



Trumpet of Patriots

MEDIA RELEASE

28 November 2024

Is the Australian Electoral Commission Playing Politics?

Unexplained Delays in Party Name Change Spark Serious Concerns

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Has the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) been compromised?

The Australian Federation Party, a registered political entity, applied on 27 August 2024 to change its name to Trumpet of Patriots. While the process should have been finalised weeks ago under the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, unexplained delays by the AEC threaten to block the party's new branding from appearing in the next federal election.

Why the Delay?

Despite meeting all requirements and addressing objections promptly, the AEC has yet to make a decision six weeks after the public consideration period closed on 16 October 2024. The excuses offered - "complexity of objections" and "delegate availability"—strain credibility for what should be a routine administrative process.

This delay raises serious questions:

- Is political interference influencing the AEC's decision-making?
- Why has a straightforward name change become so protracted, particularly as Australia braces for a possible federal election?

The Objections

Two objections were filed against the name change, both identical in wording. The objections claimed that "Trumpet of Patriots" was:

1. Obscene, frivolous, or vexatious.
2. Linked to anti-democratic events in Washington on 6 January 2021.

In response, the Australian Federation Party provided a comprehensive rebuttal on 16 October 2024, noting that the AEC itself had previously ruled in 2022 that the name "Trumpet of Patriots":

- Is not obscene, frivolous, or vexatious.

Despite this precedent and no evidence to the contrary, the AEC has failed to finalise the name change application.

History of AEC Challenges

This is not the first time the AEC has protracted an application for the name 'Trumpet of Patriots'.

In 2022, a previous application for "Trumpet of Patriots" was delayed for over two years—not because of the name but due to significant administrative failures. These included a critical gazette error by the AEC, which ultimately forced the application to be withdrawn when it became evident that the process was being stalled indefinitely.

The attached document quotes the AEC's prior ruling:

16. The Party name, Trumpet of Patriots and abbreviation T.O.P.:

- *are not obscene, frivolous, or vexatious;*

17. Accordingly, I am satisfied on the materials before me that there is no basis to refuse the name and abbreviation under s 129 of the Electoral Act."

What's at Stake?

Speculation of an election is mounting, with over 70 pieces of legislation being pushed through Parliament this week. If writs are issued before the AEC finalises the name change, the Trumpet of Patriots may be forced to contest under its old name, impacting voter recognition and campaign momentum.

Does the timing of this delay—on the brink of an election—raise the spectre of political interference within Australia's electoral machinery?

A Call for Transparency

This is a critical moment for democracy in Australia. Delays like these undermine public confidence in the AEC's impartiality and threaten the principles of fair and transparent elections.

We call on the media, public, and parliamentary representatives to demand accountability and answers from the AEC.

For further comment and Media interviews, contact:

Media Contact:

Matilda Bawden

Secretary, Trumpet of Patriots

 02 6000 1911

 secretary@trumpetofpatriots.com.au

Attachments:

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Timeframe for Processing an Application

Timeframe for processing an application

The AEC's objective is to process party registration applications in a timely manner. Applications to change the Register are expected to take a **minimum of nine weeks** to process. The stages of assessment being:

Initial Assessment	expected to take a minimum of two weeks
Initial consideration and advertising	expected to take a minimum of two weeks
Public consideration period	a minimum of one month*
Final assessment	a minimum of one week**

*Timeframe prescribed under s 132 of the Electoral Act.

**Should written particulars be received objecting to an application, the final assessment timeframe is expected to be longer than one week.

Initial assessment

The Electoral Commission assesses the Application in line with the requirements set out under Part XI of the Electoral Act.

Delegate consideration and advertisement of an application

Subject to the relevant requirements being met, an authorised officer (and delegate) of the Electoral Commission will determine whether the Application should be approved for advertising. If the Application is approved by the authorised officer, the AEC can proceed to publish a notice of the Application on its website and in newspapers circulating generally in each state and territory. The AEC will notify you if the Application is to be advertised.

