NOTICE OF PARTY REGISTRATION DECISION
APPLICATION TO CHANGE PARTY NAME IN THE *REGISTER OF POLITICAL PARTIES* APPROVED
AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION PARTY

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

1. I am writing in accordance with s 134(6) of the Electoral Act to notify you of the determination of the application to change the name of Australian Federation Party (the Party) in the *Register of Political Parties* (the Register).

2. I am authorised to determine this application to change the name (the Application) in the Register under Part XI of the Electoral Act as a delegate of the Electoral Commission.

Decision

3. I have decided to approve the Application to change the Register as outlined below:

   Registered name: Reform Australia

Materials I have taken into account

4. In making my decision, I have had regard to:

   - the Application received by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) between 10 and 27 May 2026;
   - Part XI of the Electoral Act;
   - the operation of s 127 of the Electoral Act due to the issue of writs for the Farrer by-election;
   - the Register and the Register of Political Parties of each Australian State and Territory;
   - written particulars received during the one-month objection period and the responses to the written particulars by the Party;
   - correspondence containing supplementary information received from the objectors and the Party after the specified timeframes; and
   - the AEC's *Guide for maintaining party registration*.

Findings of Fact

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

   Procedural requirements

6. The Application:

   - was in writing, signed by three applicants who are members of the Party;
   - set out the names and addresses of the applicants and particulars of the capacity in which each applicant makes the Application; and
   - was accompanied by a fee of $500.

7. Accordingly, I am satisfied that the Application meets the requirements of ss 134(1)(b) and 134(2) of the Electoral Act.

Party name

8. The name, Reform Australia:

- **does not** comprise more than six words;
- **is not** obscene, frivolous or vexatious;
- **is not** the name, abbreviation or acronym of the name of another political party (not being a political party that is related to the party to which the application relates) that is a recognised political party;
- **does 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 to which the application relates) 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 if that connection or relationship does not in fact exist;
- **does not** comprise the words 'Independent Party' and **does not** comprise or contain the word 'Independent' and:
    - the name, or an 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, as the case may be.
- **does 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 a word contained in the Party's name or abbreviation.

9. Under s 129(5)(c) of the Electoral Act, 'the name of a country' does not require consent. Accordingly, 'Australia' does not require consent.

10. The word 'Reform' was not found to be in the name of any Registered political parties that were not related to the Party in accordance with s 129(2) and therefore does not require consent under s 129(5) of the Electoral Act.

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

Legislative framework – written particulars

12. 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, or application in this instance, 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.

13. On 24 and 25 June 2026, a notice of the application was advertised in 10 major newspapers circulating in each State and Territory of Australia and published on the AEC website. The closing date for written particulars objecting to the application was 24 July 2026.

14. In the context of this Application to change the Register, s 132(2)(b) of the Electoral Act, as modified by s 134(4), provides that a person can only submit written particulars objecting to this Application to change the Register if the person believes that:

- the application should be refused under s 129 of the Electoral Act (the name test); or
- the application is not in accordance with s 134 of the Electoral Act (which sets out requirements for the contents of an application to change the Register).

15. Written particulars must also meet the following administrative requirements under ss 132(2)–(3) of the Electoral Act:

- be in writing;
- be signed by the person (either physically, or electronically as per s 10(1) of the *Electronic Transactions Act 1999*);
- specify a postal address of the objector that does not consist of a post office box number (noting the definition of 'address' in s 123(1) of the Electoral Act and the postal service requirements in s 140(1) of the Electoral Act);
- be submitted within one-month after the publication of the relevant s 132(1) Notice on the AEC website on 24 June 2026; and
- set out the person's belief that the Application should be refused for a reason listed in s 132(2)(b) of the Electoral Act and provide grounds for that belief.

16. The following written particulars were received:

Written particulars from	**Date received**	**Administrative requirements met**	**Grounds for objection under the Electoral Act**
Milton	10 July 2026	s 132(3)	s 129
John	11 July 2026	s 132(3)	s 129
Selwyn	17 July 2026	s 132(3)	s 129

17. An extract of each of the objections state:

Milton – *The proposed name is not sufficiently distinct. It adopts and expands the objector's distinctive Reform AU identity and is likely to cause confusion with the recognised political party End Mass Immigration – Reform AU. The objector's party is registered in Victoria and has stood a candidate under its current name in a Victorian parliamentary by-election. It is therefore submitted to be a recognised political party for the purposes of s 129. A federal application for REFORM AU has also been submitted to, and remains pending before, the AEC. That pending application is relied upon only as supporting context, but it reinforces the immediacy and seriousness of the likely confusion. A Victorian application has also been submitted to change the State registered name to Christian Alliance Party – Reform AU. That pending application likewise retains Reform AU as the continuing national reform identifier. The applicant party is unrelated. No consent has been given. Approval of Reform Australia would likely confuse voters and political participants, create a false impression of connection or relationship, and permit the applicant to appropriate the distinctive Reform AU identity of another recognised political party and prejudice the submitted and pending federal Reform AU application. For those reasons, the AEC should refuse the Australian Federation Party's application under s 123(1)(d), as applied by s 134 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.*

