

History of Democratic Government in Western Australia

1829

Arrival of British Settlers and the Swan River Colony is proclaimed.

Captain James Stirling appointed Lieutenant-Governor in May 1829.

1890

Responsible Government granted with the election of the:

Legislative Assembly – thirty elected members.

Legislative Council – fifteen members nominated by the Governor.

1921

Edith Cowan becomes Australia's first elected female member of parliament.

1970

Voting age lowered from 21 to 18 years.

1870

Under the terms of the Australian Colonies Government Act, twelve elected councillors, together with six nominated by the Governor formed the Legislative Council.

1901

Federation: WA joins with the other states to form the Commonwealth of Australia.

1832

The first sitting of the Legislative Council was held on 7 February, 1832.

The first constituted Legislative Council consisted of five official members nominated by, and including, the Governor.

1887

Introduction of the Secret Ballot.

1899

Women given the right to vote. Lack of property prevented women from voting at Legislative Council elections.

1920

Women became eligible to stand for election to WA parliament.

1962

Aboriginal people given the right to vote in Legislative Assembly elections.

2011

Legislation passed for fixed state election dates in Western Australia. To be held on the second Saturday in March, every four years.

