



Prospects for the 2011 NSW Election

Report written by Antony Green for the New South Wales Electoral Commission

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Format for Report

All the electorates that have the potential to be key seats at the 2011 election have been profiled with a single page summary. Each summary outlines past voting patterns and discusses the history of contests in the seat.

An example and explanation of the format of tables provided for each seat are outlined below.

Balmain

Sitting Member: Verity Firth (Labor)

Margin: 3.7% v Greens

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Estimated Past Margins	
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %	Election	Past Margin
Labor	42.1	57.1	39.2	53.7	1991 (Redist)	ALP 14.0% v IND
Liberal	21.0		23.8		1995 (Redist)	ALP 14.0% v NAN
Greens	29.3	42.9	29.5	46.3	1999	ALP 25.1%
Others	7.6		7.5		2003	7.3% v Green
2PP Labor		67.6		67.8	2007	ALP 3.7% v GRN
2PP Liberal		32.4		32.4		

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 36.2%, Coalition 22.8%, Green 29.5%, Others 11.5%

The name of the Electorate, the sitting member and the electorate's current margin are shown at the top of each electorate profile.

Below the heading lines are two tables. The table on the left shows a summary of the result of the 2007 election in the electorate, and the estimated votes for the electorate at the 2003 election. The 2003 results have been adjusted for the redistribution. Where appropriate, both 2-candidate preferred and 2-party preferred percentages are shown.

The table on the right provides estimated margins for each seat based on New South Wales elections back to 1991, and also Federal elections between 1996 and 2004. These values are based on publications I have previously prepared for the NSW Parliamentary Library. The estimated margins do not exactly match the current boundaries, as the modelling was done based on electorates for the 1999 and 2003 state elections. However, the changes to boundaries produced by the 2004 redistribution were not major. Where major changes did occur, details are provided in the notes.

Below the tables are shown party votes within the electorate at the 2007 Legislative Council election. Where appropriate, by-election results are also shown.

A profile of each electorate is also provided, outlining past contests, details of the sitting member, and where known, who the opposing candidate is likely to be.

Election Scenarios

Current opinion polling suggests there will be a substantial swing against the Labor government at the 2011 NSW Election. Rather than assume that bad opinion polls will continue through to 2011, electorate profiles in this document can be grouped into three scenarios, based around the 2011 election being a repeat of 2007, the election seeing a moderate swing against the government that could potentially produce a hung Parliament, or a substantial swing that would deliver majority government to the Coalition.

Scenario 1: Status Quo Election result

Liberal party would need to defend Port Stephens against a swing to Labor, Ryde against a reversal of the 2008 by-election swing, and potentially Manly if a new Independent candidate emerged.

The National party would mount a vigorous campaign to win back the Independent held seats of Dubbo, Tamworth and Port Macquarie.

Even with little swing, the Labor Party would still struggle to hold Menai and Miranda. Camden and Wollondilly would require hard work by the sitting members, and the Central Coast seats of Gosford, The Entrance and Wyong would see vigorous contests.

Scenario 2: Swing of up to 5% against the Government.

The Liberal Party would have little difficulty retaining its own seats and the National party would campaign hard in Dubbo, Tamworth and Port Macquarie.

The Labor Party would mount a strong campaign in Heathcote but would lose neighbouring Menai and Miranda. The Camden and Wollondilly in the south-west of Sydney, and Gosford, The Entrance and Wyong would be hard to hold. The Greens would mount serious challenges to Labor in Balmain and Marrickville. Maitland would be a chance for the Liberals to win with an above average swing.

Scenario 3: Swing of around 10% to the Coalition

The Coalition would retain all seats and the National Party would be favoured to win Dubbo, Port Macquarie and Tamworth.

Labor would lose Miranda, Menai, Wollondilly, Camden, Gosford, The Entrance and Wyong. Labor would be struggling to hold Londonderry, Drummoyne, Heathcote, Penrith, Maitland, Riverstone, Blue Mountains, Mulgoa and Kiama. Labor would probably lose both Balmain and Marrickville to the Greens.

Coogee would see an unusual contest with the Greens and Labor battling for second place behind the Liberal candidate. Seats such as Kogarah, Oatley and Strathfield would see enormous swing even if Labor retained them.

A 10% swing would also correspond to a steep decline in the Labor Party's first preference vote. This would put the Labor Party at risk of losing seats to Independent in the Hunter and Illawarra. It is not possible to determine which seats would be at risk without knowing the Independents likely to nominate.

Underlining indicates electorates profiled in this document

Balmain

Sitting Member: Verity Firth (Labor)

Margin: 3.7% v Greens

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Estimated Past Margins	
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %	Election	Past Margin
Labor	42.1	57.1	39.2	53.7	1991 (Redist)	ALP 14.0% v IND
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Greens	29.3	42.9	29.5	46.3	1999	ALP 25.1%
Others	7.6		7.5		2003	7.3% v Green
					2007	ALP 3.7% v GRN
2PP Labor		67.6		67.8		
2PP Liberal		32.4		32.4		

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 36.2%, Coalition 22.8%, Green 29.5%, Others 11.5%

Balmain is the birthplace of the Labor Party and has been held by Labor for most of the last century. However, the electorate of Balmain is no longer the home to Sydney's miners, dockworkers and tradesmen. Today it is one of Sydney's more affluent electorates, but the electorate's increased affluence has not been reflected in an increased Liberal vote. The electorate has remained a heartland of left-wing politics, but one where Labor's position is now challenged by the Greens.

Balmain remained in Labor hands until 1988, when challenges from a range of Independents resulted in a win on preferences for former Olympic swimmer Dawn Fraser. Balmain was abolished in 1991 and largely amalgamated with the neighbouring electorate of McKell to form the new electorate of Port Jackson. The 1991 election saw a contest between Ms Fraser and the Labor MP for McKell Sandra Nori. The contest was won by Nori, who also saw off a strong challenge from No Aircraft Noise at the 1995 election. Nori won with ease against a Liberal opponent in 1999, but in 2003 was run a closer contest by the Greens. Port Jackson had the CBD removed before the 2007 election and also returned to its traditional name of Balmain. Nori retired in 2007, Balmain won by new Labor candidate Verity First, though the Labor margin versus the Greens was halved.

At the 2011 election, Labor's main challenge will again come from the Greens. The likely Green candidate will be Leichhardt Mayor Jamie Parker. At the 2008 Leichhardt local government election, the Greens polled 47.0% to 23.9% for Labor and 22.6% for the Liberal Party. The result reveals the danger for Labor at the 2011 election.

Since the 2007 election there have been several local issues that have damaged Labor's local standing. These included the new Iron Cove bridge; the proposed Rozelle metro rail; indecision over extension of light rail from Lilyfield to Dulwich Hill; and the lack of state funding to preserve Rozelle Hospital. Given current polling, Labor will lose votes to both the Greens and the Liberal Party. It seems unlikely that the Liberal vote could improve enough to benefit from Labor and the Greens splitting the 'left' vote.

At the last two elections, the Liberal Party have made no preference recommendation in Balmain, a tactic which if repeated in 2011 would deliver victory to whichever of the Labor or the Green candidates leads on the primary votes. A Liberal decision to direct preferences to the Greens would improve the chances of the Greens winning the seat.

Bathurst

Sitting Member: Gerard Martin (Labor)

Margin: 13.0%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	54.1	63.1	53.4	63.0	1991 (Redist)	ALP 4.8%
National	32.1	36.9	30.8	37.0	1995 (Redist)	ALP 0.6%
Greens	6.2		4.8		1999	ALP 17.8%
Others	7.6		11.0		2003	ALP 14.1%
					2007	ALP 13.0%
					2001 Federal	ALP 6.7%
					2004 Federal	ALP 3.3%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 43.6%, Coalition 30.1%, Green 5.7%, Shooters 5.7%, Others 14.9%

Bathurst has been won by Labor at seven of the eight elections since the industrial centre of Lithgow was added to the electorate in 1981. The overwhelming Labor vote in Lithgow exceeds the support for the National Party in rural areas, leaving Labor only needing to break even in Bathurst itself to win the seat. Labor has also been represented by strong Lithgow based personalities in current MP Gerard Martin since 1999, and former MP Mick Clough 1981-88 and 1991-99. Clough had previously represented Lithgow while MP for Blue Mountains 1976-81.

In three decades Labor's only defeat came in 1988 on the demise of the Unsworth government, the government's proposal to tighten gun laws playing a part in Labor's local defeat. Surprisingly it was the Liberal candidate who was elected rather than the National, and this may have played a part in Labor winning Bathurst back at the 1991 election when Labor's Mick Clough was re-elected. Against a National opponent in 1995, Clough was only narrowly re-elected. On Clough's retirement at the 1999 election, internal disharmony saw both Coalition parties nominate candidates and an increase in exhausted preferences boosted Labor's margin. New member Gerard Martin then easily retained Bathurst for Labor in both 2003 and 2007.

