


**NOTICE OF PARTY REGISTRATION DECISION
APPLICATION TO REGISTER A PARTY IN THE REGISTER OF
POLITICAL PARTIES APPROVED
GERARD RENNICK PEOPLE FIRST**

**Notice of decision under s 133(1) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*
(Electoral Act) and Statement of Reasons**

1. I am writing in accordance with s 133(1) of the Electoral Act to notify you of the determination of the application to register Gerard Rennick People First (the Party), a Parliamentary party, in the *Register of Political Parties* (the Register).
2. I am authorised to determine this application for party registration (the Application) under Part XI of the Electoral Act as a delegate of the Electoral Commission.

Decision

3. I have decided to approve the Application. Consequently, I have entered the following Party in the Register:

Name of party:	Gerard Rennick People First
Registered Officer:	Mrs Stephanie Eaton
Registered Officer's address:	Level 1, 1024 Ann Street FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006
Party logo:	
The party stated that it wishes to receive election funding:	Yes

Materials I have taken into account

4. In making this decision, I had regard to:
 - the Application received by the Australian Electoral Commission (the AEC) on 27 August 2024;
 - Parts I and XI of the Electoral Act;
 - the Register and the Register of Political Parties of each Australian State and Territory;
 - a letter from the Registered Officer of Family First Party Australia providing consent for the Party to use the word 'First' in its Application (in accordance with ss 129 and 129A of the Electoral Act);
 - the *Commonwealth Electoral (Logo Requirements) Determination 2016*;
 - internet searches of trademarked and licenced logos undertaken by a service provider engaged by the AEC; and
 - the AEC's *Guide for registering a party*.

Findings of Fact and Consideration

5. On the material before me, I make the following findings:

Procedural application requirements

6. I am satisfied that the Application meets the requirements of ss 126(2)(a)–(g) of the Electoral Act. The Application:
- was in writing, signed by the applicant (s 126(2));
 - set out the name of the Party (s 126(2)(a));
 - set out a logo of the Party (s 126(2)(ba));
 - set out the name and address of the person who is to be the Registered Officer of the Party for the purposes of the Electoral Act (s 126(2)(c));
 - stated that the Party wishes to receive moneys under Division 3 of Part XX of the Electoral Act (s 126(2)(d));
 - set out the name and address of the applicant and particulars of the capacity in which the applicant makes the Application (s 126(2)(e));
 - was accompanied by a copy of the constitution of the Party (s 126(2)(f));
 - included a letter from the Registered Officer of Family First Party Australia providing consent for the Party to use the word 'First' in its Application (in accordance with ss 129 and 129A of the Electoral Act); and
 - was accompanied by a fee of \$500 (s 126(2)(g)).

Party constitution

7. A copy of the constitution of the Party accompanied the Application as required by s 126(2)(f) of the Electoral Act. The constitution provided in the Application:
- is in writing; and
 - sets out the aims of the Party, at least one of which being the promotion of the election of its candidates to the Senate and/or House of Representatives.
8. Accordingly, I am satisfied that the Party meets the requirements of having a written constitution in accordance with the definition of *eligible political party* at s 123(1) of the Electoral Act and the definition of *political party* at s 4 of the Electoral Act.

Party name

9. When undertaking an initial assessment of the Application, the Party's proposed name was considered against the requirements of s 129 of the Electoral Act, and the Register and the registers for each State and Territory were reviewed for parties with a similar name, abbreviation or acronym.
10. The Party name, Gerard Rennick People First:
- does not comprise more than 6 words;
 - is not obscene, frivolous or vexatious;
 - is not the name, or an abbreviation or acronym of the name, of another political party (not being a political party that is related to the Party) that is a recognised political party;
 - does not so nearly resemble the name, or an abbreviation or acronym of the name, of another political party (not being a political party that is related to the Party) that is a recognised political party that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for that name or that abbreviation or acronym;
 - is not one that a reasonable person would think suggests a connection or relationship exists between the Party and a registered party;
 - does not comprise the words "Independent Party";

- does not comprise or contain the word “Independent” and the:
 - name, or abbreviation or acronym of the name, of a recognised political party; or
 - matter that so nearly resembles the name, or an abbreviation or acronym of the name, of a recognised political party that the matter is likely to be confused with or mistaken for that name or that abbreviation or acronym.
 - **does** contain a word that is in the name, or the abbreviation of the name, of a registered political party that requires consent from an existing registered political party (refer paragraph 14 below).
11. Section 129(3) of the Electoral Act states that a delegate of the Electoral Commission must refuse an application of a political party if a word in the party’s name is in the name or abbreviation of another registered party (First Party), unless consent by the First Party is given to use that word.
12. In accordance with s 129(3) of the Electoral Act, written consent was provided by the Registered Officer of Family First Party Australia for the Party to use the word ‘First’ in its proposed name.
13. As per the Register check, ‘Gerard’, ‘Rennick’, and ‘people’ are words not used by any registered party, and as such, they do not require letters of consent under s 129(3)(b) of the Electoral Act.

