



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MS19-001295

11 April 2019

His Excellency the Hon Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret'd)  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia  
Government House  
Dunrossil Drive  
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

*PK 11/4 at 6.55 AM  
Noted and agreed*

Your Excellency

I write to advise you to prorogue the Parliament and dissolve the House of Representatives, as set out in section 5 of the Constitution, and take the necessary action for a half Senate election in time for the elections for both houses of the Parliament to be held on Saturday, 18 May 2019.

*Noted  
PK*

The current term of the House of Representatives expires at midnight on Thursday, 29 August 2019. Section 28 of the Constitution provides you with the discretion to dissolve the House of Representatives before that date. An election for the House of Representatives must be held by 2 November 2019.

A half Senate election must be held in the twelve months preceding the expiry of the current terms of half the senators on 30 June 2019. Holding the half Senate election at the same time as the House of Representatives election will spare the Australian community the additional expense and disruption that would result from holding two separate national elections within months.

*Noted  
PK*

The details of the election timetable I propose are:

Issue of the writs	:	11 April 2019	} <i>Noted PK</i>
Close of the rolls	:	18 April 2019	
Close of nominations	:	23 April 2019	
Polling day	:	18 May 2019	
Return of the writs (latest date)	:	28 June 2019	

Under section 12 of the Constitution, the Governor of a State may cause writs to be issued for elections of senators for the State. Accordingly, I invite you to propose to each of the Governors of the States that the dates proposed above be adopted for the purpose of the election of State senators.

Enclosed for your approval and signature is a proclamation, based on the practice in recent years, which will prorogue the Parliament from 8:29am on Thursday, 11 April 2019, to Saturday, 18 May 2019, and dissolve the House of Representatives at 8:30am on Thursday, 11 April 2019.

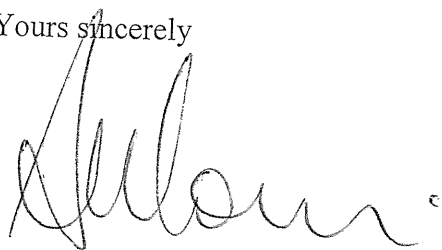
Noted  
OK

Finally, I can assure Your Excellency that there are sufficient funds available to enable the administration and ordinary services of government during the election period, following the recent passage of the Supply Act (No. 1) 2019-2020, Supply Act (No. 2) 2019-2020 and the Supply (Parliamentary Departments) Act (No. 1) 2019-2020. These Acts have provided interim Supply for a sufficient period to allow the election to take place, and for the 2019-20 Budget Bills to be considered and passed by the new Parliament.

Noted  
OK

I would appreciate your confirmation, in accordance with established practice, that you have no objection to the public release of this letter and your reply, at an appropriate time.

Yours sincerely



SCOTT MORRISON



His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

The Honourable Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

*Dear Prime Minister*

When you called on me today, you handed me your letter of today's date advising me to prorogue the Parliament, dissolve the House of Representatives as set out in section 5 of the Constitution, and take the necessary action for a half-Senate election to enable the elections for both Houses of Parliament to be held on Saturday, 18 May 2019.

I confirm my acceptance of that advice. I shall today invite State Governors to take the necessary action for the holding of Senate elections. In accordance with your recommendation, I shall issue proclamations proroguing the Parliament and dissolving the House of Representatives.

I have noted your assurances that Parliament has appropriated sufficient funds to enable the work of the administration to be carried on through the election period.

I have no objection to the public release of your letter and this reply at an appropriate time.

Yours sincerely

*Peter Cosgrove*  
*11th April 2019*

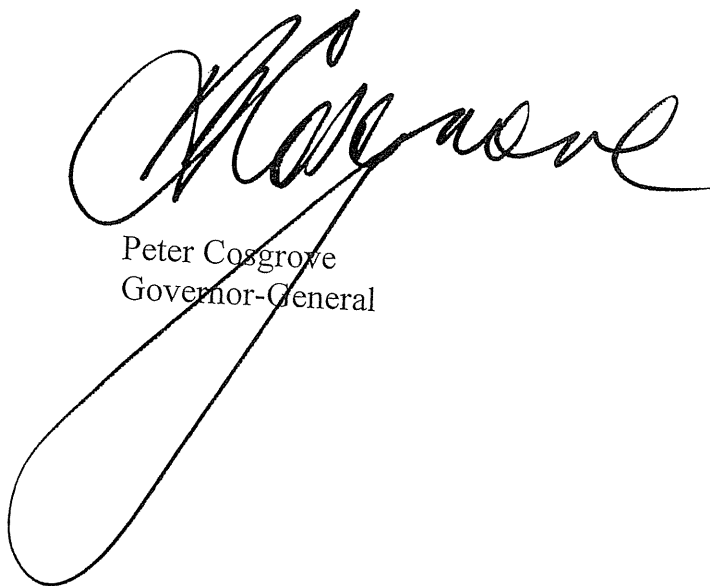


## PROCLAMATION

I, General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret'd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting under section 5 of the Constitution:

- prorogue the Parliament from 8:29am on 11 April 2019, until Saturday, 18 May 2019; and
- dissolve the House of Representatives at 8:30am on 11 April 2019.

Signed and sealed with  
the Great Seal of Australia  
on 11 April 2019



Peter Cosgrove  
Governor-General

By His Excellency's Command



Scott Morrison  
Prime Minister