Application to change Register of Political Parties



Completing this form

- This form should be used by a registered party to notify a change to the *Register of Political Parties* in regard to the party's name, abbreviation, registered logo or election funding.
- If the party wishes to change the registered officer's details, please use the separate form available for this purpose.
- An application from a **non-Parliamentary party** to change the Register must be made by the secretary and two other members. Each signatory must state the capacity in which they are making the application (President, Treasurer, party member, etc.).
- An application from a **Parliamentary party** to change the Register may be made by the party secretary or by all the Federal parliamentary members of the party. Each signatory must state the capacity in which they are making the application (Senator, MHR, Secretary).
- Further information is provided in the [Guide for maintaining party registration](#) available at www.aec.gov.au.
- This form is to be completed with reference to the *Guide for maintaining party registration*.
- This application form must be accompanied by an application fee of \$500. A change to the election funding statement or adding / retaining / changing / removing a logo does not require an application fee.

Note: If seeking approval for a party logo, it must be submitted in the correct format detailed in the *Commonwealth Electoral (Logo Requirements) Determination 2016* by email to fad@aec.gov.au.

Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

Name of Political Party

Australian Federation Party

Changes Sought

Complete only the sections below where a change is being sought.

Changed name of
political party

Trumpet of Patriots

Changed abbreviation
of political party

Remove current and only full party name to be used

Political party logo

Does the party wish to: (circle one)

1. **ADD** a logo
2. **RETAIN** the party's current logo
3. **CHANGE** the party's current logo
4. **REMOVE** the party's current logo

Change the option to
receive election funding

Does the party wish to receive election funding? (circle one)

YES NO

**Enquiries and form
should be completed and
returned to:**

Email: fad@aec.gov.au
Phone: 02 6271 4552
Fax: 02 6293 7655

Funding and Disclosure
Australian Electoral Commission
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601

3. Trumpet of Patriots Name Change Confirmation Emails-AEC 27-08-2024

Glenn O'Rourke - Federal Chairman

From: FAD <FAD@aec.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 August 2024 2:58 PM
To: Glenn O'Rourke - Federal Chairman
Cc: FAD
Subject: RE: Application to change the Register of Political Parties - Australian Federation Party [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Mr O'Rourke

Thank you for the confirmation, the AEC will assess the application to change the Register under s 129 of the Electoral Act to change the name, remove the abbreviation as follows:

Current Entry in the Register

Name of Party: **Australian Federation Party**
Registered Abbreviation: **Federation Party**



Party Logo:

Proposed changes

Proposed Name of Party: **Trumpet of Patriots**
Registered Abbreviation: **removed**
Party Logo: **no change**

Kind regards
Maria

Party Registration Team

Party Registration and Redistribution | Disclosure, Party Registration and Redistribution Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (02) 6271 4552



From: Glenn O'Rourke - Federal Chairman <glenn.orourke@ausfedparty.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 1:40 PM
To: FAD <FAD@aec.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Application to change the Register of Political Parties - Australian Federation Party [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Maria,

I can confirm that the name change is for the name only, abbreviation is be removed as we will only use the full name and we will continue with the current logo.

Is there still a need to submit a new form with the change details?

Sincerely,

Glenn O'Rourke GDipMngt MBA

National Director
Federal Registered Officer
National Party Agent
Federal Chairman

Phone: 1300 2 UNITE (86483)

Email: glenn.orourke@ausfedparty.com.au

Web: www.ausfedparty.com.au

FBFed: www.facebook.com/AusFedParty/



From: FAD <FAD@aec.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 August 2024 12:19 PM

To: Glenn O'Rourke - Federal Chairman <glenn.orourke@ausfedparty.com.au>

Cc: fedexecutive@ausfedparty.com.au; FAD <FAD@aec.gov.au>

Subject: Application to change the Register of Political Parties - Australian Federation Party [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Mr O'Rourke

The AEC acknowledges receipt of the attached documentation regarding the change of name application for Australian Federation Party (the Party). The AEC notes that only a name change is requested - can you please confirm if the Party wishes to change/retain/remove the current abbreviation, which is **Federation Party**, or the current logo? For abundance of clarity, the application form to provide the relevant details for this application can be found on the AEC website:

[Application to Change the Register of Political Parties](#)

Please consult the [Guide for maintaining party registration](#) and the [Guide for registering a party](#) with respect to the assessment of names, abbreviations and logos.

