

History | Beliefs | Structure | Leaders | Getting Involved

Welcome to the
Liberal Party of Australia
New South Wales Division



The History of the Party



What we must look for, and it is a matter of desperate importance to our society, is a **true revival of liberal thought which will work for social justice and security, for national power and national progress, and for the full development of the individual citizen**, though not through the dull and deadening process of socialism.

Sir Robert Gordon Menzies
1894 - 1978

The Liberal Party of Australia was founded on 16 October, 1944.

The Party was formed after a three-day meeting in Canberra convened by the then Leader of the Opposition (United Australia Party), Sir Robert Menzies.

Sir Robert Menzies had already served as Prime Minister of Australia (1939-40), but he believed the non-Labor parties should unite to present a strong alternative government to the people of Australia.

Eighty men and women from eighteen different non-Labor political parties and organisations such as the Democratic Party, the Liberal Democratic Party, the United Australia Party, the Institute of Public Affairs, the Australian Women's National League and the Queensland Women's Electoral League attended the first Canberra Conference. They shared a common belief that Australians should have greater personal freedom and choice than that offered under Labor's post-war socialist plans.

Sir Robert Menzies believed the time was right for a new political force in Australia – one that fought for the freedom of the individual and produced enlightened liberal policies. In his opening address at that meeting, he said:

It is often said that Sir Robert Menzies stood for the 'forgotten people' of Australia; those mainstream Australians whose goals, needs and aspirations had been ignored by government.

On 16 October, 1944, the name The Liberal Party of Australia was adopted, uniting the many different political organisations. Two months later, at the Albury Conference, the Party's organisational and constitutional framework was drawn up. By May 1945 membership of the Liberal Party had swelled to 40,000.

The name Liberal was chosen deliberately for its associations with progressive philosophies of free enterprise and social equality.

Our Beliefs

We Believe

in the inalienable rights and freedoms of all people: we work towards a lean government that minimises interference in our daily lives and maximises individual and private-sector initiative;

in government that nurtures and encourages its citizens through initiative, rather than putting limits on people through the punishing disincentive of burdensome taxes and the stifling structures of Labor's corporate state and bureaucratic red tape;

in those most basic freedoms of parliamentary democracy – the freedom of thought, worship, speech and association;

in a just and humane society in which the importance of the family and the role of law and justice are maintained;

in equal opportunity and tolerance for all Australians;

in the encouragement and the facilitation of wealth so that all may enjoy the highest possible standards of living, health, education and social justice;

that, wherever possible, government should not compete with an efficient private sector, and that businesses and individuals – not government – are the true creators of wealth and employment;

in the Australian Constitution;