18. John – *The name Reform Australia is not sufficiently different from Reform AU. In ordinary use, many people would understand Reform Australia as the expanded form, federal form, national form or related form of Reform AU. That would create confusion because the Australian Federation Party is not related to End Mass Immigration – Reform AU or REFORM AU, and no consent has been given. For those reasons, I respectfully submit that the AEC should refuse the Australian Federation Party's proposed name change under s 129, as applied by s 134 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.*

19. Selwyn - *I respectfully ask the AEC to take into account that:*

    a) *End Mass Immigration – Reform AU is a Victorian registered political party;*

    b) *Reform AU is a prominent and distinctive part of that registered name;*

    c) *REFORM AU is also the name in a pending federal registration application before the AEC;*

    d) *AU is commonly understood as referring to Australia;*

    e) *Reform Australia is likely to be seen as the expanded or national form of Reform AU;*

    f) *The Australian Federation Party is not related to End Mass Immigration – Reform AU or REFORM AU; and*

    g) *No consent or authorisation has been given for the Australian Federation Party to use that identity.*

    For those reasons, I respectfully submit that the proposed name Reform Australia should be refused under s 129, as applied by s 134 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.

20. On 2 August 2026, the Party provided a response to the AEC addressing each of the written particulars, with an extract of the response below:

    The Objector's registered name is five words long: ***End Mass Immigration – Reform AU****.*

    The Applicant's proposed name is two words long: ***Reform Australia****.*

    Section 129(1)(d) requires those two names to be compared, each taken as a whole. Compared that way they are conspicuously different. The Objections reach the opposite conclusion only by deleting three of the five words of the Objector's own registered name and comparing the Applicant's name against the two-word fragment that remains.

    Section 129(1)(d) protects a recognised party's name, and any abbreviation or acronym of that name. It does not protect a fragment of a name. Every one of the Objections depends on that fragment. Each therefore fails.

    The remaining grounds — ss 129(1) (da) and 129(3) — are advanced by the Objections themselves as conditional only. Both operate solely by reference to a registered political party. Neither the Objector nor REFORM AU is federally registered, so neither ground is engaged.

    The comparison required by s 129(1)(d) is between the proposed name and the name of the recognised party, each taken as a whole, from the perspective of an ordinary reasonable elector encountering the names as they are actually presented — on ballot papers, in registration notices and in electoral material.

The two names are:

Reform Australia — the Applicant's proposed name (two words)

End Mass Immigration – Reform AU — the Objector's registered name (five words)

21. Further correspondence containing supplementary information was received from the objectors and the Party after the specified timeframes. Material received after the deadline is not required to be considered as particulars under s 132(2)(b), or as a reply under s 132(5).

Delegate consideration of the written particulars and the Party's response

22. As a delegate of the Electoral Commission, I note that written particulars objecting to an application need to meet specific grounds under s 132 of the Electoral Act, and that the written particulars lodged by Milton, John and Selwyn met the grounds to be considered.

23. The written particulars received from Milton, John and Selwyn assert that the Party's proposed name would cause confusion with the Victorian registered political party, End Mass Immigration – Reform AU, and the application for federal registration, REFORM AU. Each objector also asserts that consent for use of the word 'Reform' was not requested (ss 129(1(c), 129(1)(d) 129(1)(da) and 129(3) refers).

24. As part of the Application, the Party is not seeking to add an abbreviation, and if the Party nominates candidates at an election, only the Party's name of 'Reform Australia' (and logo, if requested) will appear on the ballot paper alongside the candidate's name.

25. In the written particulars from Milton, John and Selwyn, it is asserted that the new name, Reform Australia, is not in accordance with the Electoral Act as follows:

25.1. Section 129(1) Parties with certain names not to be registered

129(1)(c) is the name, or is an abbreviation or acronym of the name, of another political party (not being a political party that is related to the party to which the application relates) that is a recognised political party;

(d) so nearly resembles 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 to which the application relates) that is a recognised political party that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for that name or that abbreviation or acronym, as the case may be; or

(da) is one that a reasonable person would think suggests that a connection or relationship exists between the party and a registered party if that connection or relationship does not in fact exist;

25.2. Section 129(2) of the Electoral Act defines a recognised political party as:

(a) a Parliamentary party; or

(b) a registered party; or

(c) registered or recognised for the purposes of the law of a State or a Territory relating to elections and that has endorsed a candidate, under the party's current name, in an election for the Parliament of the State

25.3. Section 129(3) The Electoral Commission must refuse an application for the registration of a political party if:

(a) either of the following apply:

(i) the applicant party's name contains a word that is in the name, or the abbreviation of the name, of a registered political party;

(b) the application is not accompanied by the written consent, to the use by the applicant party of the word in its name or abbreviation, of:

(i) if there is only one registered political party to which paragraph (a) applies—the registered political party's registered officer;

26. When the Application was lodged with the AEC, an initial assessment was undertaken to determine if the Application met the requirements under Part XI of the Electoral Act to proceed to being advertised in accordance with s 132 of the Electoral Act. In making this assessment, the Party's proposed name, Reform Australia, was assessed against s 129 of the Electoral Act.