At the 2007 election the vote for Gerard Martin was 10 percentage points higher than the Labor vote in the Legislative Council. This suggests a strong personal vote for Mr Martin. Labor will need his personal vote if it hopes to retain Bathurst at the 2011 election.

The National Party will be contesting Bathurst at the 2007 election. Based on results of the last three Federal elections, Bathurst would have been narrowly held by the Labor Party.

Blue Mountains

Sitting Member (Party): Phil Koperberg (Labor – probably retiring)

Margin: 11.1%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	45.6	64.8	40.8	61.1	1991 (Redist)	LIB 2.8%
Liberal	27.3	35.2	28.5	38.9	1995 (Redist)	ALP 2.2%
Greens	17.2		16.2		1999	ALP 11.8%
Others	9.9		14.5		2003	ALP 14.8%
					2007	ALP 11.1%
					1996 Federal	LIB 0.8%
					1998 Federal	ALP 2.1%
					2001 Federal	LIB 0.8%
					2004 Federal	ALP 0.4%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 35.8%, Coalition 26.1%, Greens 18.0%, Christian Dems 7.7%, Others 12.4%

Blue Mountains has been won by the party forming government at every election since 1976. It is an electorate where rail services to Sydney have long been the dominant local issue, though development issues and the local environment are also of concern to residents.

Sitting MP Phil Koperberg is the former head of the Rural Fire Services and was coaxed into politics by Labor at the 2007 election. He had previously received overtures from both sides of politics to run for this seat. Koperberg was appointed directly into the Ministry after his election, but later resigned in part of an on-going dispute with Labor MP Paul Gibson, their conflict concerning past marital issues. Koperberg has been quoted in the media as regretting ever entering Parliament and it is expected that he will not contest the 2011 election. The loss of a candidate with Koperberg's stature will damage Labor's prospects of holding the seat.

The Liberal Party have endorsed Kerry Bartlett, who served as Liberal MP for the local Federal seat of Macquarie from 1996 until his defeat in 2007. Based on his support at recent Federal election, he would have strong prospects of winning this seat for the Liberal Party. The Greens also poll well in this electorate, and any decline in Labor support will probably see an increase in vote for both the Liberal Party and the Greens. A high Green vote will probably split Labor's core support and help the Liberal Party win the seat.

Public transport has always been viewed as the critical issue in Blue Mountains, with many residents reliant on the rail link to Sydney to reach their place of work. The sitting member factor is also important, with sitting MPs for Blue Mountains and its predecessor Hartley always having strong local links.

Based on the 2004 Federal election, the political situation in Blue Mountains is finely balanced. Taking into consideration candidate factors, and the government's problems with the public transport system, Blue Mountains is a seat the Liberal Party will have strong hopes of winning. It is a seat certain to see vigorous campaigning by both major and minor parties.

Blue Mountains is above the uniform swing required for the Liberal Party to win government, but would be a seat the Liberals can win and would hope to win.

Cabramatta

Sitting Member (Party): Nick Lalich (Labor)

Margin: Labor 29.0% (2007 election), Labor 7.2% (2008 by-election)

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	66.0	81.4	69.1	79.0	1991 (Redist)	ALP 16.5%
Liberal	11.6	18.6	16.3	21.0	1995 (Redist)	ALP 21.9%
Greens	3.1		6.9		1999	ALP 18.9% v IND
Others	19.3		7.7		2003	ALP 31.7%
					2007	ALP 29.0%
					2008 byelec	ALP 7.2% v LIB
					1996 Federal	ALP 20.3%
					1998 Federal	ALP 30.2%
					2001 Federal	ALP 24.9%
					2004 Federal	ALP 24.2%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 64.8%, Coalition 14.4%, Greens 4.1%, Unity 6.6%, Others 10.2%

2008 By-election: Labor 51.0%, Liberal 36.5%, Greens 9.0%, Others 3.5%. After preferences, Labor 57.2%, Liberal 42.8%.

Cabramatta has always been one of Labor's safest seat, but there was a massive swing of 21.8% against Labor at the 2008 by-election on the resignation of Reba Meagher. Based on past results, both state and federal, it seems unlikely that the Liberal Party could close the gap further at a general election. However, the Liberal Party will nominate Dai Lee as its candidate, who has strong links with the local Vietnamese community and polled well at the by-election.

The electorate has one of the state's highest concentrations of people from non-English speaking background, especially from the Vietnamese and Chinese community.

Camden

Sitting Member (Party): Geoff Corrigan (Labor)**Margin: 3.9%**

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	50.1	58.7	44.8	53.9	1991 (Redist)	LIB 4.9%
Liberal	34.8	41.3	38.6	46.1	1995 (Redist)	LIB 5.7%
Greens	4.8		5.2		1999	LIB 3.5%
Others	10.3		11.4		2003	ALP 5.4%
					2007	ALP 3.9%
					1996 Federal	LIB 10.3%
					1998 Federal	LIB 5.5%
					2001 Federal	LIB 12.1%
					2004 Federal	LIB 13.1%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 43.5%, Coalition 35.5%, Greens 4.8%, Christian Dems 4.6%, Others 11.6%

Camden was retained by the Liberal Party on losing office in 1995, and again retained against a state-wide swing to Labor at the 1999 election. Sitting Liberal MP Liz Kernohan retired at the 2003 election, resulting in Camden becoming a surprise Labor gain for current MP Geoff Corrigan.

The electorate consists mainly of new private housing estates, but the electorate also includes some strong Labor-voting booths in public housing estates around Claymore and Raby. While Labor won Camden in both 2003 and 2007, the seat would be Liberal held based on most recent Federal elections. Camden lies within the Federal seat of Macarthur where the Liberal Party polled strongly at the 2001 and 2004 Federal elections.

Sitting MP Geoff Corrigan did well to win re-election in 2007, but with his margin and the seat's Federal voting history, Corrigan will have great difficulty retaining this seat even if the Labor government is re-elected. It is highly likely that Labor will run a campaign focussed on Corrigan's personal work with as little mention as possible of his membership of the Labor Party.

Coogee

Sitting Member (Party): Paul Pearce (Labor)

Margin: 7.2%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	45.9	63.6	39.0	57.2	1991 (Redist)	ALP 1.1%
Liberal	30.8	36.4	35.8	42.8	1995 (Redist)	ALP 5.4%
Greens	17.9		21.1		1999	ALP 12.3%
Others	5.4		4.1		2003	ALP 12.6%
					2007	ALP 7.2%
					1996 Federal	ALP 2.6%
					1998 Federal	ALP 4.4%
					2001 Federal	ALP 2.7%
					2004 Federal	ALP 6.6%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 35.6%, Coalition 32.1%, Greens 21.1%, Others 11.2%

Coogee has been held by the Labor Party since 1974, though it has remained a marginal seat for most of the period. Like Balmain, the demographic profile of Coogee has become more affluent in recent years, but this growing affluence has produced a rise in the Green vote rather than increased support for the Liberal Party.

Coogee may prove to be a strange three-way contest at the 2011 election, with Labor likely to shed votes to both the Liberal Party and the Greens. If the Liberal Party can improve its first preference vote, the party may have enough of a lead to win on the exhaustion of preferences between the Labor and Green candidates. It would be a much harder seat for the Liberal Party to win under compulsory preferential voting.

Using the results of the 2008 local government elections in the relevant wards of Waverley and Randwick Councils, the Liberal Party polled 35.6% to 31.2% for the Greens with Labor trailing on 25.5%. At a state election it could be expected that support for the major parties would increase and vote for the Greens decline compared to the local government elections.

The Labor Party candidate should be sitting MP Paul Pearce, who has represented the seat since 2003, and previously served on Waverley Council 1983-2004, filling the position of Mayor 1997-2004. His Liberal opponent will be Bruce Notley-Smith, who has served on Randwick Council since 2000 and served a term as Mayor 2008-2009.

Drummoyne

Sitting Member (Party): Angela D'Amore (Labor)

Margin: 7.6%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	47.4	58.7	47.3	57.6	1991 (Redist)	ALP 3.5%
Liberal	35.3	41.3	36.7	42.4	1995 (Redist)	ALP 2.7%
Greens	8.6		9.4		1999	ALP 9.4%
Others	8.7		6.7		2003	ALP 8.7%
					2007	ALP 7.6%
					1996 Federal	LIB 1.5%
					1998 Federal	ALP 3.4%
					2001 Federal	ALP 2.3%
					2004 Federal	ALP 0.4%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 41.9%, Coalition 35.0%, Greens 10.1%, Others 13.0%

Drummoyne is a seat that the Liberal Party has threatened to win on several occasions, but which Labor has managed to retain for four decades. While relatively safe for Labor at recent state elections, Drummoyne forms part of the Federal seat of Lowe and is a more marginal seat based on recent Federal election results.