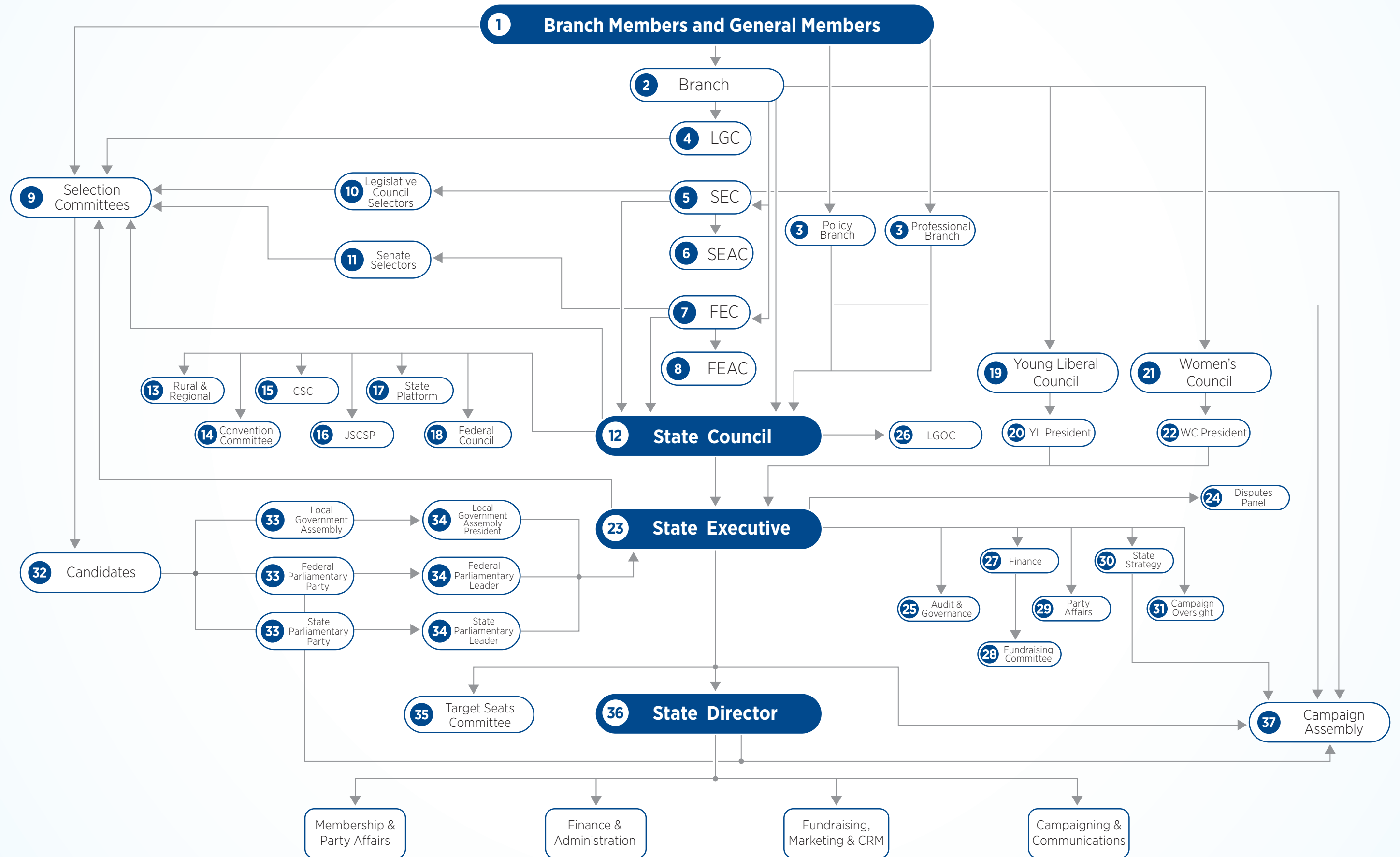
in preserving Australia's natural beauty and environment for future generations; and

that our nation has a constructive role to play in maintaining world peace and democracy through alliances with other free nations.

In short, we believe in ***individual freedom*** and ***free enterprise***.



Structure of the NSW Division



Structure of the NSW Division



1. Members

All persons who join the NSW Division are Members. All Members of the Division are either a Member of a Branch or a General Member. Membership of the Division is a pre-requisite for acceptance of any level of responsibility in the functioning of the Division. Members are entitled to attend any Branch meeting within the Division.

2. Branch

Branches are comprised of Ordinary Branches, Young Liberal Branches and Special Branches. Ordinary and Young Liberal Branches are allocated to Local Government, State and Federal Electorate Conferences. Ordinary Branches nominate delegates to Electorate Conferences, State Council, Women's Council as well as electing Preselectors. Young Liberal Branches nominate delegates to Electorate Conferences, Young Liberal Council, State Council, Women's Council as well as electing Preselectors. Every Ordinary and Young Liberal Branch Member is entitled to attend meetings of the Electorate Conferences to which the Branch is allocated. Special Branches are based on community, cultural, occupational or other interests. Special Branches are not allocated to Local Government, State and Federal Electorate Conferences. Special Branches do send delegates to State Council and Women's Council but do not have a delegate entitlement to any other Body in the Division.

3. Policy, Professional Branches

Any Member of the Party - at no additional fee - may nominate to join one Policy Branch and/or one Professional Branch. The Policy Branches have a primary focus on policy development, where as the Professional Branches are more focused around strengthening professional networks. The Branches have been structured in each policy stream to reflect all agencies and activity of government - Local, State and Federal. Application forms are available from LCHQ.

4. Local Government Conference (LGC)

LGCs are established, subject to the approval of the Local Government Oversight Committee, within a Local Government Area by a resolution of all Branches and any Liberal Party Member who is a Councillor within the relevant Local Government Area. The LGC actively supports selected candidates for local government elections by raising funds and conducting the election campaigns for those candidates. Members of the LGC also form the Selection Committee (9) to select candidates for Local Government.

Structure of the NSW Division

5. State Electorate Conference (SEC)

SECs are established in every NSW State Electorate where there are a number of Branches. SEC Members are drawn from the local Branch or Branches to support the selected candidate, being an existing Member of Parliament or otherwise, in state election campaign planning and implementation at a local level. SECs encourage the establishment and activity of Branches within the electorate, seek to identify quality future candidates and raise funds for local and NSW Division purposes. SECs act as a forum and communication link to Members of Parliament with respect to State Liberal Party policy issues.