27. The federal Register and the registers of each State and Territory were checked for the AEC to establish if any recognised political parties not related to the Party exist. Only one party contains the word 'Reform', being End Mass Immigration – Reform AU, registered with the Victorian Electoral Commission. End Mass Immigration – Reform AU is not related to Australian Federation Party and is considered a recognised political party in accordance with s 129(2) due to the nomination of a candidate in the 2026 Nepean by-election.

28. I note that each of the written particulars reference a party named 'End Mass Immigration – Reform AU which is registered with the Victorian Electoral Commission'. As of 11 August 2026, this party is now registered as Christian Alliance Party - Reform AU, and abbreviation Christian Alliance Party.

29. The written particulars also address s 129(3) of the Electoral Act, which deal with consent. Under this section, a party's name (and proposed abbreviation) will be refused if it contains a word that is in the registered name or abbreviation of a registered political party; and the party's application for registration is not accompanied by written consent from the registered officer of the applicant party.

30. In the context of the Application, 'Australia' does not require consent under s 129(5)(c) of the Electoral Act. 'Reform' does not require consent under s 129(3) as no federally registered party contains the word 'Reform' in its name [see points 27- 29 above].

31. In relation to s 129(1)(c) 'Reform Australia' is different to both names, End Mass Immigration – Reform AU and Christian Alliance Party - Reform AU, therefore it is not the name of another recognised political party.

32. In relation to s 129(1)(d), I do not consider 'Reform Australia' so nearly resembles either End Mass Immigration – Reform AU or Christian Alliance Party – Reform AU that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for those names. This is because 'Reform Australia' is aurally and visually distinct from those names. 'Reform AU' is only part of the longer party name and not included in the abbreviation of the party. Additionally, 'Reform Australia' would not appear on the same ballot paper for an electoral event as End Mass Immigration – Reform AU or Christian Alliance Party – Reform AU.

33. Section 129(1)(da) does not apply because neither End Mass Immigration – Reform AU nor Christian Alliance Party – Reform AU are a registered political party.

34. Further to this, refusal of the name 'Reform Australia' is not required in accordance with s 129(3) as no other party on the Register contains the word 'Reform' in its name.

35. Having considered the written particulars from Milton, John and Selwyn in the context of ss 129(1) and (3) of the Electoral Act, and the response from the Party in relation to these written particulars, and the supplementary material to the extent relevant to my assessment under ss 129 and 132 of the Electoral Act, I am of the opinion that they do not provide me with evidence to refuse the Party's proposed name under Part XI of the Electoral Act.

Procedural requirements of s 132 of the Electoral Act

36. All requirements listed in s 132(7) of the Electoral Act have been met, namely:

- the Electoral Commission has published notice of the application for registration (s 132(7)(a));
- a period of at least one month has elapsed after the date of publication of a notice of the application on the Electoral Commission's website, being 24 June 2026 (s 132(7)(b));
    - where particulars were submitted under s 132(2)(b):
        - on 16 and 23 July 2026 notice was given to the Registered Officer of the Party and specified a time under ss 132(5)(a)-(b) in which to reply (s 132(7)(c)(i)); and
        - a reply to the particulars from the Registered Officer of the Party was received on 2 August 2026 (s 132(7)(c)(ii)); and
- the Commission has considered those particulars and the reply to the particulars from the Party (s 132(7)(d)).

Summary

37. I am satisfied on the materials before me that there is no basis to refuse the Application under s 129 of the Electoral Act. The Party's name can be changed in the Register.

Approval of the Application

38. For the reasons outlined above, as a delegate of the Electoral Commission for the purposes of Part XI of the Electoral Act, I approve the Application to change the name of Australian Federation Party in the Register.

Your review rights

39. 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.

40. Requests for review of this decision should be addressed to Mr Jeff Pope, 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?

41. 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; 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?

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

43. Under s 141(4) of the Electoral Act, the Electoral Commission consider an application for review 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?

44. If an internal review decision has been made by the Electoral Commission and you do not agree with that decision, a person whose interests are affected, and who are dissatisfied with the decision made by the Electoral Commission may apply to the Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) for a review of the decision. More information on how to apply to the ART and any applicable fees can be found on its website: www.art.gov.au.

Freedom of Information

45. 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.

46. Should you have any queries about party registration, please contact the AEC on 02 6271 4552, visit www.aec.gov.au or email fad@aec.gov.au.

(signed)

Stuart Oreo
A/g Assistant Commissioner
Delegate of the Electoral Commission

4 November 2026