ENABLING LEGISLATION

In most instances special legislation has been enacted to provide the particulars for the poll (see Table 1).

Table 1 – Enabling acts and debates leading to referenda in South Australia

Date	Name/Description	Act No.	2 nd Reading date	Referendum held
1896	Re: The Province's education system	<i>None</i>	References to the Act in Hansard; no discussion of the Act	1896
1898	Re: Proposed federal Constitution	<i>None</i>	No references; results <i>Gazetted</i>	1898
1899	The Commonwealth Bill Amendment Act	717	References to the Act in Hansard; no discussion of the Act	1899
1910	The Payment of Members Referendum Act	1025	29 November 1910 pp 1213-1215 30 November 1910 pp 581-582	1911
1915	Hour of closing of Bar-rooms in licensed premises.	Gazettal notice outlined the referendum criteria in an order dated 25 February 1915 p 485		1915
1965	Referendum (State Lotteries) Act	12	22 September 1965 pp 1657-1658 23 September 1965 pp 1714-1721	1965
1970	Referendum (Metropolitan Area Shop Trading Hours) Act	11	19 August 1970 pp 816-818 20 August 1970 pp 893-895 25 August 1970 pp 925-957	1970
1982	Referendum (Daylight Saving) Act	80	25 August 1982 p 692	1982
1990	Referendum (Electoral Redistribution) Act	80	20 November 1990 p 1980	1991

5. METHODOLOGY

The proposal being voted on is put to the public in the form of a yes or no question, such as 'Are you in favour of/Do you approve....?' the constitutional amendment or proposal being considered by the parliament. The results of a referendum are, however, advisory only and have no legal or constitutional authority unless put into the statute book by an Act of Parliament.

Referenda may be held as stand alone exercises, by which the people are required to vote solely on the question(s) or constitutional amendment posed for consideration, or they may be held in conjunction with a general election. In the latter case, the people must vote to elect a representative government as well as considering the question posed by the referendum.

Referenda held independently of general elections can ensure a higher level of focus on the issue(s) but at a significant administrative cost. When held in conjunction with a general election, the cost of holding a referendum is substantially reduced. However, a perceived confusion of the issues pertaining either to the politics of the contested election or the referendum question under consideration may be politically divisive and possibly problematic in terms of the outcome.

In 1982, preceding the referendum of that year, the Electoral Commissioner broached the possibility that a referendum held in conjunction with a general election was vulnerable to politicization, and therefore the implicitly impartial nature of the process was open to compromise. In the interests of fairness and independence, the then South Australian State Electoral Department (now Office), was charged in both 1982 and 1991 with the responsibility for constructing the yes/no questions presented in the referenda as well as for the accompanying advertising campaigns.

6. THE REFERENDA – A CASE BY CASE ANALYSIS

There have been nine referenda in South Australia containing twelve proposals for change; all were conducted after the right to vote was extended to women in 1894. Two proposals, in 1898 and 1899, concerned federation and two, 1899 and 1991, proposed changes to the South Australian Constitution. The other eight questions concerned issues of contemporary importance. In two referenda - those of 1896 and 1899 - multiple questions were posed for consideration. In 1915, while only one proposition was posed - relating to the closing times of licensed premises - respondents were faced with six alternative suggested times to either affirm or reject. In all, voters approved eight of the twelve proposals put to them between 1896 and 1991.

The Education System, 25 April 1896

Australia's first ever referendum was held in South Australia on the 25 April 1896 in conjunction with the general election of that year. Its inclusion was at the behest of the then Premier, Charles Cameron Kingston. This same election saw South Australian women become the first in the country to exercise a parliamentary vote and the first in the world to be permitted to run for office. The referendum, conducted in compliance with a resolution passed by the House of Assembly on December 16 1895, asked the people to consider three proposals relating to the administration of the free and secular education system. The proposals for consideration were:

1. *'Are you in favour of the continuance of the present system of education in State Schools?'*
2. *'Are you in favour of the introduction of Scriptural instruction in the State Schools during School hours?'*
3. *'Are you in favour of the payment of a capitation grant to denominational Schools for Secular results?'*

With a strongly affirmative vote for proposition one, and an equally strong rejection of propositions two and three, the referendum served to secure the continuation of free, compulsory and secular education while maintaining that equal funding be afforded to schools irrespective of religiosity (see Table 2 for full statistical details). In this referendum, people were required to either mark a 'X' next to the proposal to affirm it or leave it blank to reject it. All referenda in South Australia since that time have been in the 'Yes/No' format.

