

Queensland



Subordinate Legislation 1998 No. 192

Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984

**COMMUNITY SERVICES (ABORIGINES)
REGULATION 1998**

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

Section		Page
PART 1—PRELIMINARY		
1	Short title	10
2	Dictionary	10
3	Meaning of “conclusion” of election for Aboriginal council	10
PART 2—ABORIGINAL COUNCILS		
<i>Division 1—Membership</i>		
4	Membership of Aboriginal councils	11
5	Proposal to decide other number of councillors	11
6	Resolution of Aboriginal council	11
7	Petition by electors of area	12
8	Minister to make decision about resolution or petition	12
9	Change in membership takes effect at next triennial election	13
<i>Division 2—Qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Aboriginal council</i>		
10	Qualifications for councillors	13
11	Disqualification of councillors	14
<i>Division 3—Term of office and vacancies in office</i>		
12	Term of office as appointed councillor	15
13	When councillor’s office becomes vacant	15
14	Filling of earlier vacancies by by-election	16

15	Filling of later vacancies by appointment	16
----	---	----

PART 3—CHAIRPERSON OF ABORIGINAL

Division 1—Appointment of chairperson and related matters

16	Membership of Aboriginal councils	17
17	Duration of appointment of chairperson	17
18	Vacating office of chairperson	17
19	Office of chairperson may be declared vacant	18

Division 2—Direct election of chairperson

20	Process for direct election	18
21	Proposal for direct election	18
22	Resolution of Aboriginal council	19
23	Petition by electors of area	20
24	Minister to make decision about resolution or petition	20
25	Direct election of chairperson takes effect at next election	20

PART 4—ELECTIONS FOR ABORIGINAL COUNCILS

26	Election of councillors	21
----	-----------------------------------	----

PART 5—ABORIGINAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Division 1—Post-election meetings

27	Post-election meetings	21
28	Agenda of post-election meetings	21
29	Clerk to preside at post-election meetings	22

Division 2—Meetings generally

30	Other meetings	22
31	Place of meetings	22
32	Quorum at meetings	22
33	Procedure at meetings	22
34	Minutes must be kept	23
35	Adjournment of meetings	23
36	Notice of meetings	23
37	Repeal or amendment of resolutions	24
38	Minutes to be kept and confirmed	25
39	Meetings in public unless otherwise resolved	25

40	Meetings may be closed for limited reasons	25
41	Public notice of meetings	26
42	Public notice of resolution authorising remuneration	26
43	Inspection of minutes of meetings and their purchase	27
PART 6—FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION		
<i>Division 1—Financial administration of Aboriginal councils</i>		
44	Community funds	27
45	General fund of Aboriginal council	28
46	Trust fund of Aboriginal council	28
47	Administration and financial procedures manual	29
48	Financial information to be presented to post-election meeting	29
49	Approved forms for annual financial statements	30
<i>Division 2—Register of councillor’s pecuniary interests</i>		
50	Register of pecuniary interest disclosures	30
PART 7—CLERK OF ABORIGINAL COUNCIL		
51	Employment of clerk	31
52	Role of clerk	31
53	Acting clerk	31
PART 8—ABORIGINAL COURTS		
54	Procedures and enforcement of decisions of Aboriginal Courts	32
55	Jurisdiction of court includes power to make fine option order	32
56	Clerk of Aboriginal Court	32
57	Record of court proceedings	33
PART 9—ABORIGINAL COORDINATING COUNCIL		
<i>Division 1—Chairperson and deputy chairperson of Aboriginal Coordinating Council</i>		
58	Appointment of chairperson and deputy chairperson	33
59	Vacating office of chairperson or deputy chairperson	33
60	Office of chairperson or deputy chairperson may be declared vacant	34
61	Quorum for meetings of executive committee	34
<i>Division 2—Financial administration of Aboriginal Coordinating Council</i>		
62	Community funds of Aboriginal Coordinating Council	34

63	General fund of Aboriginal Coordinating Council	34
64	Trust fund of Aboriginal Coordinating Council	35
PART 10—MISCELLANEOUS		
65	Forms	35
PART 11—TRANSITIONAL		
66	Continuance of appointments etc. made under replacement provisions . . .	35
67	Repeal	36
68	Expiry of part	36
SCHEDULE 1		
ELECTIONS		
PART 1—GENERAL		
214	Triennial elections	37
215	Types of elections	37
216	Elections to be held on a Saturday	37
217	Dates of triennial elections	38
218	Date of later triennial elections	38
219	Date of by-elections	38
219A	Aboriginal councils responsible for expenditure for conducting elections	38
PART 2—RETURNING OFFICERS		
220	Clerk is returning officer	38
221	Appointment of returning officer in place of the clerk	39
222	Returning officer's duty for by-election	40
PART 3—VOTERS ROLL		
223	Returning officer must compile voters roll	40
224	Qualification for enrolment on voters roll	40
225	Cut-off day for voters roll	41
226	Use of electoral roll when practicable	41
227	Requirements of voters roll	41
228	Voters roll to be open to inspection and purchase	42
229	Electoral registrars to help returning officers	42
PART 4—VOTING		
230	Compulsory voting	42

231	System of voting	42
-----	------------------------	----

PART 5—(omitted)

PART 6—CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

Division 1—Preliminary

236	Conduct of elections	43
-----	----------------------------	----

Division 2—Electoral officers

238	Returning officer	43
238A	Assistant returning officers	43
239	Presiding officers	43
240	Issuing officers	44
241	Declaration by issuing officers	44
242	Returning officer may act through other officers	44
242A	Assistant returning officer may act through certain authorised officers ...	45
243	Supply and use of voters rolls	45

Division 3—Candidates for election or appointment

244	Qualification for nomination	45
245	Prohibition of dual candidature	46
246	Leave to Aboriginal council employee to contest election	46

Division 4—Nomination on candidates for election

249	Who may nominate	47
250	How and when nomination is given	47
251	Nomination fee to accompany nomination	48
252	Certificate of returning officer	48
253	Display of nominations	49
254	Termination of candidature before noon on nomination day	49
255	Death of candidate	49
256	Procedure if number of candidates not more than number required	50
257	Procedure if number of candidates exceeds number required	50
258	Supply of voters roll	51
259	Procedure on death of candidate when poll to be conducted	52
260	Disposal of nomination fees generally	52
261	If successful candidate dies	53

262	Extension of times	53
	<i>Division 5—(omitted)</i>	
	<i>Division 6—Polling booths</i>	
265	Polling booths—general	53
266	Provision of ordinary polling booths	54
267	Declaration of mobile polling booths	55
268	Duty of person in charge of institution	56
269	Privacy of voting	56
	<i>Division 7—Ballot boxes, papers and other documents</i>	
270	Ballot boxes generally	56
271	Requirements of ballot papers	57
272	Separate ballot papers for separate polls	58
273	Order of listing of candidates' names	58
274	Distribution of ballot papers	59
275	Correction of errors etc.	60
	<i>Division 8—Scrutineers</i>	
276	Candidates' entitlement to scrutineers	60
277	Appointment of scrutineers	60
278	Proof of identification	61
279	Powers of scrutineers	61
	<i>Division 9—Voting generally</i>	
280	Who may vote	61
281	When votes may be cast at an ordinary polling booth or mobile polling booth	62
282	Procedure for voting at a polling booth	62
283	Duties of issuing officer for returned papers	63
284	Arrangements for electors with disability	64
285	Arrangements for electors at institutions	65
286	Arrangements for electoral visitor voting	65
287	Help for electors in voting	66
288	Adjournment of poll	66
	<i>Division 10—Declaration voting</i>	
289	Who may cast a declaration vote	67

290	Who must cast a declaration vote in ordinary elections	68
291	Declaration voting for postal ballot elections	68
292	How declaration vote is cast	68
293	Distribution of ballot papers to electors who may or must cast declaration vote	69
294	How declaration vote may be cast at a polling booth	70
295	Distribution of ballot papers to electors for postal ballot election	71
296	Record of ballot papers given to postal voters	71
297	Casting a declaration vote by post	71
298	Declaration voting before polling day	72
298A	Distribution of declaration envelopes when separate ballot papers or polls on same day	73
<i>Division 11—Marking of ballot papers</i>		
299	Optional-preferential voting	74
300	First-past-the-post voting	74
<i>Division 12—Replacement ballot papers</i>		
301	Use of replacement ballot papers	75
<i>Division 13—Effect of ballot papers</i>		
302	Effect of ballot papers—optional-preferential voting	77
303	Effect of ballot papers—first-past-the-post voting	77
304	Posted vote presumed valid until contrary proved	78
305	Formal and informal ballot papers	78
306	Ballot paper partly formal and partly informal	78
<i>Division 14—Counting of votes</i>		
307	Votes to be counted in accordance with this division	79
308	Preliminary counting by presiding officer	79
309	Preliminary processing of declaration votes by returning officer	81
310	Procedure for processing declaration envelopes	81
311	Official counting of votes	83
312	Treatment of ballot paper to which objection is made	84
313	Counting of votes for optional-preferential system	84
314	Counting of votes for first-past-the-post system	84
315	Returning officer's duty after counting votes	85

Division 15—Actions following poll

316	Declaration of poll	86
317	Notice of final result of poll	87
317A	Resolution about electors who fail to vote	87
318	List of electors failing to vote	87
319	Notice of failure to vote etc.	88
319A	Payments for failure to vote	89
320	Recording response to notice	89
321	Evidentiary value of list under s 318	90
322	Disposal of material resulting from election	90
323	Ballot papers as evidence	91
323A	Notice to electors whose ballot papers are not accepted	91
324	Notice to electoral commission of certain declaration votes	91

Division 16—Enforcement***Subdivision 1—Offences in general***

325	False or misleading statements	92
326	False, misleading or incomplete electoral documents	92
327	Bribery	93
328	Providing money for illegal payments	93
329	Improperly influencing electoral officers	93
330	Interfering with election right or duty	94
331	Forging or uttering electoral papers	94
332	Wilful neglect etc. of electoral officers	94
333	No record to be made of vote cast	94

Subdivision 2—Offences about electoral advertising and information

334	Responsibility for election matter	95
335	Headline to electoral advertisements	95
336	Misleading voters	96

Subdivision 3—Offences about voting

337	Failure to vote	96
338	Leave to vote	97
339	Canvassing in or near polling booths	97

340	Interrupting voting etc.	98
341	Influencing voting	99
342	Party badges not to be worn in polling booths	99
343	Voting if not entitled	99
344	Offences relating to ballot papers	99
345	Failure to deliver or post documents for someone else	100
346	Breach of confidentiality of vote	100
347	Breaking seals on parcels	101
348	Duty of witness to signing of declaration voting papers	101

Subdivision 4—(omitted)

PART 7—FRESH ELECTIONS

350	Requirements for fresh election	101
351	Time for fresh election	102
352	Returning officer for fresh election	102
353	Voters roll for fresh election	102
354	Other provisions of schedule apply	102
355	Extension of term of councillors	102

PART 8—(omitted)

	SCHEDULE 2	103
--	-----------------------------	------------

DICTIONARY

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This regulation may be cited as the *Community Services (Aborigines) Regulation 1998*.