6. State Electorate Assistance Committee (SEAC)

The SEAC consists of delegates from all SECs charged with the responsibility of contributing funding and manpower resources for use by the State Director in his/her capacity as NSW Campaign Director with respect to state election campaigns. These resources are used by the Campaign Director in support of local campaigns.

7. Federal Electorate Conference (FEC)

FECs are established in every NSW Federal Electorate where there are a number of Branches. FEC Members are drawn from the local Branch or Branches to support the selected candidate, being an existing Member of Parliament or otherwise, in federal election campaign planning and implementation at a local level. FECs and encourage the establishment and activity of Branches within the electorate, seek to identify quality future candidates and raise funds for local and NSW Division purposes. FECs act as a forum and communication link to Members of Parliament with respect to Federal Liberal Party policy issues.

8. Federal Electorate Assistance Committee (FEAC)

The FEAC consists of delegates from all FECs charged with the responsibility of contributing funding and manpower resources for use by the State Director in his/her capacity as NSW Campaign Director with respect to federal election campaigns. These resources are used by the Campaign Director in support of local campaigns.

9. Selection Committees

Selection Committees for the House of Representatives, Legislative Assembly and Local Council are formed when there are multiple nominations to contest an election for the NSW Division in seats where State Executive has determined to call for nominations. The Committees are comprised of Selectors made up of Branch Members, Members of State Executive and a selection of State Council Delegates. Selection Committees for the Legislative Council are comprised of provincial candidates for the Members of State Executive. Selection Committees for the at-large Legislative Council candidates and the Senate are comprised of the Members of State Executive and the Members of State Council. The formation of a Selection Committee is based on criteria set out in the Constitution. State Executive determines the timing of the formation of all Selection Committees.



Structure of the NSW Division

12. State Council

State Council is the governing body of the NSW Division and is responsible for the management of the affairs of the Division. State Council consists of Delegates from all Branches, SECs and FECs together with a number of ex-officio Members including Members of State Executive, State and Federal Members of Parliament from NSW electorates (provided they are Members of the Division), Life Members of State Council and former Presidents of the Division (provided they are Members of the Division). State Council determines and maintains the State Platform and debates policy issues and other matters brought to it by the relevant bodies within the Division. The Members of State Council elect Members to the State Executive and Standing Committees of State Council. Members of State Council also elect delegates to Federal Council (18).

13. Rural and Regional Committee

The Rural and Regional Committee is a Committee of State Council. The Committee is chaired by the Country Vice-President and comprises members appointed by State Executive. The Rural and Regional Committee is tasked with promoting issues of concern to rural members and promoting rural and regional issues.



14. Convention Committee

The Convention Committee organises the annual State Convention, including its timing and compiling the programme and agenda. The Committee comprises the Chair of the Convention Committee and Director of Policy Engagement; seven members elected by State Council, and four additional members appointed by the State President. The State President, the Young Liberal President, the Women's Council President and State Director are ex-officio members of the Committee.

15. Constitution Standing Committee (CSC)

The CSC is a Standing Committee of State Council. The CSC consists of seven Members elected by State Council. The CSC is responsible for drafting proposed amendments to the Constitution submitted to it by any authorised Body of the Division. In addition the CSC is responsible for completing a review of the Constitution every three years and reporting to State Council on its findings. The CSC may also provide an opinion on the interpretation of the Constitution if requested to do so by the Disputes Panel (24).

16. Joint Standing Committee on State Policy (JSCSP)

The JSCSP is a Standing Committee of State Council. JSCSP consists of the President, Vice-Presidents, the State Leader, the Leader of the State Parliamentary Party in the Legislative Council, Deputy Leaders of the State Parliamentary Party in both the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, the State Director, the Women's Council and Young Liberal Council Presidents and six Members elected by State Council. The JSCSP is responsible for giving consideration to all matters of a policy nature including providing assistance to the State Parliamentary Party as may be requested, requesting the State Parliamentary Party or any Member of that Party to consider new or revised policy proposals and reviewing each policy document prepared by the State Parliamentary Party.

Structure of the NSW Division



17. State Platform Committee (SPC)

The SPC is a Standing Committee of State Council. The SPC consists of a nominated Vice-President and eight Members elected by State Council. The SPC's responsibilities include ensuring that the State Platform continues to reflect the NSW Division's philosophical position on the policy framework required to meet the Objectives of the Division as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Constitution. The SPC must set out the principles against which policy must be formulated. The SPC must ensure that the State Platform does not, in any way, purport to determine State policy matters which are properly the province of the State Parliamentary Party.

