

**NOTICE OF PARTY REGISTRATION DECISION
APPLICATION TO CHANGE PARTY NAME IN THE REGISTER OF
POLITICAL PARTIES APPROVED
TRUMPET OF PATRIOTS**

**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 name of Trumpet of Patriots (the Party) in the *Register of Political Parties* (the Register).
2. I am authorised to determine this application to change the name (the Application) in the Register 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 name: Australian Federation 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 11 November 2025;
 - 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 who are members of the Party;
 - set out the names and addresses of the applicants and particulars of the capacity in which each applicant makes the Application; and
 - was accompanied by a fee of \$500.
7. Accordingly, I am satisfied that the Application meets the requirements of ss 134(1)(b) and 134(2) of the Electoral Act.

Party name

8. The name, Australian Federation Party:
- **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.
 - **does not** contain a word that is in the name, or in the abbreviation of a name, of a registered political party that requires consent from an existing registered political party to use a word contained in the Party's name or abbreviation.
9. Under ss 129(5)(b) and 129(5)(c) of the Electoral Act, 'a collective noun for people' and 'the name of a country' do not require consent. Accordingly, 'Party' and 'Australia' do not require consent.
10. The word 'Federation' was not found to be in the name of any Registered political parties that were not related to the Party in accordance with s 129(2) and therefore does not require consent under s 129(5) of the Electoral Act.
11. Accordingly, I am satisfied on the materials before me that there is no basis to refuse the name under s 129 of the Electoral Act.

Legislative framework – written particulars

12. 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.
13. On 27 and 28 January 2026, 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 27 February 2026.

14. 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 name 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).
15. 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 27 January 2026; 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.
16. The following written particulars were received:

Written particulars from	Date received	Administrative requirements met	Grounds for objection under the Electoral Act
Trevor	28 January 2026	s 132(3)	s 129
Peter (1)	28 January 2026	s 132(3)	s 129
Ewen	1 February 2026	s 132(3)	s 129
Peter (2)	17 February 2026	s 132(3)	s 129

17. An extract of each of the objections state:
- 17.1. Trevor – *The logical abbreviation for that proposed name would be AFP. Such an abbreviation would cause unnecessary confusion with the Australian Federal Police, who have used that abbreviation for many years.*
- 17.2. Peter (1) – *The initials of the proposed revised party name (“AFP”) are the same as that of the Australian Federal Police. These initials are commonly used in print and electronic media when referring to the Australian Federal Police. My concern is that some in the community may be misled into believing that media statements by the Police are statements of the political party, essentially making Police statements into a political advertisement for the party.*
- 17.3. Ewen – *I wish to object to proposal of the Trumpet of Patriots proposed name of “Australian Federation Party”*

This new name is confusing as it appears remarkably similar to the "Australian Federation Party Victoria" which was often abbreviated as "Ausfeds Victoria" or "Federation Party". There appears to be little correlation between the Trumpet of Patriots and "Australian Federation Party Victoria". In fact did not the Ausfeds compete against the Trumpet of Patriots.

This request appears to fail the test of the COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL ACT 1918 - SECT 129 Part 1 (b), 3a (i) & (ii) and a few others.

The change of name appears to be clearly to confuse Australians (and especially Victorians) and attempt to confuse the process of voting. I humbly reqdo [sic] not grant this request

I wish to object to the proposal of the Trumpet of Patriots proposed name of "Australian Federation Party" on a further point that the acronym AFP that people may use is well known and generally used for the Australian Federal Police throughout Australia.

17.4. Peter (2) – *I write to ask the Australian Electoral Commission to reject Palmer's request to change the name of 'his' party - Trumpet of Patriots. The proposed name of Australian Federation Party is no more informative than Trumpet of Patriots' but indeed is misleading concerning its motives. It should fail under 'frivolous or vexatious' of section 129.*

18. On 26 February 2026, the Party provided a response to the AEC addressing each of the written particulars, with an extract of the response below:

18.1. *As you are aware, the name Australian Federation Party was the name of our party from 27 February 2020 until its change to Trumpet of Patriots on 3 December 2024. We are now returning our name to the previously approved and registered name Australian Federation Party.*

The application to change the name of our party back to Australian Federation Party, meets all requirements of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, No. 27, 1918, Compilation No. 79

- *section 129; and*
- *section 134*

There are no legal grounds listed in the [...] correspondence that outlines any contravention or grounds under either section to refuse the name change.

Delegate consideration of the written particulars and the Party's response

19. As a delegate of the Electoral Commission, I note that written particulars objecting to an application need to meet specific grounds under s 132 of the Electoral Act, and that the written particulars lodged by Trevor, Peter (1), Ewen and Peter (2) met the grounds to be considered.

20. The written particulars received from Trevor, Peter (1) and Ewen all refer to the initialism of Australian Federation Party being 'AFP', which is the same initialism of the Australian Federal Police.