Kind regards

Maria

Party Registration Team

Party Registration and Redistribution | Disclosure, Party Registration and Redistribution Branch
Australian Electoral Commission

T: (02) 6271 4552



Delivering democracy
40 years of electoral integrity aec.gov.au



4. AEC Confirmation of Advertising Name Change Application-BHAFH6 13-09-2024



Our ref: BHAFH6

Mr Glenn O'Rourke
Registered Officer
Australian Federation Party
PO Box 90
MORPHETT VALE SA 5162

Dear Mr O'Rourke

Notification of advertisement of proposed change to the *Register of Political Parties* (the Register) under section 132(1) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) – Australian Federation Party

I refer to the application from Australian Federation Party (the Party) to change the Party's name and remove the abbreviation (the Application) in the Register under the provisions of Part XI of the Electoral Act, lodged with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) on 19 May 2023 and 27 August 2024.

The AEC has completed its initial consideration of the Application and in my capacity as authorised officer, and delegate of the Electoral Commission, I have approved publication of a notice of the Application. The notice will be published on the AEC website and in a newspaper circulating nationally on 16 September 2024 for the one-month objection period to commence on 17 September 2024. A copy of the proposed notice is enclosed for your information.

Under s 132(2)(b) of the Electoral Act any person or organisation may submit written particulars objecting to the application to the AEC within one month after the date of the publication of the notice on the AEC's website. Objections to the application must be made on the basis that:

- i. the application should be refused under s 129 of the Electoral Act; or
- ii. the Application is not in accordance with s 134 of the Electoral Act.

The period for submitting written particulars objecting to the Application expires on **16 October 2024**.

In the event that objections are received on or before 16 October 2024 addressing the criteria set out under s 132(2)(b) of the Electoral Act, the AEC must, under s 132(5) give a copy of the written objection to the Registered Officer of the Party and invite the Registered Officer to submit a reply to the particulars to the AEC within the time specified in the notice. The AEC will then consider both the written particulars of the objection and any reply submitted by the Registered Officer before deciding whether to approve or refuse the Application. In the event the AEC decides to refuse the application the applicants may seek a review of the decision.

If the AEC does not receive any written submissions objecting to the Application by 16 October 2024, this being the end of the one-month period, it will proceed to change the Register by changing the name and removing the abbreviation of the Party as specified in the Application.

If you have any further queries regarding this matter, please contact the AEC on 02 6271 4552 or email fad@aec.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Reid', written in a cursive style.

Joanne Reid
Assistant Commissioner
Delegate of the Electoral Commission

13 September 2024

5. AEC Notice of Objections Letter-BIUTT6 15-10-2024



Our ref: BIUTT6

Mr Glenn O'Rourke
Registered Officer
Australian Federation Party
PO Box 90
MORPHETT VALE SA 5162

Dear Mr O'Rourke

Notification of objections lodged under s 132(2)(b) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (Electoral Act)* - Australian Federation Party

I refer to the application lodged with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) by Australian Federation Party (the Party) to change the name and remove the abbreviation under Part XI of the Electoral Act. I also refer to my letter of 13 September 2024 advising that the Party's application was to be published in notices on the AEC website and in major newspapers in all Australian States and Territories.

I also advised you that should any relevant objections be received in response to the notices, under s 132(5) of the Electoral Act, a copy of all of the particulars would be provided to the Registered Officer of the Party inviting them to respond.

In accordance with subsection 132(5) of the Electoral Act, I attach redacted copies of two objections received and invite you to submit a written response by 25 October 2024. A copy of the Party's response will be redacted and published on the AEC website. Your response should be emailed to fad@aec.gov.au.

