

Tasmanian Parliamentary History

Electoral System of the House of Assembly Some Hare-Clark History

MULTIPLE ELECTION DATES: HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY 1856-1882

YEAR	ELECTION PERIOD	NO OF DAYS
1856	September 8–September 22	9
1861	May 29–June 17	13
1862	November 6–December 2	16
1866	October 3–October 26	6
1871	September 6–September 28	15
1872	September 5–October 10	18
1877	May 30–June 29	13
1882	May 25–May 31	6

As can be seen above, Saturdays only became the norm in 1900's. Indeed, the Legislative Council only moved its voting day from Tuesday to Saturday in 1946. In fact it was only in 1884 that a single election day for every seat was made compulsory, by Act 48 VIC No.32 Section 8(3). The next Table also shows the changes in this regard from 1856-1882. This put a stop to a losing candidate moving along to try again.

The first use of Hare-Clark was in the seats of Hobart and Launceston which were to elect 6 Members of Parliament and 4 Members of Parliament respectively. Polling day for Hobart was on Wednesday 20 January 1897. This mid-week election was common then, for the table here shows the days used for election for the period 1856-1882.

DATES OF ELECTIONS 1886–1919

SINGLE DATE	=	DAY
22 July 1886	=	Thursday
22 May 1891	=	Friday
19 December 1893	=	Tuesday
20 January 1897	=	Wednesday
9 March 1900	=	Friday
2 April 1903	=	Thursday
30 April 1909	=	Friday
30 April 1912	=	Tuesday
23 January 1913	=	Thursday
27 October 1915	=	Wednesday
25 March 1916	=	Saturday
31 May 1919	=	Saturday

Source:

Terry Newman *Representation of the Tasmanian People; expanded edition 1803-1994*
Hobart: Tasmanian Parliamentary Library, 1994 [ISBN 0-7246-4147-5] p.96.