

**Constitution Act 1900.
Covering Clause 9.**

**The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia.
SECTION 32.**

Section 32; Writs for general election

The Governor-General in Council may cause writs to be issued for general elections of members of the House of Representatives.

After the first general election, the writs shall be issued within ten days from the expiry of a House of Representatives or from the proclamation of a dissolution thereof.

The Annotated Constitution make the following comments;

For the purpose of holding general elections of members to serve in the House of Representatives the Governor-General may cause writs to be issued by such persons, in such form, and addressed to such Returning Officers, as he thinks fit.”

The question whether this section ought to have been framed so as to read that the writs should be issued by “the Governor-General” or by “the Governor-General in Council” was the subject of debate in the Convention Debates. At the Melbourne Session Dr. Cockburn took objection to this form, and proposed to insert the words “in Council.” He submitted that without the addition of these words it would appear that the issue of the writs was a prerogative act, which the Governor-General could direct to be done without the advice of the Executive Council. Eventually the words were added.

General Elections of Members.

The writs for general elections of members will be issued by the Governor-General in Council, through one of the Ministers of State.