The electorate has seen a significant growth in newer housing estates along the Parramatta River, many through the re-development of former industrial sites. This growth of expensive real estate has not been reflected in an increase in Liberal vote. Nor have the Greens made any inroads in Labor's vote. Anecdotal evidence suggests that at recent elections the Liberal Party have had higher priority targets elsewhere and not put sufficient resources into its Drummoyne campaign. On current polls, Drummoyne is within range of the swing required for Coalition victory at the 2011 election.

Drummoyne has been held for the Labor Party by Angela D'Amore since the 2003 election. In 2011 the Liberal Party candidate will be John Sidoti, currently the Mayor of Burwood and a former candidate for the local federal seat of Lowe in 2004. Both candidates are well connected in the influential local Italian community.

Dubbo

Sitting Member (Party): Dawn Fardell (Independent)

Margin: 0.9% (versus National)

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	15.7		11.1		1991 (Redist)	NAT 16.4%
National	43.8	49.7	42.6	49.1	1995 (Redist)	NAT 19.4%
Independent	33.7	50.3	41.7	50.9	1999	IND 0.02% v NAT
Greens	2.7		2.4		2003	IND 5.0% v NAT
Others	4.1		2.2		2004 byelec	IND 5.2% v NAT
2PP Labor		29.4		25.0	2007	IND 0.9% v NAT
2PP National		70.6		75.0		

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 27.0%, Coalition 46.0%, Greens 3.6%, Christian Dems 5.2%, Shooters 7.2%, Others 11.0%.

Dubbo was held by the National Party's Gerry Peacocke from 1981 until his retirement in 1999, and had previously been held by the Liberal Party from 1965 to 1981. On Peacocke's retirement, Dubbo fell to local Mayor and Independent Tony McGrane, narrowly elected on Labor preferences. McGrane increased his majority in 2003 but died in 2004. He was succeeded by Independent MP Dawn Fardell at a November 2004 by-election. Fardell was narrowly re-elected in 2007 on Labor preferences.

In recent years rural Independents have profited from having been seen to deliver on improving local services in their electorate. The Labor government has been more than happy to assist Independents by delivering funding for local projects, helping to entrench the Independents against National Party attempts to regain their seats. As long as the Coalition looked unelectable, the Independents had an advantage in being able to argue that only they could deliver funding for local services.

At the 2011 election, with polling indicating the National Party could form part of the next government, all of the sitting rural Independents will be under greater pressure than at the last three state elections.

On Federal results, and on state results before 1999, Dubbo would normally be a very safe National Party seat. With the right candidate, Dubbo is a seat that can be won by the National Party, and the seat is certain to see a vigorous contest. The Labor Party will nominate a very low profile candidate who will be lucky to poll in double figures.

Gosford

Sitting Member (Party): Marie Andrews (Labor)

Margin: 4.9%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	45.5	58.6	42.7	54.9	1991 (Redist)	ALP 10.1%
Liberal	31.5	41.4	34.8	45.1	1995 (Redist)	ALP 7.7%
Greens	5.3		6.9		1999	ALP 11.3%
Others	17.7		15.6		2003	ALP 9.7%
					2007	ALP 4.9%
					1996 Federal	LIB 1.1%
					1998 Federal	ALP 1.2%
					2001 Federal	LIB 3.7%
					2004 Federal	LIB 4.0%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 42.9%, Coalition 33.7%, Greens 7.8%, Christian Dems 4.2%, Others 11.4%

A seat called Gosford has existed for several decades, but the seat underwent a major change at the 2004 redistribution. The seat previously known as Gosford was re-named Terrigal after the transfer of the Gosford CBD into Peats. The name Gosford was then adopted as the new name for the former seat of Peats.

Peats had existed since 1973 and has always been won by the Labor Party. Sitting MP Marie Andrews has represented Peats since 1995, winning the seat under its new name of Gosford at the 2007 election.

Gosford is based on Gosford and the communities on the western side of Brisbane Water. This includes Woy Woy and Ettalong, an area with a high retiree population. The electorate also includes a significant population who commute to Sydney each day for work. For that reason, Gosford is an electorate where public transport and the traffic problems of the F3 have always been important issues.

Electorally, Gosford behaves like an outer suburban seat as it receives much of its news from Sydney media. However, the electorate's physical separation from Sydney means the district also has its own community news networks. The profile of candidates can play an important part in the contest.

There have been rumours that sitting MP Andrews will not re-contest. It had been rumoured that MLC and former Minister John Della Bosca would contest Gosford at the next election. Whoever is the Labor candidate, they will have a difficult task trying to retain this marginal seat given the state of published opinion polls.

As in 2007, the Liberal Party will nominate Chris Holstein as its candidate. Holstein is the Mayor of Gosford Council and previously contested Peats as an Independent in 2003 against the endorsed Liberal candidate Debra Wales. Before the 2007 election, Holstein defeated Wales for Liberal endorsement and she then nominated as an Independent against him at the election. Gosford Council has had financial problems with its investments owing to the global financial crisis. Wales and her husband have campaigned against Holstein's management of the Council. This may lead to another challenge at the 2011 state election, which would complicate the contest.

Heathcote

Sitting Member (Party): Paul McLeay (Labor)

Margin: 8.8%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	47.4	62.3	43.2	58.8	1991 (Redist)	* ALP 7.5%
Liberal	29.7	37.7	32.2	41.2	1995 (Redist)	* ALP 6.4%
Greens	13.7		14.5		1999	* ALP 14.4%
Others	9.2		10.1		2003	* ALP 12.3%
					2007	ALP 8.8%
					1996 Federal	* ALP 2.4%
					1998 Federal	* ALP 2.6%
					2001 Federal	* LIB 2.2%
					2004 Federal	LIB 1.6%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 39.0%, Coalition 30.4%, Greens 12.6%, Christian Dems 6.2%, Others 11.8%

(*) The 2004 NSW redistribution strengthened Labor's hold on Heathcote by about 4%. This difference has been factored into the indicated margins for elections in the period 1991-2003.

Heathcote is the safest of Labor's seats in the Sutherland Shire. Labor's margin is boosted by the boundaries extending into the northern Illawarra, taking in areas of strong Labor support.

Based on Federal figures, the Liberal Party would have recorded a majority within Heathcote at the 2001 and 2004 Federal elections owing to the popularity of local Hughes MP Dana Vale,. While Heathcote would be considered a natural Labor seat, the Federal results indicate that it is a seat the Liberal Party can win when its state vote is high.

On current opinion polling, Heathcote is a seat the Liberal Party could win at the 2011 election. The Green vote is also strong in Heathcote, which could split Labor's first preference vote on current polling.

Paul McLeay first won Heathcote for Labor at the 2003 election. He is Minister for Ports and Waterways and Minister for the Illawarra. The Liberal Party have yet to select a candidate.

Kiama

Sitting Member (Party): Matt Brown (Labor)**Margin: 12.0%**

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	46.6	58.3	50.7	62.0	1991 (Redist)	* ALP 5.7%
Liberal	32.6	41.7	30.5	38.0	1995 (Redist)	* ALP 6.6%
Greens	9.3		8.7		1999	* ALP 9.7%
Others	11.5		10.1		2003	* ALP 8.3%
					2007	ALP 12.0%
					1996 Federal	* ALP 0.4%
					1998 Federal	* ALP 2.6%
					2001 Federal	* LIB 8.5%
					2004 Federal	LIB 4.0%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 42.7%, Coalition 29.8%, Greens 9.0%, Christian Dems 6.3%, Others 12.2%

(*) The redistribution ahead of the 2007 election cut Labor's hold on Kiama by about 8%. Marked margins have been adjusted to reflect this shift.

Kiama has been in Labor hands since it was created in its current incarnation ahead of the 1981 election. When the boundaries have extended north of Kiama into Shellharbour, the electorate has become safer for Labor. When the boundaries extend into the Shoalhaven, as they do currently, the electorate becomes a possibility for the Liberal Party to win.

The redistribution ahead of the 2007 election halved Labor's margin in Kiama by moving the boundary south to the Shoalhaven River, but Labor increased its hold on the seat at the 2007 election with Kiama recording one of the state's largest swings to Labor.