Should you not provide a response by 25 October 2024, a delegate of the Electoral Commission will proceed to determine the matter.

If you have any further queries regarding this matter, contact the AEC on 02 6271 4552 or email fad@aec.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Reid', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Joanne Reid
Assistant Commissioner
Disclosure, Party Registration and Redistribution Branch

15 October 2024

6. Objection-1 Australian Federation Party Sue 1-October-2024_Redacted (A5122229)

From: Sue [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 October 2024 9:34 AM
To: FAD
Subject: Objection to proposed name:Trumpet of Patriots

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To the officer in charge AEC,

I wish to lodge an objection to the application for name change from **Australian Federation Party** to **Trumpet of Patriots**.

My objection is based on the Electoral Act Section 129 1(b), namely that the proposed name:

is obscene, frivolous or vexatious.

The proposed name has deliberate resonance with anti-democratic events in Washington on 6th January 2021 when so-called patriots and Proud Boys violently stormed government premises in support of a failed candidate called Trump.

The proposed name also carries the vexatious implication that other parties in our electoral system are not patriotic.

As required by your website "Method of Lodging an Objection", I supply the following details:

Name: Susan [REDACTED]

Street address: [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

Sue [REDACTED]

7. Australian Federation Party Objections Response 16-October 2024_Redacted

From: Glenn O'Rourke - Federal Chairman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 October 2024 11:16 PM
To: FAD
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to Objections
Attachments: Letter to AEC in response to TOP Name Change Application 15-10-2024.pdf

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Dear FAD,

I have attached a response to both identical objections lodged on 1 October 2024

Sincerely,

Glenn O'Rourke GDipMngt MBA

National Director
Federal Registered Officer
National Party Agent
Federal Chairman

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Web: [REDACTED]

FBFed: [REDACTED]



15 October 2024

Joanne Reid

Assistant Commissioner
Disclosure, Party Registration and Redistribution Branch
Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601

Subject: Formal Request for Dismissal of Objections Under s 132(2)(b) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (Electoral Act)

Dear Ms. Reid,

I write in response to the objections lodged regarding the Australian Federation Party's proposed name change to "Trumpet of Patriots". As detailed below, the objections lack merit and fall well short of the legal threshold required under the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, **Section 129(1)(b)**.

Further, I respectfully assert that the objections themselves meet the definition of "vexatious" as outlined by the Act, being unfounded, speculative, and without substantive evidence. I hereby formally request that the AEC dismiss these objections without further consideration, as they fail to meet the established legal standards under s 129.

Summary of Key Arguments

- 1. The objections lack merit and fail to meet the evidential standards required under Section 129 of the Act.**
- 2. The objections are, by definition, vexatious, given their reliance on speculative and immaterial associations.**
- 3. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has previously confirmed that "Trumpet of Patriots" meets the requirements of Section 129, as reflected in its Statement of Reasons dated 10 November 2022.**
- 4. The objections are unsupported by factual, legal, or procedural relevance to Australian political discourse.**

1. Misapplication of s 129(1)(b) - Frivolous or Vexatious

The objectors cite **s 129(1)(b)** of the Electoral Act, alleging that the proposed name "Trumpet of Patriots" is "obscene, frivolous, or vexatious." However, this contention is unfounded.

The term "Trumpet of Patriots" contains no language that could be deemed obscene, nor does it invoke any illegal, lewd, or morally objectionable implications.

Rather, it is an aspirational title embodying values of patriotism and civic pride – ideals widely celebrated within Australian political discourse and fundamental to Australian democratic principles.

Australian Federation Party

The term "**vexatious**", as applied under **s 129 of the Act**, refers to actions intended to cause inconvenience or waste resources without legitimate basis. Given that the objections rely solely on speculative associations and unfounded concerns about "resonance" with unrelated international events, these submissions qualify as vexatious under the intended legal standards.

2. Alleged Collusion Between Objectors

The existence of two nearly identical objections submitted simultaneously further supports that the objections are vexatious. Identical or coordinated complaints suggest collusion, which may be seen as an orchestrated attempt to thwart a legitimate political process, rather than a bona fide expression of concern from independent parties.