A Proposed Federal Constitution, 4 June 1898

A proposed federation of the separate Australian colonies was discussed from the end of the 19th century onwards. A series of conventions were held, with the first in Sydney in 1891, to consider issues relating to an Australian federation. As a result, an act was passed in the South Australian Parliament in 1895 - 'The Australasian Federation Enabling Act (South Australia) 1895' - which made federation constitutionally possible.

Charles Cameron Kingston, the then premier of South Australia and a prominent Federalist, played an integral role in the genesis of the 1898 referendum. Kingston chaired the second Australasian Federal Convention with the first sitting of the multi-sessional event being held in Adelaide from 22 March to 23 April 1897. At this convention, forty elected representatives from the colonies prepared the first draft of the Australian constitution based on discussion and documents adopted by the 1891 convention. A second session of the 1897 convention was held in Sydney, 2 to 24 September, and the third and final session was held in Melbourne, 20 January to 17 March 1898. On 16 March 1898 the convention adopted 'A Draft of a Bill to Constitute the Commonwealth of Australia'. The resolution was endorsed by the conference delegates for presentation to, and consideration by, their colonial constituents.

Over the days of 3 and 4 June 1898, referenda were held in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. In each case the people were asked to consider the unification of the Australian colonies under a federal Constitution. South Australia's stand-alone referendum took place on 4 June and posed the question:

'Are you in favour of the proposed Federal Constitution Bill?'

South Australians voted strongly in the affirmative, with 66.5% of voters in favour of the proposition and only 32.2% voting 'No'. It has been suggested that of all the delegates representing the colonies at the federal constitutional convention, the South Australian contingent comprised the most experienced and influential federalists in the country. The final resolutions emanating from the conference, and in particular the strong South Australian contingents' endorsement of them, may account to a certain degree for the strength of the affirmative vote. This is significant when considering that the same proposition was rejected in New South Wales.

29 April 1899

On 29 April 1899, a dual-question referendum was held in conjunction with a general election. In this case, unlike 1896, the two referendum propositions were unrelated.

a) The Proposed Federal Constitution

The first question related to the Commonwealth Bill, which had previously been approved by the South Australian electorate in 1898. The success of federation was heavily reliant on New South Wales, the largest colony, accepting the constitution proposed at the 1897-98 Australasian Federal Convention. Following that colony's rejection of the proposed constitution in its own colonial referendum (despite it having been affirmed in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania), the move toward federation was unable to proceed. In January 1899, the premiers of the colonies met to discuss changes that would make the proposed constitution more agreeable to New South Wales and to include Queensland, which had not previously participated. Seven changes were made, including an agreement that the new federal capital would be created in New South Wales in a place no closer to Sydney than 100 miles. With significant changes having been made to the previously tabled (and affirmed) Bill, the consensus of the South Australian people to a federation was again sought via referendum. Accordingly, the first question of the referendum asked:

'Are You in favour of the Amended Commonwealth Bill?'

As with the referendum of 1898, the South Australian response to the amended Commonwealth Bill proposal was strongly affirmative, this time to an even greater degree, with 70.2% of voters indicating 'Yes' to the proposition, and only 18.2% voting 'No'. Following this second affirmation and the acceptance of the amended Bill in the other colonies - most importantly, New South Wales - the constitutional framework was set in place for Australia's imminent Federation.

