DECISION

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

Police Federation of Australia
(E2026/39)

MR STEENSON SYDNEY, 20 OCTOBER 2026

Arrangement for conduct of election.

[1] On 1 October 2026, the Queensland Police Branch (the **Branch**) of the Police Federation of Australia lodged with the Fair Work Commission (the **Commission**) prescribed information for an election to fill the following office for a new term of office:

Branch President (1)

[2] Like many registered organisations, the Branch's scheduled elections are conducted with a mix of two-year and four-year electoral cycles, according to the particular office.[1]

[3] Elections for Branch President – the subject of this election decision – and for some of the Branch Regional Representatives (elected by and from members of their respective Regions)[2] – which will be the subject of a separate (later) election decision – have been conducted every four years, commencing from the election declared in 2015.[3]

[4] In correspondence from Hall Payne Lawyers on behalf of the Branch, the Branch's legal representatives, it was indicated to the Commission that elections for particular Branch offices have historically been conducted in the year that term of office expires.

[5] However, as a consequence of delays that arose in the conduct of industrial elections by the Australian Electoral Commission (the **AEC**) due to the impact of COVID-19, the Branch at that time took steps to lodge prescribed information for its elections well before the expiry of the term and before the prescribed time, including for the previous scheduled election for the office of President (**E2022/167**) in which a decision was issued on 22 August 2022.[4] Unlike the delays which affected many organisations' elections during that time, the conduct of election E2022/167 was such that the results were declared in December 2022, i.e. some months before the scheduled expiry of the term of office in 2023.

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[1] Police Federation of Australia - Queensland Police Branch – rule 40
[2] Ibid – rule 40(e)
[3] Ibid – rule 40(c), (d) and (e)
[4] [2022] ROCD 41

[6] The Branch's legal representatives have submitted that the expression in the Branch rules, which states that an officer '*will hold office until their successor is elected at a subsequent ... election*',[5] does not displace or truncate the existing term of office. Therefore, despite the early declaration of results in December 2022, the Branch advised that the elected candidates in E2022/167 commenced holding office in 2023, at the conclusion of the scheduled four-year term. It is noted that following a scheduled election, the Branch has historically regarded the Branch President as commencing office on 1 March and the Branch Regional Representatives as commencing office in June of the year that the existing term comes to an end.

Proposed rule alterations

[7] In the correspondence to the Commission, the Branch's legal representatives indicated that the Branch proposes to lodge an application under section 159 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* (the **RO Act**) to alter its rules for the purpose of generally synchronising and formalising the election cycle applicable to other Branch Executive offices. It would be of assistance if the proposed amendments to the rules also specified the years in which scheduled elections are to occur for each Branch office (including the office of President) and the dates on which the new term of each office is to commence, and I encourage the Branch to do so.

[8] In relation to the prescribed information seeking an election for the office of President, I am satisfied that an election for that office is required to be held under the rules of the organisation and, under subsection 189(3) of the RO Act, I am making arrangements for the conduct of the election by the AEC.



DELEGATE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

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[5] Branch rule 40(d)

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, Shane Allan Prior, being the President of the Queensland Police **Branch** of the Police Federation of Australia make the following statement:

1. I am authorised to sign this statement containing prescribed information for the 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. This statement **IS** lodged at least 2 months before nominations open for the election(s) in Annexure A.
5. To the extent that this statement **IS NOT** lodged at least 2 months before nominations open for the election(s) in Annexure A, the reason it is lodged after the prescribed time is that the Branch was engaging with the Fair Work Commission about the date that the term of office of the incumbent office holders expires.

Signed: 

Dated: 28 September 2026

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.

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
Queensland Police Branch	Branch President	1	Direct Voting System	Scheduled	The Branch Conference Delegates are elected by, and from, the financial members of the Branch within the respective cluster – Part CF Rule 39(a).

- Important dates:

	Direct Voting System	Collegiate Electoral System
Nominations OPEN	To be determined by the Returning Officer, preference is 6 November 2026.	-
Nominations CLOSE	To be determined by the Returning Officer, preference is 4 December 2026.	-
Roll of Voters cut off date	The roll of voters is to be closed 30 days before the starting time for nominations – Part CF Rule 42(a)(iii) and Rule 52.	-

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*