Kiama has been held by current MP Matt Brown since 1999. Despite increasing his majority in 2007, Mr Brown will have difficulty holding his seat due to bad publicity surrounding his departure from the ministry. Brown was appointed Police Minister by new Premier Nathan Rees in 2008, but was forced to resign after three days over accusations of inappropriate behaviour at a party in Parliament House.

At the 2007 election, Brown's vote was 8% higher than Labor's vote in the Legislative Council, indicating a significant level of personal support. However, his personal standing will have been damaged by the circumstances surrounding his resignation from the Ministry.

Kiama would have been won by the Liberal Party based on recent Federal elections, where the Liberal vote is boosted by the popularity of Gilmore MP Joanna Gash. On state figures, Kiama is above the swing needed for majority Coalition government, but it is a seat that may recorded an above average swing against Labor.

The Liberal candidate in 2011 will be Shoalhaven Council Deputy Mayor Gareth Ward.

Kogarah

Sitting Member (Party): Cherie Burton (Labor)

Margin: 17.7%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	59.0	69.1	56.8	67.7	1991 (Redist)	LIB 1.2%
Liberal	27.9	30.9	27.0	32.3	1995 (Redist)	ALP 0.7%
Greens	6.6		7.1		1999	ALP 7.5%
Others	6.5		9.1		2003	ALP 19.2%
					2007	ALP 17.7%
					1996 Federal	ALP 3.0%
					1998 Federal	ALP 8.5%
					2001 Federal	ALP 6.4%
					2004 Federal	ALP 7.6%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 50.3%, Coalition 25.9%, Greens 5.9%, Unity 5.5%, Christian Dems 4.8%, Others 7.6%

Kogarah is not a seat the Liberal Party has a high probability of winning, but it is a seat where the Liberal Party polled well while in government between 1988 and 1995. Recent Federal figures do not provide a useful guide, as it is many years since the Liberal Party mounted a serious campaign in the local Federal seats of Barton and Watson.

Kogarah is one of several seats gained by Labor in 1999 where an expensive local campaign was run in 2003 to boost the Labor majority in the hope of withstanding a swing away from Labor in 2007. This explains the large swing to Labor in 2003 and the seat's currently inflated margin.

This is a seat that will not be a high priority of the Liberal Party, but comparing federal results to the 2003 and 2007 state election figures suggests that Labor's margin in Kogarah is inflated.

Lake Macquarie

Sitting Member (Party): Greg Piper (Independent)

Margin: 0.1% (versus Labor)

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	52.2	61.6	40.5	49.9	1991 (Redist)	ALP 13.6%
Liberal	33.2	38.4	19.5		1995 (Redist)	ALP 15.2%
Independent	..		30.3	50.1	1999	ALP 19.2%
Greens	8.2		5.7		2003	ALP 14.5%
Others	6.4		4.0		2007	IND 0.1% v ALP
2PP Labor				65.0	1996 Federal	ALP 9.8%
2PP Liberal				35.0	1998 Federal	ALP 13.8%
					2001 Federal	ALP 7.9%
					2004 Federal	ALP 6.6%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 42.2%, Coalition 31.0%, Greens 7.7%, Others 19.1%

Lake Macquarie was gained by Independent Greg Piper at the 2007 election. He has been the popularly elected Mayor of the City of Lake Macquarie since 2004, and was re-elected at the 2008 local government elections. He has served on the Council since 1991. Serving the dual rolls of Mayor and local MP gives him a very high profile in the local community.

Normally this is a very safe Labor seat, but the Labor Party will struggle to regain the seat from Piper. Labor is likely to mount a vigorous campaign if it thinks it has any chance of victory.

An oddity of Lake Macquarie is the seat has a very high Seventh Day Adventist population. This results in a very high pre-poll and postal vote in the electorate, and this vote is generally very conservative compared to votes cast in the rest of the electorate.

At the 2007 election, Piper formed himself into a loose alliance with Maitland Mayor Peter Blackmore contesting Maitland, and Newcastle Lord Mayor John Tate in Newcastle. Piper may form the nucleus of a team of Independents contesting several Hunter seats at the 2011 election.

Londonderry

Sitting Member (Party): Allan Shearan (Labor)

Margin: 6.9%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	46.6	60.9	47.5	56.9	1991 (Redist)	ALP 11.1%
Liberal	8.4		34.4	43.1	1995 (Redist)	ALP 11.6%
Greens	7.5		6.7		1999	ALP 14.9%
Others	37.5	39.1	11.4		2003	ALP 15.3%
					2007	ALP 6.9%
					1996 Federal	ALP 2.2%
					1998 Federal	ALP 5.5%
					2001 Federal	LIB 1.7%
					2004 Federal	LIB 3.0%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 44.5%, Coalition 31.0%, Greens 5.1%, Christian Dems 5.4%, Shooters 4.4%, Others 9.6%

At the 2007 election the Labor Party suffered a swing against it in Londonderry, making the seat more marginal than it has been at recent state elections. The Liberal Party have polled much more strongly within Londonderry at recent Federal elections.

Current MP Allan Shearan was elected at a supplementary election following the 2003 election, the election having been deferred by the sudden death of former Labor MP Jim Anderson. The Liberal Party did not nominate a candidate for the supplementary election, making it difficult to assess the size of the swing against Labor at the 2007 election.

For the 2011 election the Liberal Party will again nominate Hawkesbury Councillor Bart Bassett. He is currently Mayor of Hawkesbury and will be well known at the northern end of the electorate. Labor's strength lies at the Mount Druitt end of Londonderry. On Federal figures, this will be a seat the Liberal Party have a chance of gaining.

Maitland

Sitting Member (Party): Frank Terenzini (Labor – Retiring)

Margin: 9.7% (Labor v Liberal)

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	48.9	60.3	39.7	52.0	1991 (Redist)	ALP 2.1%
Liberal	31.9	39.7	20.5		1995 (Redist)	LIB 0.9%
Independent	..		26.6	48.0	1999	ALP 1.0%
Greens	5.5		5.0		2003	ALP 8.9%
Others	13.7		8.2		2007	ALP 2.0% v IND
2PP Labor				59.7	1996 Federal	ALP 5.3%
2PP Liberal				40.3	1998 Federal	ALP 7.1%
					2001 Federal	ALP 5.3%
					2004 Federal	ALP 7.4%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 44.9%, Coalition 29.7%, Greens 6.3%, Others 19.1%

Maitland is a seat whose political complexion is greatly influenced by electoral boundaries. It was represented by the Liberal Party's Peter Blackmore between 1991 and 1999, but the redistribution before the 1999 election included several solid Labor booths into the seat. Blackmore was defeated at that election by Labor's John Price, whose own seat of Waratah had been abolished.

Price retired at the 2007 election when current MP Frank Terenzini was elected. He had to withstand a strong challenge from former member Blackmore, nominating as an Independent. Blackmore has been Mayor of Maitland on and off for two decades, and was re-elected to the post at the 2008 local government elections.

Blackmore has some disputes with parts of the local Liberal Party, and depending on who won Liberal pre-selection to contest the seat, had not ruled out contesting the 2011 election as an Independent. The Liberal Party has since chosen Robyn Parker MLC as its candidate and Blackmore has indicated that he supports Parker and will not contest the seat.

Labor's MP Frank Terenzini has announced he will retire at the 2011 election and return to the law. Labor will now need to find a new local candidate.

Without a sitting MP, Labor will struggle to hold this seat in 2011. Maitland is the Liberal Party's best prospects for gaining a lower Hunter valley seat at the 2011 election.

Manly

Sitting Member (Party): Mike Baird (Liberal)

Margin: 3.4% (versus Independent)

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	12.9		9.8		1991	IND 0.7% v LIB
Liberal	41.0	48.8	45.1	53.4	1995	IND 0.4% v LIB
Independent	32.1	51.2	31.2	46.6	1999	IND 1.3% v LIB
Greens	8.5		9.7		2003	IND 1.3% v LIB
Others	5.5		4.2		2007	LIB 3.4% v IND
2PP Labor		35.6		28.2		
2PP Liberal		64.4		71.8		

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 21.6%, Coalition 46.7%, Greens 19.3%, Others 12.4%

The Manly district has a long history of political independence, with former long-serving Liberal MPs Alfred Reid and Douglas Darby both spending part of their political career as Independent Liberals having lost party endorsement. Labor won the seat for two terms between 1978 and 1984, but mainly over the issue of bringing the privately run Manly ferries into public ownership. Manly then reverted to being a safe Liberal seat during the 1980s.