b) The Extension of the Legislative Council Franchise

The second proposition to be considered in the referendum concerned the extension of the franchise (the right to vote) for the Legislative Council. The South Australian Constitution of 1855-6 set up a two-chamber Parliament. Voting for the House of Assembly (the lower house) was by adult manhood suffrage, until the extension of the franchise to women in 1894. Voting for the Legislative Council (the upper house) was restricted to adult males, and later females, owning property worth 100 pounds or paying rent or lease of 10 pounds per year. This restricted the right to vote for the Legislative Council and consequently made the Council distinctly less representative of the Province's full constituency. During the 1890s, Premier Kingston's government made nine attempts to broaden the Legislative Council franchise. The second question of the 29 April 1899 referendum was one such attempt. Of particular importance was Section III of the Bill passed by the House of Assembly in 1898 relating to the extension of the Legislative Council franchise. The section

provided for a man and his wife, living in the same dwelling, of which either was the householder, to each have a vote. The purpose of this proposition was to increase the number of electors able to participate in Legislative Council elections and represent the people. In accordance with the resolution passed by the House of Assembly on 22 December 1898, the second question posed to voters in this referendum was:

'Are you in favour of extending the franchise for the Legislative Council to all householders as provided in the Bill passed by the House of Assembly in 1898?'

Again South Australian voters indicated agreement for this proposition, though not nearly as strongly as with the first referendum proposition, with only 52.3% of people voting 'Yes' and 36% voting 'No'. However, while the electorate accepted this proposition, it did not become law at this time.

Increased Salaries for Members of Parliament, 26 April 1911

In 1911 the people of the now State of South Australia were presented with their first referendum since federation and the creation of the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901. The referendum was held in conjunction with two federal referenda concerning the extension of Commonwealth powers and sought consensus on the issue of increasing Parliamentary members' salaries from two to three hundred pounds per annum. Members in the Parliament suggested that such an increase was more than warranted, considering that other states had increased the salaries of their parliamentary representatives and that the salary of two hundred pounds was inconsistent with duties bestowed upon the members. A resolution was carried in support of raising the parliamentarian's salary, but stipulated that it be put to the people for approval. Therefore in accordance with 'The Payment of Members Referendum Act 1910' passed in the Parliament, the electors of South Australia were posed the question:

'Are you in favour of increasing the payment of Members of Parliament to Three Hundred pounds per annum?'

The response was a rejection of the proposal. More than twice the number of voters, 89 042, answered 'No' to the question than those voting in favour of the increase, 42 934. Consequently parliamentarians' salaries were not increased at that time.

Bar-Room Closing Times, 27 March 1915

(HELD 3 APRIL 1915 IN RENMARK)

With the advent of World War I, it was suggested to the Parliament that the time for closure of liquor bars in licensed venues be amended. Any amendment capping the hours of trade required a change to the Act governing the sale of alcohol, known at the time as the Licensing Act. Although a strict prohibition applied to the sale of liquor to Aboriginal communities from 1839 to 1915, changes to general trading hours in the same period saw quite liberal hours of operation for licensed venues. For most of this time, 11pm was the standard closing hour for hotels. Calls for the fixing of bar-room hours came in response to morals' campaigns waged by churches and temperance organisations under the premise it was dutiful to cut back on leisure activity when Australian men were fighting and dying in Europe. Campaigners espoused such views that pubs open until late at night kept many a wage earner from his family and that much housekeeping money went down the throats of hard-drinking or drunken men. In accordance with a resolution of the South Australian House of Assembly 25 February 1915, a referendum was held - in conjunction with the General State Election - on 27 March 1915 (3 April 1915 in Renmark). A multiple choice format was offered, by which voters had to vote 'Yes' to one option to indicate their preferred closing time. It was presented to voters in the form:

Referendum as to the Hour for Closing of Bar-Rooms in Licensed Premises

*a) that the hour be 6pm
b) that the hour be 7pm
c) that the hour be 8pm*

*d) that the hour be 9pm
e) that the hour be 10pm
f) that the hour be 11pm*

With a 'Yes' vote of 56.3%, 6pm closing was affirmed as the voters choice. 11pm was the next most popular choice with 34.4% of the vote; all other times received relatively insignificant proportions of the vote. As a result of the 1915 referendum, 6pm closing passed into law and remained in force for more than fifty years, until 1967, when closing times again began to be liberalised.

