



## DECISION

*Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*  
s.189—Arrangement for conduct of an election

**Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association**  
(E2025/183)

MR STEENSON

SYDNEY, 17 DECEMBER 2025

*Arrangement for conduct of election.*

[1] On 9 December 2025, the Newcastle and Northern Branch (the **Branch**) of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association (the **Association**) lodged with the Fair Work Commission prescribed information for an election to fill the following offices for a new term of office:

Branch President	(1)
Branch Vice-Presidents	(2)
Branch Secretary/Treasurer	(1)
Branch Assistant Secretary	(1)
Branch Councillors	(6)
Delegates to National Council	(number to be determined) <sup>1</sup>

[2] Rule 8 of the Branch rules deals with the election for Branch offices.<sup>2</sup> Under that rule, all offices and Councillors are elected for a three-year term and were most recently the subject of election **E2022/219** (declared 28 March 2023).<sup>3</sup> The exception to this were the offices of Branch Secretary/Treasurer and the Branch Assistant Secretary, both of which have a four-year term and were previously elected via **E2021/208** (declared 31 March 2022).<sup>4</sup>

[3] In the Association's election cycle, the terms of all of these Branch offices are due to expire in 2026 and be the subject of an election for a new term.

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<sup>1</sup> See SDAEA National rules certified 17 October 2025 [R2025/107], r.8(aa) and (b).

<sup>2</sup> See SDAEA Newcastle and Northern Branch rules certified 5 April 2022 [R2021/188], r.8.

<sup>3</sup> [2023] ROCD 4.

<sup>4</sup> [2022] ROCD 12.

[4] The National Council of the Association is comprised of offices including Delegates to National Council elected from each of the Association’s branches.<sup>5</sup> Rule 8 of the Association’s rules provide that the cut-off date for determining the number of Delegates to be elected, by and from the financial members of each Branch, occurs on 31 December in the year immediately preceding the year in which an ordinary election is next due to be held.<sup>6</sup>

[5] In the case of the upcoming Branch election, the cut-off date is therefore 31 December 2025. Accordingly, at the time the prescribed information for this election was lodged – and the time of issuing this decision – the Branch could not specify the number of Delegates, as the date on which its entitlement is determined is a future date. The Branch is therefore requested to provide the Australian Electoral Commission (the AEC) with the number of members as at 31 December 2025, as soon as possible after that date.

[6] I am satisfied that an election for the abovenamed offices is required to be held under the rules of the organisation and, under subsection 189(3) of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*, I am making arrangements for the conduct of the election by the AEC.



DELEGATE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

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<sup>5</sup> SDAEA National rules certified 17 October 2025 [R2025/107], r.8(a), (aa) and (b).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

## **PRESCRIBED INFORMATION FOR ELECTIONS in accordance with Section 189 Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 and Regulation 138 Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Regulations 2009**

I, David Bliss, being the Branch Secretary-Treasurer of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association, Newcastle and Northern Branch make the following statement:

1. I am authorised to sign this statement containing prescribed information for the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association, Newcastle and Northern Branch.
2. The following information is lodged under subsection 189(1) of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 (the RO Act).
3. The elections that are required are set out in the table in Annexure A.
4. No rule alterations are pending that will impact the election.
5. This statement **IS** lodged at least 2 months before nominations open for the election(s) in Annexure A.
6. If the number of elected representatives is calculated on a formula(s) defined in the rules:
  - a. The rule number which specifies the formula is Rules 8(a) and 8(aa) of the National Rules of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association:
  - b. The formula is:

*"The National Council shall consist of the National President, National Vice-President, National Secretary-Treasurer, National Assistant Secretary, and delegates of affiliated Branches as follows:-*