Delays in the building of sewage outfalls and questions concerning over-development in Manly Council led to a growing Independent opposition to the Liberals on council. One of the Council Independents, Dr Peter MacDonald, caused a political upset at the 1991 election when he won this normally safe Liberal seat from Local Government Minister David Hay. MacDonald's victory deprived the Greiner government of its majority, a result that was to produce major consequences over the next four years. MacDonald was narrowly re-elected at the 1995 election but retired in 1999, though he managed to pass the Independent baton to David Barr. Barr was re-elected at the 2003 election, but was defeated by Liberal Mike Baird in 2007.

Since 1991 the Labor vote in Manly has shrivelled away, politics having become a contest between the Liberal Party and its Independent opponents from Manly Council. Following Baird's victory at the 2007 state election, the Liberal Party regained the position of Manly mayor at the 2008 local government elections.

It may be that Manly is following the same political pattern as North Shore, which was won by Independents between 1981 and 1991, but has since returned to being a very safe Liberal seat.

In the current electoral climate, it seems unlikely that a new independent challenge will emerge in Manly, meaning the Liberal Party should have an easier task of winning Manly in 2011. With Labor having polled so poorly at recent elections, it may be that an Independent or Green candidate finishes second to the Liberals.

Marrickville

Sitting Member (Party): Carmel Tebbutt (Labor)

Margin: 7.5% (versus Greens)

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	47.7	60.0	46.6	57.5	1991 (Redist)	ALP 18.3%
Liberal	12.7		12.6		1995 (Redist)	ALP 12.7% v NAN
Greens	28.5	40.0	32.5	42.5	1999	ALP 21.5% v GRN
Others	11.1		8.3		2003	ALP 10.7% v GRN
2PP Labor		81.4		81.2	2005 byelec	ALP 5.1% v GRN
2PP Liberal		16.6		18.8	2007	ALP 7.5% v GRN

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 42.9%, Coalition 12.5%, Greens 32.5%, Others 12.1%

In two-party preferred terms, Marrickville is the safest Labor seat in the state, but it is much closer as a contest between Labor and the Greens. The Liberals have finished third at every election since 1995, Labor challenged by No Aircraft Noise in 1995, and the Greens at the three state election and one by-election since. The local suburb of Newtown has become Green heartland, the party able to poll 50% of the first preference vote. The Green vote declines as you move west and south away from Newtown.

At the 2011 election the Liberal Party will poll less than 15% of the first preference vote. In the past the Liberal Party has chosen not to direct preferences. If the Liberal Party made the same decision in 2011, the contest in Marrickville would be determined by which of the Labor and Green candidates had the higher primary vote.

If the Liberal Party directs preferences to the Greens, this will greatly assist the Green cause. However, preference flows will be weak as at past elections the Liberal Party have distributed very little how-to-vote material outside Marrickville polling places.

Labor has a high profile sitting member in Deputy Premier Carmel Tebbutt. If she can keep her primary vote about 45%, she should win the seat. At this stage the Greens have not chosen a candidate, but are likely to choose someone associated with Marrickville Council. At the 2008 local government elections, the Greens polled 40% to Labor 29% on Marrickville Council. Labor would probably poll more strongly at a state election, but the local government results indicate that the Green vote could yet rise further.

This seat will see a very vigorous contest, as Labor try to hold on to this seat while the Greens try to make their first lower house breakthrough.

Menai

Sitting Member (Party): Alison Megarrity (Labor)

Margin: 2.7%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	51.9	58.9	45.4	52.7	1991 (Redist)	LIB 3.8%
Liberal	37.2	41.1	42.6	47.3	1995 (Redist)	LIB 1.9%
Greens	5.0		4.5		1999	ALP 4.2%
Others	5.9		7.5		2003	ALP 9.5%
					2007	ALP 2.7%
					1996 Federal	LIB 7.7%
					1998 Federal	LIB 5.1%
					2001 Federal	LIB 9.7%
					2004 Federal	LIB 12.5%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 41.5%, Coalition 36.5%, Greens 4.8%, Christian Dems 6.9%, Others 10.3%

Menai was created before the 1999 election and based on 1991 and 1995 election results was a marginal Liberal seat. Despite this, Menai was won at its first contest in 1999 by Labor's Alison Megarrity, who was re-elected with an increased majority in 2003, and re-elected despite a large swing against her in 2007.

Analysis of Federal election results reveals that Labor's current hold on Menai is an anomaly. Every federal election results since 1996 points to Menai being an underlying Liberal seat. It is a seat the Liberal should have won at the 2007 election, and it seems hard to believe that Labor could win the seat in 2011 for a fourth election in a row.

Miranda

Sitting Member (Party): Barry Collier (Labor)

Margin: 0.8%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	51.2	59.1	42.8	50.8	1991 (Redist)	LIB 7.5%
Liberal	36.3	40.9	42.4	49.2	1995 (Redist)	LIB 5.3%
Greens	6.4		6.6		1999	ALP 2.3%
Others	6.1		8.2		2003	ALP 9.1%
					2007	ALP 0.8%
					1996 Federal	LIB 10.3%
					1998 Federal	LIB 7.2%
					2001 Federal	LIB 12.3%
					2004 Federal	LIB 11.0%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 36.9%, ALP 40.4%, Greens 7.1%, Christian Dems 6.0%, Others 9.6%

Like neighbouring Menai, Miranda is an unlikely Labor seat. It is Liberal held based on 1991 and 1995 state election results, and clearly Liberal held based on all recent Federal results. There is a gap of 6% between the vote for Labor MP Barry Collier and the Labor vote in the Legislative Council, suggesting that Mr Collier has a significant personal vote.

The Liberal candidate in 2011 will be Graham Annesley, Chief Operating Officer of the National Rugby League. He was also the Liberal candidate in 2007, when the decision of the Greens to direct preferences to Labor played an important part in his defeat. The direction of preferences took place despite the Greens opposing Labor's decision to build a desalination plant at nearby Kurnell.

Monaro

Sitting Member (Party): Steve Whan (Labor)

Margin: 6.3%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	46.3	54.4	47.9	56.3	1991 (Redist)	NAT 12.9%
Liberal	41.6	45.6	39.3	43.7	1995 (Redist)	NAT 16.3%
Greens	7.9		10.0		1999	NAT 0.2%
Others	4.2		2.8		2003	ALP 3.3%
					2007	ALP 6.3%
					1996 Federal	LIB 2.3%
					1998 Federal	ALP 2.4%
					2001 Federal	ALP 0.4%
					2004 Federal	ALP 0.2%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 41.1%, Coalition 34.1%, Greens 9.1%, Shooters 4.1%, Others 11.6%

Current opinion polling points to the Labor Party heading for a substantial defeat at the 2011 election. However, Monaro may be one of the few marginal seats the Labor Party has a strong chance of retaining. This is due to the personal popularity of sitting MP Steve Whan. He gained the seat for Labor at the 2003 election, after two unsuccessful attempts to win the local federal seat of Eden-Monaro in 1998 and 2001. Whan's father Bob was also member for Eden-Monaro 1972-75.

Labor's efforts have been helped by the National Party's insistence on its right to stand a candidate. Traditionally the dominant non-Labor party in this part of the state has been the Liberal Party, but the circumstances of the 1988 election delivered Monaro to the National Party, and the Nationals have since insisted on their right to contest Monaro. The National vote has been very poor compared to the Liberal vote when both parties have contested the local Federal seat of Eden-Monaro.

At the 1988 election, National candidate Peter Cochran was elected over his Liberal and Labor opponents. He was very popular locally and was re-elected with a large majority in 1991 and 1995. On his retirement in 1999, the National Party narrowly retained the seat with new candidate Peter Webb, but he was defeated in 2003 by Steve Whan.

Steve Whan is one of Labor's strongest candidates in a marginal seat. It is significant that Mr Whan appears regularly in the back drop of press conferences by the Premier. He is currently Minister for Primary Industries, Emergency Services and Rural Affairs. He traditionally nominates as a Country Labor candidate.

The National Party candidate is Queanbeyan councillor John Barilaro.

Mulgoa

Sitting Member (Party): Diane Beamer (Labor)

Margin: 11.1%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	58.1	66.6	55.0	61.1	1991 (Redist)	ALP 6.6%
Liberal	28.6	33.4	35.3	38.9	1995 (Redist)	ALP 8.7%
Greens	4.1		4.9		1999	ALP 17.6%
Others	9.2		4.8		2003	ALP 17.9%
					2007	ALP 11.1%
					1996 Federal	ALP 3.0%
					1998 Federal	ALP 6.1%
					2001 Federal	ALP 0.3%
					2004 Federal	LIB 3.2%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 49.3%, Coalition 29.6%, Greens 4.3%, Christian Dems 4.8%, Others 12.0%

Mulgoa includes several strongly Labor voting suburbs east of Penrith, along with more evenly divided areas south of Penrith in Glenmore Park, and smaller semi-rural Liberal voting booths to the south.