Government Conducted Lotteries, 20 November 1965

The South Australian Referendum of 1965 was concerned with the issue of a State Government run lottery system. The issue of gambling had been one of some contention throughout both South Australian and Australian history. Gambling was introduced to Australia with the first settlers and was quickly established as a popular leisure activity among all social groups. Card games, two-up and horseracing were particularly popular during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. However, due to the perception of gambling as a potentially disruptive force in society, many forms which arose originally from community activities - such as off-course betting, sportsbetting, two-up, casino card games and private lotteries - were subsequently either prohibited or attempts were made to heavily regulate them.

Horseracing was one of the first forms of organised and regulated gambling in Australia, and by the late nineteenth century had become a popular form of entertainment with racetracks in every major town. Its popularity saw betting become the most popular form of gambling by the mid-twentieth century and its regulation generated large gambling-tax revenues for State Governments. In the light of pressures on government funds – particularly following the depression of the 1930's, two world wars and new areas of public welfare expenditure, in particular hospitals and health care - government regulation and promotion of gambling activities became a viable and attractive means of raising revenue. This being the case, and in accordance with the 'Referendum (State Lotteries) Act' of 21 October 1965, Parliament sought consensus from the South Australian electors on the matter of a State run lottery. The stand-alone referendum asked the people to consider:

'Are you in favour of the promotion and conduct of Lotteries by the Government of the State?'

The result was in the affirmative, with 65.7% of voters responding 'Yes' to the proposition and only 27.1% indicating 'No'. Following this, in November 1966, State Parliament passed a Bill to establish the Lotteries Commission of South Australia and appointed South Australia's then Assistant Auditor-General as Chairman. On 15 May 1967 the first lottery tickets went on sale, and the first draw was conducted by the then Premier, the late Honourable Frank Walsh.

Late Night Shopping/Trading Hours, 19 September 1970

In 1970 the Dunstan Government proposed changes to the legislation governing the restriction of retail shopping hours. There had been no parliamentary review of the Early Closing Act (which governed the hours of retail opening and closing) since 1950, and these hours were determined during the early part of the Second World War under the emergency conditions prevailing at the time. In addition the legislation only related to trade in the metropolitan area as defined in the Act.

The government stated that there were two main deficiencies with the current legislation. Firstly, there was considerable inconvenience to the public and traders exempted by the Act who had to lock away many goods – particularly foodstuffs – for which there was considerable demand at night and weekends. Secondly, the unrestricted trading hours of the large area immediately surrounding the metropolitan shopping district had resulted in shops in those areas being able to trade at night and during the weekend when the metropolitan shops were required to close. This clearly constituted an inequality amongst traders, particularly in the light of substantial growth in the area surrounding the metropolitan district as it was then defined. Whilst the government indicated in Parliament the need to consider a complete overhaul of the old legislation, to include a revision of the metropolitan boundaries, weekend trading, exempt goods and extended trading hours, the referendum only sought consensus on the closure of metropolitan shops on Friday nights at 9pm.

It was initially proposed that the referendum be held in conjunction with a by-election for the Legislative Council District of Midland. However this was finally held the weekend prior to the referendum. Thus the referendum of 19 September 1970 - held in accordance with the 'Referendum (Metropolitan Shop Trading Hours) Act, 1970' - was a stand-alone event which posed the question:

'Are you in favour of shops in the Metropolitan Planning Area and the Municipality of Gawler being permitted to remain open for trading until 9pm on Fridays?'

In a very close ballot, the proposal was rejected by the people, with 46.2% voting 'No' to the proposition and 42.9% of voters indicating the affirmative. Late night shopping was eventually introduced in 1977 with the adoption of a new Act, 'The Shop Trading Hours Act, No. 35 of 1977', without the issue again being put to the people.

