

Institutional Trust

Paul Grant and Rebecca Burton

40TH PARLIAMENT





40TH PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT AS A LONGSTANDING INSTITUTION

Parliament as a longstanding institution



Impact of non-parliamentary role

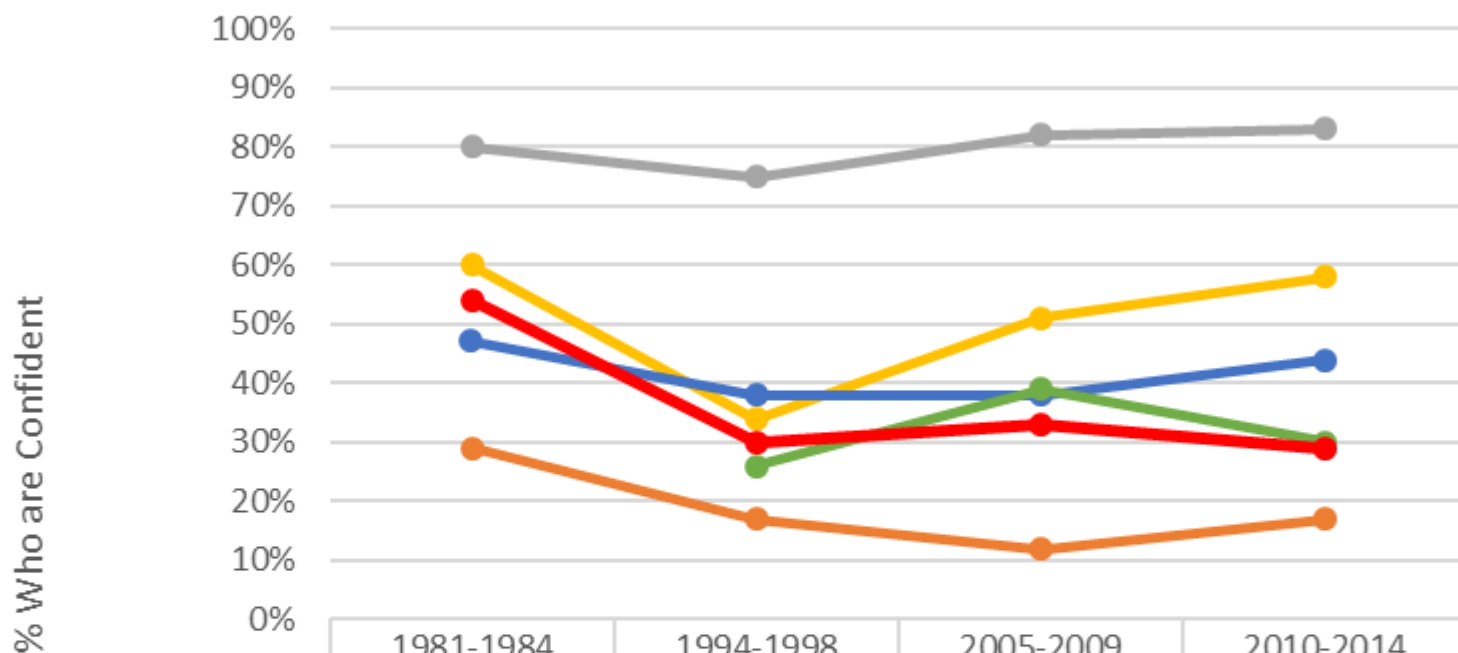


Scandals dominate the headlines



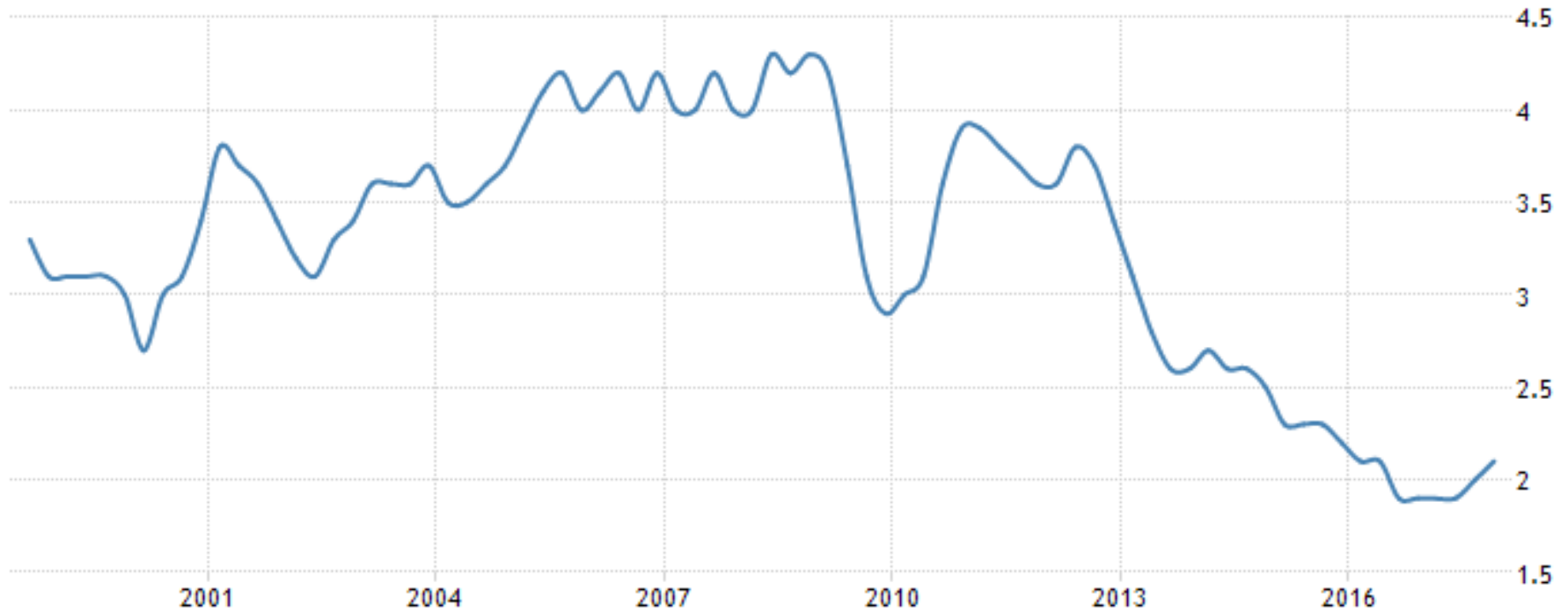
Trust in institutions

Confidence in Institutions: Australia



	1981-1984	1994-1998	2005-2009	2010-2014
—●— The Police	80%	75%	82%	83%
—●— Justice System/Courts	60%	34%	51%	58%
—●— The Civil Service	47%	38%	38%	44%
—●— The Government (in your nation's capital)		26%	39%	30%
—●— Parliament	54%	30%	33%	29%
—●— The Press	29%	17%	12%	17%

Economy - wages growth



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

A drovers dog ...



*...a drovers dog
could lead the
Labor Party
to victory
- Hon Bill Hayden MP 1983 -*