19. Young Liberal Movement and Young Liberal Council

Any person eligible to be a Member or Junior Member of the Division may elect to be a Member of the Young Liberal Movement until such time as he/she reaches 31 years of age. The Young Liberal Movement seeks to foster and promote the objectives of the Division amongst young people of NSW and communicate their views to the Division generally.

The Young Liberal Movement has a Young Liberal Council, which is comprised of Delegates elected by Young Liberal Branches and a Young Liberal Executive elected by the Young Liberal Council. The President of Young Liberal Council (20) has a seat on State Executive.

21. Women's Council

Women's Council is comprised of all female Liberal Members of Parliament and Women's Council Delegates, together with all other female Members who satisfy a minimum involvement criterion of attendance at three meetings of the Women's Council. The Council is active in matters relating to women including promotion of the involvement of the Division in women's issues, advising on policy matters and identifying and encouraging potential candidates for Parliamentary and/or Local Government office. Women's Council has an elected General Committee responsible for the management and administration of Women's Council between meetings. The President of Women's Council (22) has a seat on State Executive.

Structure of the NSW Division

23. State Executive

State Executive is responsible to the Members, through State Council, for the overall management and affairs of the NSW Division. Its responsibilities include all aspects of election campaigns within NSW, relationships with other political parties, the proper management of communications, financial affairs and administration of the NSW Division and the employment of the State Director. Its membership includes the elected President, Vice-Presidents, Urban and Country Representatives, the Chair of Convention Committee and Director of Policy Engagement as well as a number of ex-officio members. The Parliamentary Leaders, Federal President of the Liberal Party, Presidents of Young Liberal Council, Women's Council, and the Liberal Local Government Assembly as well as the Treasurer are ex-officio members.

24. Disputes Panel

The Disputes Panel is a Standing Committee of State Executive. It is comprised of six Members. The purpose of the Disputes Panel is to resolve disputes in relation to decisions of the State Director or State Executive regarding Party affairs and other matters as defined in Clause 17.6.1 of the Constitution. Members acting on their own behalf or on behalf of a Body of the Division and State Executive may apply to the Disputes Panel for settlement of a dispute.



25. Audit and Governance Committee

The Audit and Governance Committee is a Standing Committee of State Executive. It consists of up to six Members. The function of the Audit and Governance Committee is to provide guidance and advice on accounting procedures, controls, rules, regulations and practices (other than Party Affairs matters) to confirm accordance with the form and/or substance of the Constitution. The Audit and Governance Committee makes enquiries with respect to any matter referred to it by the State President, Finance Director, State Director or State Executive. In addition, it reviews all non-oral financial information made available to State Council and reports on such reviews.

26. Local Government Oversight Committee (LGOC)

The functions of the LGOC include providing advice to the State Executive on the effectiveness and operations of the Local Government Code of Practice and to undertake any functions assigned to the Committee in the Code of Practice or by State Executive. It also considers applications from Branches to form LGCs and makes recommendations to the State Executive for approval of the applications. Composition is made up of seven members elected by State Council, none of whom are serving councillors in local government.

27. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is a Standing Committee of State Executive. The Finance Committee is comprised of the Treasurer who chairs the Committee, and Members appointed by the State Executive. The Finance Committee is responsible to the State Executive for the management of the income and expenditure of the Division. The Finance Committee appoints a Fundraising Committee (28), which is responsible for the fundraising activities of the Division.

Structure of the NSW Division



29. Party Affairs Committee

The Party Affairs Committee is a Committee of State Executive. It is comprised of persons from State Executive selected by the State President. The Party Affairs Committee is to examine and make recommendations to the State Executive on organisational matters of the Division.

30. State Strategy Committee

The State Strategy Committee is a Standing Committee of State Executive. It is comprised of the President of the Division, State Parliamentary Leader, State Director and other Members nominated by the President after consultation with the State Parliamentary Leader and appointed by State Executive. The Committee serves as an advisory group on strategic matters.

31. Campaign Oversight Committee

The Campaign Oversight Committee is a Committee of State Executive. The Committee comprises the President of the Division, State Director, Finance Director and other Members nominated by the President. The Campaign Oversight Committee is formed during the conduct of election campaigns to monitor the Division's expenditure.