Mulgoa has been a very solid Labor seat since its creation in 1999, but it would be a more marginal electorate based on federal election results.

Mulgoa has been represented for Labor by Diane Beamer since 1999, having previously represented parts of the electorate as MP for the abolished seat of Badgerys Creek 1995-1999. Beamer contested Badgerys Creek unsuccessfully at the 1991 election, returning to win it narrowly at her second attempt in 1995. Beamer was a junior Minister between 2003 and 2007.

If there is a state swing against Labor at the 2011 election, Mulgoa is the sort of seat where the swing could be even larger than the state swing. Federal results indicate the Liberal Party have a chance.

The Liberal candidate for the 2011 election is Tanya Davies, who was elected to Penrith Council in 2008.

Newcastle

Sitting Member (Party): Jodi McKay (Labor)

Margin: 1.2% (versus Independent)

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	48.3	65.4	31.2	51.2	1991 (Redist)	ALP 14.1%
Liberal	26.2	34.6	9.8		1995 (Redist)	ALP 16.9%
Independent	..		24.1	48.8	1999	ALP 22.4%
Greens	15.4		11.2		2003	ALP 14.8%
Others	10.1		23.7		2007	ALP 1.2% v IND
2PP Labor				67.8		
2PP Liberal				32.2		

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 41.1%, Coalition 24.4%, Greens 17.7%, Others 16.8%

Newcastle is normally a safe Labor seat, but it fell to an Independent for one term 1988-1991, and was almost won by Newcastle Mayor John Tate standing as an Independent in 2007.

The 2007 contest was complicated by the Labor Party's decision to replace sitting Labor MP Bryce Gaudry by new candidate Jodi Mackay, imposed on local Labor branches by Labor Party head office. Many local Labor Party members backed Gaudry and he nominated as an Independent.

McKay won the seat with the lowest first preference vote of any successful Labor candidate at the election. McKay polled 31.2%, John Tate polled 24.1% and Gaudry 21.0%. After all preferences had been distributed, McKay defeated Tate by a narrow 1.2%. At the end of the count, nearly a quarter of all ballot papers had exhausted before reaching either McKay or Tate.

Tate's campaign in 2007 was in conjunction with Maitland Mayor Peter Blackmore and Lake Macquarie Mayor Greg Piper. There is the possibility of a team of Independents forming for the 2011 election and they would provide a serious challenge for Labor candidates across the lower Hunter. For historical reasons, the Liberal party are unlikely to be serious challengers in the Hunter.

John Tate was re-elected Lord Mayor at the 2008 local government election. If he or another high profile Independent were to contest Newcastle, this seat would be a tough contest for Labor.

Jodi McKay has received rapid promotion since her election to Parliament and is currently Minister for Tourism, the Hunter, Science and Medical Research and Minister for Women.

Northern Tablelands

Sitting Member (Party): Richard Torbay (Independent)**Margin: 30.2% (versus National)**

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	6.5		4.3		1991 (Redist)	NAT 12.5%
National	19.8	20.0	17.7	19.8	1995 (Redist)	NAT 14.6%
Independent	63.9	80.0	72.7	80.2	1999	IND 9.4% v NAT
Greens	3.8		3.2		2003	IND 32.4% v NAT
Others	6.0		2.0		2007	IND 30.2% v NAT
2PP Labor		36.9		31.2		
2PP Liberal		63.1		68.8		

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 26.4%, Coalition 39.3%, Greens 6.8%, Christian Dems 5.0%, Shooters 9.8%, Others 12.7%

In recent years rural Independents have profited from having been seen to deliver on improving local services in their electorate. The Labor government has been more than happy to assist Independents by delivering funding for local projects, helping to entrench the Independents against National Party attempts to regain their seats. As long as the Coalition looked unelectable, the Independents had an advantage in being able to argue that only they could deliver funding for local services.

At the 2011 election, with polling indicate the National Party could form part of the next government, all of the sitting rural Independents will be under greater pressure than at any of the last three state elections.

However, sitting Independent Richard Torbay has by far the highest local profile and by far the highest personal vote of the sitting Independents. Since the 2007 election, he has served as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly which may taint him by association with the Labor Party. Certainly the National party will attempt to paint him this way. However, Torbay will be the rural Independent with the best prospects of re-election.

Oatley

Sitting Member (Party): Kevin Greene (Labor)

Margin: 14.4%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	52.5	64.2	52.4	64.4	1991 (Redist)	LIB 6.1%
Liberal	30.8	35.8	28.7	35.6	1995 (Redist)	LIB 2.0%
Greens	6.1		4.4		1999	ALP 6.3%
Others	10.6		14.5		2003	ALP 13.7%
					2007	ALP 14.4%
					1996 Federal	LIB 3.1%
					1998 Federal	ALP 2.7%
					2001 Federal	ALP 0.1%
					2004 Federal	ALP 0.4%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 46.8%, Coalition 28.0%, Greens 6.0%, Christian Dems 6.2%, Unity 5.0%, Others 8.0%

This seat was known as Georges River until the 2007 election when it was re-named Oatley. On election figures in the early 1990s, this would have been a marginal Liberal seat. Based on recent federal election results, Oatley is a more marginal seat than is indicated by recent state election results.

There is a gap of 5.6% between the vote for sitting MP Kevin Greene and the Labor vote in the Legislative Council, suggesting the Mr Greene has a significant personal vote. Mr Greene is seen as one of the hardest working local MPs in a Sydney seat and he had very strong local community links before his election to Parliament. The Liberal Party have not mounted an intensive campaign against Greene at the last two elections which may have inflated his margin.

With the right candidate, the Liberal Party could generate a substantial swing in this seat, perhaps even enough to overcome the personal support for Mr Greene.

Unity poll well in Oatley, as they do in Kogarah, Strathfield and Ryde. All four seats were lost by the Liberal Party at the 1999 election. In 1998, the failure of the Federal Liberal Party to attack rise of One Nation created disquiet in the Australian Chinese community, leading to the formation of Unity. The Liberal Party has been working hard in electorates like Oatley to recover the vote lost to Unity a decade ago.

Penrith

Sitting Member (Party): Vacant pending a by-electio.

Margin: 9.2%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	46.4	56.6	48.7	59.2	1991 (Redist)	ALP 5.9%
Liberal	35.6	43.4	32.6	40.8	1995 (Redist)	ALP 4.3%
Greens	5.9		5.6		1999	ALP 16.7%
Others	12.1		13.1		2003	ALP 6.1%
					2007	ALP 9.2%
					1996 Federal	LIB 3.0%
					1998 Federal	LIB 2.3%
					2001 Federal	LIB 5.3%
					2004 Federal	LIB 3.6%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 44.9%, Coalition 30.9%, Greens 5.9%, Christian Dems 6.7%, Others 11.6%

Penrith has been a Labor Party seat since 1973, with the exception of a single Liberal victory on the defeat of the Unsworth government in 1988. Penrith forms the heart of the federal seat of Lindsay, and based on federal election figures, would have recorded a Liberal majority at elections between 1996 and 2004.

Sitting Labor MP Karyn Paluzzano was first elected at the 2003 election. She resigned as a Parliamentary Secretary in May 2010 over irregularities in payments by her electorate office and has since resigned from Parliament, triggering a by-election.

Pittwater

Sitting Member (Party): Robert Stokes (Liberal)

Margin: 9.4% (versus Independent)

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	19.0	29.9	7.4		1991 (Redist)	LIB 22.7%
Liberal	60.3	70.1	50.3	59.4	1995 (Redist)	LIB 20.3%
Independent	..		26.9	40.6	1996 byelec	LIB 15.0% v DEM
Greens	14.1		9.8		1999	LIB 18.8%
Others	6.6		5.7		2003	LIB 20.1%
2PP Labor				20.2	2005 byelec	IND 5.4% v LIB
2PP Liberal				79.8	2007	LIB 9.4% v IND

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 14.9%, Coalition 50.9%, Greens 19.0%, Christian Dems 4.1%, Others 11.1%

Pittwater is a traditionally safe Liberal seat, but was won by independent Alex McTaggart at a 2005 by-election following the retirement of former Liberal Leader and MP John Brogden.

Current Liberal MP Rob Stokes re-gained Pittwater for the Liberal Party by defeating McTaggart at the 2007 election. While the seat will always be vulnerable to campaigns by independents running on local issues, it is unlikely the Liberal Party will be seriously challenged at the 2011 election.