Revolving door of Prime Ministers

Party
topples
Robert
Menzies

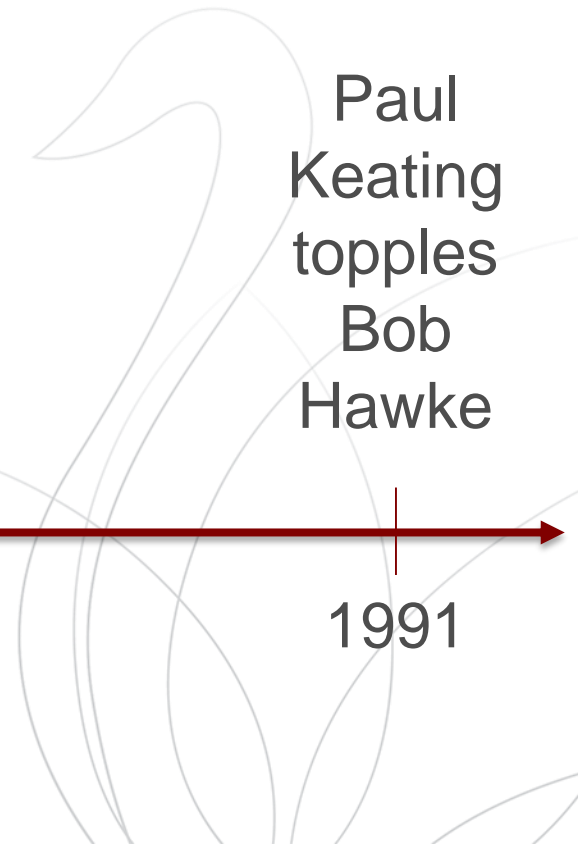
1941

William
McMahon
topples
John
Gorton

1971

Paul
Keating
topples
Bob
Hawke

1991



Revolving door of Prime Ministers

Julia
Gillard
topples
Kevin
Rudd

2010

Kevin
Rudd
topples
Julia
Gillard

