



# Important changes to Federal Electorate Councils (formerly Federal Electorate Campaign Committees or FECCs)

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## Overview of FEC Changes

Under our new rules, Federal Electorate Campaign Committees or FECCs have effectively ceased to exist and have instead been replaced with Federal Electorate Councils or FECs.

For Direct Branches, the Direct Branch Committee has similarly been replaced with the Direct Branch Council.

For the purpose of this Fact Sheet, the same rules apply for Federal Electorate Councils and the Direct Branch Council.

## Role of Federal Electorate Councils

Under the new rules, the sole role of a Federal Electorate Council is to elect delegates to State Executive. As they no longer have any campaign functions or meeting requirements, the roles of President, Vice President, Convenor, Treasurer and Membership & Community Organiser are no longer necessary.

**It's important to note that while we don't have FECCs anymore, this does not prevent branches in a Federal Electorate area from coming together to socialise, campaign or fundraise (it just won't be done under the banner of an FECC).**

## Annual Federal Electorate Council Meetings (or Annual Direct Branch Council Meeting)

To fulfil the sole function of electing delegates to State Executive, an Annual Federal Electorate Council Meeting will be held each year in November.

The State Secretary will make arrangements for the meeting, including notifying members of the time, date, location and arrangements for the meeting/election. The State Secretary will also assume the responsibility of the Chair of all Annual Federal Electorate Council Meetings (unless otherwise delegated).

Where a ballot is required, the meeting will be open for a period of at least one hour or until all eligible votes are cast. Where a ballot is not required, a meeting won't be held.

In the event of a casual vacancy throughout a year, the Administrative Committee will determine the process to fill it.

### **Eligibility to Vote at An Annual Federal Electorate Council Meeting**

Voting members of an Annual Federal Electorate Council Meeting are made up of delegates (or their proxy) from Branches within the FEC's geographical area.

To be eligible to vote, a delegate to an Annual Federal Electorate Council Meeting must provide written authorisation from their branch to the State Secretary at least one day prior to the meeting. A delegate's proxy must be from the same branch as the delegate, and must be provided in writing and signed by the delegate.

All delegates and proxies must be current financial members of the Party.

### **Transitional Arrangements for Remainder of 2023**

Any AGMs that have not yet been held for 2023 will still need to be held, however FECs will only be required to elect Delegates to State Executive - they will no longer be required to fill the positions of President, Vice Presidents, Convenor, Treasurer, Membership, and Community Organiser.

For any office bearers that were elected to serve in 2024, you will not be required to perform any roles under the new rules and your role has effectively become redundant. Delegates from FECs to State Executive, will continue to serve until the next election.

### **Other**

Under our old rules, FECCs had some other limited powers. (eg. FECCs had to tick off on new branches and/or branch names). Please check the rules for information on how these powers have been reallocated.