32. Candidates and Representatives

All Liberal Members of Parliament and Councillors begin as Liberal candidates. Liberal Members of Parliament consist firstly of Members of the State Legislative Assembly and Federal House of Representatives (33) elected by their respective electorate voters. Secondly they consist of Members of the State Legislative Council and Federal Senate elected by the NSW voters as one "electorate" (33). Thirdly they consist of Councillors elected by their respective local voters (33). All Liberal Members of Parliament will have been preselected or endorsed prior to the most recent Local, State or Federal election as the case may be. State and Federal Members of Parliament are responsible for determination of Liberal Party policy relating to State and Federal policy areas respectively. Both the State and Federal Liberal Parliamentary Parties elect a Leader as does the Local Government Assembly which chooses a President (34).

Structure of the NSW Division



33. Local Government Assembly

The Liberal Local Government Assembly consists of all Local Government Councillors who are Members. It coordinates the activities of the Liberal Party in local government (except for those matters that fall within the responsibility of the Local Government Oversight Committee), provide advice to State Executive and the State Director on matters relating to local government campaigning and considers policy issues and motions relevant to local government in NSW. Where appropriate, the Liberal Government Assembly can propose motions to State Council and State Convention.

35. Target Seats Committee

The Target Seats Committee is chaired by the State Director in his/her capacity as Campaign Director. It is comprised of staff members from LCHQ, members of State Executive and members of the relevant Parliamentary Party appointed by the State Executive. The function of the committee is to assist conferences to identify quality candidates and oversee the conduct of election campaigns in each of the Division's Federal and State Target Seats.

36. State Director/Liberal Campaign

Headquarters

LCHQ is managed by the State Director and comprises the employed staff of the Division. LCHQ consists of the following departments:

- Membership and Party Affairs
- Finance and Administration
- Fundraising, Marketing & CRM
- Campaigning and Communications

The primary functions of LCHQ are to administer the activities and functions of the Division in accordance with the Constitution and the Objectives of the Division. This includes offering support and advice to the State Executive in the conduct of its affairs in managing the Division; assisting the membership of the Division in carrying out the functions of Branches and Conferences; communicating with Members of the Division on all matters; directing campaigns and providing specialist advice in relation to campaigning throughout the Division; and conducting fundraising to support the activities of the Division.

37. Campaign Assembly

The Campaign Assembly is tasked with strengthening the corporate approach of the Division towards campaigning. It comprises the State Strategy Committee, the State Campaign Committee, the State Director, each SEC and FEC President, together with their appointed campaign managers and the Member of Parliament for the electorate (if a Member) or the endorsed candidate. The Campaign Assembly assists with local electorate campaign planning and the training of campaign workers.

How you can get involved



Online

Sign up to our e-newsletter.

Show your support via social networking: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube.



Make a Donation

Take part in Liberal Party events.

Make regular donations.

Leave a bequest in your Will.



Become a Volunteer

Become a campaign volunteer.

Volunteer for your Member of Parliament.



Volunteer With Your Local Branch

Organise fundraising events.

Attend local campaign planning meetings.

Become an office bearer.

Propose or debate policy motions.



Women's Council

Attend regular meetings with guest speakers and policy debate.

Nominate to become a member of Women's Council Committee.

Support current female MPs and debate key women's issues.



Young Liberals

Attend YL Council forums.

Become a member of the YL Flying Squad.

Become an office bearer.

Participate in the policy boardroom series.

Organise or attend YL social events.



Join Federal Forum

The Federal Forum is our key corporate engagement programme.

It was established to facilitate networking and engagement between the corporate sector and political leaders at the federal level.



Policy and Professional Branches

Any Member of the Party may nominate to join. The Policy Branches have a primary focus on policy development, while the Professional Branches are focused on strengthening professional networks.

Leaders of the Liberal Party and NSW Division

Leaders of the Federal Parliamentary Liberal Party

1944-66	Robert Menzies
1966-67	Harold Holt
1967-71	John Gorton
1971-72	William McMahon
1972-74	Billy Snedden
1975-83	Malcolm Fraser
1983-85	Andrew Peacock
1985-89	John Howard
1989-90	Andrew Peacock
1990-94	Dr. John Hewson
1994-95	Alexander Downer
1995-2007	John Howard
2007-08	Dr. Brendan Nelson
2008-09	Malcolm Turnbull
2009-15	Tony Abbott
2015-18	Malcolm Turnbull
2018-	Scott Morrison

