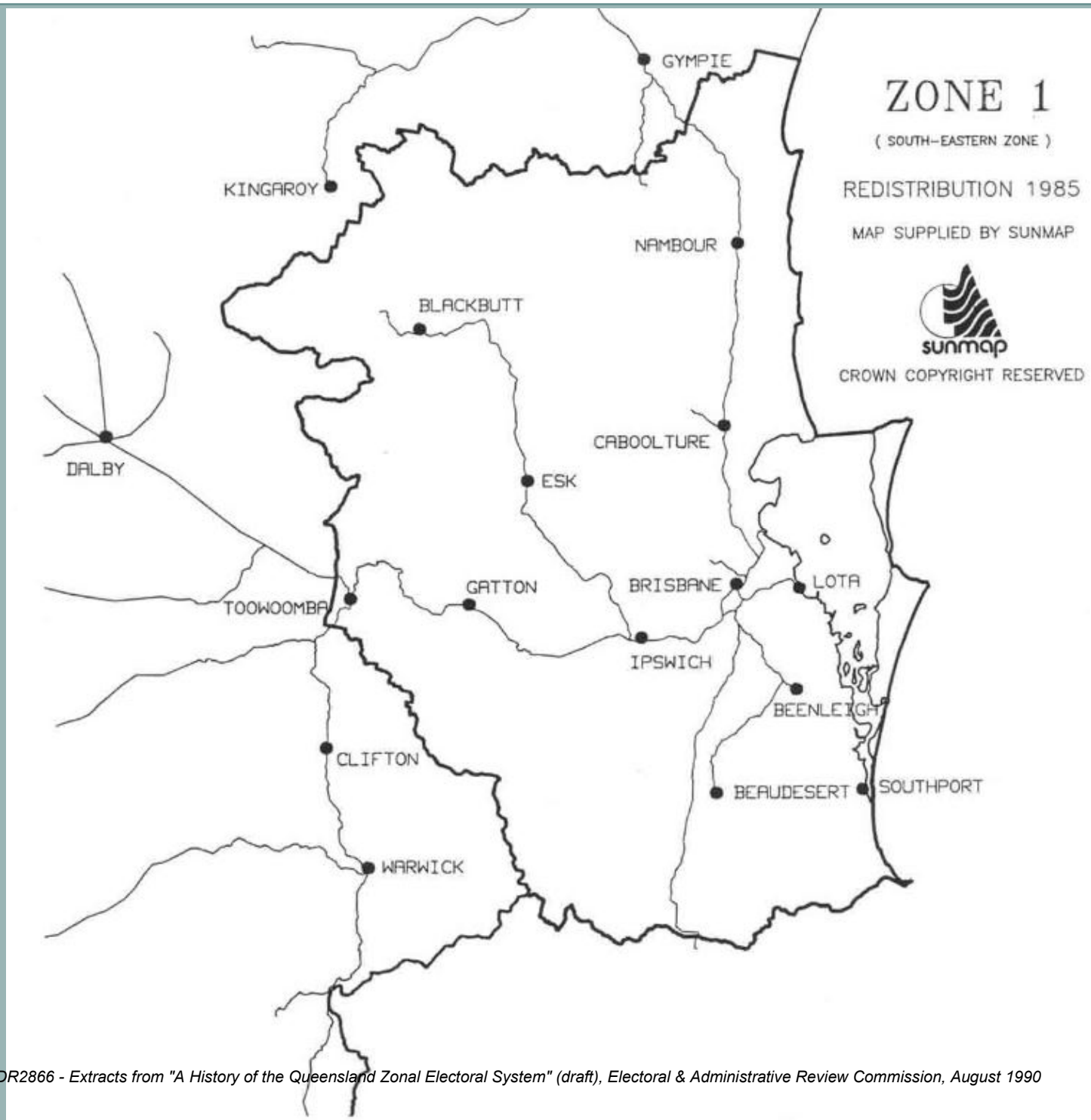


State electoral rolls



DR2866 - Extracts from "A History of the Queensland Zonal Electoral System" (draft), Electoral & Administrative Review Commission, August 1990

Research Guide to state electoral rolls at
Queensland State Archives

Queensland State Archives (QSA) is the official repository for Queensland Government records selected for permanent retention because of their continuing value. The archived public records are from state government departments, state courts, local government authorities and statutory authorities. The records are in our facility at [Runcorn, Brisbane](#), and open records are available for viewing in the Reading Room, free-of-charge.

The main finding aid for records held at QSA is the [Queensland State Archives' online catalogue](#) (known as ArchivesSearch).

