

**NOTICE OF PARTY REGISTRATION DECISION
APPLICATION TO CHANGE AN ABBREVIATION IN THE REGISTER
OF POLITICAL PARTIES APPROVED
THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS - VICTORIA**

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

I am writing in accordance with subsection 134(6) of the Electoral Act to notify you of the determination of the application by The Australian Greens - Victoria (the Party) to change its abbreviation of its name in the *Register of Political Parties* (the Register).

I am authorised to determine this application under section 134 of the Electoral Act as a delegate of the Electoral Commission.

Decision

I have determined that the application by the Party to change its abbreviation in the Register should be approved under subsection 134(6) of the Electoral Act.

Reasons for Decision

I have decided to approve the application by the Party to change its abbreviation of its name in the Register from The Greens (VIC) to The Greens. Consequently, the abbreviation The Greens was entered in the Register.

Materials I have taken into account

In making my decision, I have had regard to:

- the application by the Party to change its abbreviation in the Register received by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) on 29 August 2019;
- Part XI of the Electoral Act;
- the Register and the Register of Political Parties of each Australian state and territory; and
- the AEC *Party Registration Guide*.

Findings of fact

Party abbreviation

The proposed abbreviation The Greens:

- does not comprise more than 6 words;
- is not obscene;
- 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, 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 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 a recognised political party that the matter is likely to be confused with or mistaken for that name or that abbreviation or acronym.

Accordingly, on the basis of the materials before me, I am satisfied that the proposed abbreviation of the name of the Party meets the requirements of section 129 of the Electoral Act.

Other procedural application requirements

I am satisfied that the application by the Party to change its abbreviation meets the requirements of paragraph 134(1)(a) and subsection 134(2) of the Electoral Act for a Parliamentary party. The application:

- was in writing, signed by the Secretary of the Party;
- set out the name and address of the applicant and particulars of the capacity in which the applicant made the application; and
- was accompanied by \$500.

On 20 September 2019, I determined that the application had passed the initial assessment and approved the advertisement of the application under paragraph 132(1)(c) of the Electoral Act. A notice of the application was advertised on the AEC website and in 10 major newspapers on 30 September 2019. The closing date for objections was 30 October 2019. No written particulars objecting to the application were received.

For the reasons outlined above, I approve the application from the Party to change its abbreviation in the Register, as a delegate for the purposes of Part XI of the Electoral Act.

Review rights

Under subsection 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.

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?

In accordance with subsections 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.

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?

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

If an internal review decision has been made by the Electoral Commission a person whose interests are affected, and who is dissatisfied with the decision made by the Electoral Commission, may apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) for an external merits review of the decision. More information on how to apply to the AAT and any applicable fees can be found on its website: www.aat.gov.au/applying-for-a-review/how-to-apply.

Freedom of Information

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.

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
Acting Assistant Commissioner
Delegate of the Electoral Commission

6 November 2019