



**KURTIN PLLC**  
Attorneys at Law

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**May 4, 2025**

### **Australia Votes**

In an election with striking overtones to April 28's Canadian election, on May 3, 2025, Australian voters in legislative elections returned to power a center-left government and defeated a center-right/populist far-right coalition in what appeared to be, as in Canada, in part a repudiation of U.S. President Donald Trump and his right-wing nationalist movement. According to preliminary results as of the morning of May 4, with 90% of the votes counted, the results were:

85 seats: Labor Party (Center - Left) - **WINNER**

41 seats: Liberal Party/National Party Coalition (Center Right - Populist Right)

9 seats: independants

15 seats: too close to call.

On those preliminary results, Labor is expected to win at least those 85 seats and as many as 100 in the 150-seat House of Representatives (equivalent to the U.K. and Canada House of Commons), an absolute majority. Labor Party Prime Minister Anthony Albanese becomes the first Australian prime minister to be returned to power in 20 years. Liberal/National Coalition Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton, in another parallel to the Canadian election and Canadian Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre, lost his own seat in Parliament, which, like Poilievre, he had held for over 20 years. In particular, the Liberals were almost wiped out in the metropolitan areas of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.

The election, an even greater repudiation of far-right nationalism and populism than in Canada, was overshadowed by reaction to the reelection of Trump in the U.S. and the early months of his

administration. Dutton, like Poilievre, positioned himself as a "Trump-lite" nationalist and populist in a similar miscalculation and failure to "read the room." Until February, Dutton and the Liberals were ahead in the polls, just as Poilievre and the Conservatives were in Canada. Dutton's Liberal/National Coalition actually played the "Make Australia Great Again" card, as Poilievre's Conservatives used the slogan "Make Canada Great Again," both in conscious imitation of Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan. In both cases, the attempt to ape Trump and Trumpism backfired spectacularly, with one Australian Northern Territory actually complaining, after the results came in, that the Labor Party had exploited the comparisons to Trump that Dutton himself had invited.

With centrist governments elected within the last year in Australia, Canada, Germany and the U.K., the world is witnessing a global reaction to the Trumpism/far-right nationalism/populism phenomenon.

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