

General Election 31 October 2020 and subsequent by-elections

The re-issuing of my Queensland pendulum has been caused by the fact that Labor lost the seat of Ipswich West to the LNP at a by-election on Saturday 16 March 2024. The "old" pendulum was titled "Mackerras Pendulum Queensland 2020", and its reverse side was taken up mainly with explanations of how I deal with those seats won by an independent or by a minor party candidate. The seats in question are Noosa (Independent), Mirani (One Nation), Maiwar and South Brisbane (Greens) and Hill, Hinchinbrook and Traeger (Katter's Australian Party). I have dealt with that question in a commonsense manner which is fully explained on the reverse side of that pendulum which has been posted on my website (see www.malcolmmackerras.com). In this pendulum the reverse side is taken up by the need for me to explain how I deal with by-elections, of which there have been four during the current term, Stretton on 24 July 2021, Callide on 18 June 2022 and Inala and Ipswich West on 16 March 2024. Stretton was caused by the death of the Labor member Duncan Pegg. The swing to the LNP was just two per cent, so I could have used the by-election statistic of 12.9 per cent but chose to stick with its general election statistic of 14.9 per cent, by which I mean that the LNP needs a swing of 14.9 per cent to take the seat from Labor, based on the October 2020 general election result. It has always been my practice to ignore by-elections when the party holding the seat does not change. Nevertheless, I have not ignored Stretton completely. The ballot paper for the by-election can be found on my blog essay "What about Optional Preferential Voting?" The by-election for Callide was caused by the resignation of Mr. Colin Boyce (LNP) so that he could enter the House of Representatives as the member for the Division of Flynn at the May 2022 federal election. Callide is so strong for the LNP it would make virtually no difference whether my pendulums used general election statistics or those of the by-election. I have been consistent in that, as with Stretton, my pendulum ignores the by-election.

Inala, the seat of former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, is naturally Labor's strongest seat in Queensland and I show its final two-party preferred voting statistics below.

Inala – General Election, 31 October 2020

Labor Party	23,057 votes	78.17%
Liberal National Party	6,440 votes	21.83%
Margin	16,617 votes	

Inala - By-election, 16 March 2024

Labor Party	15,544 votes	56.65%	Down 21.52%
Liberal National Party	11,894 votes	43.35%	Up 21.52%
Margin	3,650 votes		

I could have shown Inala on my pendulum with a statistic next to it of 6.7 per cent but instead I chose to stick with the general election statistic since Inala did not change parties. In Ipswich West the swing to the LNP was noticeably lower than the swing for Inala, but for reasons already stated I have shown it according to the by-election vote. The statistic shown means that Labor needs a swing of 3.5 per cent to take Ipswich West back from the LNP. Anyway, here are the statistics:

Ipswich West – General Election, 31 October 2020

Labor Party	19,289 votes	64.35%
Liberal National Party	10,688 votes	35.65%
Margin	8,601 votes	

Ipswich West – By-election, 16 March 2024

Liberal National Party	15,801 votes	53.50%	Up 17.85%
Labor Party	13,732 votes	46.50%	Down 17.85%
Margin	2,069 votes		

Finally, so that readers can understand my methods I set out the table below. It is a reduced version of the table shown on the reverse side of "Mackerras Pendulum Queensland 2020"

Labor-LNP two-party preferred votes for selected electoral districts at general election

Electoral District	Labor Party		Liberal National Party		Swing to Labor	Swing Needed	Winner
	Votes	%	Votes	%			
Aspley	18,494	55.16	15,036	44.84	4.0	5.2	Bart Mellish (Labor)
Barron River	16,653	53.06	14,730	46.94	1.2	3.1	Craig Crawford (Labor)
Bundaberg	15,141	50.01	15,132	49.99	4.2	0.1	Tom Smith (Labor)
Burleigh	14,430	48.79	15,143	51.21	3.6	1.3	Michael Hart (Liberal National)
Cairns	16,006	55.59	12,788	44.41	2.2	5.6	Michael Healy (Labor)
Caloundra	17,040	52.51	15,409	47.49	6.0	2.6	Jason Hunt (Labor)
Chatsworth	15,379	48.71	16,191	51.29	1.6	1.3	Steve Minnikin (Liberal National)
Coomera	17,938	48.92	18,727	51.08	2.4	1.1	Michael Crandon (Liberal National)
Currumbin	14,703	49.48	15,013	50.52	2.8	0.6	Laura Gerber (Liberal National)
Hervey Bay	17,625	52.02	16,253	47.98	11.1	2.1	Adrian Tantari (Labor)
Inala	23,057	78.17	6,440	21.83	2.1	28.2	Annastacia Palaszczuk (Labor)
Mundingburra	15,295	53.93	13,065	46.07	2.8	4.0	Les Walker (Labor)
Nanango	12,177	37.79	20,049	62.21	9.2	12.3	Deb Frecklington (Liberal National)
Nicklin	14,866	50.14	14,782	49.86	5.4	0.2	Robert Skelton (Labor)
Pumicestone	18,480	55.27	14,956	44.73	6.1	5.3	Ali King (Labor)
Redlands	17,606	53.90	15,059	46.10	0.8	3.9	Kim Richards (Labor)
Thuringowa	15,790	53.25	13,864	46.75	-0.9	3.3	Aaron Harper (Labor)
Townsville	15,099	53.12	13,326	46.88	2.8	3.2	Scott Stewart (Labor)
Warrego	6,764	26.85	18,424	73.15	-8.5	23.2	Ann Leahy (Liberal National)

