

**From:** Section 47F  
**To:** Section 47F  
**Cc:** Section 47F [redacted] design team  
**Subject:** FW: Updated Referendum ballot paper [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 17 August 2023 6:52:00 PM  
**Attachments:** RE Updated Referendum ballot paper SECOFFICIAL.msg

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Hi [redacted]

Further to [redacted] questions about the referendum ballot paper design, [redacted] has asked if you can please send through to [redacted] the record of ELT approval for the ballot paper design?

The latest I have on record is the attached message from back in March, after the meeting we had to discuss the white box question on the ballot papers that came up during the Referendum Readiness meeting. Looking back on my notes from that meeting, I've noted you advised the ballot paper design was approved last year and it was decided the change to remove the white box didn't need to go back to ELT as a minute, rather, it could be included as a note in the response letter, advising the white box was included by mistake and has been rectified.

[redacted] is out of office tomorrow but let me know if I can help with any further info.

Kind regards,

Section 47F

**Section 47F | A/g Design Communication Manager**  
Communications Section | Communications, Education and Engagement Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

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**From:** Section 47F [REDACTED] on behalf of design team  
**To:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** design team; Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Updated Referendum ballot paper [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 21 March 2023 4:02:00 PM  
**Attachments:** 22-1724 Sample Referendum ballot paper Long Question\_06.pdf  
22-1724 Sample Referendum ballot paper\_06.pdf

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Hi [REDACTED]

I've attached our current DRAFT mock-ups of the referendum ballot paper:

- **22-1724 Sample Referendum ballot paper\_06.pdf** - the sample wording proposed by the PM at the Garma festival. This was produced last year with [REDACTED] Section 47F [REDACTED] and Michael Lynch.
- **22-1724 Sample Referendum ballot paper\_Long Question\_06.pdf** - which shows a longer question (using dummy text). This was recently requested by [REDACTED] after the recent walk-through meeting.

Let me know if there's anything else I can help with at this stage.

Thanks,  
Section 47F [REDACTED]

Section 47F [REDACTED] A/g Design Communication Manager  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Section 47F [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 March 2023 3:01 PM  
**To:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** design team <[designteam@aec.gov.au](mailto:designteam@aec.gov.au)>; Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Section:** 47F [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Updated Referendum ballot paper [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi [REDACTED]

Great products and thanks for pulling this together.

I guess the next steps would be to design the actual product/s with a sample question so we can circulate. This will be a great visual aid for all involved.

Thanks again.

Regards,

Section 47F [REDACTED] Director  
Supply Chain Management | Delivery & Support Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Section 47F [REDACTED]

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**From:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 March 2023 2:30 PM  
**To:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** design team <[designteam@aec.gov.au](mailto:designteam@aec.gov.au)>; Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Section:** 47F [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Updated Referendum ballot paper [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi [REDACTED]  
Section 47

The updated Referendum sample ballot paper PDF is attached to include in the response letter as discussed in our meeting last week. It contains 3 pages – one pre-filled with ‘yes’, one with ‘no’ and one blank.

We'll proceed with updating the comms assets that use these examples. Let me know if there's anything else you need from me.

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]  
Section 47F

**Section 47F A/g Design Communication Manager**  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Section 47F [REDACTED]



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**From:** Section 47F  
**To:** Natasha Scandrett; Section 47F  
**Subject:** RE: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 30 August 2023 8:48:29 AM  
**Attachments:** [image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

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Hi Section 47F

These changes are underway.

Best wishes

Section 47F

Section 47F | Senior Designer

Communications Section | Communication, Education and Engagement Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

Section 47F

**From:** Natasha Scandrett Section 47F

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 30, 2023 8:37 AM

**To:** Section 47F

## Section 47F

**Subject:** FW: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Importance:** High

Hi all,

For your urgent attention please – apologies for the back and forwards but on reflection ELT would prefer the double quotation marks as it is consistent with the legislation (and please put in both spots for consistency).

Please revert this asap today, but note the change to the placement of the wording under the box for increased neutrality still stands – so only change is to double quotations.

Thanks for the efforts and QA work to date, there should hopefully be nothing further on this before we can finalise everything for printing this week.

I acknowledge we may have already sent artwork to the printer and as such this is something that will need to be double-checked on the proofs and QA.

If there are any issues, please let me know.

Thanks,  
Tash.

Section 47F | Assistant Commissioner  
Delivery & Support Branch Executive | Delivery & Support Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

Section 47F

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**From:** Kath Gleeson Section 47F

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 30, 2023 8:28 AM

**To:** Natasha Scandrett **Section 47F**  
**cc:** **Section 47F** [REDACTED] Jeff Pope **Section 47F** **Section 47F**  
**Section 47F**  
**Subject:** FW: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks Jeff. Tash – please revert to double quotation marks.

**Kath Gleeson | First Assistant Commissioner & National Election Manager**  
Service Delivery Group  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission

# Section 47F

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**From:** Jeff Pope **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 30, 2023 8:07 AM  
**To:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** RE: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks Kath

Legislation trumps styles guides so please revert to double quotations so we are compliant with Schedule B in the Act.

Regards,

**Jeff Pope | Deputy Electoral Commissioner**  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission

# Section 47F

**From:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 10:14 PM  
**To:** **Section 47F** [REDACTED] Jeff Pope **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** RE: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks [REDACTED] no trouble.

There is further advice from Tash attached. In essence, when AEOs were proof reading their state, **Section 47F** feedback was the Aust Govt style guide does not support use of double quotations (single preferred) and that double quotations are more old fashioned. **Section 42**

# Section 42

We can easily revert to double, but will need a steer first thing tomorrow.

Cheers – Kath.

Kath Gleeson | First Assistant Commissioner & National Election Manager  
Service Delivery Group  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission

# Section 47F

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**From:** Section 47F [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 9:40 PM

**To:** Jeff Pope [REDACTED] Kath Gleeson [REDACTED] Section 47F

**Subject:** RE: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good evening

Thank you for including me, I apologise I did not get to this before Tom approved in objective.

I have not yet briefed Tom on this one, but I am happy to do so. If the decision is to revert to double quotation marks then I am sure we can correct that for the record in objective or via an email that the Tash and [REDACTED] can save into Objective.

As an aside, having read the below email trail, I am still unclear why the single quotation marks were proposed – the Manner of voting in the Act uses double quotations. However, I note the APS style manual uses mostly single, so I wonder if that was the reasoning. I understand putting the yes and no side by side.