Daylight Saving, 6 November 1982

In accordance with a commitment (in the 1979 election campaign) to obtaining the electorate's consensus on daylight saving, the Tonkin Government in 1982 proposed a referendum be held regarding the issue. Daylight saving operated nationally during World War I from 1 January 1917 to 25 March 1917 and during World War II for three summers, beginning on 1 January 1942. In 1971, the South Australian Parliament passed the 'Daylight Savings Act' which was to 'promote the longer use of daylight in certain months of the year and to provide for matters incidental thereto'. This Act was supplementary to the 'Standard Time Act' of 1898 which decreed South Australia's standard time to be forty-two and a half degrees east of Greenwich in England, the global position from where all the world's time zones are calculated in terms of their longitudinal topographic variance from it. This translates into a negative 9.5 hour variance from Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) – making South Australia 9.5 hours in front. It had been the standard time throughout South Australia since 1898 and was, and still is, referred to nationally as Central Standard Time (CST). With the introduction of the 'Daylight Savings Act 1971', South Australian time was adjusted one hour forward from the last week in October to the last week in March. Some considerable debate amongst the community, particularly with regard to a possible negative social impact on rural communities and detrimental trade implications for the business sector, was reflected in parliamentary debate and as a result, a referendum was proposed to address the issue. In accordance with the 'Referendum (Daylight Saving) 1982', a referendum was held on 6 November 1982 in conjunction with a general State Election. The question posed to the electors was:

'Are You in Favour of Daylight Saving?'

With 70.1% of the voters indicating 'Yes' and only 27.8% indicating 'No' the result was strongly in the affirmative. Consequently the 'Daylight Saving Act, 1971' which provided the legislation for the adjustment of daylight saving hours, remained unamended at that time

Changes To Electoral Boundary Redistribution Criteria, 9 February 1991

South Australia's last referendum was held on 9 February 1991. The referendum of that year was of significant constitutional importance. It concerned the frequency with which the boundaries of the State's House of Assembly electoral districts were to be redistributed. Since 1975 it has been the responsibility of an independent Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission (EDBC) to review and amend, if necessary, these electoral boundaries to ensure, as far as is practicable, that each district contains approximately the same number of electors and, in so doing, ensuring that no person's vote is worth more or less than that of another – one vote, one value. The 1975 constitutional change establishing the independent commission required that five or more years had to lapse between two general elections held on the same boundaries. With the introduction of four year Parliamentary terms in 1985, this meant that at least eight years would lapse before such a review could be undertaken. Significant demographic and population changes could occur in such a period, and therefore the principle of having approximately equal numbers of electors in all districts was open to compromise.

By late 1990, more than a dozen of the forty-seven lower house electorates did in fact have either fewer or more than the number of electors permitted for each district. One district contained only 17 000 electors while another had more than 28 000. As a result it was deemed necessary to change the sections of the State Constitution Act which determine the frequency with which the EDBC carries out a boundary redistribution. Such a constitutional change required the holding of a referendum to gain the electorate's consensus. The referendum proposal of 1991 sought agreement to changes to the Constitution Act that would result in:

- (1) an immediate redistribution of the electoral boundaries
- (2) a review of electoral boundaries after every general election
- (3) the EDBC to consider wider criteria when reviewing and amending the boundaries, to ensure that, if a particular party attracted more than 50% of the Statewide vote, sufficient candidates from that party would be elected to form a representative government.

In accordance with the 'Referendum (Electoral Redistribution) Act 1990' which passed through both houses of Parliament in late 1990, on 9 February 1991 the people of South Australia were, in a stand-alone referendum, asked the question:

'Do you approve the Constitution (Electoral Redistribution) Amendment Bill, 1990?'

With 76.7% of voters indicating 'Yes' to the proposition and only 23.3% voting 'No', the Amendment Bill proposal was accepted and the Constitution Act subsequently amended.

7. CONCLUSION

There is continuing debate over the form and function of the referendum as a democratic tool both in South Australia, and more globally. The issue of Citizen Initiated Referenda (CIR) has been a topic of discussion both within the community and amongst parliamentary representatives.

It is suggested that Citizen Initiated Referenda can be used to give voters direct access to the legislative process by majority vote and allow voters to bypass parliament on important issues if they choose to do so, a process referred to as 'direct democracy'. A number of countries have adopted CIR (either wholly or in part), most notably Switzerland, and from their models have come a number of functions which CIR can facilitate, known as *The Initiative*, the *Voter's Veto* and the *Recall*. The 'Initiative' allows voters to instigate new laws (by a majority vote), the 'Voters Veto' permits voters to block laws passed by Parliament while the 'Recall' can cause the removal from office of any public official including members of parliament. CIR have also been used in some countries to effect constitutional change.

