

**NOTICE OF PARTY REGISTRATION DECISION
APPLICATION TO REGISTER A NON-PARLIAMENTARY PARTY IN
THE REGISTER OF POLITICAL PARTIES - APPROVED**

THE TOGETHER PARTY


Notice of decision under subsection 133(1A) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Electoral Act) and Statement of Reasons

I am writing in accordance with subsection 133(1A) of the Electoral Act to notify you of the determination of the application to register The Together Party (the Party) as a non-Parliamentary party in the *Register of Political Parties* (the Register).

I am authorised to determine this application for party registration under Part XI of the Electoral Act as a delegate of the Electoral Commission.

Decision

I have decided to approve the application for registration. Consequently, I have entered the following Party in the Register.

Name of party:	The Together Party
Abbreviation of name:	Together.
Logo:	
Registered Officer:	Belinda Kinhead
Registered Officer's address:	12/7 Grevillea Street BYRON BAY NSW 2481
Does party seek election funding:	YES

Materials I have taken into account

In making this decision, I had regard to:

- the application to register as a non-Parliamentary party received by the AEC on 21 December 2018;
- the results of the testing of the Party's membership list conducted by the AEC in accordance with the sampling methodology developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS);
- Part XI of the Electoral Act;
- the *Commonwealth Electoral (Logo Requirements) Determination 2016*;
- internet searches of trademarked and licenced logos undertaken by a service provider engaged by the AEC;
- the Register of Political Parties of each Australian state and territory; and
- the AEC's *Party Registration Guide*.

Findings of Fact

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

Party name and abbreviation

The Party name The Together Party and the abbreviation of the name Together.:

- do not comprise more than 6 words;
- are not obscene;
- 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, 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;
- does not comprise the words “Independent Party”;
- do not contain the word “Independent”, or 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, I am satisfied on the materials before me that there is no basis to refuse the application for registration from The Together Party under section 129 of the Electoral Act.

Membership list

The membership list submitted by the Party contained 550 members. AEC staff cross-checked this membership list with the Commonwealth Electoral Roll (the Roll), as required by subsection 123(3) of the Electoral Act.

These searches identified that:

- 10 of the 550 submitted members were unable to be matched to the Roll;
- No members were duplicated within the membership list; and
- Three members were supporting the registration of other political parties.

In accordance with the random sampling formula provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, a list of 537 members requires a random sample of 44 contactable members to confirm they are members of the Party, with up to five denials of membership, in order for me to have statistical confidence that the Party has 500 members.

The AEC attempted to contact 46 members, as some were unable to be contacted or provided a neutral response. Of the responses received, 43 members confirmed their membership, while one person denied membership of the Party.

Accordingly, I am satisfied the Party meets the requirements of paragraph 126(2)(ca) of the Electoral Act.

Party constitution

A copy of the constitution of the Party accompanied the application as required by paragraph 126(2)(f) of the Electoral Act. The constitution provided in the application for registration:

- is in writing; and
- sets out the aims of the Party, at least one of which being promoting the election of its candidates to the Senate and/or House of Representatives.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that the Party's constitution meets the requirements of having a written constitution set out in the definition of *eligible political party* at subsection 123(1) of the Electoral Act, and in accordance with the definition of *political party* at section 4 of the Electoral Act.

Other procedural application requirements

I am satisfied that the application for party registration meets the requirements of paragraphs 126(2)(c), 126(2)(d), 126(2)(e) and 126(2)(g) of the Electoral Act. The application for registration as a political party:

- was in writing, signed by the secretary of the Party and by the registered officer of the Party;
- 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;
- advised whether the Party wishes to receive moneys under Division 3 of Part XX of the Electoral Act;
- set out the name and address of the applicant and particulars of the capacity in which each applicant makes the application; and
- was accompanied by a fee of \$500.

On 20 February 2019, a delegate of the Electoral Commission 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 26 February 2019. The closing date for objections was 26 March 2019. No objections to the application were received.

For the reasons outlined above, I approve the application from The Together Party for registration as a non-Parliamentary party in the Register, as a delegate for the purposes of Part XI of the Electoral Act.

Your 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 by post 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 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?

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 further queries regarding party registration, please contact the AEC on 02 6271 4552, visit www.aec.gov.au or email fad@aec.gov.au.

(signed)

Gabrielle Paten
Assistant Commissioner
Delegate of the Electoral Commission

4 April 2019