2013

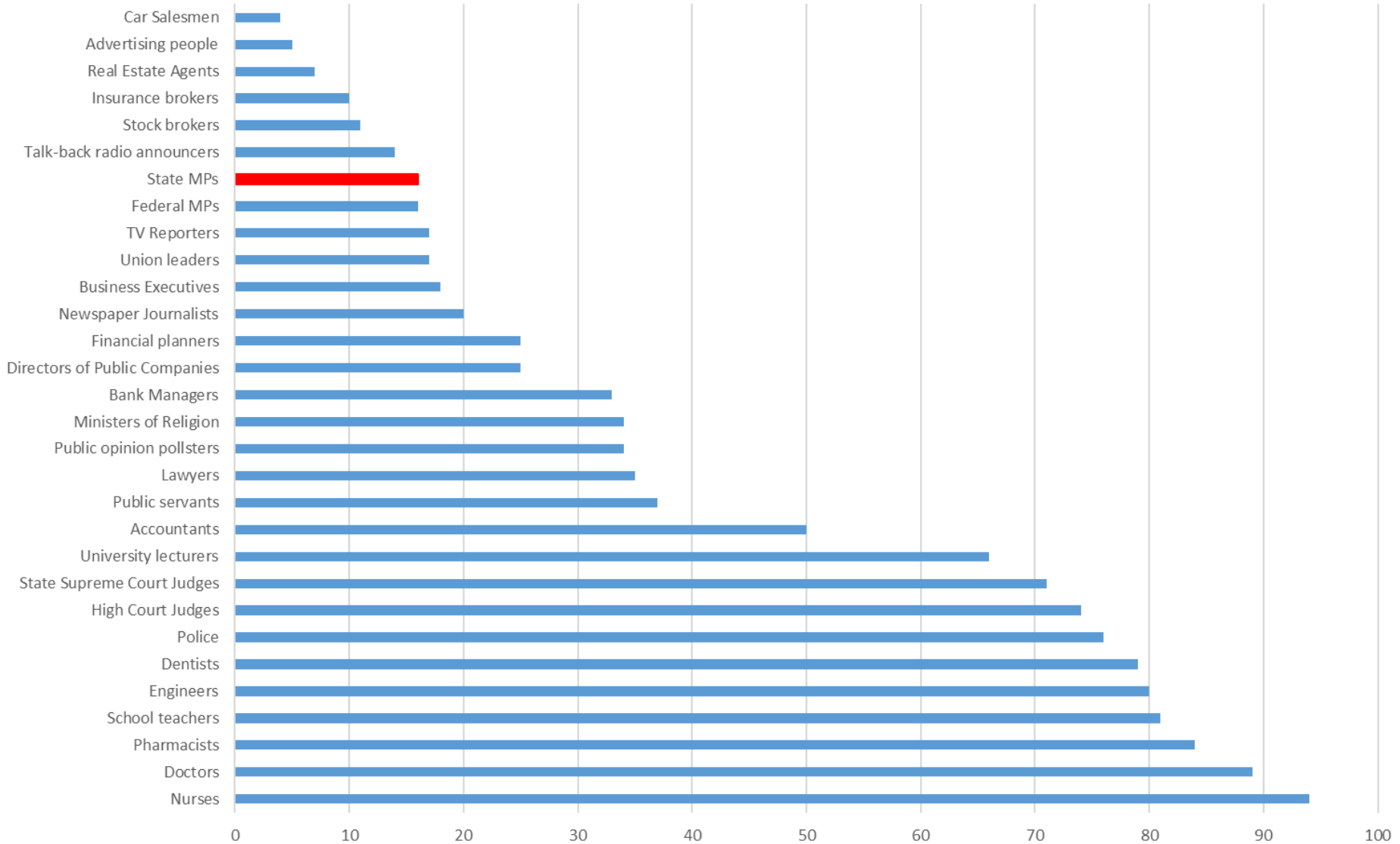
Malcolm
Turnbull
topples
Tony
Abbott

2015



Tainted by association?

Occupations: % Ethics and Honesty as at 2017



Attitudes towards individual politicians

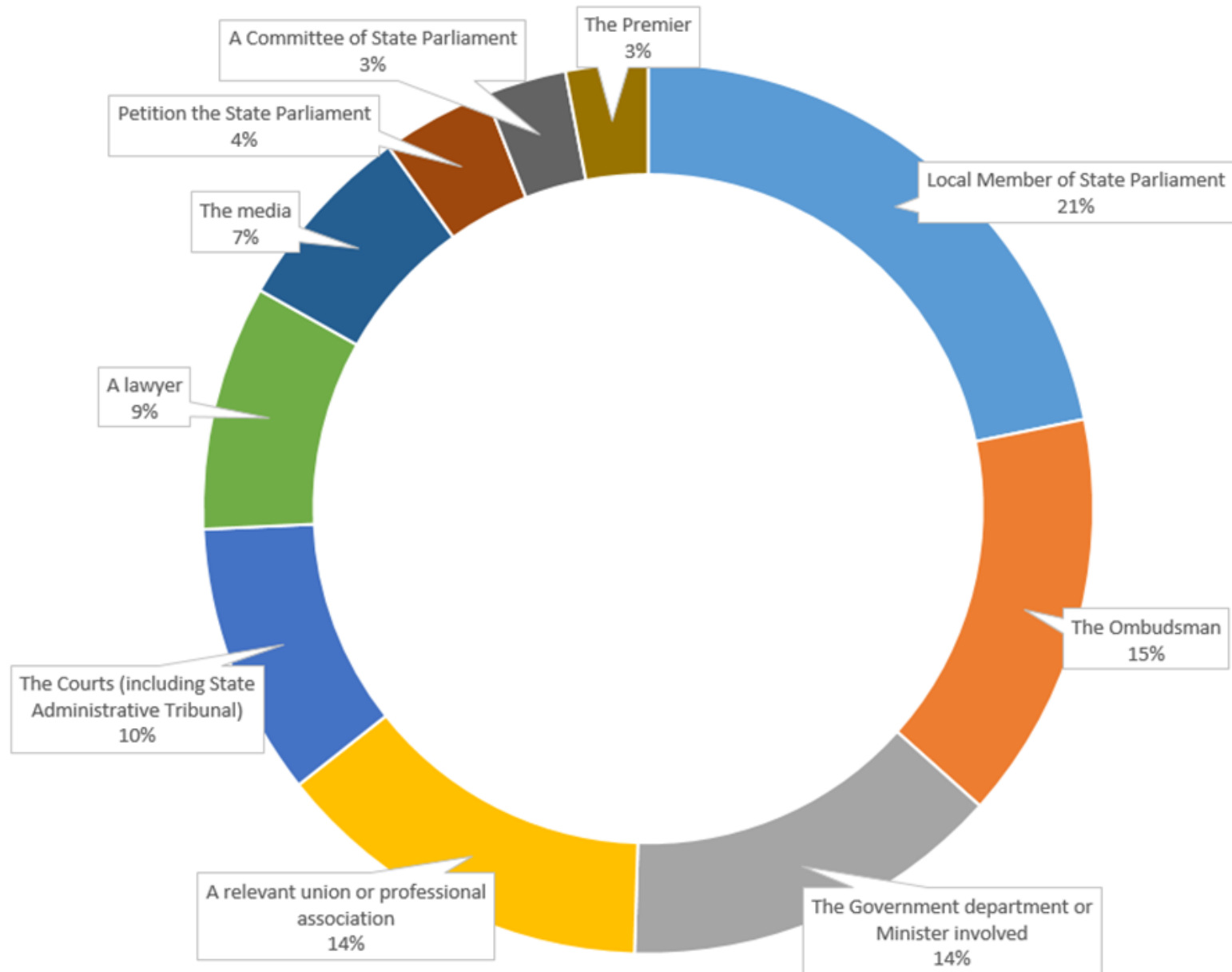
MP Troy Buswell 'groaned as he sniffed chair'

