



11 October 2016

Ms Allison Valentine
Returning Officer
Industrial and Commercial Elections VIC State Office
Australian Electoral Commission

Dear Ms Valentine

In response to the post-election report of the Australian Electoral Commission: E2016/83

The post-election report identified three rules that were difficult to interpret or apply. In particular they were rules 9.4, 28.10 and 28.10.

The Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association (VFFIA) intends to take action in relation to:

- (i) Rule 9.4 by reviewing the VFFIA membership data base and providing the names of the nominees appointed to act on behalf of the partnership or company and hold office in the Association;
- (ii) Rule 28.10 by changing this rule to satisfy the progressive markup of envelopes at the direction of the Returning Officer; and
- (iii) Rule 28.1 by amending this rule to allow alternative means of delivery to the electorate by using other more efficient /faster communication options.

Yours faithfully

Meg Parkinson
President VFFIA

VICTORIAN FARMERS FEDERATION
INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION
FARRER HOUSE
24 – 28 COLLINS STREET
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA 3000
TELEPHONE: (03) 9207 5555
FACSIMILE: (03) 9207 5500



4 October 2016

Ms Meg Parkinson
President
Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association
pmurdock@vff.org.au

Dear Ms Parkinson

Organisation must respond to the post-election report of the Australian Electoral Commission: E2016/83

On 16 September 2016 the Fair Work Commission (the Commission) received a post-election report from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) for election E2016/83 dated 15 September 2016. The AEC will have also provided the report to the organisation under section 197 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* (the RO Act).

The report identifies rules that were difficult to interpret or apply, in particular rules 9.4, 28.10 and 28.1. This letter serves as a reminder of the obligations imposed on the organisation or branch as a consequence of the AEC's report. If a response has already been sent to the AEC and made available to all members please disregard this letter.

A notice must be published on the organisation's website

The organisation or branch must publish on its website a notice that a copy of the report is available from the organisation, branch or the AEC on request. The notice must be kept on the website for a period of at least 3 months (see regs 141(4) and (5)).

A written response must be provided to the AEC

A written response must be provided to the AEC within 30 days of receipt of the report. The organisation's response must include whether the organisation or branch intends to take action and if so what action the organisation or branch intends to take (s198(2)).

Extract of report must be made available to members

The organisation or branch must make the section of the report relating to the difficult rules available to its members (s198(3)). This extract from the report must be made available to the members before or at the same time as the organisation's response is made available to members.

Written response must be made available to members

A copy of the organisation's response to the AEC must be made available to members either:

- within 30 days after the response is given to the AEC, or
- published in the next edition of the organisation or branch journal (s198(5))

Subsection 198(6) and regulation 142 prescribe ways in which the relevant extract and the copy of the response can be made available to members. These do not limit the ways in which they can be made available to members. The organisation will comply if it does all of the following:-

- publish the report extract and the copy of the response in the next edition of the organisation or branch's journal; and

- within 30 days of giving the response to the AEC:
 - lodges with the Commission a copy of the relevant extract and response, together with a declaration that a copy will be provided to any member who so requests; and
 - give notice in the next edition of the organisation or branch's journal, or an appropriate newspaper, that a copy of the relevant extract and response are available on request to each member free of charge; and
- publish the relevant extract on the website within 14 days after receiving the report, and publish the response on the website within 14 days of giving the response to the AEC (reg 142(2)).

Penalties may apply

If the organisation or branch does not:

- respond to the AEC within 30 days,
- make the extract of the report relating to the rules available to members no later than the organisation's response is made available to members, or
- make the organisation's response available to members within 30 days or in the next edition of the journal,

the organisation may face penalties under the RO Act. Each requirement listed above is a civil penalty provision that may result in fines for the organisation

As noted above, if the response and report have already been made available to members and the AEC, please disregard this letter. If you have any questions in relation to these obligations please contact the Commission for assistance by email to orgs@fwc.gov.au.

If the organisation or branch decides to alter its rules in response to the AEC's report

If the organisation or branch decides to alter its rules in response to the AEC's report, the Regulatory Compliance Branch of the Commission is able to provide advice and assistance regarding draft alterations, as well as about the processes required to make the alterations. We encourage the organisation or branch to forward drafts of proposed alterations to orgs@fwc.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Marianne Kay

Regulatory Compliance Branch



12 September 2016

Ms Meg Parkinson
President
Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association
By email: pmurdock@vff.org.au

Dear Ms Parkinson,

Reminder of actions required when persons elected to office

The Australian Electoral Commission has provided the Fair Work Commission (the Commission) a declaration of results for the election [E2016/83]. This letter is a reminder of certain obligations imposed on organisations and on persons elected to office.