Kind regards,

# Section 47F

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**From:** Jeff Pope [REDACTED] Section 47F

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 7:41 PM

**To:** Kath Gleeson [REDACTED] Section 47F

**Subject:** RE: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Roger, thanks. If the convention has been double quotation marks then I think we stick to it

Regards,

**Jeff Pope | Deputy Electoral Commissioner**

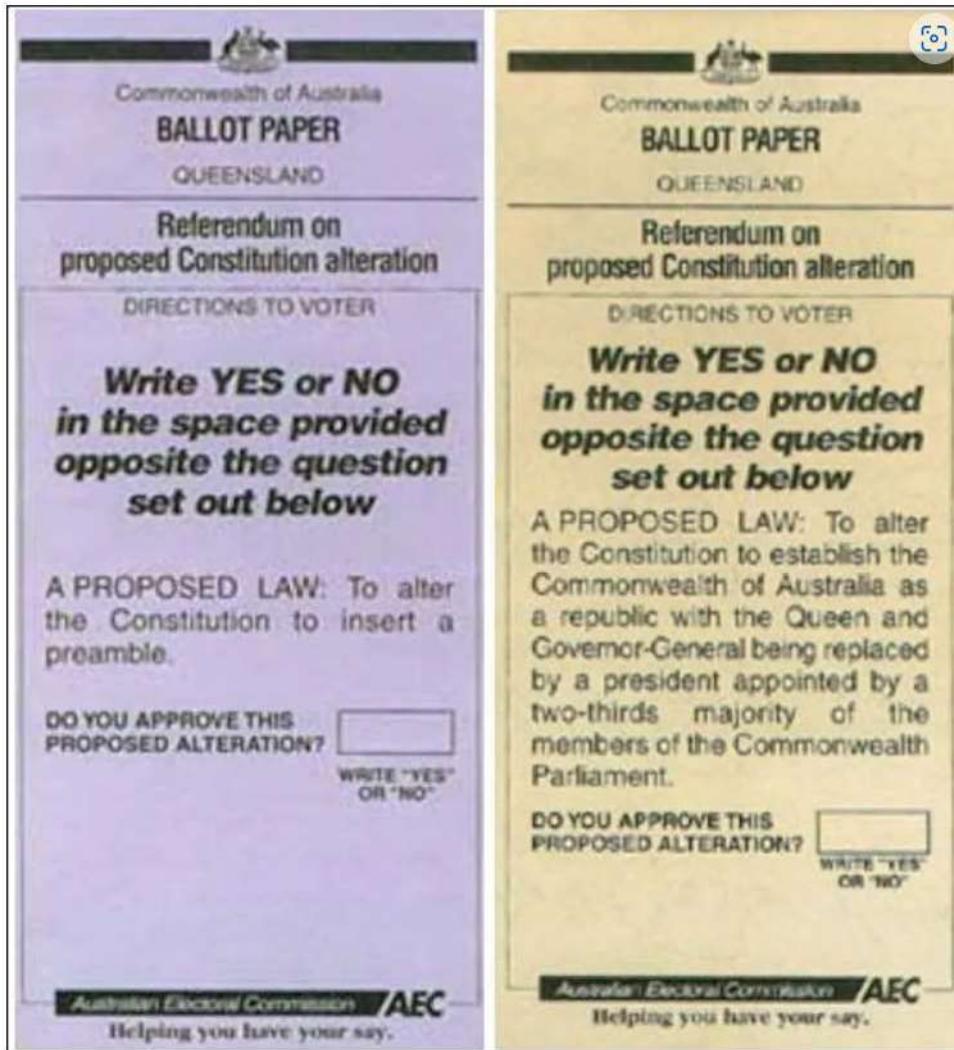
# Section 47F

From: Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**

Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 6:42 PM

To: Jeff Pope **Section 47F**

Subject: RE: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]



Kath Gleeson | First Assistant Commissioner & National Election Manager

Service Delivery Group  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission

# Section 47F

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**From:** Jeff Pope **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 3:54 PM

**To:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**

**Subject:** RE: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Ok, thanks. Have quotations been used in the past?

Regards,

**Jeff Pope | Deputy Electoral Commissioner**  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

**From:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 3:40 PM

**To:** **Section 47F** Jeff Pope **Section 47F**

**Subject:** FW: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Just FYI

**Kath Gleeson | First Assistant Commissioner & National Election Manager**  
Service Delivery Group  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

## Work at the **referendum**

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**From:** Andrew Johnson **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 3:39 PM

**To:** Natasha Scandrett **Section 47F** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**

**Cc:** **Section 47F** Legal Services Mailbox <[Legal@aec.gov.au](mailto:Legal@aec.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Section 42**

# Section 42

**From:** Natasha Scandrett **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 9:09 AM

**To:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**; Andrew Johnson **Section 47F**

**Subject:** FW: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

# Section 42

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**From:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 9:55 PM

**To:** Andrew Johnson **Section 47F**; Natasha Scandrett **Section 47F**

**Cc:** **Section 47F**; Legal Services Mailbox <[Legal@aec.gov.au](mailto:Legal@aec.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks, AJ. Tash, go ahead noting Andrew's suggestion below.

Kath Gleeson | First Assistant Commissioner & National Election Manager

Service Delivery Group

Executive Leadership Team

Australian Electoral Commission

# Section 47F

Work at the **referendum**

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today



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# Section 42

# Section 42

**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 4:48 pm

**To:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**

**Subject:** RE: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

I can't see it in schedule 1 so I reckon it is good. **Section 42**

**Michael Lynch | First Assistant Commissioner**

Electoral Integrity and Operations Group

Chief Security Officer

Australian Electoral Commission

# Section 47F

Work at the **referendum**

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**From:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 4:44 PM  
**To:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** Fwd: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

See below from Tash - I think it is a good suggestion and is not covered by legislation by the looks

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**From:** **Section 47F Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 4:05 pm  
**To:** Natasha Scandrett **Section 47F** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**  
**Cc:** **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** Re: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks Tash. It's no problem from our (Design Team) perspective and sounds like a sensible change to us. Let us know if you'd like us to proceed with the change.

Kind regards,  
**Section 47F**

---

**From:** Natasha Scandrett **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 1:12 pm  
**To:** **Section 47F** Kath Gleeson <[Kath.Gleeson@aec.gov.au](mailto:Kath.Gleeson@aec.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** RE: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi **Section 47F** and Kath, further to my email below, we received feedback from one state manager about the ballot paper wording. In the interests of full disclosure and making sure it's not something you want to prosecute, I wanted to send this on.

All suggestions except the one below are not really able to be implemented without some more significant consideration and legal advice (full list in attached email trail), as the wording on the ballot paper replicates that outlined in the RMPA. However the below is for additional instruction and not in the Form.

For the text under the box, replace layout A below (current layout) with layout B (and, again, use single-quotation marks instead of double) – this alternative layout would reduce the risk that the BP design will be seen as advantaging the 'Yes' case.

A.

Write "YES"  
or "No"

B.



For info the current ballot paper layout for words under the box (A), is the same as used in 1999 referendum and in all our example ballot papers.

I will progress the current approval process alongside.

Thanks,  
Tash.

**Natasha Scandrett | Assistant Commissioner**  
Delivery & Support Branch Executive | Delivery & Support Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

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**From:** Natasha Scandrett

**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 10:37 PM

**To:** Section 47F|Section 47F

## Section 47F

**Subject:** RE: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## Section 22

Very happy to pass on your advice below, my observation in looking at the printed ballot papers was that it may raise some questions. We haven't actually used these ballot paper specs in an event before (as last referendum was 1999 and it looked different) and I think they don't appear to be the same as HoR, but do take your point regarding the householder guide, advertising and other products.

