

**NOTICE OF PARTY REGISTRATION DECISION  
APPLICATION TO REGISTER A PARTY IN THE REGISTER OF  
POLITICAL PARTIES APPROVED  
DREW PAVLOU DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE**

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

1. I am writing in accordance with s 133(1) of the Electoral Act to notify you of the determination of the application to register Drew Pavlou Democratic Alliance ('the Party'), a non-Parliamentary party, in the *Register of Political Parties* ('the Register').
2. I am authorised to determine this application for party registration ('the Application') under Part XI of the Electoral Act as a delegate of the Electoral Commission.

**Decision**

3. I have decided to approve the Application. Consequently, I have entered the following Party in the Register:

Name of party:	<b>Drew Pavlou Democratic Alliance</b>
Party abbreviation:	<b>Democratic Alliance</b>
Registered Officer:	<b>Mr Drew Pavlou</b>
Registered Officer's address:	<b>Paradise Fruits Shop 15/2 Mary Pleasant Drive BIRKDALE QLD 4159</b>
Does party seek election funding:	<b>YES</b>

**Materials I have taken into account**

4. In making this decision, I had regard to:
  - the Application received by the Australian Electoral Commission ('the AEC') on 5 November 2021 (and revised membership list supplied on 25 November 2021);
  - 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 ('the ABS');
  - Part XI of the Electoral Act;
  - the Register and the Register of Political Parties of each Australian State and Territory;
  - the AEC's *Guide for registering a party*.

## Findings of Fact and Consideration

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

### Procedural application requirements

6. I am satisfied that the Application meets the requirements of ss 126(2)(a)–(g) of the Electoral Act. 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 an abbreviation of the name of the Party (s 126(2)(b));
- 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));
- included a list of the names of the 1,500 members of the Party to be relied on for the purposes of registration (s 126(2)(ca));
- 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)).

### Membership list

7. The membership list submitted for the Application supplied on 25 November 2021 contained 1,649 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.

<b>Submitted membership list</b>	<b>1,649</b>
Automatically matched to the electoral roll	1,451
Manually matched to the electoral roll	180
Unable to match or not enrolled on the electoral roll	(18)
Deceased	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,631</b>

8. Of the 1,631 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):

<b>Total matched to the electoral roll</b>	<b>1,631</b>
Under 18 years old	0
Duplicates identified in the membership list provided by the Party	(19)
Members identified as also supporting the registration of another party	(8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,604</b>

9. In accordance with the random sampling formula provided by the ABS, a list of 1,604 members requires a random sample of 50 contactable members to confirm they are members of the Party, with up to six denials of membership are permitted. The Electoral Commission's view is that, absent of any relevant factors to the contrary, a failure to satisfy the test provided by the ABS alone constitutes reasonable grounds upon which the delegate

of the Electoral Commission can be satisfied that a non-Parliamentary political party does not have the required 1,500 members.

<b>The relevant numbers for this membership test were:</b>	<b>Members</b>
The random sample size	50
Denials Permitted	6
The AEC attempted to contact*	59
The responses were:	
- Confirmed Membership of the Party	46
- Denied Membership of the Party	4
<b>PASS/FAIL</b>	<b>PASS</b>

\*as some members were uncontactable, or provided a neutral response

10. Accordingly, I am satisfied that the Party has at least 1,500 members and the Application meets the requirements of s 126(2)(ca) of the Electoral Act.

#### Party constitution

11. A copy of the constitution of the Party accompanied the Application as required by ss 123(1) and 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.

12. 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 and abbreviation

13. When undertaking an initial assessment of the Application, I considered the Party's proposed name and proposed abbreviation 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.

14. The Party name, Drew Pavlou Democratic Alliance, and abbreviation, Democratic Alliance:
- 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.
15. Section 129(5) of the Electoral Act provides words that do not require consent. 'Alliance' is a collective noun for people (s 129(5)(b) of the Electoral Act) and does not require consent. 'Democratic' is specifically stated as not requiring consent (s 129(5)(d) of the Electoral Act).
16. Therefore, the party name and abbreviation, do 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 the word.
17. Accordingly, I am satisfied on the materials before me that there is no basis to refuse the Application under s 129 of the Electoral Act.

#### Written particulars

18. Section 132(2)(b) of the Electoral Act provides that a person can only submit written particulars objecting to an application to register a party (or a logo in the case of point (iv)) on the following grounds:
- (i) the application does not relate to an eligible political party; or
  - (ii) the application is not in accordance with s 126 of the Electoral Act; or
  - (iii) the application should be refused under s 129 of the Electoral Act; or
  - (iv) the Electoral Commission should refuse to enter a logo of the party in the Register under s 129A of the Electoral Act.
19. 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, 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.
20. On 24 January 2022, the application was advertised in 10 major newspapers circulating in each State and Territory of Australia and published on the AEC website. The advertised closing date for submitting objections was 24 February 2022.
21. The Electoral Commission received no objections.

#### **Conclusion**

22. For the reasons outlined above, I approve the application from Drew Pavlou Democratic Alliance 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**

23. 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.

24. Requests for review of this decision should be addressed to Mr Tom Rogers, Australian Electoral Commissioner, and emailed to [commission.secretariat@aec.gov.au](mailto:commission.secretariat@aec.gov.au) or posted to Locked Bag 4007, Canberra City ACT 2601.

How do I request an internal review?

25. 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.
26. 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?

27. The Electoral Commission, which is comprised of three members, the Electoral Commissioner, a judicial member and a non-judicial member, conducts internal reviews.
28. 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?

29. 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 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](http://www.aat.gov.au/applying-for-a-review/how-to-apply).

Freedom of Information

30. 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](http://www.aec.gov.au/information-access/index.htm).
31. Should you have any queries regarding party registration, please contact the AEC on 02 6271 4552, visit [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) or email [fad@aec.gov.au](mailto:fad@aec.gov.au).

*(signed)*

Joanne Reid  
Assistant Commissioner  
Delegate of the Electoral Commission  
28 February 2022