*Branches having 2,000 or less members: 1 Councillor*

*Branches having 2,001 to 5,500 members: 2 Councillors*

*Branches having 5,501 to 15,500 members: 3 Councillors*

*Branches having 15,501 to 25,500 members: 5 Councillors*

*Branches having 25,501 to 35,500 members: 6 Councillors*

*Branches having 35,501 to 45,500 members: 7 Councillors*

*Branches having 45,501 to 55,500 members: 8 Councillors*

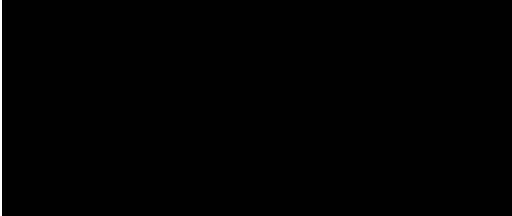
*Branches having 55,501 or more members: 9 Councillors*

*(aa) The number of members of a Branch for the purpose of determining the number of delegates to the National Council which the members of that Branch are entitled to elect under Rule 8(a) shall be*

*taken to be the number of members of that Branch ascertained as at 31 December in the year immediately preceding the year in which an ordinary election of members of the National Council is next due to be held.”*

- c. The relevant information for calculating the information has not been provided *because it is not available until after 31 December 2025.*

Signed:



Dated: 9 December 2025

**NOTE:** This statement should be lodged with the Fair Work Commission at least 2 months prior to nominations opening. It can be submitted to [regorgs@fwc.gov.au](mailto:regorgs@fwc.gov.au).

## Annexure A

- Elections that are required [insert as many pages as required]

Branch	Name of Office	Number required	Voting System Direct voting system; Collegiate electoral system	Reason for Election Scheduled; Casual vacancy; New office created; Insufficient nominations	Electorate
Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association, Newcastle and Northern Branch	Branch President	1	Direct Voting System	Scheduled	Financial members of the Branch in accordance with Rules 8 and 10(h).
Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association, Newcastle and Northern Branch	Branch Vice-President	2	Direct Voting System	Scheduled	Financial members of the Branch in accordance with Rules 8 and 10(h).
Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association, Newcastle and Northern Branch	Branch Secretary-Treasurer	1	Direct Voting System	Scheduled	Financial members of the Branch in accordance with Rules 8 and 10(h).
Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association, Newcastle and Northern Branch	Branch Assistant Secretary	1	Direct Voting System	Scheduled	Financial members of the Branch in accordance with Rules 8 and 10(h).
Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association,	Branch Councillor	6	Direct Voting System	Scheduled	Financial members of the Branch in accordance with Rules 8 and 10(h).

Newcastle and Northern Branch					
Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association, Newcastle and Northern Branch	National Councillors	3 (to be confirmed as per above paragraph 6)	Direct Voting System	Scheduled	Financial members of the Branch in accordance with Rules 8 and 10(h) of the Branch and Rule 8(b) of the National Rules of the SDAEA.

- Important dates:

	Direct Voting System	Collegiate Electoral System
<b>Nominations OPEN</b>	Not less than 2 weeks or more than 3 weeks prior to the close of nominations – Rule 10(c)	Insert date and reference the relevant rule; or 'To be determined by returning officer' if the rules provide
<b>Nominations CLOSE</b>	The fourth Friday in March at 3.00 p.m., which is 27 March 2026 – Rule 10(c)	Insert date and reference the relevant rule; or 'To be determined by returning officer' if the rules provide
<b>Roll of Voters cut off date</b>	The last working day in February before the day on which nominations for the election open, which is Friday, 27 February 2026 – Rule 10(h)	Insert date and reference the relevant rule

**NOTES:** For insufficient nominations and casual vacancies, the date nominations open and close, unless specified in the rules, should be listed as 'To be determined by the returning officer'. This also applies where rules are silent as to the nominated dates.

If the nomination dates are 'To be Determined by the Returning Officer', but your organisation has a preference, please state 'To be Determined by Returning Officer' and clearly indicate that your nominated date is a preference.

If the P.I. includes a position that is not an office, please refer to our template [Prescribed information for the election of officer and non-officer positions.](#)