Port Macquarie

Sitting Member (Party): Peter Besseling (Independent)

Margin: 4.5% (versus National based on by-election)

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	9.9		9.1		1991 (Redist)	NAT 17.8%
National	18.6	18.1	19.4	21.8	1995 (Redist)	NAT 12.0%
Independent	63.9	81.9	67.1	78.2	1999	NAT 16.6%
Greens	3.8		2.8		2003	
Others	3.8		1.5		2007	IND 28.2% v NAT
2PP Labor		42.3		37.1	2008 byelec	IND 4.5% v NAT
2PP Liberal		57.7		62.9		

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 29.3%, Coalition 42.0%, Greens 6.6%, Christian Dems 5.0%, Shooters 5.3%, Others 11.8%

2008 By-election: Besseling 35.9%, National 33.7%, Greens 4.7%, Christian Dems 1.2%, seven other independents 24.5%. After preferences, Besseling 54.5%, Nationals 45.5%

Port Macquarie was first contested at the 1988 election and won by the National Party. Following the retirement of National MP Wendy Machin in 1996, the seat was won by new National candidate Rob Oakshott at a by-election. He was re-elected as a National in 1999, but resigned from the party in 2002 over disputes with local party power brokers. He was re-elected as an Independent with huge majorities at both the 2003 and 2007 elections.

In 2008 Oakshott resigned to contest and win a by-election for the local federal seat of Lyne. At the subsequent Port Macquarie by-election, Peter Besseling was elected as the new Independent MP, but with a substantially reduced majority compared to Oakshott.

In recent years rural Independents have profited from having been seen to deliver on improving local services in their electorate. The Labor government has been more than happy to assist Independents by delivering funding for local projects, helping to entrench the Independents against National Party attempts to regain their seats. As long as the Coalition looked unelectable, the Independents had an advantage in being able to argue that only they could deliver funding for local services.

At the 2011 election, with polling indicate the National Party could form part of the next government, all of the sitting rural Independents will be under greater pressure than at the last three state elections. Mr Besseling will face a strong challenge from the National party at the 2011 election. The Labor Party will also return to the contest after not nominating for the by-election, though Labor is certain to nominate as low profile a candidate as possible.

Port Stephens

Sitting Member (Party): Craig Baumann (Liberal)

Margin: 0.1%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	47.9	57.2	41.7	49.9	1991 (Redist)	ALP 10.7%
Liberal	36.4	42.8	42.5	50.1	1995 (Redist)	ALP 9.7%
Greens	6.3		6.0		1999	ALP 12.3%
Others	9.4		9.8		2003	ALP 9.3%
					2007	LIB 0.1%
					1996 Federal	ALP 4.1%
					1998 Federal	n.a.
					2001 Federal	ALP 2.9%
					2004 Federal	LIB 2.7%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 39.8%, Coalition 37.0%, Greens 5.9%, Others 17.3%

Port Stephens was held by the Labor Party from its creation in 1988 until the 2007 election when it was won for the Liberal Party by current MP Craig Baumann. Labor MP John Bartlett resigned at the 2007 election and the Labor Party's campaign struck problems when it was forced to change candidate just before the election.

Craig Baumann was well known in the local district for his time as Mayor of Port Stephens Council.

Given the state of opinion polls, the Liberal Party should be able to retain this seat.

Riverstone

Sitting Member (Party): John Aquilina (Labor – probably retiring)

Margin: 10.1%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	52.8	63.4	53.6	60.1	1991 (Redist)	ALP 7.2%
Liberal	26.0	36.6	35.1	39.9	1995 (Redist)	ALP 9.9%
Greens	4.6		4.3		1999	ALP 17.2%
Others	16.6		6.9		2003	ALP 16.1%
					2007	ALP 10.1%
					1996 Federal	LIB 0.2%
					1998 Federal	ALP 5.8%
					2001 Federal	LIB 0.4%
					2004 Federal	LIB 8.9%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 46.4%, Coalition 32.8%, Greens 4.1%, Christian Dems 5.1%, Others 11.6%

This seat has been a safe Labor seat since its creation, but based on recent Federal election results, the seat would be more marginal. The seat takes in Blacktown Council north of the M7 as well as Windsor and Bligh Park in Hawkesbury Council.

The new housing estate that dominate parts of this electorate have a more affluent demographic profile than other parts of Blacktown Council. The northern boundary of Riverstone is aligned with the council boundary that runs along Windsor and Old Windsor Roads. This boundary is won of the strongest demographic divides of Sydney. Baulkham Hills Council to the north is viewed as an extension of Sydney North Shore, while Blacktown Council is viewed as part of the Western Suburbs.

However, the new housing estates sprouting along both sides of Windsor Road have a strong community of interest despite the old boundary that lies between them. The rapid development of new housing has been reflected in the declining vote for Labor in the new housing etstaes at both state and Federal level, especially with the surprise Liberal victory in Greenway at the 2004 federal election.

It is expected that long serving Labor MP John Aquilina will retire at the 2011 election, significantly hurting Labor's chances of holding this seat. The Liberal candidate is Kevin Connolly, a local Hawkesbury Councillor who contested Riverstone in 2007 and Londonderry in 1999. He has strong local connections with Bligh Park and Windsor at the northern end of the electorate.

Ryde

Sitting Member (Party): Victor Dominello (Liberal)

Margin: 13.0% (based on by-election)

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	53.7	64.8	44.8	60.1	1991 (Redist)	LIB 8.8%
Liberal	30.7	35.2	28.6	39.9	1995 (Redist)	LIB 4.1%
Greens	7.3		7.9		1999	ALP 6.6%
Others	8.3		3.7		2003	ALP 15.5%
					2007	ALP 10.1%
					2008 byelec	LIB 13.0%
					1996 Federal	LIB 7.1%
					1998 Federal	LIB 2.5%
					2001 Federal	LIB 5.3%
					2004 Federal	LIB 2.6%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 40.0%, Coalition 32.1%, Greens 9.1%, Christian Dems 5.5%, Unity 4.3%, Others 9.0%

2008 By-election: Liberal 54.3%, Labor 29.8%, Greens 11.2%, Others 4.7%. After preferences Liberal 63.0%, Labor 37.0%.

Ryde was re-created as an electorate ahead of the 1999 election, amalgamating the marginal Labor seat of Gladesville with the marginal Liberal seat of Ermington. Ryde had a notional Liberal margin, but it was won easily by Labor candidate John Watkins. He substantially increased his majority in 2003 and maintained his hold on the seat in 2007.

Watkins resigned as Deputy Premier, Minister and member for Ryde in 2008, a few days before Premier Iemma was deposed by his party. The by-election in Ryde saw a spectacular swing of 23%, probably to the largest swing in NSW electoral history, the Liberal Party's Victor Dominello easily winning the seat.

There would normally be some rebound back to Labor after such an enormous by-election swing. However, with the state of current opinion polls, it seems unlikely that Labor would devote resources needed elsewhere to try to win Ryde.

Had it not been for the Liberal by-election victory, Ryde would have been a key contest, but it will now attract less attention in 2011.

Strathfield

Sitting Member (Party): Virginia Judge (Labor)**Margin: 15.1%**

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	51.6	65.2	52.1	65.1	1991 (Redist)	LIB 7.0%
Liberal	29.7	34.8	29.4	34.9	1995 (Redist)	LIB 2.7%
Greens	8.9		9.3		1999	ALP 8.4%
Others	9.8		3.3		2003	ALP 15.8%
					2007	ALP 15.1%
					1996 Federal	ALP 0.1%
					1998 Federal	ALP 10.6%
					2001 Federal	ALP 9.2%
					2004 Federal	ALP 5.7%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 45.5%, Coalition 27.4%, Greens 9.6%, Christian Dems 4.4%, Unity 5.2%, Others 7.9%

Like Kogarah, Georges River (now Oatley) and Ryde, Strathfield was a marginal electorate where the Liberal Party was badly defeated in 1999, and where Labor devoted considerable resources in 2003 to boost the Labor majority to help defend the seat in 2007. All four seats also saw the Liberal party lose votes to the Chinese community based Unity party in the wake of the rise of One Nation. Unity still polls well in the electorate of Strathfield and has had a presence on local councils.

Strathfield has been held since 2003 by former Strathfield Mayor Virginia Judge. She is currently Minister for Fair Trading and the Arts.

This is not a seat that will be high priority for the Liberal Party, but on past voting patterns, there may be a substantial swing to the Liberal Party.