I think we have now received all necessary legal and other advice and will progress the final approvals.

**Natasha Scandrett | Assistant Commissioner**  
Delivery & Support Branch Executive | Delivery & Support Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Section 47F

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**From:** Section 47F

**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 1:11 PM

**To:** Natasha Scandrett|Section 47F

## Section 47F

**Subject:** RE: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Tash,

Thanks for your questions.

## Section 22

As background, when the first iteration of the referendum ballot paper was produced by our team last year, it was a request from Michael Lynch, via Section 47F. I queried at the time whether there was scope to look at the design of the ballot paper and was instructed to base it on our latest referendum ballot paper (I believe that would have been the 2013 version). The only modification made was to remove the italics on "YES" and "NO".

As this version (or the sample ballot paper, based on this version) has already been printed in the

Yes/No pamphlet and many other polling place products, my recommendation would be to maintain consistency with those products and not make any alterations. We can certainly look at reviewing the design for the next referendum, but for this event, I think the time for changes has well and truly passed.

The design of this ballot paper follows established conventions, in line with our other ballot paper products, providing consistency to the voter. Re the bolding, the visual contrast between the bold and Roman text aids with comprehension and helps establish the information hierarchy. Having the question in Roman (and different to the surrounding text) helps you focus in on this piece of text.

Re the state/territory information – while critical to the count – is less important to the voter than the other information on the page.

Happy to chat

Many thanks,  
Section 47F

**Section 47F** A/g Design Communication Manager  
Communications Section | Communications, Education and Engagement Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**



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**From:** Section 47F  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 8:56 AM  
**To:** Section 47F  
**Subject:** FW: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Not sure why you weren't included in this.

Best wishes

Section 47F

**Section 47F** Senior Designer  
Communications Section | Communication, Education and Engagement Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

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**From:** Natasha Scandrett <[Natasha.Scandrett@aec.gov.au](mailto:Natasha.Scandrett@aec.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 16, 2023 9:25 PM  
**To:** Section 47F  
**Cc:** Section 47F  
**Subject:** FW: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi,

When QA'ing ballot papers today, I had some questions about the design that I wonder if maybe will arise as it goes through approvals. Just wanted to pre-emptively cover off on these. Section 47F passed on the style guide and I do understand it aligns, but not sure who has seen images and approved? The couple of things that stood out were:

- Very small text for state/territory
- Everything bolder and larger except the question itself

If you can please pass on any advice or background from design point of view.

Thanks,  
Tash.

**Section 47F** Assistant Commissioner  
Delivery & Support Branch Executive | Delivery & Support Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

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**From:** Section 47F  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 16, 2023 5:52 PM  
**To:** Natasha Scandrett **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** FW: Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide for urgent review - LEX4586 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Natasha,

See attached Referendum Ballot Paper Style Guide, with Legal Service's comments below.

Regards,

Section 47F | A/g Senior Project Officer  
Supply Chain Management | Delivery & Support Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

# Section 22

# Section 22

# Section 22

**From:** [REDACTED] **Section 47F**  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 10 August 2022 12:43:00 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.png  
22-1724 Sample Referendum ballot paper OLD\_05.pdf  
22-1724 Sample Referendum ballot paper\_05.pdf

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Hi [REDACTED]

I've made the latest changes and have attached revised PDFs.

I just wanted to check the use of the double quotes. Could this be a style hangover from a previous Referendum or is it likely that it matches the wording in the Act (so needs to stay as-is)? My understanding is that it's Aus Gov style to use single rather than double quotes ([Style Manual reference here](#)).

**DIRECTIONS TO VOTER**

**Write “YES” or “NO” in the space provided opposite the question set out below.**

You also wouldn't normally use *italics* and quote marks for emphasis as we've got here – it's one or the other. I based this sample paper on the latest Referendum template we had on file but I don't have any background knowledge of the content.

I've left it as-is for now but it would be good to check because it will make it look a bit cleaner and less dated if we can just have the Yes/No in italics or in single quotes.

Cheerio,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Section 47F Senior Graphic Designer**  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 August 2022 12:02 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks [REDACTED] – really appreciate it. Because I think the 'daft' is so sensitive – I want to dial it up just a tad. – are we able to say 'DRAFT ONLY' in the watermark (and make it a teensy bit darker?)

Cheers  
[REDACTED]

**Section 47F Director**  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Section 47F  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 August 2022 9:33 AM  
**To:** Section 47F  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Morning Section 47F

Here are the updated draft Referendum bps. I've made the formatting of the 'Do you approve the proposed alteration?' all caps to match the formatting supplied but just want to note it is a little harder to read than sentence case. It's not much text though so probably fine.

It may also be worth testing that the 'DRAFT' watermark appears when printed. It does for me here at home but we did have an issue with some pale greys not printing on the inhouse printers earlier this week.

Let me know about further changes.

Cheerio,  
Section 47F

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**Section 47F Senior Graphic Designer**  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Section 47F

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**From:** Section 47F  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 August 2022 9:02 AM  
**To:** Section 47F  
**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Another small change below

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** Michael Lynch Section 47F  
**Date:** Wednesday, 10 Aug 2022, 7:21 am  
**To:** Section 47F  
**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Section 47F – as mentioned yesterday afternoon, when making the change to include "DRAFT" (but also keeping sample) can you reflect Kath's change to the text below please. Only one set of papers will need to come back to me now we've settled on the approach. Any probs or Qs let me know.

Thanks

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**

## Section 47F

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**From:** Michael Lynch  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 August 2022 7:19 AM  
**To:** Kath Gleeson [REDACTED] Jeff Pope [REDACTED] **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Yep no problem and makes sense. I imagine the red below should be "an".

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**

Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission

## Section 47F

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**From:** Kath Gleeson [REDACTED] **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 11:05 PM  
**To:** Michael Lynch [REDACTED] Jeff Pope [REDACTED] **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Updated draft question from AGD (formatting as supplied by DoF):

A PROPOSED LAW: To alter the Constitution to establish **and** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

DO YOU APPROVE THIS PROPOSED ALTERATION?

Can B'OM pls reflect in the new version?

Thank you!

**Kath Gleeson | A/g First Assistant Commissioner Service Delivery & National Election Manager**  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission

## Section 47F

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**From:** Michael Lynch [REDACTED] **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 5:36 PM  
**To:** Jeff Pope [REDACTED] Kath Gleeson [REDACTED] **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Yep just had a chat with [REDACTED] and explained. It won't take long and we'll get it back to you both in the morning.

REGARDS

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**

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**From:** Jeff Pope **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 5:31 PM  
**To:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F** ; Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

To be sure, to be sure. And I see draft and sample as two slightly different things.