Chair sniffer Troy buswell denies quokka abuse

Chair-sniffer Troy Buswell stands down as WA Opposition Leader

WA Greens MP Adele Carles admits affair with Treasurer Buswell

Who do you turn to for help?





40TH PARLIAMENT

CASE STUDY # 1

Brexit: The United Kingdom

Brexit



What did Parliament do?

BREXIT
TO HIT THE
HOUSE OF LORDS
BUFFERS !!



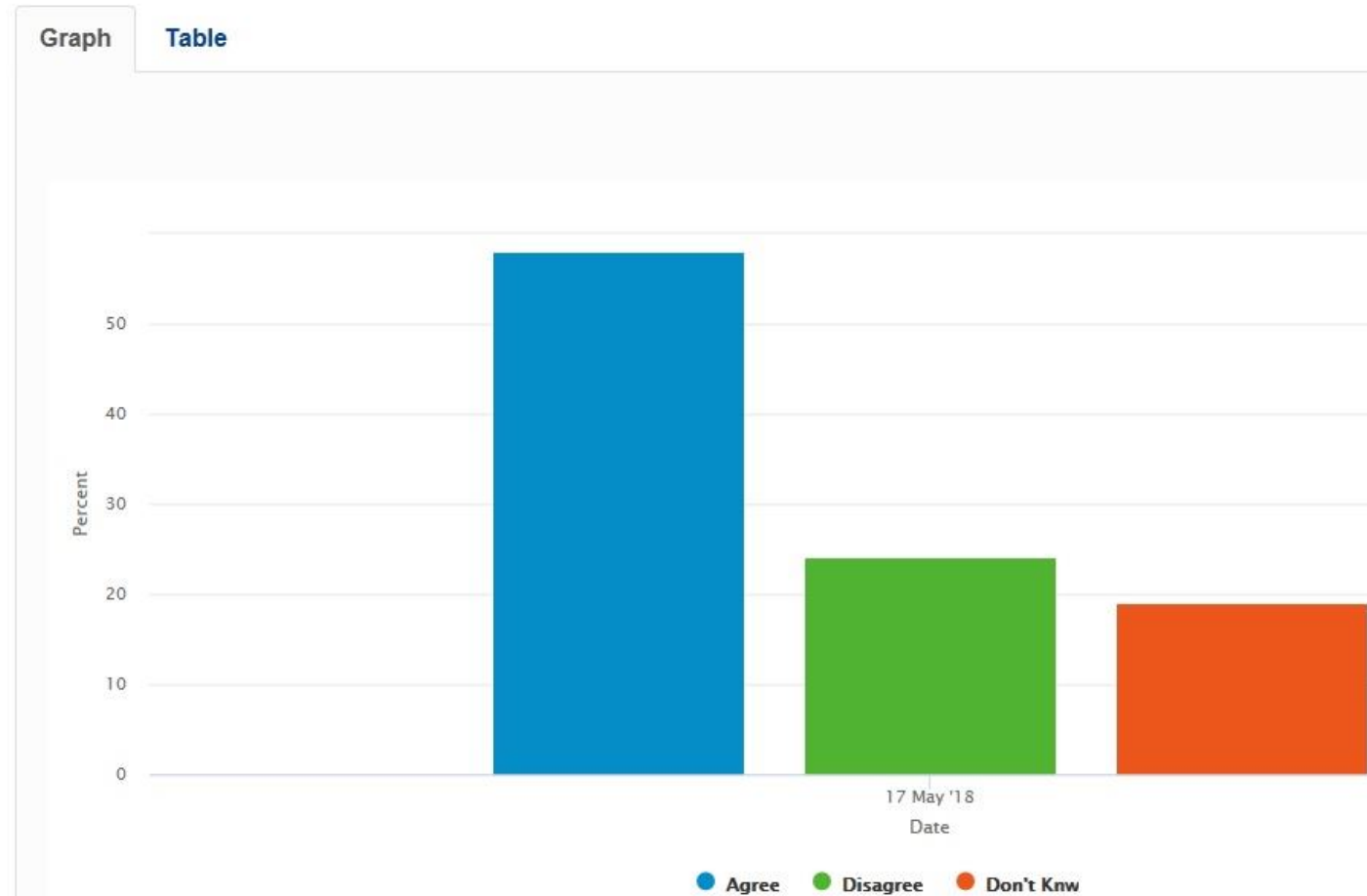
What was the harm to Parliament?