Sydney

Sitting Member (Party): Clover Moore (Independent)

Margin: 16.6% (versus Labor)

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	26.7	35.0	20.0	33.4	1991	IND 6.1% v LIB
Liberal	20.6		21.6		1995	IND 5.5% v LIB
Independent	32.4	65.0	39.6	66.6	1999	IND 9.8% v ALP
Greens	15.2		15.6		2003	IND 14.7% v ALP
Others	5.1		3.2		2007	IND 16.6% v ALP
2PP Labor		63.3		56.9		
2PP Liberal		36.7		43.1		

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 29.5%, Coalition 29.7%, Greens 27.3%, Others 13.5%

Sydney, or Bligh as it was known before the 2007 election, has been held by Clover Moore since 1988. Since 2004 she has also been Sydney Lord Mayor and has an enormous profile in the electorate from her dual roll.

Sydney will be a no-contest if Clover Moore re-nominates. She has given no indication that she wishes to retire.

However, if Ms Moore were to retire, Sydney has an underlying Labor majority, but also a significant Green vote. Based on Legislative Council figures, Sydney would be a three-way contest between Labor, the Greens and the Liberal Party, though the Liberal Party would be the least likely of the three to win.

Tamworth

Sitting Member (Party): Peter Draper (Independent)

Margin: 4.8% (versus National)

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	13.1		8.6		1991	IND 9.8% v NAT
National	39.3	48.1	40.3	45.2	1995	IND 34.8% v ALP
Independent	36.1	51.9	46.2	54.8	1999	IND 35.2% v ALP
Greens	2.0		1.2		2001 byelec	NAT 8.7% v IND
Others	9.5		3.7		2003	IND 2.5% v NAT
2PP Labor		30.8		25.1	2007	IND 4.8% v NAT
2PP Liberal		69.2		74.9		

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 26.7%, Coalition 44.5%, Greens 3.5%, Christian Dems 5.7%, Shooters 8.3%, Others 11.3%

In recent years rural Independents have profited from having been seen to deliver on improving local services in their electorate. The Labor government has been more than happy to assist Independents by delivering funding for local projects, helping to entrench the Independents against National Party attempts to regain their seats. As long as the Coalition looked unelectable, the Independents had an advantage in being able to argue that only they could deliver funding for local services.

At the 2011 election, with polling indicating the National Party could form part of the next government, all of the sitting rural Independents will be under greater pressure than at the last three state elections.

Tamworth was a very safe seat for Independent Tony Windsor from 1991 until he resigned in 2001 to win the local federal seat of New England. The National party re-gained Tamworth at the 2001 by-election, but narrowly lost it to Independent Peter Draper at the 2003 election. Draper increased his margin slightly in 2007.

As with other rural independents, Draper will be vulnerable at the 2011 election and will face a strong challenge from the National Party. Labor will be lucky to make double figures as a percentage of the vote.

The Entrance

Sitting Member (Party): Grant McBride (Labor)

Margin: 4.9%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	50.1	59.7	47.5	54.9	1991 (Redist)	LIB 0.2%
Liberal	33.6	40.3	39.8	45.1	1995 (Redist)	LIB 4.0%
Greens	5.3		8.8		1999	ALP 9.7%
Others	11.0		3.9		2003	ALP 9.6%
					2007	ALP 4.9%
					1996 Federal	LIB 1.3%
					1998 Federal	ALP 1.6%
					2001 Federal	LIB 0.7%
					2004 Federal	LIB 5.3%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 42.6%, Coalition 34.4%, Greens 7.0%, Christian Dems 5.3%, Others 10.7%

The Entrance is the most vulnerable of Labor's Central Coast electorates. The seat was narrowly retained for the Liberal Party at the 1991 election, but a Court of Disputed Returns decision overturned the result due to absent vote irregularities. At the by-election in early 1992, The Entrance was won by Labor's Grant McBride, who has retained the seat at each subsequent election.

McBride's margin halved at the 2007 election, and the Liberal vote is higher based on recent Federal election results. The electorate is reliant on the road and rail links to Sydney, and failures in both services will be a difficult issue for Labor to combat at the 2011 election.

A controversial feature of the contest will be the Liberal candidate Chris Spence. He is a former organiser and candidate for One Nation, though he has since renounced his past views and worked for local Liberal MP Chris Hartcher for several years. Spence was responsible for digging the information on the 'Iguanagate' affair that damaged the reputation of Labor MP for Robertson Belinda Neil and her husband, MLC and former Minister John Della Bosca.

However, Spence's past links with one Nation will attract attention and seems certain to be attacked by Labor in the campaign.

Wollondilly

Sitting Member (Party): Phil Costa (Labor)

Margin: 3.3%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	46.7	54.6	44.3	53.3	2007	ALP 3.3%
Liberal	39.5	45.4	39.2	46.7		
Greens	6.1		7.0		2004 Federal	LIB 9.9%
Others	7.7		9.5			

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 41.7%, Coalition 34.4%, Greens 5.8%, Christian Dems 4.9%, Others 13.2%

Wollondilly was created ahead of the 2007 state election. Based on 2003 results, it had a notional Labor majority, but looked like a seat with strong prospects of being won by the Liberal Party.

The Liberal pre-selection contest in 2006 became a problem for the Party. Local Wollondilly Mayor Phil Costa threatened to run as an Independent if the Liberal Party selected someone from outside of Wollondilly. The Right faction of the NSW Liberal Party wanted to nominate Campbelltown based candidate Jai Rowell. Concerned at Costa's threat, the Liberal Party declined to nominate Rowell, but the Liberal Right then stalled on appointing any other candidate, ruining Liberal prospects in the seat.

In the mean time, Costa surprisingly accepted endorsement by the Labor Party and went on to easily win the seat at the 2007 election. He is currently Minister for Water and Corrective Services.

The Liberal party have had no internal difficulties in choosing to select Jai Rowell as its candidate for the 2011 election. He has served on Campbelltown Council since 2004. Wollondilly does include some southern suburbs of Campbelltown.

Like Geoff Corrigan in neighbouring Camden, Phil Costa is likely to run a campaign which makes little mention of his links with the Labor Party. Wollondilly should be one of the first seats gained by the Liberal Party at the 2011 election.

Wollongong

Sitting Member (Party): Noreen Hay (Labor)

Margin: 25.3%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	48.9	76.9	58.4	75.3	1991 (Redist)	ALP 10.0%
Liberal	10.3	23.1	16.8	24.7	1995 (Redist)	ALP 20.3%
Greens	11.8		9.8		1999	ALP 28.7%
Others	29.0		15.0		2003	ALP 27.7%
					2007	ALP 25.3%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 56.9%, Coalition 17.7%, Greens 9.0%, Christian Dems 4.4%, Others 12.0%

Wollongong is a very safe Labor seat, but ties between local developers and the Labor Party became the centre of an ICAC corruption inquiry into Wollongong City Council, eventually leading to the dismissal of the Council.

While the ICAC made no findings against Labor MP Noreen Hay, she did have associations with many of the developers called as witnesses and with local Labor councillors. There was a degree of guilt by association in the media coverage of Ms Hay and the inquiry.

This is not a seat the Liberal Party have much hope of winning, but the circumstances of the last term make Wollongong fertile ground for an Independent, particularly one campaigning for local democracy and the re-instatement of Wollongong City Council.

A seat to watch if a high profile Independent comes to the fore.

Wyang

Sitting Member (Party): David Harris (Labor)

Margin: 6.9%

Party	2003 (Redist)		2007		Election	Past Margin
	%	2CP %	%	2CP %		
Labor	55.1	62.3	42.5	56.9	1991 (Redist)	ALP 10.2%
Liberal	33.1	37.7	31.6	43.1	1995 (Redist)	ALP 9.7%
Greens	4.9		5.0		1999	ALP 15.5%
Others	6.9		2.7		2003	ALP 11.1%
					2007	ALP 6.9%
					1996 Federal	ALP 3.6%
					1998 Federal	ALP 7.6%
					2001 Federal	ALP 4.2%
					2004 Federal	LIB 0.1%

NSW 2007 LC Result: ALP 45.9%, Coalition 31.7%, Greens 6.1%, Others 16.3%

Wyang has always been held by the Labor Party, but the Liberal victories in the local federal seat of Dobell at the 2001 and 2004 federal elections indicate that local loyalties are changing. Like all Central Coast electorates, Wyong is reliant on the road and rail links to Sydney. Failure in the provision of these services has led to local resentment in recent years.

Labor MP David Harris is a former Principal of Gwandalan Public School and was first elected at the 2007 election. The Labor margin in the seat is well down on its high point in 1999, and the seat would have a narrow Liberal majority based on 2004 Federal results.

The Liberal Party has selected its candidate for Wyong early. He is electrical craftsman Darren Webber.