R.O.A.N

REPATRIATION OF A NATION

The R.O.A.N Charter

Average AF Pty Ltd · 29 September 2026

Part 1 — Name, standing, objects and character

1.1 Name. The name of the organisation is the R.O.A.N Initiative ("the Initiative").

1.2 How the Initiative operates. The Initiative operates under **Average AF Pty Ltd ACN 647 769 579, ABN 24 647 769 579** ("the Company"). The Initiative is not itself a separate legal entity. The Company holds the Initiative's money, enters its contracts, and carries its legal responsibilities.

1.2A What this document is. This is a **charter**, not a constitution. A constitution is the governing document of a legal entity; the Initiative is not one. This Charter governs how the Initiative conducts itself within the arrangement in clause 1.2, and binds its members and office holders by their agreement to it on joining. It does not bind the Company — see clause 4.9.

The word is used deliberately. The Initiative argues for reform of **the** Constitution, and a body that publishes its own document under the same name blurs a term it is asking the public to take seriously.

1.3 Objects. The objects of the Initiative are:

a. to advance public understanding of the structural defects in Australian governance identified in the Reconstitution Framework, and of the reforms proposed to correct them;

b. to examine legislation before the Parliament of the Commonwealth, and before the Parliaments of the States and Territories where relevant, and to publish analysis of it anchored to the text of the instrument;

c. to put those analyses, and the reforms proposed in the Framework, to sitting members of Parliament publicly and on the record; and

d. to conduct its own governance in a manner consistent with the reforms it proposes, so that the Initiative is a working demonstration of them.

1.4 The evidentiary standard. The Initiative adopts as a binding standard of conduct that **no claim is published in its name unless it can be traced to an identified instrument, judgment, or documented institutional record.** This standard applies to every publication, every submission, and every public statement made on behalf of the Initiative.

1.5 What the Initiative does not assert. The Initiative does not assert, and no person may assert on its behalf, that the Constitution is invalid; that there exist two Commonwealths; that any person may by declaration cease to be subject to Australian law; or that any obligation lawfully imposed by an Australian court or statutory authority may be avoided by the use of particular forms of words. Conduct inconsistent with this clause is a ground for termination of membership under clause 2.6.

1.6 Not a political party, and not a contestant for office. The Initiative **must not** apply to be registered as a political party under Part XI of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, **must not** operate as one, and **must not** endorse, nominate, fund or campaign for any candidate at any election.

The reason is recorded so that it survives any change of leadership. A body that contests seats has an obvious interest in changing the rules by which seats are won. The reforms in Pillar 6 — proportional representation, multi-member regions, a collegial executive — would be read as self-interest if they came from an organisation that stood to gain seats from them. Coming from a body that has permanently disclaimed that path, they cannot be. **The Initiative's credibility on electoral reform depends on having nothing to win from it.**

1.7 Members are free to stand, on their own account. Nothing in clause 1.6 prevents a member from standing for election. Where a member does so:

a. they stand as an individual, and not as a candidate of the Initiative;

b. the Initiative does not endorse, nominate, fund, campaign for, or provide any resource to them, and no officer may purport to do so in its name;

c. they must not use the name, logo or branding of the Initiative on campaign material, or describe themselves as a candidate of the Initiative; and

d. any material of the Initiative they rely on must be material published to all members and to the public without distinction.

The Initiative's role ends at publishing research and putting it to sitting members. What a member does with that as a citizen is their own affair.

Part 2 — Membership

2.1 Eligibility. Any natural person who is enrolled, or eligible to be enrolled, on the Commonwealth electoral roll may apply for membership.

2.2 Admission. Applications are approved by the Council or its delegate. Approval may be refused only on grounds recorded in writing, and a refusal may be appealed to the Returning Officer under Part 8.

2.3 Division and jurisdiction. Each member is recorded against one Commonwealth electoral division, determined by residential address, and against the State or Territory in which that division lies. A member may change the recorded division on change of address. No change takes effect while a ballot is open.

2.4 The register. The Initiative keeps a register of members recording, at minimum, name, contact details, division, State or Territory, and date of admission. The register is not published. Aggregate membership numbers by State and by division are published quarterly.