21. As part of the Application, the Party is not seeking to register an abbreviation, and if the Party nominates candidates at an election, only the Party's name of 'Australian Federation Party' (and logo, if requested) will appear on the ballot paper alongside the candidate's name.
22. If, in its day-to-day business, the Party chooses to use the initialism of AFP, that is outside of my consideration when considering the Party's proposed name under the provisions of Part XI of the Electoral Act.
23. In the written particulars from Ewen, it is asserted that the new name, Australian Federation Party, is "confusing as it appears remarkably similar to the "Australian Federation Party Victoria" which was often abbreviated as "Ausfeds Victoria" or "Federation Party"."
24. When the Application was lodged with the AEC, an initial assessment was undertaken to determine if the Application met the requirements under Part XI of the Electoral Act to proceed to being advertised in accordance with s 132 of the Electoral Act. In making this assessment, the Party's proposed name, Australian Federation Party, was assessed against s 129 of the Electoral Act.
25. In relation to Ewen's written particulars and this Application, s 129(1)(c) of the Electoral Act provides that:
 - (1) The Electoral Commission shall refuse an application for the registration of a political party if, in its opinion, the name of the party or the abbreviation of its name that it wishes to be able to use for the purposes of this Act (if any):
 - (c) is the name, or is 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.
26. Section 129(2) of the Electoral Act defines a recognised political party as:
 - (a) a Parliamentary party; or
 - (b) a registered party; or
 - (c) registered or recognised for the purposes of the law of a State or a Territory relating to elections and that has endorsed a candidate, under the party's current name, in an election for the Parliament of the State
27. The federal Registers of each State and Territory were checked for the AEC to establish if any state registered parties are related to the Party. Only one party has a name similar to the Party, being Federation Party Northern Territory, registered with the Northern Territory Electoral Commission. However, Federation Party Northern Territory has not endorsed candidates in the past 5 years to satisfy s 129(2) of the Electoral Act, and therefore does not require consideration.
28. I note that in Ewen's written particulars he refers to a party named 'Australian Federation Party Victoria'. As this party is not registered with any State or Territory Electoral Commission, it does not require consideration in respect to s 129(1)(c) of the Electoral Act.

29. Ewen's written particulars also address s 129(3) of the Electoral Act, which deal with consent. Under this section, a party's name (and proposed abbreviation) will be refused if it contains a word that is in the registered name or abbreviation of a registered political party; and the party's application for registration is not accompanied by written consent from the registered officer of that previously registered political party to the applicant party.
30. In the context of the Application, 'Australian' and 'Party' do not require consent under ss 129(5)(c) and (b) of the Electoral Act, respectively. 'Federation' does not require consent as no federally registered party contains the word 'Federation' in its name [see points 9 and 10 above].
31. I have also considered the written particulars submitted by Peter (2), but I am of the opinion that 'Australian Federation Party' is in accordance with s 129(1)(b) of the Electoral Act, as the name is not frivolous or vexatious.
32. The Explanatory Memorandum to the *Electoral Legislation Amendment (Party Registration Integrity) Act 2021* [the legislation that introduced frivolous and vexatious as grounds to refuse a party's name or abbreviation], states at Point 7, under Schedule 1, that "frivolous or vexatious are to be given their ordinary meaning, and are intended to include party names or abbreviations that are nonsensical or are malicious in their application".
33. Having considered the written particulars from Trevor, Peter (1), Ewen and Peter (2) in the context of ss 129(1) and (3) of the Electoral Act, and the response from the Party in relation to these written particulars, I am of the opinion that they do not provide me with evidence to refuse the Party's proposed name under Part XI of the Electoral Act.

Procedural requirements of s 132 of the Electoral Act

34. All requirements listed in s 132(7) of the Electoral Act have been met, namely:
- the Electoral Commission has published notice of the application for registration (s 132(7)(a));
 - a period of at least one month has elapsed after the date of publication of a notice of the application on the Electoral Commission's website, being 27 January 2026 (s 132(7)(b));
 - where particulars were submitted under s 132(2)(b):
 - on 25 February 2026 notice was given to the Registered Officer of the Party and specified a time under ss 132(5)(a)-(b) in which to reply (s 132(7)(c)(i)); and
 - a reply to the particulars from the Registered Officer of the Party was received on 26 February 2026 (s 132(7)(c)(ii)); and
 - the Commission has considered those particulars and the reply to the particulars from the Party (s 132(7)(d)).

Summary

35. 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's name can be changed in the Register.

Approval of the Application

36. 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 name of Trumpet of Patriots in the Register.

Your review rights

37. 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.
38. Requests for review of this decision should be addressed to Mr Jeff Pope, 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?

39. 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.
40. 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?

41. The Electoral Commission, which is comprised of three members, the Australian Electoral Commissioner, a judicial member and a non-judicial member, conducts internal reviews.
42. Under s 141(4) of the Electoral Act, the Electoral Commission consider 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?

43. 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

44. 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.
45. Should you have any queries about party registration, please contact the AEC on 02 6271 4552, visit www.aec.gov.au or email fad@aec.gov.au.

(signed)

Stuart Oreo
A/g Assistant Commissioner
Delegate of the Electoral Commission

16 March 2026