Dictionary

2.(1) The dictionary in schedule 2 defines particular words used in this regulation.

(2) Definitions used elsewhere in the regulation are signposted in the dictionary.

Meaning of “conclusion” of election for Aboriginal council

3. The “**conclusion**” of the election of a councillor is—

- (a) if the councillor is elected at an election of all councillors of the Aboriginal council—the day on which the last declaration of a poll conducted in the election is displayed as required under this regulation; or
- (b) if the councillor is elected at a by-election and—
 - (i) a poll is conducted—the day on which the declaration of the poll is displayed as required under this regulation; or
 - (ii) a poll is not conducted—the day after the nomination day for the by-election; or
- (c) if, because the number of candidates nominated for election is the same or less than the number of councillors to be elected, the councillor is elected (other than at a by-election) and—
 - (i) 1 or more polls are conducted in the council’s area—the day on which the last declaration of a poll is displayed as required under this regulation; or
 - (ii) a poll is not conducted—6 p.m. on the day that a poll would otherwise have been required under this regulation to be conducted.

PART 2—ABORIGINAL COUNCILS

Division 1—Membership

Membership of Aboriginal councils

4.(1) An Aboriginal council consists of 5 councillors, including the chairperson.

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to an approval, under this division, of another number of councillors.

Proposal to decide other number of councillors

5. A proposal to decide the number of councillors for an Aboriginal council, other than 5, may be made by—

- (a) the Aboriginal council, by resolution, asking the Minister to approve a stated number of councillors for the council; or
- (b) the electors in the council's area giving the Minister a petition asking the Minister to approve a stated number of councillors for the council.

Resolution of Aboriginal council

6.(1) If an Aboriginal council, by resolution, decides to ask the Minister to approve a stated number of councillors for the council, the council must consult with the electors of the council's area for at least 14 days.

(2) The consultation period must begin within 14 days after the date of the resolution.

(3) A notice about the resolution must be displayed in a conspicuous position in the council's area and in other ways the council considers appropriate.

(4) The notice must state the following—

- (a) the council has, by resolution, decided to ask the Minister to approve a stated number of councillors for the council's area;

- (b) the length of the consultation period and the first and last days of the consultation period;
- (c) an invitation for any person to give to the council's clerk, on or before the last day of the consultation period, a written submission about the resolution.

(5) After considering submissions made about the resolution, the council must give a copy of the resolution to the Minister.

(6) The copy of the resolution must—

- (a) be given to the Minister at least 60 days before the next triennial election of the council; and
- (b) be accompanied by—
 - (i) a statement signed by the chairperson and the clerk certifying this section has been complied with; and
 - (ii) submissions received about the resolution; and
 - (iii) the council's response to the submissions.

Petition by electors of area

7.(1) A person may give a petition to the Minister asking the Minister to approve a stated number of councillors for an Aboriginal council only if—

- (a) it has been signed by a majority of the electors of the council's area; and
- (b) the name and address of each of the electors who signed the petition is clearly set out next to the signature.

(2) The petition must be given to the Minister at least 60 days before the next triennial election of the council.

Minister to make decision about resolution or petition

8.(1) This section applies if, no later than 60 days before the next triennial election of an Aboriginal council, the Minister is given—

- (a) under section 6—a copy of the council's resolution; or
- (b) under section 7—a petition about the membership of the council.

(2) The Minister must decide whether to approve the number of councillors for the Aboriginal council stated in the resolution or petition.

(3) The Minister may refuse to approve a resolution or petition only if the Minister is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that—

- (a) the number of councillors stated in the resolution or petition is out of proportion to the overall population of the council's area or is otherwise impracticable and unreasonable; or
- (b) for a resolution—the majority of electors in the council's area are opposed to the resolution; or
- (c) the process set out in this division for the resolution or petition has not been properly complied with.

(4) If the Minister approves the number of councillors stated in the resolution or petition, the Minister must, as soon as practicable, publish notice of the approval in the gazette.

(5) The approval is of no effect until it has been notified in the gazette.

Change in membership takes effect at next triennial election

9. If the Minister publishes a notice in the gazette approving a stated number of councillors for a council, the change to the number of councillors does not have effect until the next triennial election.

Division 2—Qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Aboriginal council

Qualifications for councillors

10.(1) A person is qualified to become a councillor of an Aboriginal council if the person—

- (a) is an Aborigine or Torres Strait Islander; and
- (b) has lived continuously in the Aboriginal council's area for not less than 6 months before—
 - (i) for a person who is elected as a councillor—the nomination day for the election; or

- (ii) for a person who is appointed as a councillor—the day the person is appointed; and
 - (c) is entitled under this regulation to vote in the election.
- (2) This section is subject to section 11.

Disqualification of councillors

11.(1) A person is not qualified to become a councillor if—

- (a) the person is an undischarged bankrupt under the *Bankruptcy Act 1966* (Cwlth); or
- (b) the person has executed a deed of arrangement under the *Bankruptcy Act 1966* (Cwlth), part X¹ and the terms of the deed have not been fully complied with; or
- (c) the person's creditors have accepted a composition under the *Bankruptcy Act 1966* (Cwlth), part X and a final payment has not been made under the composition; or
- (d) the person is in prison.

(2) Also, a person who has been convicted of an indictable offence under any of the following provisions of the Criminal Code in relation to an Aboriginal or Island council, is not qualified to become a councillor for 5 years after the conviction—

- part 3, chapter 13 or 15
- part 6, division 1
- part 6, division 3.²

(3) A person who has been convicted by a court of an offence against

¹ *Bankruptcy Act 1996* (Cwlth)—
Part X (Arrangements with Creditors without Sequestration)

² Criminal Code—
Part 3 (Offences against administration of law and justice and against public authority), Chapter 13 (Corruption and abuse of office), Chapter 15 (Selling and trafficking in offices), Part 6 (Offences relating to property and contracts), Division 1 (Stealing and like offences) and Division 3 (Forgery and like offences-personation)

section 27A³ of the Act is not qualified to become a councillor for 3 years after the conviction, unless the court, by order, directs this subsection does not apply to the person if the court is satisfied it would be just to give the direction.

(4) Subsections (2) and (3) do not apply to a person for a conviction for an offence before 1 October 1996.

(5) In this section—

“**conviction**” includes a plea of guilty or a finding of guilt by a court even though a conviction is not recorded.

Division 3—Term of office and vacancies in office

Term of office as appointed councillor

12.(1) If a councillor (the “**new councillor**”) is appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of a councillor (the “**former councillor**”), the new councillor is appointed for the balance of the former councillor’s term of office.

(2) The new councillor’s term of office starts on the day on which the councillor is appointed and ends on the day—

- (a) the next triennial election concludes; or
- (b) the Aboriginal council is dissolved; or
- (c) the new councillor’s office otherwise becomes vacant.

When councillor’s office becomes vacant

13. A person’s office as a councillor of an Aboriginal council becomes vacant if the person—

- (a) dies; or
- (b) resigns as a councillor; or
- (c) ceases to be qualified to be a councillor under section 10 or 11; or

³ Section 27A (Disclosure of interests at meetings)

- (d) is absent from 3 or more consecutive meetings of the council of which notice has been duly given, without the council's leave; or
- (e) is found to be unlawfully elected or appointed, or ineligible to continue to act, as a councillor, on a review under the *Judicial Review Act 1991*; or
- (f) becomes the clerk, or deputy clerk, of the council; or
- (g) becomes a finance officer, financial controller, accountant or other person (however described) whose primary responsibility is administering the council's finances; or
- (h) is elected to another office at a by-election; or
- (i) otherwise ceases to hold the office before the next triennial election concludes or the council is dissolved.

Filling of earlier vacancies by by-election

14.(1) This section applies if a person's office as a councillor of an Aboriginal council becomes vacant before 1 March (the "**cut-off date**") in the year before the year in which the next triennial elections for the council are to be held.

(2) The vacancy must be filled by a by-election.

Filling of later vacancies by appointment

15.(1) If the office of a person as a councillor of an Aboriginal council (the "**former councillor**") becomes vacant on or after the cut-off date, the Aboriginal council must fill the office by appointing a qualified person (the "**new councillor**") to the office.

(2) If the vacancy is not properly filled within 2 months after the vacancy happens, the Governor in Council may appoint a person, who is qualified to become a councillor of the Aboriginal council, to fill the vacancy.

PART 3—CHAIRPERSON OF ABORIGINAL COUNCIL

Division 1—Appointment of chairperson and related matters

Membership of Aboriginal councils

16.(1) An Aboriginal council must appoint a chairperson from its councillors, by resolution, at—

- (a) its first meeting after the conclusion of each triennial election; and
- (b) its first meeting after the conclusion of a fresh election of all of its councillors; and
- (c) its first meeting after the chairperson's office as councillor otherwise becomes vacant.

(2) If, within 21 days after the post-election meeting or the chairperson's office otherwise becomes vacant, the Aboriginal council has not appointed a chairperson, the Minister may, by written notice to the council, appoint a councillor as chairperson.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) are subject to an approval, under division 2, of the direct election of the chairperson.