Proposed enabling legislation has been tabled in State/Territory parliaments and at the federal level. The ACT parliament has debated the issue, with two formal bills to institute CIR being defeated. At the local government level, the Burnie council (Tasmania) and the North Sydney council (NSW) have both introduced CIR on an informal, non-binding basis. In South Australia, the compact formed between the Rann Labor government and House of Assembly Member Peter Lewis, following the 50th State election in 2002, resulted in an agreement between Mr. Lewis and Labor placing considerable emphasis on the issue of CIR. It was consequently placed on the political agenda. However, as of May 2005, a private member's bill that had been introduced to address the issue of CIR would receive no further debate before the question was posed.

**Table 2 - State
of South Australia - Referenda details 1896 - 1991**

Date	Proposal	Held in conjunction with	No. on roll	No. voting (%)	Formally	Informally (%)	In favour (%)	Not in favour (%)	Whether passed
25 April 1896 (Incomplete data are available for this referendum)	(1) 'Are you in favour of the continuance of the present system of education in State Schools?' (2) 'Are you in favour of the introduction of Scriptural instruction in the State Schools during School hours?' (3) 'Are you in favour of the payment of a capitation grant to denominational Schools for Secular results?'	House of Assembly elections	137 781	91 348 (66.3)		12 830 (14.0)	51 681 19 280 13 349	17 819 34 834 42 007	YES NO NO
4 June 1898	'Are you in favour of the proposed Federal Constitution Bill?'		136 430	53 842 (39.5)	53 120	722 (1.3)	35 800 (66.5)	17 320 (32.2)	YES
29 April 1899	(1) 'Are you in favour of the Amended Commonwealth Bill?' (2) 'Are you in favour of extending the franchise for the Legislative Council to all householders as provided in the Bill passed by the House of Assembly in 1898?' ¹	House of Assembly elections	152 393	93 952 (61.7) 94 151 (61.8)	83 043 83 136	10 909 (11.6) 11 015 (11.7)	65 990 (70.2) 49 208 (52.3)	17 053 (18.2) 33 928 (36.0)	YES YES
26 April 1911	'Are you in favour of increasing the payment of Members of Parliament to Three Hundred pounds per annum?'	Two federal referenda on extension of federal-powers	216 027	133 685 (61.9)	131 985	1 700 (1.3)	42 934 (32.1) Missing ballot paper/s 9?	89 042	NO
27 March 1915 (3 April Renmark)	Referendum as to the Hour for Closing of Bar-Rooms in Licensed Premises a) that the hour be 6pm* b) that the hour be 7pm c) that the hour be 8pm d) that the hour be 9pm e) that the hour be 10pm f) that the hour be 11pm *This remained closing hour for more than 50 years	House of Assembly, LC Central No. 2 and Flinders Southern Local Option Polls	253 391	178 362 (70.4)	176 616	1 746 (1.0)	6pm 100 418 (56.3) 7pm 839 (0.5) 8pm 2 087 (1.2) 9pm 9 865 (5.5) 10pm 1 966 (1.1) 11pm 61 362 (34.4)	Missing BPS 79	YES NO NO NO NO NO
20 November 1965	'Are you in favour of the promotion and conduct of Lotteries by the Government of the State?'		567 020	524 658 (92.5)	487 082	37 576 (7.2)	344 886 (65.7)	142 196 (27.1)	YES
19 September 1970	'Are you in favour of shops in the Metropolitan Planning Area and the Municipality of Gawler being permitted to remain open for trading until 9 pm on Fridays?'		463 629	413 448 (89.2)	368 122	45 326 (11.0)	177 296 (42.9)	190 826 (46.2)	NO
6 November 1982	'Are you in favour of Daylight Saving?'	HA and LC elections	871 215	811 288 (93.1)	793 945	17 343 (2.1)	568 635 (70.1)	225 310 (27.8)	YES
9 February 1991 ²	'Do you approve the Constitution (Electoral Redistribution) Amendment Bill, 1990?'		981 344	882 650 (89.9)	847 150	35 500 (4.0)	649 906 (76.7)	197 244 (23.3)	YES

1 Section III of the Bill provided that where a man and his wife lived in the same dwelling, of which either was the householder, then each should have a vote. Although accepted by the electorate, the extension to the Legislative Council franchise did not become law at that time.