**Jeff Pope | Deputy Electoral Commissioner**  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

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**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 5:26 PM  
**To:** Jeff Pope **Section 47F** ; Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Will do Jeff – fair point.

Regards

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

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**From:** Jeff Pope **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 5:20 PM  
**To:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F** ; Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks Michael – just to be extra careful can we put a “Draft” watermark through the samples. The question is a draft question and I don’t want anyone looking at this thinking otherwise.

**Jeff Pope | Deputy Electoral Commissioner**  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

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**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 3:03 PM  
**To:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F** ; Jeff Pope **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Jeff and Kath – some files are attached for you to take a look at. It is essentially two

variations, each variation has a QId version and an unnamed version.

You'll see below the original request I sent to BO'M (complete with an image of the 1999 BP) and the filenames with "01" are as a result of that request but when I read the BP I didn't think it made sense and you'll see my rationale below. They did another version and those filenames have "02". Not saying my wording is any better but hopefully conceptually you can see why we may need further conversations around the construct noting that may well be why you wanted to start to map this out.

I know there is still a lot of water to flow under this bridge but I think this type of exercise early is very useful.

Regards

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---

**From:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 1:11 PM  
**To:** Michael Lynch [REDACTED] **Section 47F**  
**Cc:** Matthew Haigh [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks Michael – does the following work better?

**Section 47F** Director  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---

**From:** Michael Lynch [REDACTED] **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 12:58 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] **Section 47F**  
**Cc:** Matthew Haigh [REDACTED] **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Great work and speedy thanks [REDACTED] **Section 47F**

The bolded title "A PROPOSED LAW" is on the 99 paper but it doesn't appear in Schedule 1 of the RMPA, we may need to think about that.

I actually think the paper is a bit tricky because it is actually asking 2 questions, the first component I think needs to be a statement. I think this paragraph:

Do you support an alteration  
to the Constitution that  
establishes an Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander Voice?

Needs to be reworded so that the second question makes sense:

**Do you approve  
this proposed  
alteration?**

So in other words the first paragraph to be:

**A PROPOSED LAW** : Alter the constitution to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

That then makes the second component logical.

Not criticism of course the team are working with what they have but by producing this it helps draw out the answer from the IDC that currently sits twice a week looking at this stuff.

Great work – happy to hear any thoughts on the above also of course.

Regards

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---

---

**From:** **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 12:34 PM

**To:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**

**Cc:** Matthew Haigh **Section 47F**

**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Michael – the wonderful **Section 47F** in the design team has mocked up two sample referendum ballot papers.

- i) Sample one with 'state/territory' in the state line
- ii) Sample one with 'Queensland' in the state line

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you need anything else for this request.

Cheers

**Section 47F | Director**

Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---

---

**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 11:27 AM  
**To:** **Section 47F** **Section 47F**  
**Cc:** Matthew Haigh **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Awesome – thank you.

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

---

**From:** **Section 47F** **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 11:12 AM  
**To:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**  
**Cc:** Matthew Haigh **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Matt – the design team are already onto this- and I will let you know if there are any issues with it and/or timing.

At this stage we will just pick one state for the sample ie. Queensland. Sound okay?

Cheers  
Sec

**Section 47F Director**  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

---

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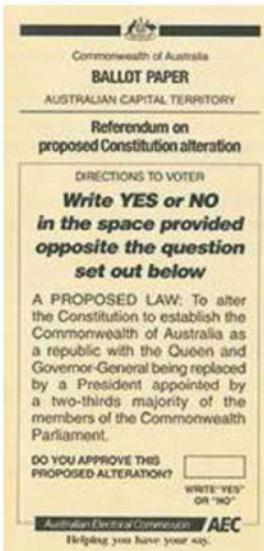
**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 7:22 AM  
**To:** **Section 47F**  
**Cc:** Matthew Haigh **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hello **Section 47F**

**Section 22**

I found the below image from 1999 as a reference, obviously we'd need one image per state and territory. The colour of the paper is officially called buff!

Any issue with the deadline please let me know.



Thanks

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission

## Section 47F

---

**From:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 August 2022 10:59 PM  
**To:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**  
**Cc:** Jeff Pope **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hey Michael – I've forwarded you an email in Fortress from DoF. Can you pls see if **Section 47F** team can prepare a sample ref BP based on the draft question shared by the PM at Garma?

*Do you support an alteration to the Constitution that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?*

Something by late this week would be great if we can.

Jeff – this is likely to come up at IDC tomorrow apparently. I've flagged with **Section 47F** that we may be unrepresented and if so I'll get an update from them on Weds.

Cheers – Kath.

**Kath Gleeson | A/g First Assistant Commissioner Service Delivery & National Election Manager**  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

---

**From:** [REDACTED] **Section 47F**  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Date:** Thursday, 6 October 2022 10:12:50 AM  
**Attachments:** 22-1724 Sample Referendum ballot paper\_SAMPLE.pdf

---

Here you go

Sect

---

**From:** **Section 47F** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 October 2022 10:01  
**To:** **Section 47F** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi – see below.

Thank you!!

---

**From:** **Section 47F** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 6 October 2022 9:29 AM  
**To:** **Section 47F** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi [REDACTED] – appreciate if the team can do me a mock ballot paper with the under A proposed law – the wording as suggested by Michael below (and I have just shortened).

Thanks  
Sect

**Section 47F** Director  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---



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Australian Electoral Commission

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---

**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 October 2022 4:04 PM  
**To:** **Section 47F** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi [REDACTED] – I think it might be safer to swap out the question with something like:

The approved wording for the referendum question will appear in this area of the ballot paper here.

Happy for that to be changed to be something better than I just invented but hopefully you get the gist.  
Happy with everything else.

Thanks

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Electoral Integrity and Operations Group  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**



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**From:** Section 47F

**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 October 2022 12:26 PM

**To:** Michael Lynch Section 47F

**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Michael - are you comfortable if I shared this generic DRAFT ballot paper (in confidence) with BMP for the purposes of putting it on the sample ads that will be shown to ELT at the presentation of the creative concepts (and would also be used in the market testing activity). Or would you prefer we put made up text in the question bit?

I thought it might be okay given it is based on the PMs public announcements and it is labelled as draft only and sample.

But okay either way.

Cheers

Section 47F

**Section 47F Director**  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**



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**From:** Section 47F

**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 August 2022 12:51 PM

**To:** Michael Lynch Section 47F

**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

H Michael - is this 'draft' treatment enough do you think?

(FYI we have based this sample paper on the latest Referendum template we had on file – but we may want to confirm the use of italics *and* double quote marks for emphasis. ie. Design team recommend it would look a bit cleaner and less dated if we can just have the Yes/No in italics or in single quotes.)

Cheers

Section 47F

**Section 47F Director**  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**



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---

## Section 47F

**From:** Michael Lynch

**Date:** Wednesday, 10 Aug 2022, 7:21 am

**To:** Section 47F

**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi [Section 47F] – as mentioned yesterday afternoon, when making the change to include “DRAFT” (but also keeping sample) can you reflect Kath’s change to the text below please. Only one set of papers will need to come back to me now we’ve settled on the approach. Any probs or Qs let me know.

