



## Party Profiles

### Party A (Government)

Party A won the most recent election in Commonwealthland, their first victory in 15 years, with a slim majority. Historically favoured by wealthier Commonwealthland citizens living in urban areas, the party has benefitted from recent demographic shifts, most noticeably the movement of persons from rural areas to cities and other urban spaces.

A number of party members have backgrounds in industry and business, with a number of parliamentarians having a background in the growing services sector. Whilst a number of members have sought to sever their ties with their previous undertakings, many retain interests in several businesses and foundations.

Notably, several members of the party, including the Minister for Social Welfare and the Minister for the Environment, respectively have been found to maintain interests in enterprises providing farming machinery, irrigation systems and haulage. An independent ethics enquiry has deemed that there has not been any misconduct, and the Ministers have acted appropriately, although the majority public opinion is that there should be amendments to national laws forbidding government officials from holding business interests whilst holding public office.

There has been a growing movement within the party membership, arguing that spending on foreign aid has historically been too great, and more needs to be done to help those needing assistance within Commonwealthland's borders. The primary demand of this movement is that the country no longer commits 0.7% of their budget to foreign aid, arguing that as a developing economy, it is not required to meet the United Nations' foreign aid target. Their election manifesto committed the party to "*continuing to be a force for good across the world*" although no specific reference was made to specific spending targets. Several members within the party have also argued that closer engagement with the Asian Development Bank would be of greater benefit to the people of Commonwealthland than with the United Nations.

Acknowledging their appeal amongst urban voters, the party has sought to commit itself to improving living standards across the five major cities in Commonwealthland, whilst also providing more affordable houses to meet the influx of new residents. In recent months, there have been preliminary studies that show a correlation between increased construction and high levels of pollution in major rivers downstream of Centenary City as well as other rivers which run through two of the other cities in Commonwealthland. The studies have also suggested that this pollution has had a further negative impact on the quality of water available to local farmers.

The party does not have a gender caucus or a women's wing, though a number of members have expressed a desire to work with the opposition party and independents to develop a cross-party Women's Caucus, though the party leadership has, thus far, been reluctant to formalize this.



## Party B (Opposition)

Party B finds itself in opposition for the first time in 15 years. The change in government has been attributed to demographic shifts, as an increasing number of Commonwealthland Citizens have moved away from rural areas to urban populations, and an economic downturn seen by some as a result of the party's protectionist outlook and poor trading relations with other countries.

The party is predominantly supported by lower-income Commonwealthland citizens living in rural areas across the country and a number of members have backgrounds in agriculture and trade unions. Nonetheless, a number of party members have faced increasing pressure from their constituents, who continue to work in the agricultural sector, to protect their livelihoods in the face of the increasing mechanization and automation of farming. A number of political scientists in Commonwealthland have predicted that a failure to address these concerns could see the party lose further support and more seats at the next election.

In their election manifesto, the party committed itself to ringfencing 0.7% of their budget to foreign aid, in line with United Nations' targets, whilst also arguing that a commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals not only allows for targeted development spending but also an increase in Commonwealthland's soft power capital.

In recognition of their appeal amongst rural and lower-income citizens, the party has highlighted addressing climate change as a major priority and has specifically pointed to water scarcity, water pollution and desertification as major threats to the agricultural sector. Whilst the significant majority of the party has sought to limit the activities of extractive industries within Commonwealthland, two party members, whose constituencies have a population reliant on local mines, have publicly stated that they will go against the party whip on this matter.

The party has an established women's wing and, whilst the recent election saw a number of party members lose their seats, a record number of women were elected for the first time, with over 50% of the party now being comprised of women. The party membership has argued that, in light of this, the Leader of the Opposition should ensure that he maintains a gender-balanced cabinet and, in recognition of the fact that the agricultural sector is so heavily supported by women workers, the Minister for Agriculture should be a woman. The Leader of the Opposition has, thus far, refused to commit to this proposal, arguing "*those most qualified for the respective roles will be assigned them accordingly*".

Many of the newly elected women members, within the party, have expressed a willingness to develop a cross-party gender caucus, though there has been some resistance from the longer serving women members who have argued that the governing party should, in the first instance, establish their own women's wing.