2 The definition of 'in favour' and 'not in favour' was clarified at the 1991 Referendum from 'Votes in favour/not in favour of prescribed question' to 'Percentage of formal votes in favour/not in favour'.

GLOSSARY

Act A bill which has become law after being passed by both houses of Parliament at three readings and then received Royal Assent from the Governor.

Assent (Royal) After a proposed bill has been passed by both houses, it is presented to the Governor for assent prior to becoming an Act.

Bill A proposal for new legislation. Bills must be approved by both houses, then presented to the Governor for Royal Assent; once *Gazetted*, the bill becomes law (an Act of parliament).

Boundaries Commission The independent body with the powers of a Royal Commission that reviews and makes adjustments to South Australian electoral boundaries following each general election. Its members are the most senior Supreme Court Judge available, the Electoral Commissioner and the Surveyor-General. (Official title - Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission)

By-election An election held in only one electoral district to fill a casual vacancy caused by the resignation, death or retirement of a House of Assembly member.

Citizen Initiated Referenda (CIR) A process that enables a prescribed number of electors, by petition, to force the government to hold a referendum on whether a particular law should be introduced, retained or repealed.

Constitution A document that sets out a statement of laws or rules. Every State and the Commonwealth of Australia has its own Constitution.

District (electoral) A defined geographical area of the State. The whole of the State is one electoral district for the Legislative Council, while there are 47 electoral districts for the House of Assembly, each containing approximately equal numbers of electors.

Electors A person entitled to vote at an election.

Electoral Commissioner The statutory officer responsible for the proper conduct of parliamentary and local government elections and polls and the implementation of appropriate electoral publicity, education and research programs for the parliamentary framework.

Electoral roll A certified list of electors who have enrolled and are eligible to vote in an election or poll.

Federation On 1st January 1901 the people of all States were united as one nation known, as the Commonwealth of Australia, that was established by an Act of the British parliament.

Franchise The right to vote. 'Extending the franchise' means giving more people the right to vote

House of Assembly The lower house of State parliament comprising 47 members each elected by the voters in an electoral district in South Australia.

Legislation The name given to a law, or set of laws, that has passed both houses of Parliament and been assented to by the Governor.

Legislative Council The upper house of Parliament in South Australia. It has 22 members elected for an eight year term, half of whom are elected at each State General Election.

Redistribution Changes to boundaries of electoral districts in line with the principle that the number of voters in each district must not vary from a predetermined electoral quota by more than 10 per cent. Carried out by the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission following each General Election.

Referendum A vote taken to allow electors to have their say on an issue or policy eg daylight saving. A proposal for a referendum must pass all readings and then be approved by a majority in both houses of Parliament prior to being put to the people in a referendum. A national referendum must be held to implement any change to the Commonwealth Constitution. Section 128 of the Commonwealth Constitution also provides for a referendum to occur if only one house of Parliament carries a proposal under certain circumstances. A proposal must be approved by a majority of voters in South Australia in the case of a State referendum and a majority of States in a national referendum. *Referendum (singular); referenda (plural)*

Referendum Act The legislation which sets out the question/s and any other pertinent matters for the conduct of a referendum.

Copies of this document are available on the SEO website
and from

The State Electoral Office
134 Fullarton Road
Rose Park SA 5067

GPO Box 646
Adelaide SA 5001
DX Number 442, Adelaide

Telephone 61 8 8401 4300
Facsimile 61 8 8401 4333
Teletype (TTY) 61 8 8332 9454

Website www.seo.sa.gov.au
ABN 99 891 752 468

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