

# VOTES THAT CREATED A GOVERNMENT



In the last 25 years Victoria has had seven elections. The elections held in 1982, 1992 and 1999, had important consequences in relation to the development of the State.

Consider these two articles about the elections.

## New Cabinet this week

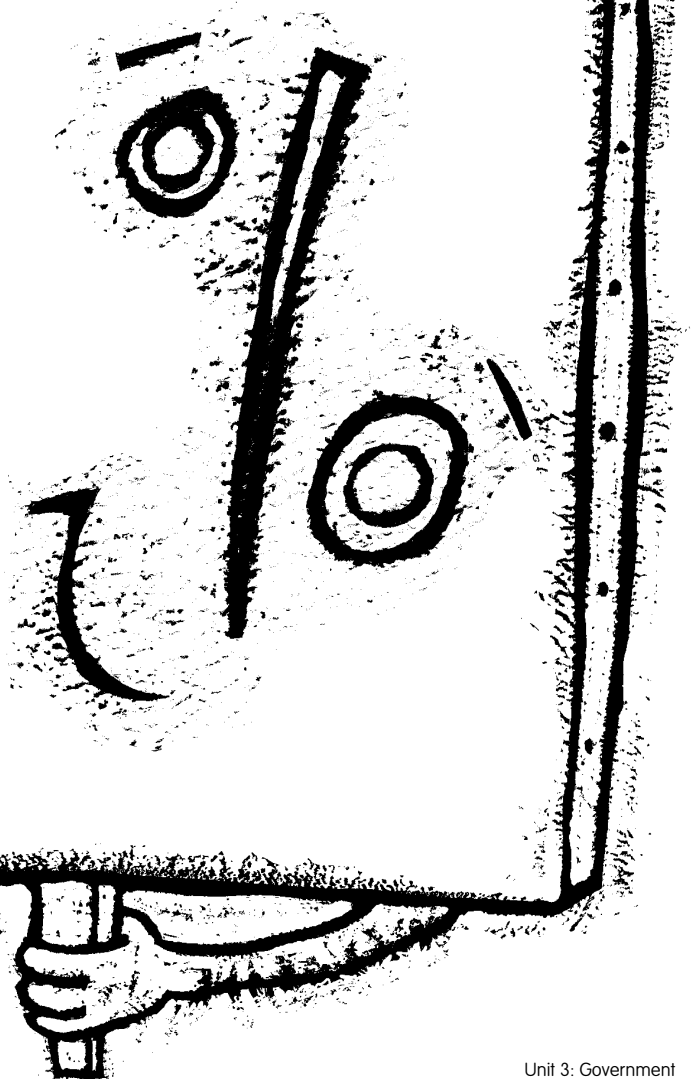
The Premier, Mr Cain, begins the transition to office this morning with a meeting between the four ALP leaders and the four Liberal leaders to discuss making the change as smooth as possible.

The meeting was arranged at the suggestion of the Liberal Government after Labor on Saturday was swept into office for the first time in 27 years with an overall likely majority of at least nine seats...

At close of counting yesterday Labor had 45 seats with 50.5 per cent of the vote, the Liberals had 26, with 38.4 per cent and the National Party eight with 4.9 per cent. The Australian Democrats polled 5 per cent of the vote and did not win a seat.

**Labor did not win control of the Legislative Council.** It holds 18 seats to the Liberal Party's 22 and the four held by the National Party.

Source: The Age, Monday, 5 April 1982 (Chubb and Burnsbaauer)



## New management wastes no time in taking over the business

...The coalition will have a huge majority of about 30 seats. With about 80 per cent of the vote counted, it held at least 56 of the 88 seats and was expected to win three or more of the eight seats in doubt. In the last Parliament it had 42 seats...

(Mr Kennett) said he planned no retribution against the Labor Party and would negotiate with the Opposition Leader to change committees, the timing of question time and the Parliamentary sitting times.

He also said he would like to put together a very disciplined professional organisation, '...as disciplined an organisation as Mr Cain did in the early days of the Labor administration'. In paying rare credit to Labor he said, 'I think that was one of the better aspects of the early days of the Cain government'.

Source: The Age, Monday 5 October 1992

(Dixon)

(Note: the last paragraph is from a different article on the same front-page spread, 'A larrikin turned leader has his day', by Cameron Forbes.)



1. Who won the Victorian State elections held in 1982 and 1992?
2. How did the winning and losing sides appear to relate to each other after the elections?

What does this tell you about the public acceptance of the election result?

3. Explain the meaning of the sentence in bold in The Age article of April 1982.

How might this have affected the Cain government?