A notice must be published on the organisation's website

The organisation or branch must publish on its website a notice that a copy of the report is available from the organisation, branch or the AEC on request. The notice must be kept on the website for a period of at least 3 months (see regulation 141 of the *Fair Work (Registered organisations) Regulations 2009*).

Holders of office required to undertake approved training

Section 154D(1) of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 (the RO Act) requires the rules of organisations (and branches of organisations) to require each officer with financial management duties to undertake approved training that covers those duties within 6 months after the person begins to hold office. Please ensure that relevant officers undertake approved training within the required timeframe.

Please also ensure that all new holders of office are advised of their obligations to make disclosures regarding remuneration, non-cash benefits and material personal interests, the details of which should be provided for in your organisation's rules.

Organisation must notify the Commission of changes

Also, section 233(2) of the RO Act requires that an organisation must notify the Commission **within 35 days of any changes** to the holders of office in the organisation. **If there are no changes a notification is not required.** If the election has resulted in **any changes** to the holders of office, the Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association must notify the Commission of these changes. In particular, please advise:

1. Person(s) who have ceased to hold office:
 - the name of the office vacated;
 - the date of the change of office holder; and
 - the name of the person vacating the office.
2. Person(s) who have commenced to hold office:
 - the name of the office now held;
 - the date of the change of office holder;

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Melbourne VIC 3000
GPO Box 1994
Melbourne VIC 3001

Telephone: (03) 8656 4737
Email : orgs@fwc.gov.au
Internet : www.fwc.gov.au

- the name of the person now holding the office;
- the postal address of the person (generally the postal address of the organisation); and
- the occupation of the person now holding the office.

The notification must include a declaration by the Secretary (or other prescribed officer) that the information is a correct statement of the changes made. I have attached a template notification of changes which may assist you. If any change does not apply until a specific date, you don't need to notify until then (e.g. AGM, 1 January, 2nd Monday in March). If you have already lodged this information, please disregard this reminder.

Regards

Jennifer Raeburn
Regulatory Compliance Branch

Ms Patricia Murdock
Senior Industrial Officer
Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association
Farrer House
24-28 Collins St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

**Post Election Report For: Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association
Election E2016/83**

I refer to the above election for your organisation.

Section 197(1) of Schedule 1 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* requires the AEC to provide a written report on the conduct of the election to the Industrial Registrar and to the organisation or branch for whom the election was conducted. A copy of the report in relation to this election is attached.

Section 198 of Schedule 1 requires that if an organisation or branch is given a post election report under section 197 that identifies a rule that was difficult to interpret or apply, the organisation or branch must, within 30 days, give a written response to the AEC on that aspect of the report. The response must specify whether the organisation or branch intends to take any action in relation to the rule, and if so, what action it intends to take.

If the attached Report identifies a rule that was difficult to interpret or apply, you should forward your response to the AEC by email to 'industrial.elections@aec.gov.au' within thirty days of the date of the report.

Section 198 and the regulations also require an organisation to make the post election report and the organisation's response to the report (if applicable) available to members.

Further, Regulation 141(4) of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* Regulations requires an organisation or branch to publish a notice on its web site advising members that a copy of the post election report is available upon request. If a website is not available, publishing a notice in a journal or newsletter would be considered appropriate.

Please contact me if you wish to clarify any aspect of this report.



Allison Valentine
Returning Officer

15 September 2016

Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 Schedule 1

POST ELECTION REPORT

Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association

ELECTION/S COVERED IN THIS REPORT

Election Decision No/s: E2016/83

RULES

Rules used for the election: [222V: Incorporates alterations of 24 November 2014 (R2014/169)] replaces version of 23 February 2014 (R2014/26)

Rules difficult to apply/interpret:

- 1) As per *Rule 9.4 Membership Application*. The election process is facilitated by the provision of the names of the nominees appointed to act on behalf of the partnership or company and hold office in the Association. The membership database needs to reflect this requirement.
- 2) *Rule 28.10 The Count* does not allow for progressive markback of envelopes at the direction of the Returning Officer. If a ballot were to occur provision for progressive markback and preliminary scrutiny facilitates the counting of votes following the ballot close.
- 3) *Rule 28.1 Nominations for Office* provides that the Election Notice will be posted to the electorate. The Association may wish to consider allowing for alternative means of delivery such as email for faster/more efficient communication.