2.5 Federal Electoral Representative Members. Every member of the Initiative is a Federal Electoral Representative Member, or FERM. The title is internal to the Initiative. **No member may use it in correspondence with a government agency, a court, a tribunal, a police officer, or any other person in a manner capable of suggesting that the member holds or is entitled to hold elected or official office.**

2.6 Termination. Membership ends on resignation, on failure to pay any subscription within three months of it falling due, or on termination by resolution of the Council for conduct inconsistent with clause 1.4, clause 1.5, clause 1.7 or clause 2.5. A member whose membership is terminated may appeal to the Returning Officer, and the Returning Officer’s decision may be reviewed by a vote of the members under Part 6.

Part 3 — Electorate representatives

3.1 One per division. Members recorded against a Commonwealth electoral division may elect one of their number as the electorate representative for that division.

3.2 Method. Election is by preferential ballot of the members recorded against that division. Candidates are ranked; the candidate with the fewest first preferences is excluded and their preferences distributed, repeating until a candidate holds a majority of the remaining votes.

3.3 Term. Two years.

3.4 Function. The electorate representative convenes the division’s members, represents the division at meetings of the Initiative, and coordinates the division’s engagement with the sitting member for that division.

3.5 Recall. On petition of twenty per cent of the members recorded against a division, a recall ballot is held in that division. The representative is removed if a majority of those voting so decide. A casual vacancy is filled by a fresh election under clause 3.2.

Part 4 — The Council

4.1 Composition. The Council consists of seven members, and is the governing body of the Initiative.

4.2 Election. The Council is elected by all members of the Initiative voting in a single national ballot, counted by single transferable vote. The order of candidates on each ballot paper is randomised independently for each voter.

4.3 Term. Three years. All seven positions are filled at the same election. Positions are not staggered.

4.4 The presidency. The Council elects one of its number as President for a term of one year. The presidency rotates and no member of the Council may hold it in consecutive years. **The President chairs meetings of the Council and represents the Initiative ceremonially. The office carries no additional power, no power of direction over other members of the Council, and no casting vote beyond the ordinary vote of the chair.**

4.5 Decisions. Ordinary decisions of the Council require a majority of the Council. The following require five of the seven:

a. any decision to alter the Initiative's published position on a pillar of the Framework;

b. any expenditure exceeding the threshold in Schedule 1; and

c. any termination of membership under clause 2.6.

4.6 Deadlock. Where the Council cannot reach the required majority on a matter within twenty-one days, the matter is referred to a vote of the members at the next scheduled voting day.

4.7 Casual vacancies. A casual vacancy on the Council is filled by a recount of the ballot papers from the most recent Council election, excluding the vacating member. Where a recount cannot produce a result, the Council may appoint a member to hold office until the next scheduled voting day, at which a by-election is held.

4.8 Removal. A member of the Council may be removed by a vote of the members under Part 6.

4.9 Relationship with the Company. The Council governs the Initiative. It does not govern the Company. Where a decision of the Council would commit the Company to an obligation, incur expenditure, or expose it to liability, that decision takes effect only when the Company agrees to it.

Part 5 — Member initiative

5.1 The right. Members may put a proposal to all members without the agreement of the Council.

5.2 Threshold. A proposal proceeds to a ballot when it is supported, within ninety days of its lodgement, by the greater of:

a. five per cent of the members of the Initiative; or

b. two hundred and fifty members.

5.3 Review for form. The Returning Officer reviews a proposal that reaches the threshold for coherence, for consistency with the objects in clause 1.3, and for compliance with clauses 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6. **The review is for form and legality only and is not a review of merit.** The Returning Officer may return a proposal once for redrafting, stating reasons in writing.

5.4 Ballot. A proposal that passes review is put to all members at the next scheduled voting day.

5.5 Effect. A proposal carried under Part 7 binds the Council. The Council must give effect to it and must report to members on the steps taken within ninety days. Clause 4.9 applies where giving effect to the proposal would commit the Company.

Part 6 — Member veto

6.1 The right. A decision of the Council may be suspended and put to all members.

6.2 Threshold. A challenge proceeds when it is supported, within thirty days of the decision being published to members, by the greater of:

a. three per cent of the members of the Initiative; or

b. one hundred and fifty members.