This coordination further underscores the vexatious nature of the objections, as it demonstrates an intent to obstruct the application using baseless and repetitive complaints, rather than presenting a legitimate concern.

3. Failure to Demonstrate How the Name Is Frivolous or Obscene

The objections rest on a speculative and irrelevant interpretation of the name "Trumpet of Patriots," alleging links to events from January 6, 2021, in Washington, DC.

This is legally and factually unsound. The Act mandates that objections must provide evidence that a proposed name breaches moral or legal standards, and there is no legal basis to link our proposed name to a foreign incident. Such a tenuous connection fails to satisfy the legal standard set out by the Act.

If objections could be upheld based solely on subjective sentiments or hypothetical inferences, then widely accepted party names, including the Australian Labor Party and Liberal Party of Australia, could similarly be challenged on frivolous grounds.

Allowing these objections to succeed would set a concerning precedent for subjective interpretation, eroding the impartiality guaranteed under the Electoral Act and threatening political diversity in Australia.

As the AEC has consistently upheld, objections must rest on substantive grounds; speculative complaints lack merit in the context of Australian law.

4. Previous Findings by the AEC

I draw your attention to the AEC's comprehensive review, as stated in the AEC's Statement of Reasons dated 10 November 2022, signed by you, confirming the proposed name "Trumpet of Patriots" as fully compliant with **Section 129** of the Electoral Act. The findings included the following:

- The name does not exceed six words.
- It is not obscene, frivolous, or vexatious.
- It does not resemble the name of any existing political party in a way that would create confusion.
- It does not suggest a connection with another registered party.
- It does not contain any words requiring consent from another registered political party.

You concluded your assessment of the name Trumpet of Patriots with the following statement.

“Accordingly, I am satisfied on the materials before me that there is no basis to refuse the name and abbreviation under s 129 of the Electoral Act.”

The AEC explicitly determined that there was "no basis to refuse the name" under Section 129, affirming that it aligns with both the legal and ethical standards expected of political party names in Australia. For further reference, see the AEC's Statement of Reasons:

https://www.aec.gov.au/Parties_and_Representatives/Party_Registration/Registration_Decision_s/2022/statement-of-reasons-trumpet-of-patriots.pdf.

5. Upholding Impartiality in Party Naming Standards

Political expression, including party naming, is a fundamental part of a democratic system, as recognised by the Electoral Act. The title "**Trumpet of Patriots**" encapsulates a sense of civic duty and national pride, common in the nomenclature of political parties globally and in Australia.

Allowing subjective and speculative claims to influence party registration would introduce unpredictability into the application process, potentially opening the door to similar challenges against other aspirational or patriotic party names, and discouraging political parties from choosing names that reflect widely accepted values.

The objections should not be permitted to undermine this core principle with speculative and unsubstantiated claims, especially given that the AEC itself has approved this name as fully compliant under Section 129.

We expect **impartiality and consistency** in applying the standards of the Act, especially in maintaining the integrity of names used by registered political entities.

6. Lack of Transparency in Anonymous Objections and Potential Conflict of Interest

The Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 does not explicitly provide for anonymity in objections to political party name registrations. **Section 132**, which addresses the objections process, does not include a provision allowing anonymity in lodging objections.

It is standard practice that objections to matters of public interest, such as party registration, should be lodged transparently, requiring identifying details to ensure legitimacy and accountability.

If the AEC has elected to redact personal particulars of objectors, it could raise a **potential conflict of interest**.

The transparency required by the Act aims to ensure that objections are lodged in good faith and that the process remains free of undue influence.

Accepting or redacting anonymous objections may create a perception of bias or favouritism and undermine confidence in the impartiality of the AEC.

Therefore, the acceptance of anonymous objections or the deliberate redacting of objections that appear duplicitous or vexatious by nature could be seen as election interference if this process unnecessarily delays our name change application ahead of an election.

