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The 2015 Queensland Election & Beyond:

Context, Issues & Prospects

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Overview

- Context
- What happened?
- Why?
- What can we expect from a Palaszczyk Labor Government ?

Context

- *Arguably the most contentious and combative triennium since 1986-89*
- *Newman quickly erodes public opinion with public sector cuts in 2012 (perhaps assured large majority of 78 seats would offer 4 or 5 terms)*
- *Labor Opposition throws caution to wind – nothing to lose – aggressive approach*
- *By Dec 2012: LNP loses 8% primary & 7% 2PP vote*

What happened?

- Last 3 years were an experiment in leadership
- Newman comes from outside parliament
- First Brisbane-based non-Labor premier in a century
- A contentious three years in terms of substance and style
- Strong mandate for reform – temptation to do too much, too soon

What happened?

Labor 44 (up 37)

LNP 42 (down 36)

KAP 2 (steady)

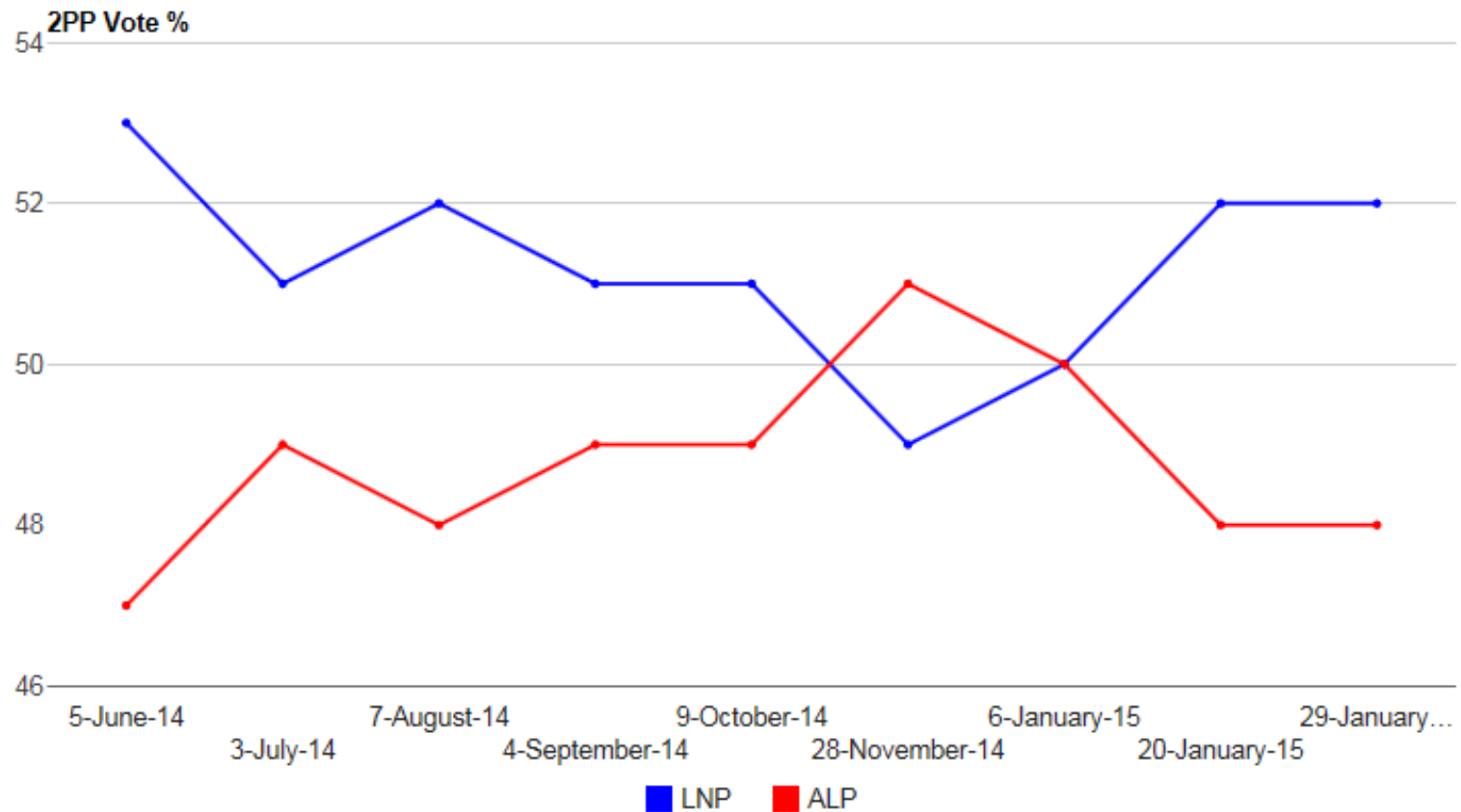
Ind. 1 (down 1)

Newman second non-Labor premier to lose seat in general election – first in 100 years

First majority government to lose after one term since Moore's CPNP Gov't in 1932

Reachtel 2PP 2014-15

Two party preferred result based on 2012 election distribution



2PP Vote & Swing 2012-15

Party	2015	2012	2009	Swing 2012-15
<u>Labor</u>	50.9	37.2	50.9	+13.7
LNP	49.1	62.8	49.1	-13.7

NB: 50.9 in 2009 = 51 seats; 2015 50.9 = 44 seats

What went wrong?

Both Style & Substance

Style

- *perception of arrogant, dictatorial leader*
- *"bull-at-a-gate" reform*
- *political & legal "over-reach" e.g. Carmody appointment; sacking of PCMC*
- *Perception of compromised processes & reduced transparency*
- *Gov't more about SEQ than regions?*

Blame?

Seeney (2014) “too much, too soon”

Newman (2014) “insufficient listening”

Newman (2015) Seeney and Nicholls didn't sufficiently support leader, and “ran dead” on asset leases

Seeney (2015) problems inevitable when BCC culture is transplanted onto state arena

Federal factors

- PM Abbott's unpopularity
- Coalition's war with the Senate
- Medicare \$20 rebate then backflip
- Perceptions of Liberal infighting
- Prince Phillip's knighthood

What can we expect from Palascazuk?

- More consensual approach
- Early (pragmatic) overtures to business community well received, e.g. CCIQ
- Heavy (pragmatic) emphasis on job creation (esp. for youth)
- Genuine commitment to “red tape” reduction

Labor's priorities for business

- Increased efficiencies within Government service delivery to restore the Budget to surplus;
- Paying down debt & investing in key infrastructure;
- Investing in business community through innovation and entrepreneurship;
- No new or increased taxes, fees and charges (maintain a competitive taxation environment);
- Establish Red Tape Reduction Advisory Council;
- Invest in apprentices & training through 25 per cent payroll tax rebate