6.3 Effect of a challenge. On the threshold being met, the decision is suspended until the ballot is determined.

6.4 What cannot be challenged. The following are not subject to challenge under this Part:

a. **routine operating expenditure**, being expenditure within a budget already approved by the members, so that the Initiative does not cease to function;

b. **rights already accrued** to a member before the challenge was lodged, which are preserved regardless of the outcome; and

c. a decision of the Returning Officer made in the conduct of a ballot, which is reviewable only under clause 8.5.

6.5 Urgent decisions. The Council may declare a decision urgent. An urgent decision takes effect immediately and may not be challenged for fourteen days. **An urgent decision lapses automatically after ninety days unless confirmed by a recorded vote of the Council**, and a decision so confirmed may then be challenged under this Part in the ordinary way. The Council must publish, with each urgent decision, the reasons for the declaration of urgency.

Part 7 — Ballots and the double majority

7.1 Voting days. Ballots of the whole membership are held on four scheduled voting days each year, one in each quarter. Initiatives and challenges accumulate to the next scheduled day.

7.2 The double majority. A ballot under Part 5 or Part 6 carries only if it achieves both:

a. a majority of all members voting; and

b. a majority in a majority of the qualifying States and Territories.

7.3 Qualifying jurisdictions. A State or Territory is a qualifying jurisdiction for the purposes of clause 7.2(b) once at least twenty-five members are recorded against it. Members in a non-qualifying jurisdiction vote, and their votes count toward clause 7.2(a).

7.4 Quorum. A ballot is determined only if at least twenty-five per cent of members cast a vote. Where the quorum is not met, the proposal lapses and may be relodged.

7.5 Secrecy and verifiability. Ballots are secret. The record of a vote is stored separately from the identity of the voter. **The anonymised ballot data and a round-by-round count are published after every election, so that any member may verify the result independently.**

7.6 Ballot order. Where a ballot has more than two candidates or options, the order in which they appear is randomised independently for each voter.

Part 8 — The Returning Officer

8.1 Appointment. The Council appoints a Returning Officer, who must not be a member of the Council.

8.2 Independence. The Returning Officer conducts all ballots and decides all disputes arising under this Charter. **In the exercise of those functions the Returning Officer is not subject to direction by the Council.**

8.3 Removal. The Returning Officer may be removed only by a vote of the members, and not by the Council.

8.4 Why this office exists. A body should not determine a complaint about itself. The Initiative proposes that principle for the federal judiciary in the Framework, and applies it to its own governance here.

8.5 Review. A decision of the Returning Officer may be reviewed by a vote of the members on petition meeting the threshold in clause 6.2.

Part 9 — Integrity and disclosure

9.1 Disclosure by office holders. Every candidate for the Council or for an electorate representative position, and every person holding either office, discloses:

a. all sources of income exceeding the threshold in Schedule 1;

b. all directorships, trusteeships and beneficial interests in any entity;

c. any interest held through a trust, company or other structure, **identified by beneficial ownership and not merely by legal title**; and

d. any relationship with a registered lobbyist, a foreign principal within the meaning of the *Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Act 2018*, or a registered political party.

9.2 Timing. Disclosure is made on nomination and annually thereafter.

9.3 Audit. Disclosures are subject to audit as determined by the members, and are not self-certified.

9.4 Access. The register of disclosures is available to all members.

9.5 Why the standard is set here. The Framework proposes audited beneficial-ownership disclosure for members of Parliament. An organisation proposing that standard must meet it.

Part 10 — Money and records

10.1 Receipts. The Initiative may receive money from membership subscriptions, sales of materials such as printed matter and merchandise, event fees, and donations.

10.2 Where it is held. Money received is held by the Company and recorded separately from the Company's other activities, so that the Initiative's position can be seen on its own.

10.3 Application. Money received by the Initiative is applied to its objects.

10.4 Donations. The Initiative accepts donations only on terms approved by the members, which must provide for a cap on the amount accepted from any one source and for public disclosure. **Donations from a foreign principal are not accepted.**

10.5 Reporting. A summary of income by category and expenditure by category is published to members annually.

10.6 Financial year. The financial year ends on 30 June.

Part 11 — Amendment

11.1 Method. This Charter may be amended by a ballot of the members carried under clause 7.2.

11.2 Entrenched provisions. The following may be amended only by a ballot achieving a double majority under clause 7.2 **and** the support of two thirds of all members voting:

a. clause 1.4, the evidentiary standard;

b. clause 1.5, what the Initiative does not assert;

c. clause 1.6, the prohibition on operating as a political party or contesting office;

d. clause 4.4, the limits on the presidency;

e. Part 5 and Part 6, the member initiative and member veto;

f. clause 7.5, secrecy and verifiability;

g. Part 8, the independence of the Returning Officer; and

h. this clause.