Duration of appointment of chairperson

17. The chairperson's term of office begins on the day on which the chairperson is appointed and ends on the day—

- (a) the next triennial election concludes; or
- (b) the Aboriginal council is dissolved; or
- (c) the chairperson's office otherwise becomes vacant.

Vacating office of chairperson

18. A person's office as chairperson of an Aboriginal council becomes vacant if—

- (a) the person resigns as chairperson; or
- (b) the office of chairperson is declared vacant under section 19.⁴

Office of chairperson may be declared vacant

19.(1) An Aboriginal council, by resolution, may declare the office of chairperson is vacant.

(2) The resolution may be passed only if written notice of the resolution has been given to the members of the council at least 14 days before the meeting.

(3) If the council declares the office of chairperson is vacant, it must immediately appoint a chairperson from its members.

(4) Subsection (2) has effect despite section 36(1).⁵

Division 2—Direct election of chairperson

Process for direct election

20.(1) This division states the process to be used for approval of the direct election of the chairperson of an Aboriginal council.

(2) The Minister may approve the direct election of an Aboriginal council's chairperson only if the process is followed.

Proposal for direct election

21. A proposal for the chairperson of an Aboriginal council to be directly elected may be made by—

- (a) the Aboriginal council, by resolution, asking the Minister to approve the direct election of the chairperson; or
- (b) the electors in the council's area giving the Minister a petition

⁴ Section 19 (Office of chairperson may be declared vacant)

⁵ Section 36 (Notice of meetings)

asking the Minister to approve the direct election of the chairperson.

Resolution of Aboriginal council

22.(1) If an Aboriginal council, by resolution, decides to ask the Minister to approve the direct election of the council's chairperson, the council must consult with the electors of the council's area for at least 14 days.

(2) The consultation period must begin within 14 days after the resolution is passed.

(3) A notice about the resolution must be displayed in a conspicuous position in the council's area and in other ways the council considers appropriate.

(4) The notice must state the following—

- (a) the council has, by resolution, decided to ask the Minister to approve the direct election of the council's chairperson by the electors of the council's area;
- (b) the length of the consultation period and the first and last days of the consultation period;
- (c) an invitation for any person to give to the council's clerk, on or before the last day of the consultation period, a written submission about the resolution.

(5) After considering submissions made about the resolution, the Aboriginal council must give a copy of the resolution to the Minister.

(6) The copy of the resolution must—

- (a) be given to the Minister at least 60 days before the next triennial election of the council; and
- (b) be accompanied by—
 - (i) a statement signed by the chairperson and the clerk certifying this section has been complied with; and
 - (ii) submissions received about the resolution; and
 - (iii) the council's response to the submissions.

Petition by electors of area

23.(1) A petition asking the Minister to approve the direct election of the chairperson of an Aboriginal council's area may be given to the Minister only if—

- (a) it has been signed by a majority of the electors of the area; and
- (b) the name and address of each of the electors who signed the petition is clearly set out next to the signature.

(2) The petition must be given to the Minister at least 60 days before the next triennial election of the council.

Minister to make decision about resolution or petition

24.(1) If the Minister is given a copy of a resolution or a petition, the Minister must decide whether to approve the direct election of the chairperson of the Aboriginal council by the electors of the council's area.

(2) The Minister may refuse to approve a resolution or petition only if the Minister is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that—

- (a) for a resolution—the majority of electors in the council's area are opposed to the resolution; or
- (b) the process set out in this part for the resolution or petition has not been properly complied with.

(3) If the Minister approves the direct election of the chairperson, the Minister must, as soon as practicable, publish notice of the approval in the gazette.

(4) The approval is of no effect until it has been notified in the gazette.

Direct election of chairperson takes effect at next election

25. If the Minister publishes a notice in the gazette approving the direct election of the chairperson of an Aboriginal council, the change to the direct election of the chairperson does not have effect until the next triennial election.

PART 4—ELECTIONS FOR ABORIGINAL COUNCILS

Election of councillors

26. The *Local Government Act 1993*, chapter 5 applies to elections for Aboriginal councils with the changes shown in schedule 1.

PART 5—ABORIGINAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Division 1—Post-election meetings

Post-election meetings

27. An Aboriginal council must hold a meeting of its councillors within 14 days after the conclusion of each triennial election.

Agenda of post-election meetings

28.(1) An Aboriginal council must consider the following matters at a post-election meeting—

- (a) the day and time for holding other meetings;
- (b) if its chairperson is not directly elected—the appointment of its chairperson;
- (c) the appointment of its deputy chairperson;
- (d) the document about its financial operations, that the clerk must present to the meeting under section 48.⁶

(2) If the Aboriginal council does not, within 21 days after the post-election meeting, appoint a deputy chairperson, the Minister may, by written notice to the council, appoint a councillor as deputy chairperson.

⁶ Section 48 (Financial information to be presented to post-election meeting)

Clerk to preside at post-election meetings

29.(1) This section applies if the chairperson of an Aboriginal council is not directly elected.

(2) The council's clerk presides at meetings of the council until a chairperson or deputy chairperson is appointed.

(3) However, the clerk must not vote on business before the council.

Division 2—Meetings generally**Other meetings**

30.(1) Other meetings of an Aboriginal council are to be held at the times and places it decides.

(2) However, the council must meet at least once in each period of 3 months.

Place of meetings

31.(1) All meetings of an Aboriginal council must be held at its office.

(2) However, an Aboriginal council may, by resolution, fix another place for a particular meeting.

Quorum at meetings

32.(1) A quorum for a meeting of an Aboriginal council is a majority of its councillors.

(2) However, if the number of councillors is an even number, one-half of the number is a quorum.

Procedure at meetings

33.(1) Business may be conducted at a meeting of an Aboriginal council only if a quorum is present.

(2) At a meeting—

- (a) voting must be open; and
- (b) a question is decided by a majority of the votes of the councillors present; and
- (c) each councillor present has a vote on each question to be decided and, if the votes are equal, the councillor presiding has a casting vote; and
- (d) if a councillor present fails to vote, the councillor is taken to have voted in the negative.

Minutes must be kept

34.(1) An Aboriginal council must keep minutes of its proceedings.

(2) The minutes must be taken and confirmed under section 38.⁷

Adjournment of meetings

35.(1) The majority of councillors present at a meeting of an Aboriginal council may adjourn the meeting to a later hour of the same day or to a later day.

(2) If a quorum for a meeting is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting may be adjourned by—

- (a) a majority of the councillors present; or
- (b) if only 1 councillor is present—the councillor; or
- (c) if no councillors are present—the council's clerk.

(3) The meeting may be adjourned to a later hour of the same day or another day within 14 days after the day of adjournment.

Notice of meetings

36.(1) Notice of each meeting of an Aboriginal council, including an adjourned meeting, must be given to each councillor at least 2 days before the day of the meeting unless it is impracticable to give the notice.

⁷ Section 38 (Minutes to be kept and confirmed)

(2) The notice must be given in writing, unless each councillor has agreed, in writing, that notice of meetings under subsection (1) may be given orally.

(3) The notice must state—

- (a) the day and time of the meeting; and
- (b) for a special meeting—the object of the meeting.

(4) Subsection (1) is subject to section 37.

Repeal or amendment of resolutions

37.(1) A resolution of an Aboriginal council may be repealed or amended only if written notice of intention to propose the repeal or amendment is given to each councillor at least 5 days before the meeting at which the proposal is to be made.

(2) At the meeting, the proposal is taken to have been defeated unless it is agreed to by—

- (a) if the number of councillors present at the meeting (the “**later meeting**”) is more than the number present at the meeting at which the resolution was adopted—a majority of the councillors present at the later meeting; or
- (b) in any other case—a majority of all councillors.

Example of subsection (2)(a)—

At a meeting of the XYZ Aboriginal council, 5 councillors are present. At the meeting a resolution about control of dogs in the area is passed. At the next meeting of the Aboriginal council, 7 councillors are present. The council may amend the resolution about dogs passed at the last meeting if 4 of the councillors present at the meeting agree to the amendment.

Example of subsection (2)(b)—

The ABC Aboriginal council has 7 councillors. At a meeting of the ABC Aboriginal council at which 6 of the councillors are present, a resolution about garbage collection in the council’s area is passed. At the next meeting of the ABC Aboriginal council, 5 councillors are present. The council may amend the resolution about garbage collection only if 4 of the councillors agree to the amendment.

Minutes to be kept and confirmed

38.(1) The clerk of an Aboriginal council must ensure minutes of each meeting are taken under the supervision of the person presiding at the meeting.

(2) Minutes of each meeting must include—

- (a) the names of councillors present at the meeting; and
- (b) if a division is called on a question—the names of all persons voting on the question and how they voted or were taken to have voted.

(3) At each meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting must be—

- (a) confirmed by the councillors present; and
- (b) signed by the councillor presiding.

Meetings in public unless otherwise resolved

39. Meetings of an Aboriginal council must be open to the public unless—

- (a) the council has, by resolution under section 40(1), closed a meeting; or
- (b) the chairperson, under section 40(3), closes the meeting.

Meetings may be closed for limited reasons

40.(1) An Aboriginal council may, by resolution, close a meeting to the public if the council considers it necessary to close the meeting to discuss any of the following—

- (a) the appointment, dismissal or discipline of a particular employee;
- (b) industrial matters affecting its employees;
- (c) its budget;
- (d) contracts proposed to be made by it;
- (e) legal proceedings involving it;
- (f) other business for which public discussion would be likely to

prejudice the interests of the council or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.

(2) A resolution closing a meeting must state the nature of the matters to be considered while the meeting is closed.

(3) The chairperson of an Aboriginal council may also close a meeting to the public if the chairperson considers, on reasonable grounds, members of the public attending the meeting are unduly disrupting proceedings.

(4) An Aboriginal council must not make a resolution (other than a procedural resolution) in a closed meeting.