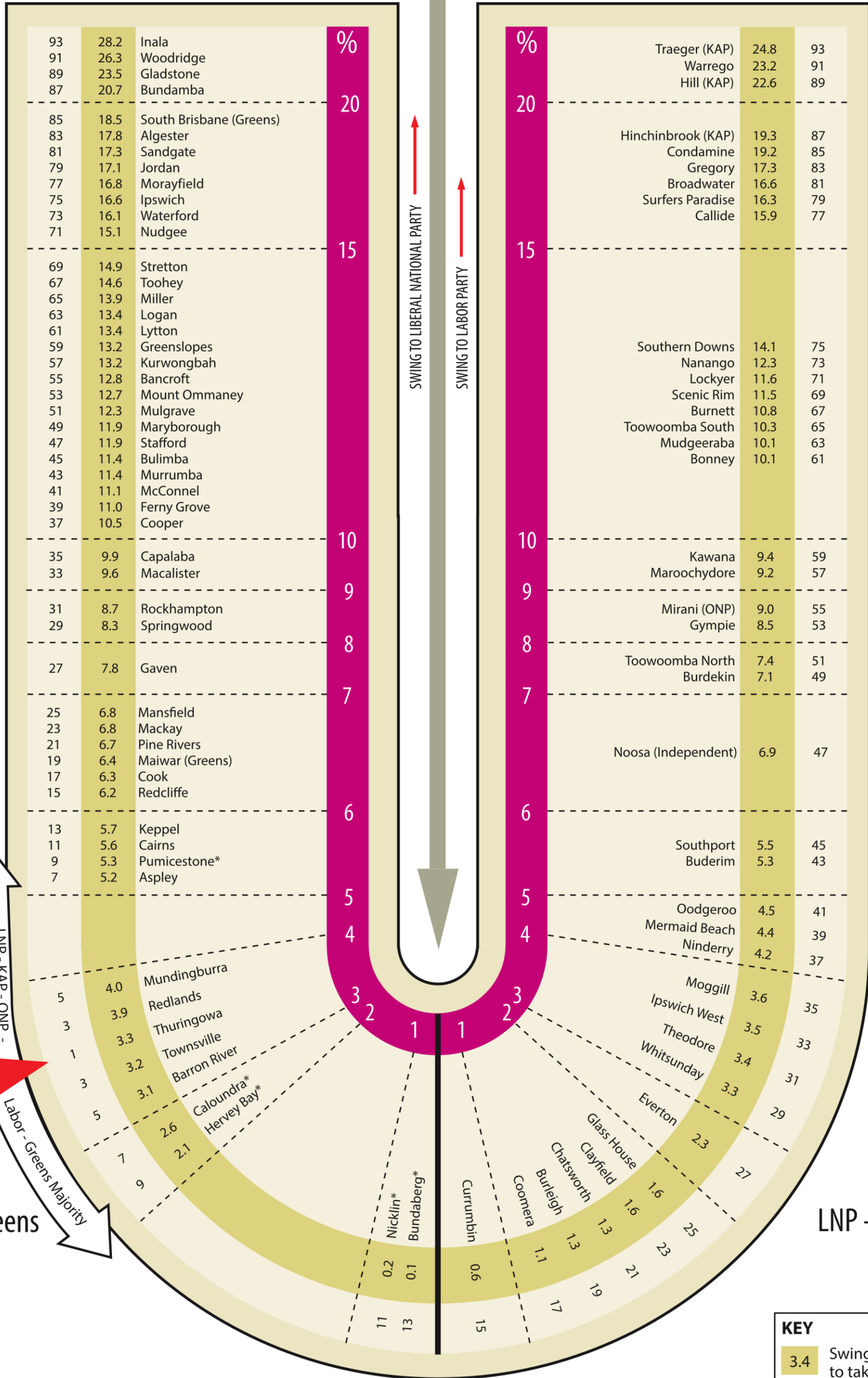
MACKERRAS PENDULUM QUEENSLAND 2024

GOVERNMENT SEATS

OPPOSITION SEATS

Labor 51 Greens 2 Total 53 (Majority 13)

LNP 35 KAP 3 ONP 1 Independent 1 Total 40



Labor - Greens
52.6%

LNP - KAP - ONP
47.4%

KEY

- 3.4 Swing required to take seat
- 31 Majority in seats

Result of general election, 31 October 2020, as adjusted for Ipswich West by - election 16 March 2024. On the Labor side an asterisk indicates a seat taken from the LNP in 2020.