11.3 Why these are entrenched. These provisions are what prevent the Initiative becoming the kind of organisation it was founded to oppose. An organisation that can quietly lower its own evidentiary standard, remove its members' power to overrule its leadership, or bring its own returning officer under the control of its governing body, will eventually do so. Entrenchment does not make that impossible. It makes it visible.

Part 12 — Change of structure

12.1 The Initiative may in future be established as a legal entity separate from the Company.

12.2 Where that occurs, this Charter is intended to be adopted as the constitution of that entity, with clauses 1.2 and 1.2A amended to reflect the new arrangement together with any provision required by the law under which the entity is formed. Amendment for that purpose is made under Part 11.

12.3 If the Initiative ceases to operate, any property held for it is applied to its objects, or to an organisation with similar objects, as the members determine.

Schedule 1 — Thresholds

Provision	Threshold	Clause
Member initiative	Greater of 5% of members or 250 members, within 90 days	5.2
Member veto	Greater of 3% of members or 150 members, within 30 days	6.2
Recall of an electorate representative	20% of members in the division	3.5
Qualifying jurisdiction	25 members	7.3
Ballot quorum	25% of members	7.4
Council special majority	5 of 7	4.5
Entrenched amendment	Double majority plus two thirds of members voting	11.2
Council expenditure requiring special majority	To be set by the members	4.5(b)
Income disclosure threshold	To be set by the members	9.1(a)

Notes on the numbers

Every threshold above is a reasoned proposal, and the reasoning is set out here so members can argue with it rather than inherit it.

Why the initiative threshold is 5 per cent. The Framework scales the Swiss initiative threshold of 100,000 signatures to roughly 315,000 Australian electors, being 1.78 per cent of the roll. That figure is calibrated to the difficulty of collecting a physical signature across a continent. Inside an application, signing costs one tap. The Framework's own research found that as Switzerland's real barrier fell — from about 8 per cent of voters in 1891 to under 2 per cent today — initiative volume rose from fewer than one a year to more than four, and Switzerland responded by raising its thresholds in 1977. The same reasoning applies here in reverse: because signing is easier, the nominal threshold must be higher to hold the real barrier constant.

Why every threshold has a floor as well as a percentage. A percentage alone fails at small scale. Five per cent of one hundred members is five people. The greater-of construction means the fixed number governs while the Initiative is small and the percentage governs once it is large, which is the period in which a handful of determined members could otherwise capture the mechanism.

Why the double majority is retained. It is the hardest ratification test in the democratic world, and the Framework keeps it deliberately, because it is what makes a popular initiative conservative rather than volatile. Retaining it internally means every member learns what it feels like — including the experience of winning the national vote and losing anyway. Nothing explains section 128 as efficiently as living through it once.

Why a qualifying jurisdiction needs 25 members. Without a floor, three members in one Territory would carry the same weight in the second limb as three thousand in Queensland. The first close result would be contested, and correctly so.

Why the presidency is limited so tightly. The Framework's objection to the office of Prime Minister is not to the person but to the concentration of authority in a single point that can be captured or rolled. An organisation proposing a collegial executive federally, while operating a presidency with real power internally, would be arguing against itself.

Why the Returning Officer cannot be removed by the Council. Pillar 7 identifies as a defect that complaints about federal judges go to the head of that judge's own jurisdiction, and that an application to disqualify a judge is heard by the judge complained of. A Returning Officer removable by the body whose elections they run reproduces exactly that defect at a smaller scale.

Why clause 1.5 exists and is entrenched. The pseudolegal claims it names are the most likely route by which this organisation could be discredited without ever being argued with. Putting the disclaimer in the Charter, and entrenching it, means no future leadership can drift into that territory quietly, and any member can point to the document rather than to a person's opinion.

---

*The R.O.A.N Initiative is a trading name of **Average AF Pty Ltd** ACN 647 769 579, ABN 24 647 769 579.*