Public notice of meetings

41.(1) An Aboriginal council must display a notice of the days and times when its meetings, other than special meetings, will be held—

- (a) in a conspicuous place in its office; and
- (b) in another conspicuous place in its area.

(2) The council must immediately notify a change to the days and times for meetings, other than special meetings, in the same way as the information was previously notified.

(3) A list of the items to be discussed at a meeting must be open to inspection at the time the agenda for the meeting is made available to councillors.

(4) Subject to sections 37 and 42,⁸ subsection (3) does not affect the right at a meeting to discuss or deal with items arising after the agenda for the meeting is made available to councillors.

Public notice of resolution authorising remuneration

42.(1) A resolution authorising the payment or provision of remuneration to councillors of an Aboriginal council may be passed only if notice has been given of the proposed resolution.

(2) Notice must be given by displaying, at least 21 days before the

⁸ Sections 37 (Repeal or amendment of resolutions) and 42 (Public notice of resolution authorising remuneration)

meeting—

- (a) a notice stating the proposed resolution, and the day and time of the proposed meeting, in a conspicuous place in the council's area; and
- (b) a copy of the notice in a conspicuous place in the council's office on the day.

(3) The notice and its copy must be kept on display until after the meeting.

Inspection of minutes of meetings and their purchase

43.(1) A copy of the minutes of each meeting of an Aboriginal council—

- (a) must be available for inspection at the council's office within 21 days after the end of the meeting; and
- (b) when the minutes have been confirmed—must be available for purchase at the office.

(2) The price of a copy of confirmed minutes must not be more than—

- (a) the cost to the Aboriginal council of having the copy printed and made available for purchase; and
- (b) if the copy is supplied to a purchaser by post—the cost of postage.

PART 6—FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Division 1—Financial administration of Aboriginal councils

Community funds

44.(1) An Aboriginal council must establish and keep the following community funds—

- (a) a general fund;

(b) a trust fund.

(2) An Aboriginal council may call its general fund an operating fund.

(3) A payment may be made from an account with a financial institution kept by an Aboriginal council in relation to a fund only by a cheque signed, or an electronic funds transfer authorised, by any 2 of the following—

(a) the clerk;

(b) the chairperson of the council;

(c) another councillor of the council;

(d) an employee of the council authorised by resolution of the council.

General fund of Aboriginal council

45.(1) An Aboriginal council's general fund must consist of all of its assets and liabilities, other than its trust assets and liabilities.

(2) The council must keep an account with a financial institution for amounts it receives for its general fund.

(3) However, subsection (2) does not prevent the council keeping more than 1 financial institution account within its general fund.

Trust fund of Aboriginal council

46.(1) An Aboriginal council must credit amounts it receives on trust to its trust fund.

(2) An amount credited to the trust fund must be applied—

(a) in payment to or for the person entitled to the amount according to law; or

(b) as required by the Act under which the amount was paid to the trust fund.

(3) An amount credited to the trust fund may, with the Minister's earlier agreement, be transferred to the general fund if the purpose for which the amount was credited has ceased to exist.

(4) An Aboriginal council must keep a separate account with a financial institution for its trust fund.

Administration and financial procedures manual

47.(1) Each Aboriginal council must prepare a manual (an “**administration and financial procedures manual**”) about the accounting and financial procedures for the administration of the council’s community funds.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), an Aboriginal council’s administration and financial procedures manual must include—

- (a) the council’s policies about financial administration; and
- (b) the procedures and internal controls for the council’s accounting, information and administrative systems; and
- (c) the corporate structure adopted by the council; and
- (d) position descriptions for all permanent employees employed by the council.

(3) The manual—

- (a) must be approved by resolution of the council; and
- (b) does not take effect until it has been approved by the council.

Financial information to be presented to post-election meeting

48.(1) At each post-election meeting of an Aboriginal council, the clerk must present to the council a document about the council’s financial operations.

(2) The document must—

- (a) relate to the council’s financial operations for the previous financial year; and
- (b) relate to the council’s financial operations for the financial year in which the meeting is held to the latest day to which the document can reasonably be compiled; and
- (c) contain an estimate of the council’s financial operations from the

day to which the document is prepared to the end of the financial year in which the meeting is held.

Approved forms for annual financial statements

49. When approving forms under section 32A⁹ of the Act, the chief executive must have regard to the need to provide for full disclosure of an Aboriginal council's financial operations during a financial year.

Division 2—Register of councillor's pecuniary interests

Register of pecuniary interest disclosures

50.(1) The clerk of an Aboriginal council must keep, at the council's office, a register of pecuniary interest disclosures.

(2) If a councillor makes a pecuniary interest disclosure to a council meeting, the clerk must record particulars of the disclosure in the register within 2 days after the day the minutes of the meeting are confirmed.

(3) The particulars recorded by the clerk must be the particulars of the disclosure recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

(4) The council must—

- (a)** keep the register open for inspection by members of the public during office hours on business days; and
- (b)** make copies available for purchase at a price not more than the cost to the council of producing the copy and, if a copy is given to a purchaser by post, the cost of postage.

⁹ Section 32A (Preparation of financial statements)

PART 7—CLERK OF ABORIGINAL COUNCIL

Employment of clerk

51. An Aboriginal council must appoint and employ an individual as its clerk.

Role of clerk

52.(1) The clerk of an Aboriginal council has the role of implementing the council's policies and decisions.

(2) On a day-to-day basis, the clerk's role includes managing the council's affairs.

(3) The clerk alone is responsible for—

- (a) organising the presentation of reports and reporting to the council; and
- (b) conducting correspondence between the council and other persons; and
- (c) managing and overseeing the administration of the council; and
- (d) coordinating the activities of all employees of the council.

(4) The clerk has—

- (a) all the powers necessary for performing the clerk's role; and
- (b) the powers the council specifically delegates to the clerk.

Acting clerk

53. An Aboriginal council may appoint an individual to act as its clerk during—

- (a) a vacancy, or all vacancies, in the position; or
- (b) a period, or all periods, when the clerk is absent from duty or can not, for any reason, perform as the clerk.

PART 8—ABORIGINAL COURTS

Procedures and enforcement of decisions of Aboriginal Courts

54.(1) The procedures for, and the enforcement of decisions of, an Aboriginal Court are to be—

- (a) if, but for the Act, an action would be brought under the *Justices Act 1886*—in accordance with the *Justices Act 1886*; and
- (b) if, but for the Act, an action would be brought under the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*—in accordance with the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*; and
- (c) if, but for the Act, an action would be brought under the *Magistrates Courts Act 1921*—in accordance with the *Magistrates Courts Act 1921*.

(2) For applying, under subsection (1), the *Justices Act 1886*, *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* or *Magistrates Courts Act 1921*—

- (a) a reference in any of the Acts to a Magistrates Court is taken to be a reference to an Aboriginal Court; and
- (b) a reference in any of the Acts to a magistrate is taken to be a reference to the 2 justices constituting an Aboriginal Court; and
- (c) a reference in any of the Acts to a clerk of the court is taken to be a reference to the clerk of an Aboriginal Court.

Jurisdiction of court includes power to make fine option order

55. The jurisdiction of an Aboriginal Court includes power to make a fine option order as if the Aboriginal Court were a Magistrates Court.

Clerk of Aboriginal Court

56. An Aboriginal council must appoint an individual as clerk of the Aboriginal Court for its area.

Record of court proceedings

57. The clerk of an Aboriginal Court must keep all records and proceedings of the Aboriginal Court.

PART 9—ABORIGINAL COORDINATING COUNCIL***Division 1—Chairperson and deputy chairperson of Aboriginal Coordinating Council*****Appointment of chairperson and deputy chairperson**

58.(1) The Aboriginal Coordinating Council must, by resolution, appoint a chairperson and deputy chairperson from its members at its first meeting after the conclusion of each of the triennial elections for Aboriginal councils.

(2) Also the Aboriginal Coordinating Council must, by resolution, appoint a chairperson or deputy chairperson from its members at its first meeting after the chairperson's or deputy chairperson's office otherwise becomes vacant.

(3) Subsection (2) has effect subject to section 60(3).

Vacating office of chairperson or deputy chairperson

59. A person's office as chairperson or deputy chairperson of the Aboriginal Coordinating Council becomes vacant if—

- (a) the person resigns as chairperson or deputy chairperson; or
- (b) the office of chairperson or deputy chairperson is declared vacant under section 60.¹⁰

¹⁰ Section 60 (Office of chairperson or deputy chairperson may be declared vacant)

Office of chairperson or deputy chairperson may be declared vacant

60.(1) The Aboriginal Coordinating Council may, by resolution, declare the office of chairperson or deputy chairperson vacant.

(2) The resolution may be passed only if written notice of the resolution has been given to the members of the council at least 14 days before the meeting.

(3) If the council declares the office of chairperson or deputy chairperson is vacant, it must immediately appoint a chairperson or deputy chairperson from its members.

Quorum for meetings of executive committee

61.(1) A quorum for a meeting of the executive committee of the Aboriginal Coordinating Council is 2 members of the committee.

(2) Business may be conducted at a meeting of the executive committee only if a quorum is present.

Division 2—Financial administration of Aboriginal Coordinating Council**Community funds of Aboriginal Coordinating Council**

62.(1) The Aboriginal Coordinating Council must establish and keep—

- (a) a general fund; and
- (b) if the council receives amounts on trust—a trust fund.

(2) The council may call its general fund an operating fund.

General fund of Aboriginal Coordinating Council

63.(1) The Aboriginal Coordinating Council's general fund must consist of all of its assets and liabilities, other than its trust assets and liabilities.

(2) The council must keep an account with a financial institution for amounts it receives in its general fund.

(3) However, subsection (2) does not prevent the council keeping more than 1 financial institution account within its general fund.

Trust fund of Aboriginal Coordinating Council

64.(1) If the Aboriginal Coordinating Council is required to keep a trust fund under section 62(1)(b), it must credit amounts it receives on trust to the trust fund.

(2) An amount credited to the trust fund must be applied in payment to or for the person entitled to the amount according to law.

(3) An amount credited to the trust fund may, with the Minister's earlier agreement, be transferred to the general fund if the purpose for which the amount was credited has ceased to exist.

