

Our Reference: [REDACTED]

Mr Sanjeev Sabhlok
Proposed Secretary
Australia's Representatives
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Sabhlok

Application for registration under s 126 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Electoral Act) - Australia's Representatives

On 15 June 2021 the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) received all the requirements for an application to register Australia's Representatives (the Party) as a non-Parliamentary party under s 126 of the Electoral Act. A receipt for the application fee of \$500 is enclosed. The purpose of this letter is to outline the process for determining the application.

Timeframe for processing an application

The AEC's objective is to process party registration applications in a timely manner.

Applications to register a non-Parliamentary party are expected to take a **minimum of twelve weeks** to process. The stages of assessment being:

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| Initial Assessment | expected to take a minimum of five 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.

Initial consideration and advertisement of an application

Subject to the relevant requirements being met, an authorised officer 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 your application is to be advertised.

Public consideration period

Section 132 of the Electoral Act outlines the procedure for dealing with an application. This includes providing an opportunity for any person or organisation to submit written particulars to the Electoral Commission objecting to an application within one month after the date of the publication of the notice on the AEC website. Objections to this application must be made on the basis that:

- the application does not relate to an eligible political party; or
- the application is not in accordance with s 126 of the Electoral Act (including because s 126(2B) would be contravened); or
- the application should be refused under s 129 of the Electoral Act; or
- the Electoral Commission should refuse to enter a logo of the party in the Register under s 129A of the Electoral Act.

Final assessment

A delegate of the Electoral Commission will determine if the application should be approved or refused. If written particulars objecting to the application are received by the Electoral Commission, and the Registered Officer of the Party is invited by the Electoral Commission to submit a reply to the written particulars, this may increase the time it takes to process the application.

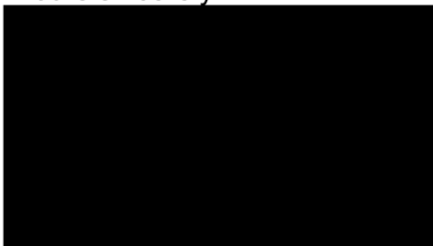
The Party will be notified of the decision made by the delegate of the Electoral Commission and a notice of the decision and Statement of Reasons will be published on the AEC's website. The delegate's decision will be a reviewable decision as defined under s 141(1) of the Electoral Act.

Deficiencies in an application

Should the AEC advise the Party of any administrative deficiencies in its application, or a delegate of the Electoral Commission issues a notice to the Party under s 131 of the Electoral Act advising they are of the opinion that the application would be refused in its current form, the application will be set aside. Should the AEC receive a response from the Party, either addressing administrative deficiencies or in response to a s 131 notice, it will be treated as a new application.

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

Yours sincerely



Parliamentary Engagement and Party Registration

24 June 2021