

**NOTICE OF PARTY REGISTRATION DECISION  
APPLICATION TO CHANGE THE ABBREVIATION IN THE REGISTER  
OF POLITICAL PARTIES APPROVED  
LEGALISE CANNABIS AUSTRALIA**

**Notice of decision under s 134(6) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*  
(Electoral Act) and Statement of Reasons**

1. I am writing in accordance with s 134(6) of the Electoral Act to notify you of the determination of the application to change the abbreviation of Legalise Cannabis Australia (the Party) in the *Register of Political Parties* (the Register).
2. I am authorised to determine this application to change the Register (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 to change the Register as outlined below:

*Registered abbreviation:*                      Legalise Cannabis Party

**Materials I have taken into account**

4. In making my decision, I have had regard to:
  - the Application received by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) on 16 August 2024;
  - Part XI of the Electoral Act;
  - the Register and the Register of Political Parties of each Australian State and Territory; and
  - the AEC's *Guide for maintaining party registration*.

**Findings of Fact**

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

Procedural requirements

6. The Application:
  - was in writing, signed by three applicants of the Party; and
  - set out the names and addresses of the applicants and particulars of the capacity in which each applicant makes the Application.
7. Accordingly, I am satisfied that the Application meets the requirements of ss 134(1)(b) and 134(2) of the Electoral Act.

## Party abbreviation

8. The abbreviation:
- **does not** comprise more than six words;
  - **is not** obscene, frivolous or vexatious;
  - **is not** the name, abbreviation or acronym of the name of another political party (not being a political party that is related to the party to which the application relates) 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 to which the application relates) 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 if that connection or relationship does not in fact exist;
  - **does not** comprise the words 'Independent Party' and **does not** comprise or contain the word 'Independent' and:
    - the name, or an 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, as the case may be.
9. Accordingly, the abbreviation does not contravene ss 4 or 129 of the Electoral Act.

## Legislative framework – written particulars

10. 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, or application in this instance, 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.
11. On 23 September 2024, a notice of 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 23 October 2024.
12. In the context of this Application to change the Register, s 132(2)(b) of the Electoral Act, as modified by s 134(4), provides that a person can only submit written particulars objecting to this Application to change the Register if the person believes that:
- the application should be refused under s 129 of the Electoral Act (the abbreviation test); or
  - the application is not in accordance with s 134 of the Electoral Act (which sets out requirements for the contents of an application to change the Register).
13. 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 23 September 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.

14. No written particulars were received.

15. For the reasons outlined above, as a delegate of the Electoral Commission for the purposes of Part XI of the Electoral Act, I approve the Application to change the abbreviation of Legalise Cannabis Australia in the Register.

### **Your review rights**

16. 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.

17. Requests for review of this decision should be addressed to Mr Tom Rogers, Australian Electoral Commissioner, and emailed to [commission.secretariat@aec.gov.au](mailto:commission.secretariat@aec.gov.au) or posted to Locked Bag 4007, Canberra City ACT 2601.

#### How do I request an internal review?

18. 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; and
- set out the reasons for making the application.

19. 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?

20. The Electoral Commission, which is comprised of three members, the Australian Electoral Commissioner, a judicial member and a non-judicial member, conducts internal reviews.

21. Under s 141(4) of the Electoral Act, the Electoral Commission review an application for review 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?

22. 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](http://www.art.gov.au).

Freedom of Information

23. 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](http://www.aec.gov.au/information-access/index.htm).
24. Should you have any queries regarding party registration, please contact the AEC on 02 6271 4552, visit [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) or email [fad@aec.gov.au](mailto:fad@aec.gov.au).

(signed)

Timothy Robertson  
Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Delegate of the Electoral Commission  
28 October 2024