(4) The council must keep a separate account with a financial institution for its trust fund.

PART 10—MISCELLANEOUS

Forms

65. The prescribed forms under the Act are the forms approved by the chief executive.

PART 11—TRANSITIONAL

Continuance of appointments etc. made under replacement provisions

66.(1) This section applies if—

- (a) a provision of the *Community Services (Aborigines) Regulation 1985* expressly or impliedly authorises or requires—
 - (i) the approval by the Minister of a number of councillors

- (other than 5) or of a process for directly electing the chairperson of an Aboriginal council; or
- (ii) the making of an appointment; or
 - (iii) the making by each Aboriginal council of a manual about the council's accounting and financial procedures; or
 - (iv) the delegation of a power; or
 - (v) the doing of anything else; and
- (b) a provision of this regulation (the **“replacement provision”**) expressly or impliedly authorises or requires—
- (i) a similar approval to be made; or
 - (ii) a similar appointment to be made; or
 - (iii) a similar manual to be made; or
 - (iv) a similar power to be delegated; or
 - (v) a similar thing to be done.

(2) An approval, appointment, manual, delegation or other thing mentioned in subsection (1) that was in force immediately before the commencement of this section continues to have effect after the commencement as if it had been done under the replacement provision.

Repeal

67. The *Community Services (Aborigines) Regulation 1985* is repealed.

Expiry of part

68. This part expires on the day it commences.

SCHEDULE 1

ELECTIONS

section 26

(The Local Government Act 1993, chapter 5 applied to an Aboriginal council)¹¹

PART 1—GENERAL

Triennial elections

214. Councillors of *an Aboriginal council* are to be elected once every 3 years.

Types of elections

215.(1) A triennial or fresh election of *a councillor of an Aboriginal council* is an election for the whole of the *council's* area.

(2) *(omitted)*

(3) A by-election to fill a vacancy in the office of a *councillor of an Aboriginal council* is an election for its area, *(words omitted)* for which the councillor was elected.

Elections to be held on a Saturday

216. Every *election for an Aboriginal council* must be held on a Saturday.

¹¹ Textual changes are indicated by italic script (other than the citations of the Electoral Acts).

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Dates of triennial elections

217.(1) Triennial elections are to be held on *the same day as triennial elections under the Local Government Act 1993*.

(2) *(omitted)*

(3) *(omitted)*

Date of later triennial elections

218. *(omitted)*

Date of by-elections

219.(1) A by-election to fill a vacancy in the office of a *councillor of an Aboriginal council* is to be held on the date fixed by the returning officer for the election.

(2) The date fixed must be within 3 months after the vacancy happens.

Aboriginal councils responsible for expenditure for conducting elections

219A. *An Aboriginal council* is responsible for expenditure incurred for the conduct of an election in its *(words omitted)* area.

PART 2—RETURNING OFFICERS**Clerk is returning officer**

220.(1) The *clerk of an Aboriginal council* is the returning officer for every election of a councillor of the *Aboriginal council*.

(2) This section is subject to section 221 (Appointment of returning officer in place of the *clerk*).

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Appointment of returning officer in place of the *clerk*

221.(1) If the *clerk* considers on reasonable grounds that it is appropriate to appoint another individual as returning officer for an election, the *clerk* may make the appointment in the approved form.

(2) An individual who is not a current employee of the *Aboriginal council* cannot be appointed as returning officer for an election unless the *clerk*—

- (a) has, by displaying in a conspicuous position in the *Aboriginal council's* area and in other ways the *clerk* considers appropriate, invited expressions of interest from individuals who are suitably qualified to conduct elections; and
- (b) if the *clerk* considers it appropriate—has invited submissions for appointment as returning officer from any individual the *clerk* considers may be suitably qualified to conduct elections; and
- (c) has taken into account—
 - (i) the individual's qualifications to be a returning officer; and
 - (ii) information supplied by the individual and any referees; and
 - (iii) the cost of the individual providing the services required.

(3) Subsections (4) to (6) apply if a returning officer appointed by the *clerk* is, for any reason, unable to perform the duties of the returning officer.

(4) If possible, the returning officer must immediately inform the *clerk*.

(5) The *clerk* may become the returning officer or appoint another individual to be the returning officer for the election.

(6) To the extent practicable, subsection (2) applies to the appointment of a returning officer under subsection (5) who is not a current employee of the *Aboriginal council*.

(7) If the *clerk* believes he or she cannot properly perform the duties of returning officer for an election because of a possible conflict of interest, the *clerk* must ask the Minister to appoint another individual as returning officer for the election.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

(8) The Minister may appoint another individual as returning officer for the election.

Returning officer's duty for by-election

222. As soon as practicable after fixing the day for holding a by-election, the returning officer must—

- (a) *display in a conspicuous position in the Aboriginal council's area and in the other ways that the officer may consider appropriate, notice of—*
 - (i) the day fixed; and
 - (ii) the cut-off day for the voters roll for the by-election; and
- (b) take the steps required by this *regulation* for holding the by-election.

PART 3—VOTERS ROLL**Returning officer must compile voters roll**

223. The returning officer for *an election for an Aboriginal council* must compile the roll of persons entitled to vote at the election (the “**voters roll**”).

Qualification for enrolment on voters roll

224. A person is entitled to vote at *an election for an Aboriginal council* if the person is an elector under the *Electoral Act 1992* for an electoral district, or a part of an electoral district, included—

- (a) (*words omitted*) in the area; or
- (b) (*omitted*)

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Cut-off day for voters roll

225. A voters roll must be compiled to 1 of the following dates—

- (a) *(omitted)*
- (b) for a triennial election—31 January in the year of the election;
- (c) for a by-election to fill a vacancy in the office of a *councillor of an Aboriginal council*—at least 5 days, and not more than 7 days, after the *display*, under section 222 (Returning officer's duty for by-election), of notice of the day of the by-election.

Use of electoral roll when practicable

226.(1) The voters roll for an election for an *Aboriginal council* must consist of the persons enrolled on an electoral roll for an electoral district, or a part of an electoral district, included—

- (a) *(words omitted)* in the area; or
- (b) *(omitted)*

(2) However, the returning officer may make the changes to the electoral roll, compiled to the cut-off day for the voters roll, that are necessary because the boundaries of the area *(words omitted)* are not identical with the boundaries of the electoral district.

Requirements of voters roll

227.(1) A voters roll for an election must—

- (a) show the names of all persons entitled to vote at the election; and
- (b) be in the form of the electoral roll used for elections of the Legislative Assembly.

(2) The returning officer must not include in a voters roll an elector's address that, under the *Electoral Act 1992*, is excluded from the publicly available part of an electoral roll.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Voters roll to be open to inspection and purchase

228.(1) A voters roll for an election is open to inspection.

(2) Copies of the voters roll must be available for purchase at the *Aboriginal council's office*.

(3) The price of a copy of the voters roll must be no more than the cost to the *Aboriginal council* of having the copy available for purchase and, if the copy is posted to the purchaser, the postage cost.

Electoral registrars to help returning officers

229. An electoral registrar under the *Electoral Act 1992* must give a returning officer the assistance that the returning officer reasonably requires to compile a voters roll for *an election for an Aboriginal council*.

PART 4—VOTING**Compulsory voting**

230. Voting at an election for *an Aboriginal council* is compulsory and each elector is entitled to 1 vote only.

System of voting

231. The system of voting at an election for a councillor is—

(a) *(omitted)*

(b) *(words omitted)* first-past-the-post voting.

PART 5—(omitted)

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

PART 6—CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS*Division 1—Preliminary***Conduct of elections**

236. An election must be conducted under this part.

*Division 2—Electoral officers***Returning officer**

238. The returning officer for an election is responsible for its proper conduct.

Assistant returning officers

238A. *(omitted)*

Presiding officers

239.(1) The returning officer—

- (a) may be presiding officer at a polling booth; and
- (b) must appoint an adult as presiding officer at each polling booth other than the booth where the returning officer is the presiding officer.

(2) A presiding officer at a polling booth is responsible for the proper conduct of the poll at the booth and for carrying out the other duties for the election that are required by the returning officer.

(3) If a person is unable to act as presiding officer at a polling booth, the returning officer, or someone else with the returning officer's approval, may appoint an adult as presiding officer at the booth while the person is unable to act.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

(4) An appointment under subsection (1) or (3) must be in the approved form.

Issuing officers

240.(1) The returning officer, or a presiding officer with the returning officer's approval, may appoint adults ("**issuing officers**") to—

- (a) give ballot papers, declaration envelopes and declaration forms to electors; and
- (b) perform the other duties for the election that are required by the presiding officer.

(2) The appointment must be in the approved form.

(3) Anything done by an issuing officer under subsection (1)(b) is taken to be done by the returning officer or the presiding officer.

Declaration by issuing officers

241. An issuing officer must make a declaration in the approved form before acting as an issuing officer.

Returning officer may act through other officers

242. If—

- (a) the returning officer may, under this part, do anything; and
- (b) the returning officer authorises (*words omitted*) a presiding officer or issuing officer (the "**authorised officer**") to do the thing; and
- (c) the authorised officer does the thing;

the thing is taken to have been done by the returning officer.

Examples—

1. (*omitted*)
2. (*omitted*)

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

3. Under section 297, declaration envelopes are to be posted or given to the returning officer. For an election, the returning officer could authorise an issuing officer to receive declaration envelopes, to remove the declaration envelopes containing the ballot papers from the return address envelopes and place the declaration envelopes in a ballot box.

Assistant returning officer may act through certain authorised officers

242A. *(omitted)*

Supply and use of voters rolls

243.(1) The returning officer must give to the presiding officer at each polling booth enough copies of the voters roll certified in the approved form by the returning officer.

(2) An issuing officer must use a certified copy of the voters roll for taking the ballot in the election.

Division 3—Candidates for election or appointment**Qualification for nomination**

244.(1) *(omitted)*¹²

(2) A person is not disqualified from nominating *for election or appointment to an Aboriginal council* because the person is a member of the Legislative Assembly or *an Aboriginal council* employee.¹³

(3) *(omitted)*

¹² See section 10 (Qualifications for councillors).

