

FACT SHEET 6

How has technology promoting Yes or No cases changed since federation?

In the colonial referendums of the **1890s**, referendum campaigns were run through newspapers and attending leaders' public speeches and rallies, such as in the local town halls across the nation.

By the **1937** referendum, campaigners debated and advertised on the wireless/radios.

Wireless/radio. Source: iStock



The internet and social media will be important in referendum **2023**.

Social Media. Source: Adobe Stock

1890



1. The 'Herald' And 'Mail' Branch Office, King Street | The Sydney Mail | 11 June 1898. Source: National Library of Australia

2. The 1899 referendum in Queensland. Source: State Library of Queensland

1977



TV. Source: iStock

Since federation in 1901, it is not only the technology that has changed in extraordinary ways. It is for this reason that the Australian Constitution contains a referendum mechanism to allow it to change if Australian voters think it requires different provisions than those put in place by the Constitution's Framers.



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