Thanks

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**

Enabling and Regulation Division

Australian Electoral Commission

Section 47F

---



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---

**From:** Michael Lynch

**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 August 2022 7:19 AM

**To:** Kath Gleeson

[Section 47F] Jeff Pope

**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Yep no problem and makes sense. I imagine the red below should be “an”.

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**

Enabling and Regulation Division

Australian Electoral Commission

Section 47F

---



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---

**From:** Kath Gleeson

[Section 47F] Jeff Pope

**To:** Michael Lynch

[Section 47F] Jeff Pope

**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Updated draft question from AGD (formatting as supplied by DoF):

A PROPOSED LAW: To alter the Constitution to establish **and** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

DO YOU APPROVE THIS PROPOSED ALTERATION?

Can B'OM pls reflect in the new version?

Thank you!

**Kath Gleeson | A/g First Assistant Commissioner Service Delivery & National Election Manager**

Executive Leadership Team

Australian Electoral Commission

Section 47F



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---

**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 5:36 PM

**To:** Jeff Pope **Section 47F**; Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**

**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Yep just had a chat with **Section 47F** and explained. It won't take long and we'll get it back to you both in the morning.

REgards

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---



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---

**From:** Jeff Pope **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 5:31 PM

**To:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**; Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**

**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

To be sure, to be sure. And I see draft and sample as two slightly different things.

**Jeff Pope | Deputy Electoral Commissioner**  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---



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---

**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 5:26 PM

**To:** Jeff Pope **Section 47F**; Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**

**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Will do Jeff – fair point.

Regards

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---



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---

**From:** Jeff Pope **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 5:20 PM

**To:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**

Kath Gleeson

**Section 47F**

**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks Michael – just to be extra careful can we put a “Draft” watermark through the samples. The question is a draft question and I don’t want anyone looking at this thinking otherwise.

**Jeff Pope | Deputy Electoral Commissioner**  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---



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---

**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 3:03 PM

**To:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**

Jeff Pope **Section 47F**

**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Jeff and Kath – some files are attached for you to take a look at. It is essentially two variations, each variation has a Qld version and an unnamed version.

You'll see below the original request I sent to BO'M (complete with an image of the 1999 BP) and the filenames with "01" are as a result of that request but when I read the BP I didn't think it made sense and you'll see my rationale below. They did another version and those filenames have "02". Not saying my wording is any better but hopefully conceptually you can see why we may need further conversations around the construct noting that may well be why you wanted to start to map this out.

I know there is still a lot of water to flow under this bridge but I think this type of exercise early is very useful.

Regards

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---



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---

**From:** **Section 47F** **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 1:11 PM

**To:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**

**Cc:** Matthew Haigh **Section 47F**

**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks Michael – does the following work better?

## Section 47F | Director

Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

## Section 47F

---



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**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 12:58 PM

**To:** **Section 47F**

**Cc:** Matthew Haigh **Section 47F**

**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Great work and speedy thanks **Section 47F**

The bolded title "**A PROPOSED LAW**" is on the 99 paper but it doesn't appear in Schedule 1 of the RMPA, we may need to think about that.

I actually think the paper is a bit tricky because it is actually asking 2 questions, the first component I think needs to be a statement. I think this paragraph:

Do you support an alteration  
to the Constitution that  
establishes an Aboriginal and  
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Needs to be reworded so that the second question makes sense:

**Do you approve  
this proposed  
alteration?**

So in other words the first paragraph to be:

**A PROPOSED LAW** : Alter the constitution to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

That then makes the second component logical.

Not criticism of course the team are working with what they have but by producing this it helps draw out the answer from the IDC that currently sits twice a week looking at this stuff.

Great work – happy to hear any thoughts on the above also of course.

Regards

Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---



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---

**From:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 12:34 PM  
**To:** Michael Lynch [REDACTED] Section 47F  
**Cc:** Matthew Haigh [REDACTED] Section 47F  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Michael – the wonderful [REDACTED] in the design team has mocked up two sample referendum ballot papers.

- i) Sample one with 'state/territory' in the state line
- ii) Sample one with 'Queensland' in the state line

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you need anything else for this request.

Cheers  
[REDACTED]

Section 47F Director  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

---



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---

**From:** Michael Lynch [REDACTED] Section 47F  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 11:27 AM  
**To:** Section 47F [REDACTED] Section 47F  
**Cc:** Matthew Haigh [REDACTED] Section 47F  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Awesome – thank you.

Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

---



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---

**From:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 11:12 AM  
**To:** Michael Lynch [REDACTED] Section 47F  
**Cc:** Matthew Haigh [REDACTED] Section 47F  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Matt – the design team are already onto this- and I will let you know if there are any issues with it and/or timing.

At this stage we will just pick one state for the sample ie. Queensland. Sound okay?

Cheers

Section  
47F

## Section 47F | Director

Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

# Section 47F



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**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 7:22 AM

**To:** Section 47F

**Cc:** Matthew Haigh Section 47F

**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hello Section 47F

## Section 22

I found the below image from 1999 as a reference, obviously we'd need one image per state and territory.  
The colour of the paper is officially called buff!

Any issue with the deadline please let me know.



Thanks

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission

Section 47F



Make sure you're **enrolled to vote.**  
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**From:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 August 2022 10:59 PM  
**To:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**  
**Cc:** Jeff Pope **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hey Michael – I've forwarded you an email in Fortress from DoF. Can you pls see if **Section 47F** team can prepare a sample ref BP based on the draft question shared by the PM at Garma?

*Do you support an alteration to the Constitution that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?*

Something by late this week would be great if we can.

Jeff – this is likely to come up at IDC tomorrow apparently. I've flagged with **Section 47F** that we may be unrepresented and if so I'll get an update from them on Weds.

Cheers – Kath.

**Kath Gleeson | A/g First Assistant Commissioner Service Delivery & National Election Manager**  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**



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**From:** [REDACTED] **Section 47F**  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 4:33:07 PM

---

Big fat thanks!

**Section 47F** | Director  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

---

**From:** **Section 47F** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 4:27 PM  
**To:** **Section 47F** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi **Section 47F** [REDACTED]

Here are the 4 versions (original and reworded, QLD and state/territory) with watermarks

Cheerio,  
**Section 47F** [REDACTED]

**Section 47F** | Senior Graphic Designer  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

---

**From:** **Section 47F** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 4:05 PM  
**To:** **Section 47F** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi ya - can you please add the watermark as Michael requests.

Cheers [REDACTED]

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

---

**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 09 Aug 2022, 3:40 pm  
**To:** **Section 47F** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Matthew Haigh **Section 47F** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Me again – sorry to be a pain, in terms of the four files you've sent me, could you take a look

at adding the watermark to each of them please?