The transparency mandated by the Act should be preserved to protect against baseless or politically motivated challenges.

Conclusion

In light of these points, I respectfully and formally request that the AEC summarily dismiss these vexatious objections without further consideration.

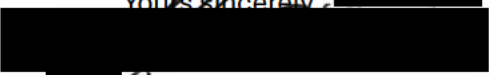
The objections lack legal merit, contravene the standards intended by Section 129, and should not delay the processing of our legitimate application.

As such, there is **no basis for the AEC to entertain further consideration of these objections.**

The proposed name change to "**Trumpet of Patriots**" fully complies with the Commonwealth Electoral Act, reflecting values aligned with Australian democratic principles.

The Australian Federation Party remains committed to upholding the principles enshrined in the Electoral Act, and we are confident in the AEC's impartial judgment to grant approval.

Yours sincerely,


Glenn O'Rourke
Registered Officer
Australian Federation Party

7a. Refused Statement of reasons Trumpet of Patriots 10-11-2022

NOTICE OF DECISION ON PARTY REGISTRATION APPLICATION TO REGISTER A NON-PARLIAMENTARY PARTY IN THE REGISTER OF POLITICAL PARTIES REFUSED TRUMPET OF PATRIOTS

Notice of decision under s 133(3) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) and Statement of Reasons

1. I am writing in accordance with s 133(3) of the Electoral Act to notify you of the determination of the application to register Trumpet of Patriots (the Party) as a non-Parliamentary party in the *Register of Political Parties* (the Register).
2. I am authorised to determine this application for party registration under s 133 of the Electoral Act as a delegate of the Electoral Commission.
3. On 23 December 2021, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) received the application to register the Party as a non-Parliamentary party (the Application) under s 126(1)(b) of the Electoral Act.
4. Processing of the application was suspended from 11 April 2022 until 23 June 2022 under s 127 of the Electoral Act due to the issue of writs for the 2022 federal election
5. On 31 August 2022, the AEC issued a notice in accordance with s 131(1) of the Electoral Act. The s 131 notice stated that the Party's membership list did not satisfy the legislative requirement of 'at least 1,500 members'. Furthermore, the Applicants were required to respond on or before 1 November 2022 in the following terms:
 - vary the Application, in relation to the membership list in a manner that meets the legislative requirements of s 123(a)(ii) of the Electoral Act;
 - proceed with the Application in the form in which it was lodged; or
 - withdraw the Application
6. As of 10 November 2022, no response has been received by the AEC.
7. Accordingly, my determination is based on the Application, as lodged on 23 December 2021.

Decision

8. I have determined that the application to register the Party as a non-Parliamentary party in the *Register of Political Parties* should be refused.

Materials I have taken into account

9. In making this decision, I had regard to:
 - the Application, received by the AEC on 23 December 2021;
 - Part XI of the Electoral Act;
 - Section 4 of the Electoral Act;
 - the *Commonwealth Electoral (Logo Requirements) Determination 2016* (the Determination);
 - internet searches of trademarked and licenced logos undertaken by a service provider engaged by the AEC;
 - the Register and the Register of Political Parties of each Australian State and Territory; and

- the AEC's *Guide for registering a party*.

Findings of Fact and Consideration

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

Procedural application requirements

11. I am satisfied that the Application met the following requirements of s 126 of the Electoral Act.

12. The Application:

- was in writing, signed by the applicants (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 names and addresses of the applicants and particulars of the capacity in which each applicant makes the Application (s 126(2)(e));
- was accompanied by a copy of the constitution of the Party (s 126(2)(f)); and
- was accompanied by a fee of \$500 (s 126(2)(g)).

Party constitution

13. 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.

14. 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

15. When undertaking an initial assessment of the Application, I considered the Party's proposed name against the requirements of s 129 of the Electoral Act, and reviewed the Register and the registers for each State and Territory for parties with a similar name, abbreviation or acronym.