¹³ See section 13(g) and (h) which provides that a person can not be a member of an Aboriginal council and hold the position of clerk, deputy clerk, finance officer, financial controller, accountant or other person (however described) whose primary responsibility is administering the council's finances.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Prohibition of dual candidature

245.(1) A person cannot, at the same time, be a candidate—

- (a) for election as *chairperson of an Aboriginal council* and as another councillor of the *Aboriginal council*; or
- (b) (*omitted*)

(2) If, at noon on the nomination day, a person is nominated as a candidate in contravention of subsection (1), each of the nominations is of no effect.

(3) (*omitted*)

Leave to *Aboriginal council* employee to contest election

246.(1) An *Aboriginal council* employee who nominates as a candidate for election as a *councillor of an Aboriginal council* is entitled to leave of absence for a period of not more than 2 months to contest the election.

(2) An *employee* may use any entitlement to accrued leave with pay as leave to which the employee is entitled under subsection (1).

(3) Unless leave is taken under subsection (2), the *employee* is not entitled to payment of salary or wages for any period of leave taken under subsection (1).

(4) (*omitted*)

Division 4—Nomination on candidates for election**Calling for nominations**

248.(1) The returning officer must publish, *by displaying a notice in a conspicuous position in the Aboriginal council's area and in other ways the returning officer considers appropriate*, notice of the election (*words omitted*).

(2) The notice must—

- (a) be in the approved form; and

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- (b) specify a day as the nomination day—
 - (i) not less than 10, or more than 21, days after the day of publication of the notice; and
 - (ii) not less than 21, or more than 42, days before the day on which the election is to be held; and
 - (c) specify a place of nomination; and
 - (d) invite nominations of candidates for the election.
- (3) The place of nomination must be—
- (a) the *Aboriginal council's* office; or
 - (b) a place in its area convenient generally to persons in its area.

Who may nominate

249.(1) A candidate for election as a councillor of an *Aboriginal council* must be a person who is qualified under sections 244 (Qualification for nomination) and 10 (*Qualifications for councillors*) to nominate for the election.

(2) (*omitted*)

How and when nomination is given

250.(1) A person who wishes to be a candidate for election must be nominated by—

(a) (*omitted*)

(b) at least 2 electors for the *Aboriginal council's* area (*words omitted*)

(2) A nomination must be—

(a) in the approved form; and

(b) given to the returning officer after the nominations are invited for the election but before noon on the nomination day.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Nomination fee to accompany nomination

251.(1) Before noon on the nomination day, the person nominating as a candidate must deposit, in cash or by a cheque drawn by a financial institution, with the returning officer—

- (a) \$25; or
- (b) (*omitted*)

(2) The *nomination fee* must be held in the trust fund of the *Aboriginal council* until it is refunded, or becomes the property of the *Aboriginal council*, under this part.

Special grounds for deciding a person is not properly nominated

251A. (*omitted*)

Certificate of returning officer

252.(1) If the returning officer is satisfied a person has been properly nominated for election, the returning officer must—

- (a) certify the nomination, in the approved form; and
- (b) give a copy of the certificate to the candidate.

(1A) The certificate must specify the time, day and place proposed for a draw, if necessary, for the order of listing of candidates' names on the ballot paper.

(2) A person is properly nominated for election if—

- (a) sections 249 (Who may nominate) to 251 (*Nomination fee to accompany nomination*) have been complied with, or have been substantially complied with apart from a mere formal defect or error in the nomination; and
- (b) section 245 (Prohibition of dual candidature) does not apply to the person's nomination; and
- (c) the nomination has not been withdrawn.

(3) The returning officer is not obliged to look beyond—

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- (a) the form of nomination and payment of the *nomination fee*; and
- (b) the voters roll; and
- (c) documentary evidence produced by the nominee or nominator that at the time the voters roll is compiled for the election—
 - (i) the nominator is an elector for the election (*words omitted*); or
 - (ii) the nominee is, under the *Electoral Act 1992*, an elector for an electoral district, or part of an electoral district, included in the *Aboriginal council's* area.

(4) If a nomination is wrongly certified by the returning officer, the certification, or the issue of a copy of the certificate, does not validate the nomination.

Display of nominations

253. As soon as practicable after receipt of a nomination, the returning officer must display a copy of the nomination in a conspicuous position at the place of nomination and, if that place is not the *Aboriginal council's office*, at the office.

Termination of candidature before noon on nomination day

254.(1) A person nominated as a candidate for election may withdraw the person's agreement to the nomination by signed notice given to the returning officer before noon on the nomination day.

(2) If this happens—

- (a) the nomination is of no effect; and
- (b) the person's *nomination fee* must be refunded to the person.

Death of candidate

255. If a person nominated as a candidate for election dies before noon on the nomination day—

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- (a) the nomination is of no effect; and
- (b) the person's *nomination fee* must be refunded to the person's personal representative.

Procedure if number of candidates not more than number required

256.(1) If the number of candidates properly nominated for election does not exceed the number required to be elected—

- (a) the nominees are taken to have been elected; and
- (b) the returning officer must, as soon as practicable after the nomination day, *display* a notice in the approved form in a *conspicuous position in the area of the Aboriginal council* for which the election was to be held, that the nominees are taken to have been elected.

(2) If—

- (a) no-one is nominated as a candidate for an election *and the council does not make an appointment under section 15(2) of the regulation*; or
- (b) the number of candidates nominated is less than the number required to be elected;

the Governor in Council may, by gazette notice, appoint as councillors of the *Aboriginal council*, the number of persons necessary to constitute fully the *council*.

(3) Each person appointed as a councillor must be qualified to be elected as a councillor of the *Aboriginal council for the council's area* for which the election was to be held.

(4) The persons appointed are taken to have been properly elected as councillors of the *Aboriginal council*.

Procedure if number of candidates exceeds number required

257.(1) If the number of candidates properly nominated for election exceeds the number required to be elected, a poll must be conducted under

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

this part.

(2) The returning officer must give public notice that a poll will be conducted.

(3) The notice must—

- (a) be in the approved form; and
- (b) specify—
 - (i) the day the poll will be conducted; and
 - (ii) the names of all candidates properly nominated for election in the order decided under section 273 (Order of listing of candidates' names); and
 - (iii) the location of all ordinary polling booths to be used for taking the ballot in the poll; and
 - (iv) that the ordinary voting hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and
- (c) be displayed in a conspicuous position at the place of nomination and, if that place is not the *Aboriginal council's office, at the office*; and
- (d) *(omitted)*

(4) Display of a notice under subsection (3)(c) must—

- (a) start as soon as practicable after noon on the nomination day; and
- (b) continue until the close of the poll.

Supply of voters roll

258.(1) If a poll is to be conducted in the election, the returning officer must give a copy of the voters roll to each candidate as soon as practicable after the nomination day.

(2) The copy of the roll must be certified by the returning officer in the approved form.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Procedure on death of candidate when poll to be conducted

259.(1) If a poll is to be conducted and a candidate dies after noon on the nomination day but before the polling day—

- (a) (*words omitted*) the proceedings for the election of the *councillors* must start again; and
- (b) (*omitted*)
- (c) (*omitted*)

(2) The deceased candidate's *nomination fee* must be refunded to the candidate's personal representative.

(3) The *nomination fees* of other candidates must be refunded to the candidates.

(4) Despite subsection (1), the *Minister* may, by gazette notice, direct that proceedings for holding an election of all councillors of the *Aboriginal council* start again.

(5) If proceedings are started again, the *Minister* must, by gazette notice, fix a new polling day for the election.

Disposal of *nomination fees* generally

260.(1) As soon as practicable after the declaration of the result of a poll, each candidate's *nomination fee* must be refunded to the candidate if—

- (a) the candidate is elected; or
- (b) (*omitted*)
- (c) (*words omitted*) the number of votes received by the candidate is more than 4% of the total number of formal votes cast in the election.

(1A) (*omitted*)

(2) All other candidates' *nomination fees* become the property of the *Aboriginal council* and must be paid into its *general fund*.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

If successful candidate dies

261. If a candidate who is successful at the election dies before the final result of the poll is declared, the candidate must be declared elected to the office for which the person was a candidate.

Extension of times

262.(1) This section applies if—

- (a) a nomination day is specified (*words omitted*) for the election; or
- (b) a polling day is specified under section 257 (Procedure if number of candidates exceeds number required) for the election.

(2) The *Minister* may, by gazette notice, fix a later day as the nomination or polling day.

(3) The returning officer must *display* a notice in a *conspicuous position in the area of the Aboriginal council* for which the election is to be held giving any necessary directions to candidates for election, and to electors, about the procedures to be followed.

*Division 5—(omitted)**Division 6—Polling booths***Polling booths—general**

265.(1) A place on or from which liquor may lawfully be sold cannot be used as a polling booth.

(2) However, a civic or cultural centre, community hall or similar place under the *Aboriginal council's* control, may be used as a polling booth if—

- (a) the floor area for taking the ballot is designated in the notice of the conduct of the poll under section 257 (Procedure if number of candidates exceeds number required); and
- (b) the *council* ensures that no liquor will be sold or supplied in that

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

area during the taking of the ballot.

(3) The returning officer—

- (a) may arrange for a polling booth within or outside the *council's* area to be used in an election; and
- (b) may arrange for 2 or more polling booths at any place if the number of electors likely to vote at the place is greater than could conveniently vote in 1 booth at the place; and
- (c) must ensure that each polling booth is provided with enough ballot boxes, ballot papers and materials to enable electors to mark the ballot papers.

(4) (*omitted*)

Provision of ordinary polling booths

266.(1) For the purpose of taking a ballot in the election, the returning officer must arrange for places, or parts of places, to be used on polling day as ordinary polling booths to enable electors in general to vote.

(2) The returning officer may—

- (a) less than 3 days before polling day, arrange for an ordinary polling booth to be used; or
- (b) less than 6 days before polling day, cancel arrangements for the use of an ordinary polling booth;

only if it is necessary because of circumstances beyond the returning officer's control.