Thanks

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission

## Section 47F

---

**From:** Section 47F  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 1:11 PM  
**To:** Michael Lynch Section 47F  
**Cc:** Matthew Haigh Section 47F  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks Michael – does the following work better?

Section 47F | Director  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

## Section 47F

---

**From:** Michael Lynch Section 47F  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 12:58 PM  
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**Cc:** Matthew Haigh Section 47F  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

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alteration?**

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Regards

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---

**From:** **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 12:34 PM

**To:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**

**Cc:** Matthew Haigh **Section 47F**

**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

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- i) Sample one with 'state/territory' in the state line
- ii) Sample one with 'Queensland' in the state line

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you need anything else for this request.

Cheers

**Section 47F**

**Section 47F Director**

Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---

**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 11:27 AM

**To:** **Section 47F**

**Cc:** Matthew Haigh **Section 47F**

**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Awesome – thank you.

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**

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**From:** **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 11:12 AM  
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**Cc:** Matthew Haigh **Section 47F**  
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At this stage we will just pick one state for the sample ie. Queensland. Sound okay?

Cheers

**Section 47F Director**  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

---

---

**From:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 7:22 AM  
**To:** **Section 47F**  
**Cc:** Matthew Haigh **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

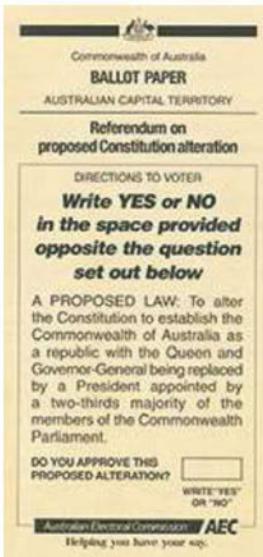
Hello **Section 47F**

You'll see a job Kath has requested below. **Section 22**  
**Section 22**

---

I found the below image from 1999 as a reference, obviously we'd need one image per state and territory. The title of the Referendum may still need to be worked through but for now let's call it **Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Voices to Parliament**. The colour of the paper is officially called buff!

Any issue with the deadline please let me know.



Thanks

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**  
Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission

## Section 47F

---

**From:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 August 2022 10:59 PM  
**To:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**  
**Cc:** Jeff Pope **Section 47F**  
**Subject:** Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hey Michael – I've forwarded you an email in Fortress from DoF. Can you pls see if [redacted] team can prepare a sample ref BP based on the draft question shared by the PM at Garma?

*Do you support an alteration to the Constitution that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?*

Something by late this week would be great if we can.

Jeff – this is likely to come up at IDC tomorrow apparently. I've flagged with **Section 47F** that we may be unrepresented and if so I'll get an update from them on Weds.

Cheers – Kath.

**Kath Gleeson | A/g First Assistant Commissioner Service Delivery & National Election Manager**  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission

## Section 47F

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**From:** [REDACTED] | **Section 47F**  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 1:15:01 PM

---

Thanks muchly!

**Section 47F** | Director  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

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**From:** **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 1:06 PM  
**To:** **Section 47F**  
**Cc:** design team <[designteam@aec.gov.au](mailto:designteam@aec.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi **Section 47F**

PDFs with revised wording attached

Cheerio,

**Section 47F** | Senior Graphic Designer  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

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**From:** **Section 47F**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 12:35 PM  
**To:** **Section 47F**  
**Cc:** design team <[designteam@aec.gov.au](mailto:designteam@aec.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

You are fab – thank you so much. I have sent them off to Michael – and will let you know if any changes are required.

Cheers

Section 47

**Section 47F** | Director  
Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

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**From:** **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 12:23 PM

**To:** Section 47F [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Section 47F [REDACTED] design team <[designteam@aec.gov.au](mailto:designteam@aec.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Section 47F [REDACTED]

As discussed, here are the two sample Referendum ballot papers, generic + QLD.

Let me know if you need anything else from me at this stage

Cheerio,

Section 47F [REDACTED]

**Section 47F Senior Graphic Designer**

Communications Section | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Section 47F [REDACTED]

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**From:** Section 47F [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 August 2022 8:43 AM

**To:** Section 47F [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi guys - can you look at this request and if you can get started on it - fab.

I'll be in the office around 11am when I get back in by Canberra. - if we need to discuss anything.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

Sent with BlackBerry Work

([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** Michael Lynch Section 47F [REDACTED]

**Date:** Tuesday, 09 Aug 2022, 7:21 am

**To:** Section 47F [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Matthew Haigh Section 47F [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

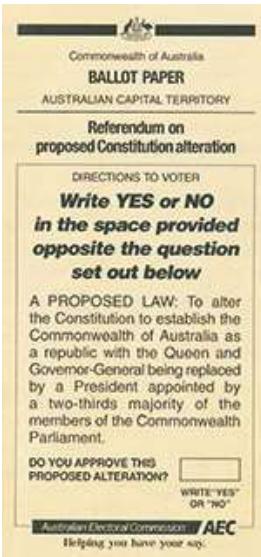
Hello Section 47F [REDACTED]

You'll see a job Kath has requested below. Section 22 [REDACTED]

Section 22 [REDACTED]

I found the below image from 1999 as a reference, obviously we'd need one image per state and territory. The title of the Referendum may still need to be worked through but for now let's call it **Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Voices to Parliament**. The colour of the paper is officially called buff!

Any issue with the deadline please let me know.



Thanks

**Michael Lynch | A/g First Assistant Commissioner**

Enabling and Regulation Division  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

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**From:** Kath Gleeson **Section 47F**

**Sent:** Monday, 8 August 2022 10:59 PM

**To:** Michael Lynch **Section 47F**

**Cc:** Jeff Pope **Section 47F**

**Subject:** Sample referendum BP [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hey Michael – I've forwarded you an email in Fortress from DoF. Can you pls see if [REDACTED] team can prepare a sample ref BP based on the draft question shared by the PM at Garma?

*Do you support an alteration to the Constitution that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?*

Something by late this week would be great if we can.

Jeff – this is likely to come up at IDC tomorrow apparently. I've flagged with **Section 47F** that we may be unrepresented and if so I'll get an update from them on Weds.