16. The Party name, Trumpet of Patriots and abbreviation T.O.P.:

- do not comprise more than 6 words;
- are not obscene, frivolous or vexatious;
- are 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;
- do 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;

- are not one that a reasonable person would think suggests a connection or relationship exists between the Party and a registered party;
- do not comprise the words “Independent Party”;
- do 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.
- do not 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.

17. Accordingly, I am satisfied on the materials before me that there is no basis to refuse the name and abbreviation under s 129 of the Electoral Act.

Party logo

18. 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 not contain a word that is in the name, or the abbreviation of the name, of a registered political party and therefore does not require consent from an existing registered political party;
- 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*.

19. Accordingly, on the basis of the materials before me, I am satisfied that the proposed logo submitted with the Application meets the requirements of s 126(2AA) of the Electoral Act and the specifications described in *Commonwealth Electoral (Logo Requirements) Determination 2016* and that there is no basis to refuse to enter the Party's logo in the Register under s 129A of the Electoral Act.

Membership list

20. The membership list submitted for the Application supplied on 3 March 2022, contained 1,566 names of people that the Party considers to be current members (referred to as 'members' below). AEC staff cross-checked this membership list with the Commonwealth Electoral Roll ('electoral roll'), as required by the meaning of 'member of a political party' in s 123(3) of the Electoral Act.

Submitted membership list	1,556
Automatically matched to the electoral roll	1,256
Manually matched to the electoral roll	220
Unable to match or not enrolled on the electoral roll	(80)
Deceased	(0)
Total	1,476

21. Of the 1,476 members matched to the electoral roll the following were identified as duplicates within the membership list or as duplicate members who have previously supported the registration of a registered political party (or parties):

Total matched to the electoral roll	1,476
Under 18 years old	(0)
Duplicates identified in the membership list provided by the Party	(1)
Members identified as also supporting the registration of another party	(12)
Total	1,463

22. Further testing (i.e. generation of a random sample and membership testing) was not conducted as the membership list did not have 'at least 1,500 members'.
23. Accordingly, I am not satisfied that the Application meets the requirements of s 126(2)(ca) of the Electoral Act as it does not include a list of the names of the 1,500 members of the Party to be relied on for the purposes of registration.

Conclusion

24. For the reasons outlined above, I refuse the application from Trumpet of Patriots 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(1)(b) of the Electoral Act, my decision to refuse an application for registration of a political party is a reviewable decision.
26. 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.

27. 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?

28. 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.
29. 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?

30. The Electoral Commission, which is comprised of three members, the Electoral Commissioner, a judicial member and a non-judicial member, conducts internal reviews.
31. 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?

32. 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

33. 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.
34. 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
10 November 2022

8. AEC-Confirmation of Objection Response 17-10-2024

Glenn O'Rourke - Federal Chairman

From: FAD <FAD@aec.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 October 2024 1:44 PM
To: Glenn O'Rourke - Federal Chairman
Cc: tony.geitenbeek@ausfedparty.com.au; FAD
Subject: RE: Response to Objections - Australian Federation Party [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good afternoon Mr O'Rourke

Thank you for your email of 16 October 2024. Please be advised that a redacted version of your response to the objections has been published on the AEC website and can be found at: [Current party applications and notices - Australian Electoral Commission \(aec.gov.au\)](#)

Regards
Maria

Party Registration Team

Party Registration and Redistribution | Disclosure, Party Registration and Redistribution Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (02) 6271 4552



From: Glenn O'Rourke - Federal Chairman <glenn.orourke@ausfedparty.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 16 October 2024 11:16 PM
To: FAD <FAD@aec.gov.au>
Cc: tony.geitenbeek@ausfedparty.com.au
Subject: Response to Objections

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear FAD,

I have attached a response to both identical objections lodged on 1 October 2024

Sincerely,

Glenn O'Rourke GDipMngt MBA

National Director
Federal Registered Officer
National Party Agent
Federal Chairman

Phone: 1300 2 UNITE (86483)

Email: glenn.orourke@ausfedparty.com.au

Web: www.ausfedparty.com.au

FBFed: www.facebook.com/AusFedParty/



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