Model Rule reference (if any):

- 1) NIL
- 2) 17.2 *Preliminary Scrutiny of Envelopes*
- 3) NIL

ROLL OF VOTERS

Total number of voters on the Roll: Nil

Number of apparent workplace addresses: Nil

Number of non-current addresses: Nil

Other matters pertaining to the roll of voters: Nil

IRREGULARITIES

Details of written allegations of irregularities, Nil
and action taken by AEC:

Other irregularities identified, and action taken: Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1. Stage 1 - Uncontested Declaration - Committee
2. Stage 1 - RECALL - Uncontested Declaration - Committee
3. Stage 2 - Uncontested Declaration - Office Bearers



Allison Valentine
Returning Officer

15 September 2016

**- Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association
Stage 2 – Office Bearers
President Vice-President Treasurer**

Declaration of Results for Uncontested Offices

Below are the results of the election for the following offices, conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* and the rules of the organisation.

Executive

President

Candidates

PARKINSON, Meg

Vice-President

Candidates

FINGER, Susan

Treasurer

Candidates

BOWMAN, Alan

As the number of nominations accepted did not exceed the number of positions to be filled, I declare the above candidates elected.



Allison Valentine
Returning Officer

26 July 2016

- Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association Executive Committee - E2016/83

Declaration of Results for Uncontested Offices

Below are the results of the election for the following offices, conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* and the rules of the organisation.

Victoria

Executive Committee Member (4)

Candidates

PARKER, Sarah Anne

PARKINSON, Meg

SILVERSTEIN, Rien

No further nomination was accepted

As the number of nominations accepted did not exceed the number of positions to be filled, I declare the above candidates elected.



Allison Valentine
Returning Officer

14 June 2016

- Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association Stage 1 Executive Committee Members

Declaration of Results for Uncontested Offices

E2016/83

Below are the results of the election for the following offices, conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* and the rules of the organisation.

Victoria

Executive Committee Member (6)

Candidates

BOWMAN, Alan

FINGER, Susan

No further nominations were accepted

As the number of nominations accepted did not exceed the number of positions to be filled, I declare the above candidates elected.



Allison Valentine
Returning Officer

24 May 2016



12 September 2016

Ms Meg Parkinson
President
Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association
By email: pmurdock@vff.org.au

Dear Ms Parkinson,

Reminder of actions required when persons elected to office

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A notice must be published on the organisation's website

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Holders of office required to undertake approved training

Section 154D(1) of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 (the RO Act) requires the rules of organisations (and branches of organisations) to require each officer with financial management duties to undertake approved training that covers those duties within 6 months after the person begins to hold office. Please ensure that relevant officers undertake approved training within the required timeframe.

Please also ensure that all new holders of office are advised of their obligations to make disclosures regarding remuneration, non-cash benefits and material personal interests, the details of which should be provided for in your organisation's rules.

Organisation must notify the Commission of changes

Also, section 233(2) of the RO Act requires that an organisation must notify the Commission **within 35 days of any changes** to the holders of office in the organisation. **If there are no changes a notification is not required.** If the election has resulted in **any changes** to the holders of office, the Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association must notify the Commission of these changes. In particular, please advise:

1. Person(s) who have ceased to hold office:
 - the name of the office vacated;
 - the date of the change of office holder; and
 - the name of the person vacating the office.
2. Person(s) who have commenced to hold office:
 - the name of the office now held;
 - the date of the change of office holder;

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- the name of the person now holding the office;
- the postal address of the person (generally the postal address of the organisation); and
- the occupation of the person now holding the office.

The notification must include a declaration by the Secretary (or other prescribed officer) that the information is a correct statement of the changes made. I have attached a template notification of changes which may assist you. If any change does not apply until a specific date, you don't need to notify until then (e.g. AGM, 1 January, 2nd Monday in March). If you have already lodged this information, please disregard this reminder.

Regards

Jennifer Raeburn
Regulatory Compliance Branch

- Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association Executive Committee - E2016/83

Declaration of Results for Uncontested Offices

Below are the results of the election for the following offices, conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* and the rules of the organisation.

Victoria

Executive Committee Member (4)

Candidates

PARKER, Sarah Anne

PARKINSON, Meg

SILVERSTEIN, Rien

No further nomination was accepted

As the number of nominations accepted did not exceed the number of positions to be filled, I declare the above candidates elected.



Allison Valentine
Returning Officer

14 June 2016

- Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association Stage 1 Executive Committee Members

Declaration of Results for Uncontested Offices

E2016/83

Below are the results of the election for the following offices, conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* and the rules of the organisation.