(3) If, after publication of the notice under section 257 (Procedure if number of candidates exceeds number required), the returning officer arranges for the use of an ordinary polling booth, the officer must give public notice—

- (a) of the location of the booth; and
- (b) that the ordinary voting hours of the booth are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

(4) If the returning officer cancels arrangements for the use of an ordinary polling booth, the officer must give public notice of the cancellation.

(5) Notice under subsection (3) or (4) must be given in the way that the returning officer considers is the best way to inform electors generally.

Declaration of mobile polling booths

267.(1) If the returning officer is satisfied residents in an institution should be able to vote at the institution in a poll, the returning officer may arrange for the whole or a part of the institution to be available as a mobile polling booth to enable residents in the institution to vote there in the poll.

(2) If the returning officer is satisfied a part of the *Aboriginal council's* area does not have enough electors to justify the use of an ordinary polling booth in the part, the returning officer may arrange for the whole or part of any place in the part to be available as a mobile polling booth to enable electors in the part to vote in the poll.

(3) If the returning officer acts under subsection (1) or (2), the officer must fix the times, during the period starting 11 days before the polling day and ending at 6 p.m. on the polling day, when the mobile polling booth may be used for voting.

(4) The returning officer must, by *displaying a notice in a conspicuous position* in the relevant part of the *council's* area—

- (a) declare the whole or part of the relevant institution or place as a mobile polling booth for the election; and
- (b) specify the times at which votes may be cast at the booth.

(5) The notice must be in the approved form.

(6) The returning officer also must give written notice to the candidates for election of the declaration of the mobile polling booth and the times at which votes may be cast at the booth.

(7) On the declaration of a mobile polling booth for an election, the electors resident in the relevant institution or the electors resident in the part of the *council's* area in which the booth is situated, may vote in the election

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

at the booth during the times specified for the booth in the notice *displayed* under subsection (4).

Duty of person in charge of institution

268.(1) If the returning officer arranges for the whole or part of an institution to be used as an ordinary polling booth, the person in charge of the institution must allow electors and issuing officers to have access to the booth whenever votes may be cast at the booth.

(2) If the returning officer declares the whole or part of an institution as a mobile polling booth, the person in charge of the institution must allow residents in the institution and issuing officers to have access to the booth whenever votes may be cast at the booth.

Privacy of voting

269. The returning officer must ensure that each polling booth is provided with enough voting compartments, or other adequate facilities, to allow the casting of votes in private.

*Division 7—Ballot boxes, papers and other documents***Ballot boxes generally**

270.(1) A ballot box used in a poll must be under the scrutiny and effective control of an issuing officer.

(2) A ballot box must—

- (a) have an opening of a size sufficient to allow folded ballot papers and declaration envelopes to be put in the box; and
- (b) be open to inspection by issuing officers, candidates for election at the poll, and scrutineers properly appointed for the poll, before the box is locked or sealed for receipt of ballot papers.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Requirements of ballot papers

271.(1) If a poll is to be conducted, the returning officer must arrange for the printing of all ballot papers to be used in taking the ballot in the poll.

(2) A ballot paper must—

- (a) be in the approved form; and
- (b) be of material that, when folded, the vote cast by the elector on the paper is effectively concealed; and
- (c) be attached to a butt that—
 - (i) is not part of the ballot paper; and
 - (ii) is perforated to allow the ballot paper to be easily detached from the butt; and
 - (iii) is numbered in regular arithmetical sequence, starting with the numeral 1 and proceeding by intervals of one whole numeral, so that each butt for the *area of the Aboriginal council* for which the poll is conducted has a unique number; and
- (d) show the name of each candidate for election as required by subsection (3); and
- (e) if the names of 2 or more candidates are so similar as to be likely to cause confusion to electors—must contain an appropriate description or addition, in the returning officer's opinion, to distinguish the persons' names; and
- (f) *(omitted)*

(3) A ballot paper must—

- (a) contain the name of each candidate once only by showing first the surname followed by the given name or names; and
- (b) show the names of the candidates in the order decided under section 273 (Order of listing of candidates' names).

(4) A ballot paper must not contain anyone else's name.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Separate ballot papers for separate polls

272.(1) This section applies if a poll for the election of *chairperson* of the *Aboriginal council* is to be conducted when a poll for election of another councillor of the *Aboriginal council* is conducted.

(2) One ballot paper must be used in both polls, unless the *council*, by resolution, instructs the returning officer that separate ballot papers be printed for use in the polls.

(3) The returning officer must comply with the instruction.

Order of listing of candidates' names

273.(1) The order in which names of candidates for election are to be listed on ballot papers and notices under section 257 (Procedure if number of candidates exceeds number required) is to be decided under this section.

(2) The order must be decided by the returning officer as soon as practicable after noon on the nomination day.

(3) The returning officer must, in the presence of 2 witnesses—

- (a) write the name of each candidate on a separate sheet of paper; and
- (b) ensure that each piece of paper is of the same kind, shape, size and colour; and
- (c) put each separate piece of paper in a separate envelope and, if it is necessary to fold the piece of paper to make it fit in the envelope, fold each piece of paper in the same way to make each the same size and thickness; and
- (d) ensure that each envelope is opaque and of the same kind, shape, size and colour; and
- (e) after each piece of paper has been placed in an envelope, seal the envelope; and
- (f) put all the envelopes in a container and shuffle them; and
- (g) draw out the envelopes, 1 at a time; and
- (h) as each envelope is drawn out, open it and record the name of the

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

candidate shown on the piece of paper in the envelope.

(4) The order in which the names are recorded is the order in which the names are to appear on the ballot paper and notices under section 257 (Procedure if number of candidates exceeds number required).

(5) The returning officer must allow each candidate, or the candidate's representative, to be present when the order of candidates' names is decided.

Distribution of ballot papers

274.(1) The returning officer must ensure a sufficient number of ballot papers is available at all polling booths.

(2) The returning officer must prepare a delivery note in the approved form in triplicate for each parcel of ballot papers supplied by the returning officer to presiding officers at polling booths.

(3) The approved form must—

- (a) show details of the number of ballot papers supplied; and
- (b) show the range of numbers of the ballot papers; and
- (c) include a form of acknowledgment of receipt of the ballot papers.

(4) Two copies of the delivery note must be included in the parcel of ballot papers.

(5) As soon as practicable after a presiding officer receives a parcel of ballot papers, the presiding officer must—

- (a) check the contents against the details shown in the delivery note; and
- (b) complete the particulars prescribed by the delivery note; and
- (c) sign the form of acknowledgment included in the delivery note.

(6) If there is a discrepancy between the details shown in the delivery note and the contents of the parcel, the presiding officer must cause a countercheck to be made by—

- (a) if another presiding officer is available—the other presiding

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

officer; or

(b) if another presiding officer is not available—a responsible person.

(7) A discrepancy confirmed by a countercheck must be noted in the form of acknowledgment and the form must be signed by the presiding officer and the person who made the countercheck.

(8) The presiding officer must return 1 copy of the delivery note to the returning officer and retain the other copy of the delivery note until it is given to the returning officer with the sealed parcels of ballot papers under section 308 (Preliminary counting by presiding officer).

Correction of errors etc.

275. Any error, omission or delay in respect of any voters roll, ballot papers or other document to be used in a poll may be corrected by procedures directed by the *Minister*, by gazette notice.

Division 8—Scrutineers**Candidates' entitlement to scrutineers**

276. A candidate for election is entitled to have 1 scrutineer present for each issuing officer at a polling booth or at a place for examination of declaration envelopes or counting of votes—

- (a) before and at all times when electors may vote in the booth; and
- (b) at all times during the examination or counting.

Appointment of scrutineers

277.(1) A candidate for election may, in the approved form, appoint adults as scrutineers for the candidate.

(2) On appointment, a scrutineer must make a declaration in the approved form before the returning officer or a presiding officer.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Proof of identification

278. A scrutineer must—

- (a) carry evidence of identification and of the person's appointment as a scrutineer; and
- (b) on demand, produce the evidence to an issuing officer.

Powers of scrutineers

279.(1) A scrutineer for a candidate for election is entitled to be present—

- (a) in a polling booth—before taking the ballot in the poll starts to inspect ballot boxes; and
- (b) in a polling booth and any office of the presiding officer at the booth—when electors may vote in the booth; and
- (c) in a polling booth or other place—to watch the examination of declaration envelopes and counting of votes.

(2) A scrutineer may—

- (a) object to an issuing officer's decision on a person's entitlement to vote at the election; and
- (b) object to the acceptance or rejection of a ballot paper by the returning or presiding officer; and
- (c) record details of persons who vote at the election at a polling booth and remove the record from the booth.

Division 9—Voting generally**Who may vote**

280.(1) Only electors may vote in a ballot taken in a poll.

(2) The returning officer must not vote in the election.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

When votes may be cast at an ordinary polling booth or mobile polling booth

281.(1) Voting at an ordinary polling booth must take place between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on polling day.

(2) However, an elector who is in an ordinary polling booth at 6 p.m. on polling day, for the purpose of voting in the poll, must be allowed to vote.

(3) Voting at a mobile polling booth must take place during the times fixed for the booth by the returning officer.

(4) However, an elector who is in a mobile polling booth at the time of the close of voting at the booth, for the purpose of voting in the poll, must be allowed to vote.

Procedure for voting at a polling booth

282.(1) Subject to *section 284* (Arrangements for electors with disability) (*words omitted*), an elector, other than a declaration voter, must vote at a polling booth under the procedures set out in this section.

(2) The elector must enter a polling booth for the *Aboriginal council's* area during voting hours at the booth.

(3) In the polling booth, the elector must give the elector's full name and address to an issuing officer.

(4) If the elector—

- (a) has a ballot paper and declaration envelope for the election; and
- (b) does not intend to cast a declaration vote;

the elector must return the ballot paper and declaration envelope to the issuing officer.

(5) The issuing officer must give a ballot paper to a person asking for it if the issuing officer is satisfied the person is entitled to vote at the election.