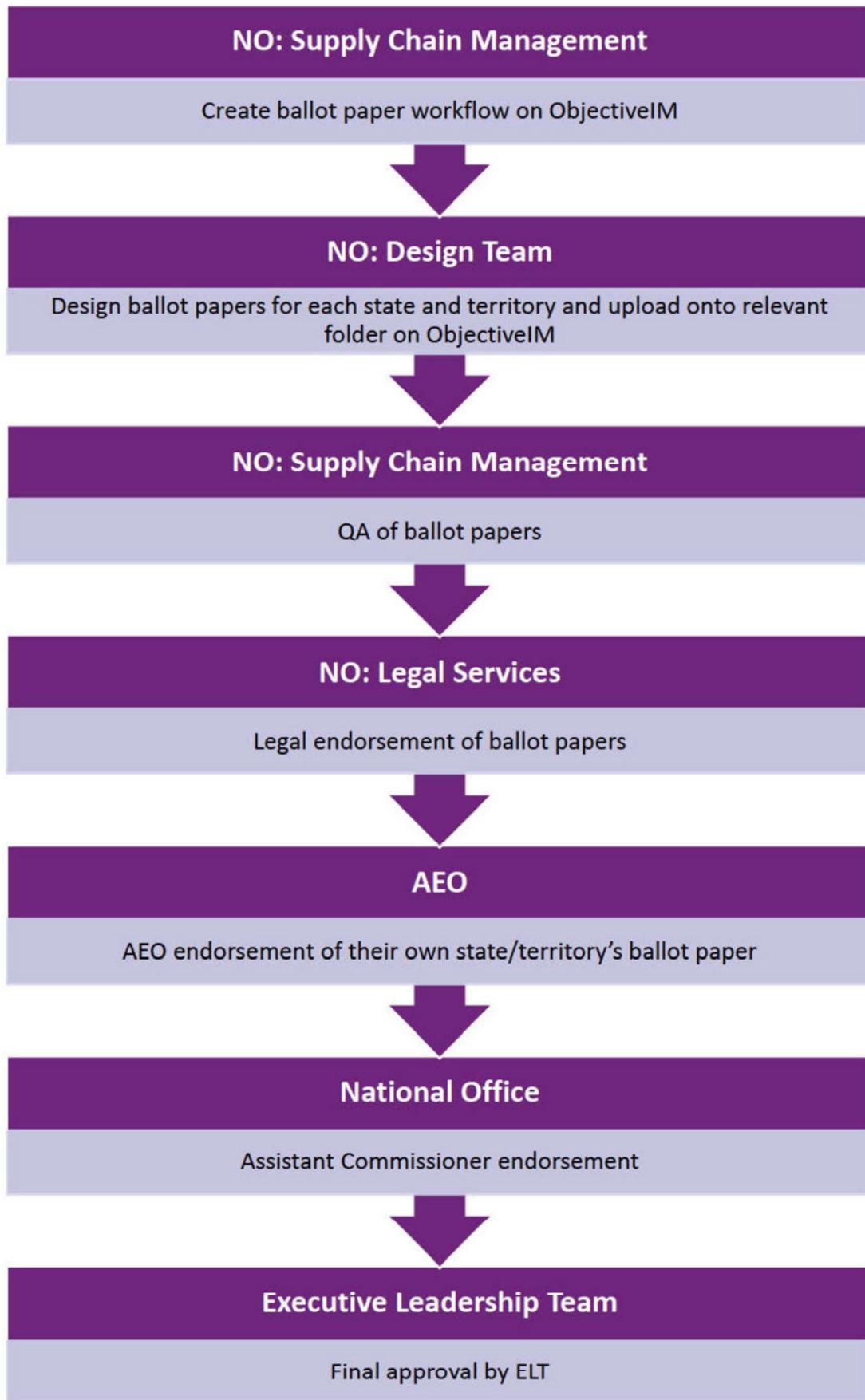
Cheers – Kath.

**Kath Gleeson | A/g First Assistant Commissioner Service Delivery & National Election Manager**  
Executive Leadership Team  
Australian Electoral Commission

**Section 47F**

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## ObjectiveIM Ballot Paper Approval Workflow



**From:** Section 47F  
**To:** Section 47F  
**Cc:** Section 47F, [design team](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Updated Referendum ballot paper [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 17 August 2023 6:52:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [RE Updated Referendum ballot paper SEC OFFICIAL.msg](#)  
[image001.gif](#)  
[image002.gif](#)

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Hi [Section 47F](#)

Further to Tash's questions about the referendum ballot paper design, [Section 47F](#) has asked if you can please send through to Tash the record of ELT approval for the ballot paper design?

The latest I have on record is the attached message from back in March, after the meeting we had to discuss the white box question on the ballot papers that came up during the Referendum Readiness meeting. Looking back on my notes from that meeting, I've noted you advised the ballot paper design was approved last year and it was decided the change to remove the white box didn't need to go back to ELT as a minute, rather, it could be included as a note in the response letter, advising the white box was included by mistake and has been rectified.

[Section 47F](#) is out of office tomorrow but let me know if I can help with any further info.

Kind regards,  
Section 47F

**Section 47F | A/g Design Communication Manager**  
Communications Section | Communications, Education and Engagement Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
[Section 47F](#)

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**From:** Section 47F  
**To:** Natasha Scandrett, Section 47  
**Cc:** Section 47  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance Task - Clearance - TAS - M nute - Ballot Paper Endorsement - Ref 2023 - Delivery and Support Branch [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 23 August 2023 2:19:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [image011.pdf](#)  
[image033.pdf](#)  
[image034.png](#)  
[image035.png](#)

Thanks Tash; I appreciate it.

Section 47F | State Manager and AEO for Tasmania  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Section 47F  
Section 47F [REDACTED]



**From:** Natasha Scandrett, Section 47F  
**Sent:** Wednesday August 23 2023 1:08 PM  
**To:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance Task - Clearance - TAS - Minute - Ballot Paper Endorsement - Ref 2023 - Delivery and Support Branch [SEC OFFICIAL]

Thanks Section 47F I will provide visibility of the suggestion to design team and Kath just in case.

The 1999 ballot paper and all our example ballot papers do have the layout as per current artwork. I do take the point though and really appreciate your thorough review and suggestions.

Natasha Scandrett | Assistant Commissioner  
Delivery & Support Branch Executive | Delivery & Support Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Section 47F [REDACTED]



**From:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday August 23 2023 12:55 PM  
**To:** Natasha Scandrett, Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance Task - Clearance - TAS - Minute - Ballot Paper Endorsement - Ref 2023 - Delivery and Support Branch [SEC OFFICIAL]

Hi Tash Section 47F

Just following up on my email below yesterday to close the loop on this.

Having looked at the RMPA properly this morning it's clear that Form B does not prescribe any text under the box. Given this assuming we proceed with the proposed text under the box my view is that we should change the layout of that text as per my suggestion 4 below. I'll leave it with you to consider and make a call on this though.

I've approved the Minute in Objective which should now be with you Tash.

Thanks Section 47F

Section 47F | State Manager and AEO for Tasmania  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Section 47F  
Section 47F [REDACTED]



**From:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday August 22 2023 5:57 PM  
**To:** Natasha Scandrett, Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: For Clearance Task - Clearance - TAS - Minute - Ballot Paper Endorsement - Ref 2023 - Delivery and Support Branch [SEC OFFICIAL]

Thanks Tash. Yes I've just had a look at Form B in the Act and most of that wording is prescribed. The text under the box is the only bit that doesn't appear to be (although I am looking at it on my phone) so we could potentially make the edit I propose at 4 below.

As for my other edits I don't imagine ELT would be up for deviating from the prescribed form even if we had the scope to do so legally. Happy to discuss if you disagree but otherwise I'll just have to save my suggestions for the next update to the Act!