Do you agree or disagree that it would be wrong for the House of Lords to try and thwart Brexit?

Field work dates: 16 May 2018 - 17 May 2018

Data from: Great Britain

Results from: 1 poll



What was the outcome?

3 main attitudes towards Brexit



ComRes: No anticipated impact on voter turnout

40TH PARLIAMENT

CASE STUDY # 2

#citizenshipgate: Australian Parliament

Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act – Section 44 Disqualification

Any person who:

(i) is under any acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience, or adherence to a foreign power, or is a subject or a citizen or entitled to the rights or privileges of a subject or a citizen of a foreign power; or ...

shall be incapable of being chosen or of sitting as a senator or a member of the House of Representatives.

What was the initial controversy?



How did it effect Barnaby Joyce?



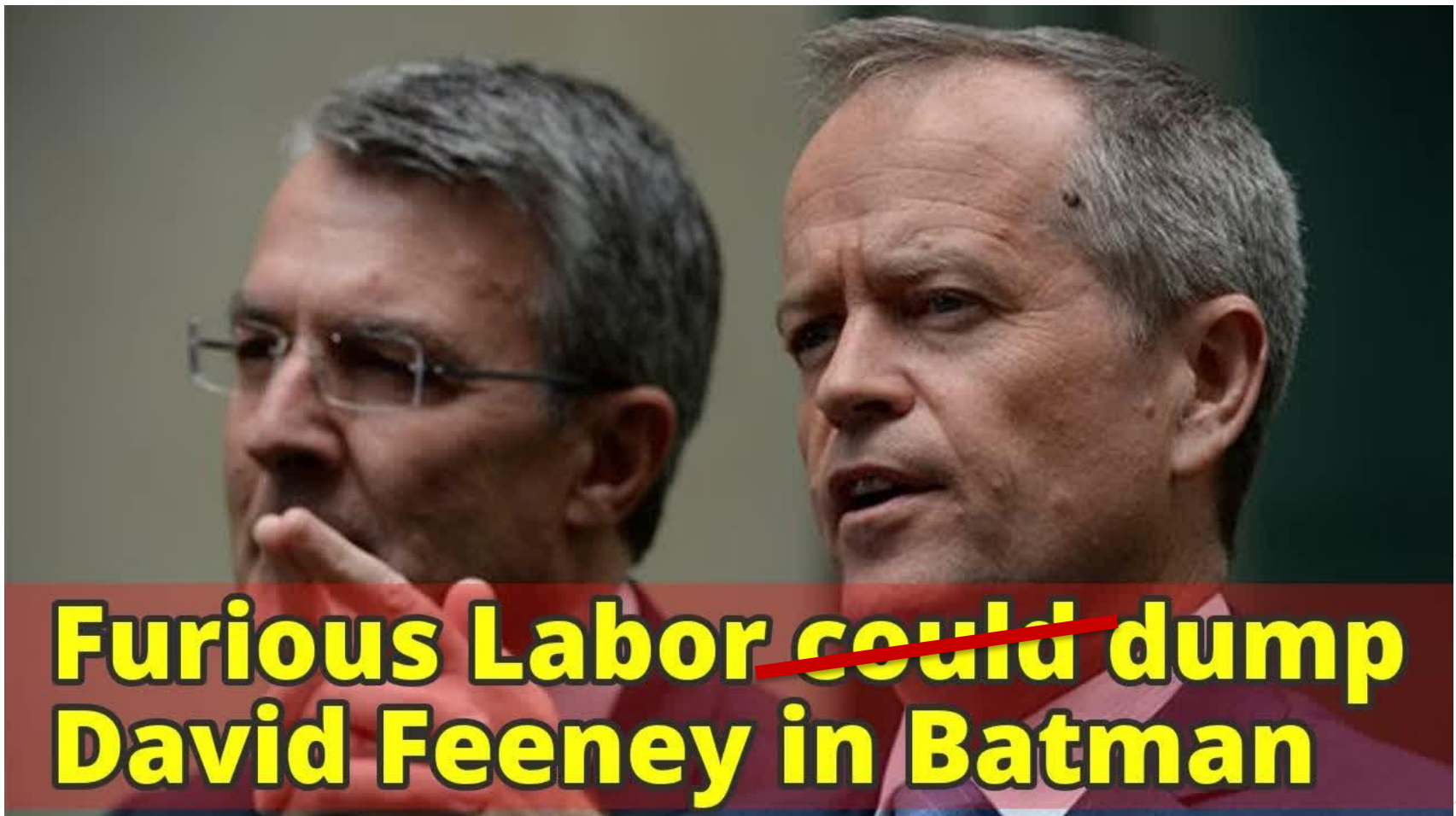
Re-elected: 7% upswing

How did it effect John Alexander?



Re-elected: Lost 5% support

How did it effect David Feeney?



Labor dumped David Feeney, who endured 9.5% swing to Greens in 2016, and ran Ged Kearney, who gained 3% support

How did Parliament get involved?

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

s.44 very clear

- Must ensure candidates comply prior to nomination

Recommend referendum

- Repeal or amend s.44 to resolve the issue

What was the harm to the Parliament?

Support plunges for MPs holding dual citizenship, says Newspann



Former Labor MP Susan Lamb resigned from parliament last week. Picture: Gary Ramage

What was the outcome?

Negative reaction from Government

- Immediately ruled out referendum
- No time for one before next election anyway

Negative reaction from Prime Minister

- What people have to do is simply get their act together
- Fill out their forms to a high standard, like the Australian public do

Mixed reaction from media and other commentators

- Australian public reluctant to amend the Constitution
- Australian electorate has a jaundiced view of politicians



40TH PARLIAMENT

ADDRESSING THE DECLINE IN TRUST

Parliament and social media

Parliaments communicate the facts

**“JUST
THE
FACTS”**



The role of social media



Representative Democracy?

Legislating by SurveyMonkey: senators conduct novel review of citizenship bill

Senate committee sets up online survey gauging support for Pauline Hanson amendment



▲ A Senate committee is using SurveyMonkey to ask people whether they support Pauline Hanson's proposed changes to citizenship law. Photograph: Lukas Coch/AAP

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/mar/28/legislating-by-surveymonkey-senators-launch-novel-review-of-citizenship-bill>

