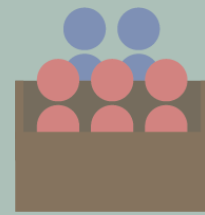


NSW PARLIAMENT

BICAMERAL SYSTEM



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LOWER HOUSE



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UPPER HOUSE

All Members of Parliament (MP) are elected by the people in an electorate to represent them in Parliament. New South Wales is divided into 93 electorates.

REPRESENTATIVES

The 42 Members of the Legislative Council (MLC) are elected to represent the people from the whole of NSW rather than a single electorate.

Executive Government is formed by the political party with the highest number of MPs, the leader of this party becomes the Premier. MPs serve for a term of 4 years and are generally members of a major political party, voting along party lines.

POLITICAL PARTIES

MLCs serve for a term of 8 years with one half elected at each State election. Members are drawn from a state-wide electorate and often includes minor and independent parties; representing a wider diversity of views than the Lower House.

A bill must be introduced, debated and agreed by both Houses before it can become a law. Both Houses can introduce bills but only the Lower House can introduce a bill for Government spending (money bills).

MAKING LAWS

Bills from the Lower House are introduced into the Upper House to be debated, amended, or passed all over again. This process may require a bill to be passed between Houses until both agree on details before the bill can become a law.

The Lower House initiates and approves money bills. The activities of the Executive Government are scrutinised by the Lower House to ensure it is accountable to the people.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Upper House is often called the *House of Review* as it scrutinises the actions and decisions of the Executive Government, holding them to account.