The following citation abbreviations are used throughout our catalogue:

ITM	QSA Item (describes the item)
PR	Physical Representation (generally the original or microfilm copy)
DR	Digital Representation (for a digital image)
S	Series ID (for a series of records)
A	Agency ID (for the creating or responsible agency).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that our catalogue contains images, names and voices of people who have died.

QSA holds Queensland state electoral rolls from 1860 onwards.

History

Since 1860, the categories of persons entitled to vote in Queensland have changed considerably. Under the *New South Wales Electoral Act 1858*, any natural born or naturalised male of 21 years or over could enrol to vote if he satisfied certain qualifications regarding residency, property or education. Personnel in military services or the police force, and Clerks of Petty Sessions and paid Police Magistrates were ineligible to vote. Initially, males in gold field electoral districts were entitled to vote after holding a miner's right or license for six months. However, under the *Electoral District Act 1867* the gold field electorates were eliminated.

The right to vote was extended to women 21 years and over under the *Elections Amendment Act 1905*. Enrolment was made compulsory by the *Elections Acts Amendment Act 1914*. These legislative mandates mean for the 19th and early 20th century not all persons resident in any electoral district are on the electoral roll for the district. The right to vote was extended to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by the *Elections Acts Amendment Act 1965*. The *Elections Act and the Criminal Code Amendment Act 1973* lowered the voting age from 21 years to 18 years.

Many electoral roll entries include last name or surname, first name or Christian name, address or place of living, occupation, date of first enrolment, and sex or gender.

Electoral boundaries

Boundaries and names of electorates have changed substantially over time. It was usual for a set of maps showing the new electoral boundaries to be issued each time boundaries were significantly changed with a redistribution.

Before searching for a particular person, it is necessary to find the relevant electoral district. This may be done by searching [Where's my electorate?](#) on the [Electoral Commission of Queensland](#) web site. Some of the early

Research Guide to state electoral rolls

electoral district maps held at Queensland State Archives including [ITM660557](#) through to [ITM660584](#) are digitised and available on [ArchivesSearch](#) and on the [Reading Room](#) map viewer under the *General maps* icon. Other electoral district maps created under particular electoral acts may be request and viewed in the Reading Room. For 1985 maps, request access through [ArchivesSearch](#) to the appropriate item in the range [ITM661299](#) to [ITM661310](#).

Electoral District Atlases and Maps

Circa 1/1/1865–31/12/1986

[S3741](#)

This series consists of a collection of Queensland state electoral district atlases and maps arranged in chronological order and then alphabetical by electoral district. **Details on maps include divisional boundaries and gazetted descriptions of district boundaries between 1865 and 1986.**

Maps - Electoral and Administrative Review Commission (EARC)

Circa 1/1/1977–31/12/1991

[S5203](#)

These maps include Regional Divisions, Census Collector Districts, Boundaries of Electoral Districts and Proposed Electoral Districts. Generated or collected by the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission, most were administered under the *Electoral Districts Act 1985* and the *Electoral Districts Act 1991*. **Key maps of electoral districts in this series show the boundaries between 1977 to 1991.**

Queensland electoral rolls

Electoral Rolls

Circa 1/1/1860– 24/6/2016

[S162](#)

These electoral district rolls record information about persons enrolled to vote in State elections. For each voter entry, details include a unique number, family or surname, first names, address, occupation, date on which enrolled in the electorate, and sex.

Until 1975 rolls for all electorates in Queensland were issued annually. In the roll for each electorate, entries are arranged alphabetically by name of elector. As populations within electoral districts increased, the electoral district rolls were separated into divisions. After 1975, electoral rolls were issued periodically as required. They were only printed prior to elections, rather than annually.

State Electoral Office staff annotated the rolls by hand with additional information such as new entries, objections, deaths, and name of electorate to which an elector moved. After 1971, the electoral rolls continue to record deletions but not new entries. Examples of electoral roll notations are in Appendix 1. No annotations are recorded after 1989.

How to find state electoral rolls

QSA has digitised most of the state electoral rolls, [S162](#) created prior to 1982. Some are available online in [ArchivesSearch](#).

Research Guide to state electoral rolls

Prior to 1874 electoral roll holdings may be incomplete and there are no electoral rolls for 1872 or 1873. The 1887 volumes are missing, and there are incomplete holdings of the 1888 volume. Further, there were no rolls printed in 1976 or 1979.

1860-1900

These years are digitised and are listed in [ArchivesSearch](#) by electoral district. Try searching by combining the district with the keyword electoral eg., 'Burnett' and 'electoral', and limit to *Item* and *Records with digital objects only*.

1901-1981

Most of these years are digitised and available on the Reading Room computers under *Selected QSA records*. If you are not able to [visit QSA](#), email info@archives.qld.gov.au for assistance.