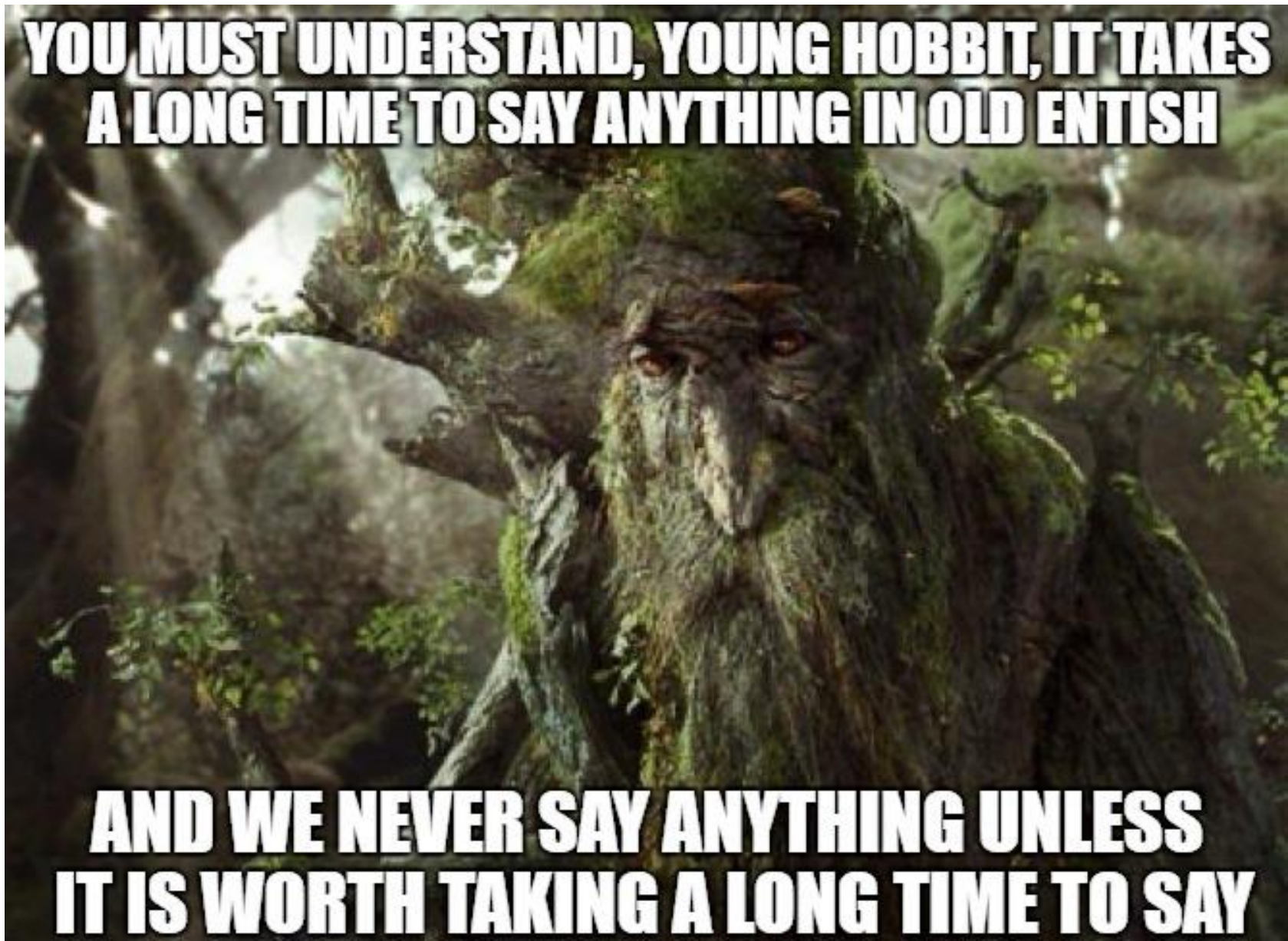


40TH PARLIAMENT

IS A HIGH LEVEL OF PUBLIC TRUST NECESSARY?

Is confidence in parliament necessary?

**YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, YOUNG HOBBIT, IT TAKES
A LONG TIME TO SAY ANYTHING IN OLD ENTISH**



**AND WE NEVER SAY ANYTHING UNLESS
IT IS WORTH TAKING A LONG TIME TO SAY**

Parliament as an institution

NEGOTIATION