Party logo

14. The logo set out in the Application:
- is not obscene;
 - is not the logo of any other person;
 - does not so nearly resemble the logo of any other person that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for that logo;
 - is not one that a reasonable person would think suggests that a connection or relationship exists between the Party and a registered political party if that connection or relationship does not in fact exist;
 - does not comprise the words “Independent Party”;
 - does not comprise or contain the word “Independent” and the:
 - name, or abbreviation or acronym of the name, of a recognised political party; or
 - matter that so nearly resembles the name, or an abbreviation or acronym of the name, of a recognised political party that the matter is likely to be confused with or mistaken for that name or that abbreviation or acronym;
 - **does** contain a word that is in the name, or the abbreviation of the name, of a registered political party and therefore requires consent from an existing registered political party (refer paragraph 18 below);
 - is in black and white;
 - is in a vector graphic in electronic format;
 - is 100% black in a CMYK colour space;
 - is contained within a frame of 10 mm by 10 mm;
 - is able to be reproduced correctly within a frame of 7 mm by 7 mm;
 - does not include live text, transparency, overprinting, custom halftone, transfer curve or colour profile settings; and

- is in a PDF file, of less than 5 megabytes, that complies with International Standard ISO 32000-1:2008 as in force at the time of the commencement of the *Commonwealth Electoral (Logo Requirements) Determination 2016*.
15. In accordance with s 129A(2) the Electoral Act, written consent was provided by the Registered Officer of Family First Party Australia for the Party to use the word 'First' in its proposed logo.
16. Accordingly, based on the materials before me, I am satisfied that the logo submitted with the Application meets the requirements of s 126(2AA) of the Electoral Act and the specifications described in the Determination, and that there is no basis to refuse to enter the Party's logo in the Register under s 129A of the Electoral Act.

Written particulars

17. Section 132(2)(b) of the Electoral Act provides that a person can only submit written particulars objecting to an application to register a party (or a logo in the case of point (iv)) on the following grounds:
- (i) the application does not relate to an eligible political party; or
 - (ii) the application is not in accordance with s 126 of the Electoral Act; or
 - (iii) the application should be refused under s 129 of the Electoral Act; or
 - (iv) the Electoral Commission should refuse to enter a logo of the party in the Register under s 129A of the Electoral Act.
18. Section 132(7) of the Electoral Act provides that the Electoral Commission shall not register a political party unless it has considered any particulars submitted objecting to a party's registration, and any reply to particulars that may have been submitted. Section 132 of the Electoral Act also outlines the requirements for submitting and processing objections to an application.
19. On 21 October 2024, the application was advertised in 10 major newspapers circulating in each State and Territory of Australia and published on the AEC website. The closing date for written particulars objecting to the application was 21 November 2024.
20. Written particulars must also meet the following administrative requirements under ss 132(2)–(3) of the Electoral Act:
- be in writing;
 - be signed by the person (either physically, or electronically as per s 10(1) of the *Electronic Transactions Act 1999*);
 - specify a postal address of the objector that does not consist of a post office box number (noting the definition of 'address' in s 123(1) of the Electoral Act and the postal service requirements in s 140(1) of the Electoral Act);
 - be submitted within one-month after the publication of the relevant s 132(1) Notice on the AEC website on 26 June 2024; and
 - set out the person's belief that the Application should be refused for a reason listed in s 132(2)(b) of the Electoral Act and provide grounds for that belief.
21. No written particulars were received that met the requirements of ss 132(2)-(3) of the Electoral Act.

Summary

22. There are two elements to my decision on the Application, as set out in this Statement of Reasons:
- 1) a decision to register the Party under s 133(1); and
 - 2) a decision that the Party's logo should not be refused under s 129A.
23. I am satisfied on the materials before me that there is no basis to refuse the Application under s 129 of the Electoral Act. The Party can be registered, and the Party's name and logo entered in the Register.

Approval of the Application

24. For the reasons outlined above, I approve the application from Gerard Rennick People First for registration in the Register, as a delegate of the Electoral Commission for the purposes of ss 126(3) and 133(1) of the Electoral Act.

Your review rights

25. Under s 141(2) of the Electoral Act, a person (including an organisation) affected by the decision who is dissatisfied with the decision may make a written application to the Electoral Commission for internal review of this decision within 28 days after the day on which the decision first comes to the notice of that person. There is no fee payable for requesting an internal review.
26. Requests for review of this decision should be addressed to Mr Tom Rogers, Australian Electoral Commissioner, and emailed to commission.secretariat@aec.gov.au or posted to Locked Bag 4007, Canberra City ACT 2601.

How do I request an internal review?

27. In accordance with ss 141(2) and 141(3) of the Electoral Act, an application for review must:
- be in writing;
 - specify the name of the applicant;
 - specify an address of the applicant; and
 - set out the reasons for making the application.
28. If you wish to apply for additional time beyond the 28 days to make an application for review of the delegate's decision, please also include the reasons for the application for additional time.

Who conducts an internal review?

29. The Electoral Commission, which is comprised of three members, the Electoral Commissioner, a judicial member and a non-judicial member, conducts internal reviews.
30. Under s 141(4) of the Electoral Act, the Electoral Commission shall review an application and make a decision to either:
- affirm the decision under review;
 - vary the decision under review; or
 - set aside the decision under review and make a decision in substitution for the decision set aside.

What can I do if I disagree with the outcome of an internal review?

31. If an internal review decision has been made by the Electoral Commission and you do not agree with that decision, a person whose interests are affected, and who are dissatisfied with the decision made by the Electoral Commission may apply to the Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) for a review of the decision. More information on how to apply to the ART and any applicable fees can be found on its website: www.art.gov.au.

Freedom of Information

32. Under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* ('the FOI Act') any person has the right to request access to documents held by the AEC. For more information about access to documents under the FOI Act please visit the AEC's "Access to AEC information" webpage at: www.aec.gov.au/information-access/index.htm.
33. Should you have any queries regarding party registration, please contact the AEC on 02 6271 4552, visit www.aec.gov.au or email fad@aec.gov.au.

(signed)

Joanne Reid
Assistant Commissioner
Delegate of the Electoral Commission
5 December 2024