

EVANS RETURNED IN STATE ELECTION

State Liberal MP Lee Evans has been returned for his third term in Heathcote electorate, with only minor erosion of his margin, while his Coalition Government barely survived with a slim majority of one so far. Counting will continue for days with a very tight count in other State seats.

He reached nearly 50% on the primary vote, with his ALP rival Maryanne Stuart well behind at 35%. With about 7,000 other votes to be distributed, Mr Evans drew only 300 preferences, while Ms Stuart managed 2,500 more – not enough to close the gap as the remaining 4,000 exhausted in final counts.

Under NSW optional-preferential voting, electors may number one or more candidates as they choose. Ballots numbering only one box cannot be redistributed as preferences in later counts.

But even if Ms Stuart had got every available preference, she would still have fallen short. Heathcote electorate remains firmly conservative politically, despite the near-disaster for the Liberal-National Coalition elsewhere in the State. The 2019 election was marked by wide variations in voting patterns.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian was likely to have the minimum 47 seats for outright majority, down seven from last election.

Although Nationals lost support in rural areas, they took 13 seats with the same number of votes as the Greens, who managed only three urban seats where their support is more concentrated. Small swings also went against the Liberals in neighbouring seats of Cronulla and Holsworthy, but in their favour in Miranda. Trends are summarised below for three State elections since 2011, when the ALP lost government spectacularly after a series of scandals. Heathcote seat and NSW overall are given separately. Boundary changes in 2013 transformed a safe Labor seat into a safe Liberal seat.

By Don Pagé 26 March 2019 www.woronoravalley.com

+++++ HEATHCOTE, FINAL COUNTS +++++

HEATHCOTE 2019: Two-party-preferred (85% of the vote counted): small swing to Labor.

Liberal total 55.4% (swing -2.2%); Labor 44.6% (+2.2%)

Preference count		Vote	Swing
 Liberal Party Lee Evans	55.4%	23,240	-2.2%
 Labor Maryanne Stuart	44.6%	18,722	+2.2%

HEATHCOTE 2015: Liberal Lee Evans lost much of his massive 2011 landslide.

Liberal total 57.6% (swing -11.4%); Labor 42.4% (swing +11.4%)

 Liberal	Lee Evans	26,989	57.6	-11.4
 Labor	Maryanne Stuart	19,873	42.4	+11.4

HEATHCOTE 2011: Evans first elected in a NSW landslide after Labor Government scandals.

Liberal total 62.9% (swing +21.7%); Labor 37.1% (-21.7%)

Progressive Count After Preferences					
Candidate	Party	Votes	% Vote		Swing
Lee Evans	LIB	22,939	62.9	+21.7	
Paul McLeay	ALP	13,512	37.1	-21.7	

+++++++ NSW 1st PREFERENCES ++++++

2019 State-wide (77% counted): *Major parties all lose support.*

Liberal total 32.5% (swing -2.6%); Labor 33.2% (-0.8%)

	Vote count	Vote %	Swing	Seats Won	Changed
Liberal Party	1,275,410	32.5%	-2.6%	35	1
Labor Party	1,304,831	33.2%	-0.8%	36	2
The Nationals	378,429	9.6%	-0.9%	13	3
The Greens	365,894	9.3%	-1.0%	3	0
Shooters Fishers and Farmers	135,645	3.5%	+3.3%	3	2

...

2015 State-wide: *(Labor recovers some of its 2011 losses)*

Liberal total 35.1% (swing -3.5%); Labor 34.1% (+ 8.5%)

Party	Primary votes	%	Swing	Seats	Change
Liberal	1,545,168	35.08	-3.50	37	-14
Labor	1,500,855	34.08	+8.52	34	+14
National	464,653	10.55	-2.02	17	-1
Greens	453,031	10.29	+0.00	3	+2

...

2011 State-wide: *(Labor loses government massively after many damaging scandals)*

Liberal total 38.6% (swing +11.6%); Labor 25.5% (-13.4%)

Party	Primary votes	%	Swing	Seats	Change
Liberal	1,602,457	38.58	+11.64	51	+29
Labor	1,061,352	25.55	-13.43	20	-32
National	521,864	12.56	+2.51	18	+5
Greens	427,144	10.28	+1.33	1	+1

...