

### 1898 referendums

All colonies except Queensland and Western Australia went to the polls to vote 'yes' or 'no'.

#### Results of the 1898 Referendums (3–4 June 1898)

New South Wales	No *
Victoria	Yes
South Australia	Yes
Tasmania	Yes

\* Before the referendum, the New South Wales Parliament had decided to set a limit for the 'yes' votes before they would accept the Constitution. So even though there were more 'yes' than 'no' votes polled in New South Wales they did not reach a sufficient level.

#### What happened next?

While three out of four colonies accepted the constitution, the biggest colony, New South Wales, did not. Once again, it was considered not worth continuing with federation unless New South Wales could be persuaded to join.

#### The Secret Premiers' Conference

In January 1899, the premiers of the colonies met to make changes that would make the constitution more agreeable to New South Wales, which had not voted 'yes', and to Queensland, which had not participated. There were seven changes made, including an agreement that the new federal capital would be created in New South Wales in a place no closer to Sydney than 100 miles.

#### The colonies vote 'Yes'

##### 1899 referendums

29 April	South Australia
20 June	New South Wales
27 July	Tasmania
27 July	Victoria
2 September	Queensland

##### 1900 referendum

On 31 July Western Australians held a referendum and voted 'yes' just in time to be included in the new federation.