Leaders of the NSW Parliamentary Liberal Party

1945	Reginald Weaver
1945-46	Alexander Mair
1946-54	Vernon Treatt
1954-55	Murray Robson
1955-59	Pat Morton
1959-75	Robert Askin
1975-76	Tom Lewis
1976-77	Eric Willis
1977-78	Peter Coleman
1978-81	John Mason
1981	Bruce McDonald
1981-83	John Dowd
1983-92	Nick Greiner
1992-95	John Fahey
1995-98	Peter Collins
1998-2002	Kerry Chikarovski
2002-05	John Brogden
2005-07	Peter Debnam
2007-14	Barry O'Farrell
2014-2017	Mike Baird
2017-2021	Gladys Berejiklian
2021-	Dominic Perrottet

New South Wales Presidents

1945-50	Bill Spooner
1950-56	Lyle Moore
1956-61	Robert Cotton
1961-62	Ralph Honner
1962-67	John Pagan
1967-69	Fred Osborne
1969-75	John Atwill
1975-76	Philip Sydney-Jones
1977-78	Kenneth Anderson
1978-82	David Patten
1982-85	John Valder
1985-87	Bronwyn Bishop
1987-88	Ron James
1988-92	Peter King
1992-93	Bevan Bradbury
1993-96	Bill Heffernan
1996-2000	Michael Osborne
2000-05	Chris McDiven
2005-08	Geoff Selig
2008-10	Nick Campbell
2010-11	Natasha Maclaren-Jones
2011-12	Arthur Sinodinos
2012-15	Chris Downy
2015-16	Trent Zimmerman
2016-18	Kent Johns
2018-	Philip Ruddock

Leaders of the Liberal Party and NSW Division

Young Liberal Presidents

1962-1964	John Howard
1964-1965	Jeffrey Kirby
1965-1966	Graham Jones
1966-1967	Phillip Morgan
1967-1968	Warren McCullagh
1968-1971	Peter Fitzgibbon
1971-1972	Philip Ruddock
1972-1974	Christopher Puplick
1974-1976	Neil Hansford
1976-1978	Jim Carey
1978-1979	Robert Nestdale
1979-1980	David Minty
1980-1982	Christopher Crawford
1982-1984	Michael Photios
1984-1985	Andrew Kirk
1985-1986	Catherine Cusack
1986-1987	Scott Heathwood
1987-1988	Marise Payne
1988-1990	Donald Harwin
1990-1991	Joseph Hockey
1991-1992	Trent Zimmerman
1992-1993	John Brogden
1993-1994	Shayne Mallard
1994-1995	Jason Falinski
1995-1996	Andrew Maiden
1996-1997	Gladys Berejikian
1997-1998	Jason Collins
1998-1999	Ross Cadell
1999-2000	Tony Chappel
2000-2001	Andrew Constance
2001-2002	Ben Franklin
2002-2005	Alexander Hawke
2005	Dominic Perrottet
2005-2006	Natasha Maclaren-Jones
2006-2008	Noel McCoy
2008-2011	Scott Farlow
2011-2014	Simon Fontana
2014-2015	James Wallace
2015-2017	Alex Dore
2017-2019	Harry Stutchbury
2019-2020	Chaneg Torres
2020-2021	Hugo Robinson
2021-	Deyi Wu

Women's Council Presidents

1945-48	Edith Shortland
1948-56	Eileen Furley
1956-59	Ivy Faunce
1959-62	Roberta Gallagher
1962-68	Phyllis Jackson
1968-71	Thelma Bates
1971-74	Pam Mitchell
1974-79	Maureen Giddings
1979-83	Betty Combe
1983-88	Betty Grant
1988-91	Marie Wood
1991-96	Chris McDiven
1996-2000	Judy Hopwood
2000-03	Robyn Parker
2003-05	Mary O'Dea
2005-11	Helen Wayland
2011-12	Lucy Wicks
2012-15	Felicity Wilson
2015-17	Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond
2017-	Mary-Lou Jarvis

New South Wales State Directors

1945-47	Frances Robert Burton
1947-71	John Carrick
1971-77	Jim Carlton
1978-81	Greg Bartels
1982-85	Stephen Litchfield
1986-88	Graeme Starr
1989-90	Peter Kidman
1990-92	Robert Maher
1992-95	Barry O'Farrell
1996-97	Tony Nutt
1997	John Burston
1997-2000	Remo Nogaratto
2000-05	Scott Morrison
2005-07	Graham Jaeschke
2008-13	Mark Neeham
2014-15	Tony Nutt
2016-	Chris Stone



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