Thanks Section 47F

Section 47F  
State Manager and AEO for Tasmania (*she/her*)  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Section 47F [REDACTED]

**From:** Natasha Scandrett, Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday August 22 2023 5:33 pm  
**To:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Section 47F [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance Task - Clearance - TAS - Minute - Ballot Paper Endorsement - Ref 2023 - Delivery and Support Branch [SEC OFFICIAL]

Hi [REDACTED] was asking about design choices I think most of the answers to your suggestions below is that the wording replicates that outlined in Form B of Schedule 1 to the RMPA. I think there would be a bigger legal question around how much we could change or simplify the language and still have the ballot paper compliant with this Form.

Just sending this quickly but happy to chat in the morning.

Natasha Scandrett | Assistant Commissioner  
Delivery & Support Branch Executive | Delivery & Support Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Section 47F [REDACTED]

From: Section 47F [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday August 22, 2023 5:27 PM  
To: Section 47F [REDACTED]  
Cc: Section 47F [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: For Clearance Task - Clearance - TAS - Minute - Ballot Paper Endorsement - Ref 2023 - Delivery and Support Branch [SEC OFFICIAL]

Thanks [REDACTED]

My suggested edits are

1. Replace the current 'Referendum on proposed Constitution alteration' with 'Referendum on proposed alteration to Constitution' – this alternative drafting would help to simplify the BP as the title would then contain the exact same phrase as that used in the question i.e. 'proposed alteration'. It will already be potentially confusing for people to see 'proposed law' and 'proposed alteration' used on the BP to refer to the same thing so we should avoid using any further variations on this wording if we can.
2. Replace 'Directions to voter' with 'Instructions' – fewer words and more accessible English which is likely to make it easier for voters to read and understand.
3. Replace 'Write "YES" or "NO"' in the space provided opposite the question set out below with 'Write "YES" or "NO" in the space opposite the question below' – again fewer words and more accessible English so likely to be easier for voters to read and understand; also double-quotation marks are pretty old-fashioned and no longer used in Australian English (e.g. not supported by the Australian Government style guide).
4. For the text under the box replace layout A below (current layout) with layout B (and again use single-quotation marks instead of double) – this alternative layout would reduce the risk that the BP design will be seen as advantaging the 'Yes' case.

A.



B.



(Where I've used underlining above it's just to highlight the differences; I'm not suggesting we use underlining on the BP.)

I not [REDACTED] advice in her email to Tash that the time for changes to the BP design for this event has passed as the current design has already been printed in the Yes/No pamphlet and other polling place products. For what it's worth I'm not sure this is particularly compelling reason not to make changes if those changes will improve the voter experience help people vote formally and reduce reputation risk for the agency.

Very happy to discuss if that'd be useful.

Also please let me know if you want me to go ahead and endorse the Minute in Objective. I can just note that I've provided some feedback on the proof separately.

Thanks [REDACTED]

Section 47F State Manager and AEO for Tasmania [REDACTED]  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Section 47F [REDACTED]

From: Section 47F [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday August 22, 2023 2:38 PM  
To: Section 47F [REDACTED]  
Cc: Natasha Scandrett [REDACTED] Section 47F [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: For Clearance Task - Clearance - TAS - Minute - Ballot Paper Endorsement - Ref 2023 - Delivery and Support Branch [SEC OFFICIAL]

Hi [REDACTED]

Happy for feedback. I would suggest the best course of action in replying via email in the first instance and we will keep a record.

I have also attached some questions Tash had raised as they may talk to your enhancements.

Thanks.

Regards,

Section 47F | Director  
Supply Chain Management | Delivery & Support Branch  
Australian Electoral Commission  
Section 47F [REDACTED]

From: Section 47F [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday August 22, 2023 1:19 PM  
To: Section 47F [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: For Clearance Task - Clearance - TAS - Minute - Ballot Paper Endorsement - Ref 2023 - Delivery and Support Branch [SEC OFFICIAL]

Hey [REDACTED]

I'm looking at the draft REF23 ballot paper. I appreciate that QA has been done and the final proof will be cleared by the EC but am wondering whether there's any scope to provide feedback on the wording (not the wording of the proposed alteration obviously).

In short I think there's an opportunity for us to make some relatively minor edits to (1) make the BP simpler and clearer which will likely help people to cast a

formal vote and (2) limit the risk that some people will say the BP design advantages the 'Yes' case.

If there is scope for feedback I'd be happy to mark-up my suggestions on a Word version of the text or just send them through in an email.

Thanks - **Section 4F**

**Section 47F | State Manager and AEO for Tasmania** **Section 4F**  
Australian Electoral Commission  
**Section 47F**



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From: objective <[Objective.PROD@aec.gov.au](mailto:Objective.PROD@aec.gov.au)>  
Sent: Tuesday August 22 2023 11:39 AM  
To: **Section 47F**  
Subject: For Clearance Task - Clearance - TAS - Minute - Ballot Paper Endorsement - Ref 2023 - Delivery and Support Branch

**AECObjective<sup>TM</sup>**

For Clearance Task

**Section 47F** has assigned a task for clearance to **Section 47F** for action.

Comments from previous task:

*Hi **Section 47F**, Please see the Referendum Ballot Paper proofs requiring your endorsement. Please note, there is no requirement to conduct a QA activity as this has been conducted and signed off by Tash. Please do not print or share this file. Happy to discuss if you have any questions.*

Final approval due on 23/08/2023

**Go To Task >**

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For assistance, please contact the Information Management team through [Objective.M@aec.gov.au](mailto:Objective.M@aec.gov.au) or by phone at x11046.

This email has been automatically generated, please do not reply.

Write "YES"  
or "No"

*Write*  
**'YES' or 'No'**

# Minute

**Classification: OFFICIAL:SENSITIVE**

**File reference:** A3051353

**To:** Tom Rogers, Electoral Commissioner

Through:	Through name	Position	Section
	Natasha Scandrett	Assistant Commissioner	Delivery and Support Branch
	Kath Gleeson	First Assistant Commissioner and National Election Manager	Service Delivery Group
	Michael Lynch	First Assistant Commissioner and National Incident Manager	Electoral Integrity & Operations Group
	Jeff Pope	Deputy Electoral Commissioner	
	Tom Rogers	Electoral Commissioner	

**Subject:** For action – 2023 referendum ballot paper approval

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## Purpose

To seek approval for all 2023 referendum ballot papers.

## Background and key issues

Supply Chain Management, Delivery and Support Branch has created ballot papers for the 2023 referendum. The ballot papers have been created in accordance with section 25 and Form B in Schedule 1 to the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984*.

The ballot papers can be found via the following link

[A3036917 All 2023 Referendum - Ordinary - Proofs](#)

## Consultation

### Section 42

[REDACTED]

## Recommendations

That you approve all attached 2023 referendum ballot papers.

### Section 47F

A/g Senior Project Officer  
23/08/2023

Noted Approved Not approved

Tom Rogers  
Electoral Commissioner

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Signature

Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_