

Main events leading up to Queensland's federation.

- **1891:** Queensland joined other Australian colonies to draft the first Australian Constitution in Sydney. Queensland's representatives, Samuel Griffith, was in charge of writing that draft as he had knowledge of constitutional law.
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- Other colonies continued working towards Federation, however political leaders in Queensland were distracted by other things, like developing Queensland's industries. There were discussions between central and northern colonies, as they wanted to form new colonies of their own.
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- There were also union issues where workers formed an organisation to fight for better rights and conditions.
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- **1897:** Two Federal Conventions are held to discuss and draft the federal constitution
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- **1897–98:** These issues caused major problems, Queensland had no-one representing them in voting at the Federal Conventions. The final draft of the Australian Constitution was formulated without Queensland's input
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- However, it's important to know debates about joining Federation did continue in Queensland, people saw pro's and con's in a united Australia.
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- Businesses in Brisbane were suspicious that 'free trade' with the other colonies would ruin their trade.
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- The Cattle farmers, miners and sugar cane growers welcomed the opportunities of new business and cheaper goods.
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- There was concern that a new 'Federal Parliament' would create laws to restrict non-British people arriving into Australia, meaning losing the South Pacific Islanders who worked for them.
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- **1899:** September came. The outbreak of the South African war commenced and troopers were sent.
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- Votes for the Yes = 38,488 votes for No = 30,966
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- Queenslanders voted and by a small percentage, BUT it was agreed Queensland would join Federation.
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- **1901** – a new flag emerged. A new nation was born.