1982- 2016

For these years access is to the original record in the Reading Room. For information about how to request records prior to visiting the Reading Room, view our *How to* videos on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/qldstatearchives> - look for [Using ArchivesSearch](#) and [Researching the archives](#).

If you are not able to [visit QSA](#), please email info@archives.qld.gov.au for assistance.

Electoral roll notations

Most of the 20th century electoral rolls were annotated by departmental staff. Reasons for notations on the electoral rolls are found in the legislation. Section 27 of the *Elections Act 1915* lists reasons why the Electoral Registrar should alter the roll. Section 29 states 'all alterations on a roll shall be made in such a manner that the original entry shall not be obliterated, and the reason for the alteration and the date thereof shall be set against the alteration, together with the initials of the officer making the alteration'.

These notations enable researchers to trace a person from one electorate to another and notes the reason for removal of a person's name from the roll including because of death and change of residence to another State.

Examples of electoral roll notations are in Appendix 1.

Official notations are no longer found on the state electoral rolls.

Under the Joint Roll Arrangements, the Australian Electoral Commission became responsible for maintaining electoral rolls. The bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and the Queensland Government was established in 1992 and has provided a single point of electoral enrolment.

Appendix 1 Examples of electoral roll notations

Dead 6

The person died in the 6th month
May sometimes be written as **6 Dead**

3434 Dead 6

CH RES

Change of residential address

F GH. RES

E

The person exited from this electorate within the State –
eg. person exited the electorate and moved to Nudgee
electorate

^E
2553 Nudgee
^E
2554 Nudgee

E, Re-reg

The person exited this electorate and re-registered

10941 E. Re-reg.

DD (or simply D)

Duplicate entries

The same person has registered twice. Sometimes the
information is different however the Electoral Registrar
has established the name is for the same person

D 2065
D 2066

Died + date

Electoral Registrar was notified of person's
death and the date of death.
See also **Dead 6**

Disqualified (Or X Disqualified)

Disqualified from voting.

There are a number of reasons for this in the legislation.
The example shows (P) which may indicate the person
may be in Prison (P) at the time of the election

X Disqualified (P)
6269

NV

The person did not vote
See also **Objection**

Objection

An objection has been lodged. Maybe the person did not
vote (see also **NV**) or was not at the stated address when
the Electoral Registrar checked the roll. Reasons for
objection are found in legislation

10968 OBJECTION

PD + date

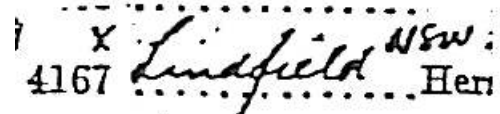
Polling date or an Electoral Officer's initials and date the roll was annotated. It is usually at the end of an entry.

RO

Returning Officer

X

The person exited the electorate to enrol in an interstate electorate, eg. Lindfield, NSW. Usually the X means a move intrastate (ie. within Queensland to another Queensland electorate)



Handwritten entry: 4167 X Lindfield NSW: Heri

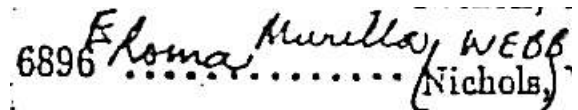
Occasionally, there may be more than one annotation on an electoral roll entry. Examples include:

a change of name (indicated by line through name), a change of electorate to Sherwood and an objection would be shown as



Handwritten entry: 4629 OBJECTION Sherwood KIDE

a change of name (usually through marriage or deed poll) with the person exiting to the Electoral District of Roma, Division of Murilla would be shown as



Handwritten entry: 6896 Roma Murilla WEBB (Nichols)

Other sources of information

Commonwealth or Federal electoral rolls

Federal electoral rolls are arranged by name of elector which means they are a valuable resource for genealogical researchers. This is unlike the state electoral rolls which are arrangement by electoral district.

These rolls are available on microfilm at the [State Library of Queensland](#) and at the [National Archives of Australia](#), Brisbane Office. The 1903–1980 electoral rolls are available on the commercial online resource, [Ancestry](#).

Online genealogy services

Online access to some electoral rolls is available through commercial online services. This includes the 1860-1959 on FindMyPast, and 1903-1980 on Ancestry. Access to these online services is available for registered members through the [State Library of Queensland](#), and maybe available through local libraries.

Further information in the [Electoral Act 1992](#), and on the [Australian Electoral Commission](#) and the [Electoral Commission Queensland](#) websites.

Need more information?

Check our online catalogue [ArchivesSearch](#).
Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can [email](#) an archivist.