Victoria

Executive Committee Member (6)

Candidates

BOWMAN, Alan

FINGER, Susan

No further nominations were accepted

As the number of nominations accepted did not exceed the number of positions to be filled, I declare the above candidates elected.



Allison Valentine
Returning Officer

24 May 2016

**- Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association
Stage 2 – Office Bearers
President Vice-President Treasurer**

Declaration of Results for Uncontested Offices

Below are the results of the election for the following offices, conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* and the rules of the organisation.

Executive

President

Candidates

PARKINSON, Meg

Vice-President

Candidates

FINGER, Susan

Treasurer

Candidates

BOWMAN, Alan

As the number of nominations accepted did not exceed the number of positions to be filled, I declare the above candidates elected.



Allison Valentine
Returning Officer

26 July 2016



DECISION

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

Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association (E2016/83)

MR ENRIGHT

MELBOURNE, 5 APRIL 2016

Arrangement for conduct of election.

[1] On 15 February 2016 the Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association lodged with the Fair Work Commission the prescribed information in relation to an election for the following offices:

Executive Committee Member (6)

President
Vice President
Treasurer

[2] 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 Australian Electoral Commission.



DELEGATE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

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15 March 2016

Tribunal Services and Organisations
Fair Work Australia
11 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Sir/Madam,


Statement of Prescribed Information for an Election

I, Meg Parkinson, being the President of the Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association, make the following statement:

I am the President of the Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association;

I am authorised to lodge the following prescribed information concerning forthcoming elections of the Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association, and

I confirm that the following information is being lodged under subsection 189(1) of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009.

Signed: 

Dated: 11 March 2015

Offices/Positions

A	President (CES)
	Treasurer (CES)
	Vice President (CES)
	Executive Committee Members (6) (DVS)

**VICTORIAN FARMERS
FEDERATION
INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION
FARRER HOUSE
24 – 28 COLLINS STREET
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA 3000
TELEPHONE: (03) 9207 5555
FACSIMILE: (03) 9207 5500**

Reasons for the Election:

Election for offices and positions marked "A" is required as the terms of office are due to expire in the normal course of events under the rules of the organisation.

Elected by:

The electorate for the direct voting system is the whole of the Association for 6 members of the Executive. Three of the Office positions will be by CES.

Nominations opening and closing dates:

- For offices to be elected by direct voting system, Returning Officer to set dates for nominations to be opened and closed.
- For offices (positions) to be elected by collegiate election – on 22 July 2016.

Cut-off date for roll:

In all cases - 7 days prior to the opening date for nominations - rule 22(g). Rule 28.5.3 provides roll of voters ballot is to be closed 7 days before the day on which the nominations are to open.

The date for the election will be Friday 22 July 2016 to be held at Rydges Hotel, 186 Exhibition Street, Melbourne at 8:30am

Please contact Patricia Murdock on 9207 5511.

Yours Sincerely



Meg Parkinson
President
Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association



8 February 2016

Tribunal Services and Organisations
Fair Work Australia
11 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Officer,


Statement of Prescribed Information for an Election

I, Meg Parkinson, being the President of the Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association, make the following statement:

I am the President of the Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association;

I am authorised to lodge the following prescribed information concerning forthcoming elections of the Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association, and

I confirm that the following information is being lodged under subsection 189(1) of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009.

Signed: 

Dated: 8 February 2016

Offices/Positions

A	President (CES)
	Treasurer (CES)
	Vice President (CES)
	Executive Committee Members (6) (DVS)

VICTORIAN FARMERS FEDERATION
INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION
FARMER HOUSE
24 - 28 COLLINS STREET
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA 3000
TELEPHONE: (03) 9207 5555
FACSIMILE: (03) 9207 5500

Reasons for the Election:

Election for offices and positions marked "A" is required as the terms of office are due to expire in the normal course of events under the rules of the organisation.

Elected by:

The electorate for the direct voting system is the whole of the Association for 6 members of the Executive. Three of the Office positions will be by CES.

Nominations opening and closing dates:

- For offices to be elected by direct voting system, Returning Officer to set dates for nominations to be opened and closed.
- For offices (positions) to be elected by collegiate election – on 21 July, 2016.

Cut-off date for roll:

In all cases - 7 days prior to the opening date for nominations - rule 22(g). Rule 28.5.3 provides roll of voters ballot is to be closed 7 days before the day on which the nominations are to open.

The date for the election will be Thursday, 21 July 2016 to be held at Rydges in Exhibition Street, Melbourne.

Please contact Patricia Murdock on 9207 5511.

Yours Sincerely



Meg Parkinson
President
Victorian Farmers Federation Industrial Association