(6) The issuing officer may ask a person questions to decide whether the person is entitled to vote at the election.

(7) If, because of the answers to the questions—

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- (a) the issuing officer is satisfied the person is an elector mentioned in section 290(a), (b) or (c) (Who must cast a declaration vote in ordinary elections); or
- (b) the issuing officer suspects, on reasonable grounds, that the person is not entitled to vote at the election;

the person may only cast a declaration vote.

(8) The issuing officer must place a mark, in ink, on the officer's copy of the voters roll against the name of each person given a ballot paper by the officer.

(9) An issuing officer who gives a ballot paper to a person must, if asked by a scrutineer, keep a record of the objection by the scrutineer to the entitlement of the person to vote.

(10) On being given the ballot paper, the elector must, without delay—

- (a) go alone into an unoccupied voting compartment in the polling booth; and
- (b) there, in private, mark a vote on the ballot paper in accordance with division 11 (Marking of ballot papers); and
- (c) fold the ballot paper, concealing the vote, and put it in the appropriate ballot box in the polling booth; and
- (d) leave the polling booth.

Duties of issuing officer for returned papers

283.(1) An issuing officer must—

- (a) record in the approved form the giving of a ballot paper to a person who has returned a ballot paper and declaration envelope to the officer under section 282(4) (Procedure for voting at a polling booth); and
- (b) attach to the form all ballot papers and declaration envelopes returned to the officer; and
- (c) give the form and the attached documents to the presiding officer.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

(2) The presiding officer must set aside the form and attached documents in the officer's custody for separate identification under section 308(1)(g)(ii) (Preliminary counting by presiding officer).

Arrangements for electors with disability

284.(1) This section applies if an elector cannot enter a polling booth because of illness, disability or advanced pregnancy, but is able to come to a place (the "**voting place**") close to the polling booth.

(2) The issuing officer may perform the issuing officer's functions, and the elector may vote at the voting place, as if it were the polling booth.

(3) However, the issuing officer must—

- (a) before taking any action under subsection (2), inform the scrutineers present of the proposed action; and
- (b) allow 1 scrutineer for each candidate to be present at the voting place; and
- (c) ensure that after the ballot paper is marked, it is—
 - (i) folded to conceal the vote; and
 - (ii) put in an envelope or, if the vote is a declaration vote, a declaration envelope; and
- (d) seal the envelope; and
- (e) if—
 - (i) the vote is a declaration vote—put the sealed declaration envelope in the appropriate ballot box inside the polling booth; or
 - (ii) if the vote is not a declaration vote—open the envelope inside the polling booth in the presence of any scrutineers, ensuring the ballot paper remains folded, and put the folded ballot paper in the appropriate ballot box.

(4) The issuing officer must ensure that, as far as practicable—

- (a) for a declaration vote—section 294 (How declaration vote may be

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

cast at a polling booth) is complied with when the elector votes;
or

- (b) for another vote—section 282 (Procedure for voting at a polling booth) is complied with when the elector votes.

(5) Subsections (2) and (3) apply to all types of voting under this division.

Arrangements for electors at institutions

285.(1) If a polling booth is an institution or part of an institution, an issuing officer may visit electors resident in the institution, or part of the institution, for the purpose of enabling them to vote.

(2) Before taking action under subsection (1), the issuing officer must inform the scrutineers present of the proposed action.

(3) When visiting an elector in an institution, the issuing officer must—

- (a) take to the elector—
- (i) a ballot paper or a declaration form, ballot paper and declaration envelope; and
 - (ii) a ballot box; and
 - (iii) anything else necessary to enable the elector to vote; and
- (b) if a scrutineer wishes—be accompanied by the scrutineer.

(4) The issuing officer must ensure that, as far as practicable—

- (a) for a declaration vote—section 294 (How declaration vote may be cast at a polling booth) is complied with when the elector votes;
or
- (b) for another vote—section 282 (Procedure for voting at a polling booth) is complied with when the elector votes.

Arrangements for electoral visitor voting

286. *(omitted)*

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Help for electors in voting

287.(1) If an elector satisfies an issuing officer that the elector cannot vote without help, the elector may be accompanied into an unoccupied voting compartment in a polling booth, or be otherwise helped, by someone chosen by the elector.

(2) The person may help the elector in any of the following ways—

- (a) if asked by the elector—stating the names of candidates;
- (b) acting as interpreter;
- (c) explaining the ballot paper and the requirements of division 11 (Marking of ballot papers) about its marking;
- (d) marking, or helping to mark, the ballot paper in the way the elector wishes;
- (e) folding the ballot paper and putting it into a ballot box or a declaration envelope;
- (f) sealing a declaration envelope or putting it into a ballot box.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) apply to all types of voting.

(4) This section applies despite any of the following provisions—

- section 282(10) (Procedure for voting at a polling booth)
- section 294 (How declaration vote may be cast at a polling booth)
- section 297 (Casting a declaration vote by post).

Adjournment of poll

288.(1) If the conduct of a poll is, or is likely to be, obstructed or interrupted from any cause, the returning officer may adjourn the conduct of the poll generally or at a particular polling booth.

(2) If the conduct of a poll at a particular polling booth is, or is likely to be, obstructed or interrupted from any cause, the presiding officer at the booth may adjourn the conduct of the poll at the booth.

(3) If a poll is adjourned under subsection (1) or (2), the returning officer must fix a day (not later than 34 days after the day on which the poll is

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

adjourned) for conducting the adjourned poll.

(4) The returning officer must give public notice of the day fixed—

- (a) *by displaying a notice in a conspicuous position* in the relevant part of the *Aboriginal council's* area; and
- (b) in other ways the returning officer considers appropriate.

Division 10—Declaration voting**Who may cast a declaration vote**

289. The following electors may cast a declaration vote—

- (a) an elector who, during ordinary voting hours on polling day, will not be within 8 km, by the nearest practicable route, from a polling booth;
- (b) an elector who, during ordinary voting hours on polling day, will be working or travelling under conditions that prevent voting at a polling booth;
- (c) an elector who, because of illness, disability or advanced pregnancy, will be prevented from voting at a polling booth;
- (d) an elector who, because the elector is caring for a person who is ill, has a disability or is pregnant, will be prevented from voting at a polling booth;
- (e) an elector who, because of membership of a religious order or because of religious beliefs, will be prevented from voting at a polling booth for all, or most, of the ordinary voting hours on polling day;
- (f) an elector who, on polling day, will be serving a sentence of imprisonment, or under other detention;
- (g) an elector whose address has been omitted from a voters roll—
 - (i) because of the *Electoral Act 1992*, section 58; or
 - (ii) under an arrangement under the *Electoral Act 1992*,

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

section 62 because of the *Electoral Act 1918* (Cwlth), section 104.

Who must cast a declaration vote in ordinary elections

290. In an election (*words omitted*), the following persons must cast a declaration vote—

- (a) an elector whose name is not on the voters roll apparently because of an official error;
- (b) an elector who is not enrolled on the voters roll, but is entitled to be enrolled, because of the *Electoral Act 1992*, section 64(1)(a)(ii);
- (c) an elector who appears, from a record apparently made in error, to have already voted in the election;
- (d) a person who is given a ballot paper and declaration envelope for voting because an issuing officer suspects, on reasonable grounds, that the person is not entitled to vote at the election.

Declaration voting for postal ballot elections

291. (*omitted*)

How declaration vote is cast

292. Subject to section 282 (Procedure for voting at a polling booth), an elector who may or must make a declaration vote must cast the vote by—

- (a) if the elector cannot enter a polling booth because of illness, disability or advanced pregnancy—going to a place close to a polling booth and voting at that place; or
- (b) going to a polling booth in the *Aboriginal council's* area during voting hours at the booth and following the procedures set out in section 294 (How declaration vote may be cast at a polling booth); or
- (c) going to the *council's office* before polling day and following the

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

procedures set out in section 298 (Declaration voting before polling day); or

- (d) if the elector is an elector mentioned in section 289 (Who may cast a declaration vote) (*words omitted*)—using the ballot paper and declaration envelope given to the elector by the returning officer, and following the procedures set out in section 297 (Casting a declaration vote by post).

Distribution of ballot papers to electors who may or must cast declaration vote

293.(1) An elector mentioned in section 289 (Who may cast a declaration vote) may apply to the returning officer, or a presiding officer for the election, for a ballot paper and a declaration envelope.

(2) The application must be in the approved form.

(3) The returning officer or presiding officer must, as soon as practicable, give a ballot paper, the approved declaration envelope and written instructions in the approved form on how the vote may be cast to the applicant if—

- (a) the application is received by the officer not later than 6 p.m. on the Thursday before polling day; and
- (b) the officer is satisfied the applicant is entitled to vote and make the application.

(4) If the returning officer or presiding officer is satisfied the applicant is an elector mentioned in section 290 (Who must cast a declaration vote in ordinary elections), the officer—

- (a) must not give a ballot paper to the applicant; but
- (b) must give to the applicant an approved declaration form.

(5) If the returning officer or presiding officer is satisfied the applicant has properly completed the declaration form, the officer must, as soon as practicable, give a ballot paper, the approved declaration envelope and written instructions in the approved form on how the vote may be cast to the applicant.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

(6) The things given to an applicant under subsection (3) or (5) must be accompanied by an unsealed *stamped or postage paid* post envelope addressed to the returning officer and bearing the words ‘Ballot paper—(words omitted) (insert name of Aboriginal council’s area)’.

(7) The returning officer may give things to be given to an applicant under subsection (3) or (5) by posting the things to the applicant’s address stated in the voters roll, an electoral roll mentioned in the *Electoral Act 1992*, section 58(5),¹⁴ the application or the declaration form.

Example of addresses—

An applicant’s address could be stated as a residential address, post office box number, mail service number or in another appropriate way.

(8) If things mentioned in subsection (6) are posted to an address outside Australia, the envelope mentioned in subsection (6) need not be stamped or postage paid.

How declaration vote may be cast at a polling booth

294.(1) An elector who must cast a declaration vote (*words omitted*) may cast the vote by—

- (a) entering a polling booth in the *Aboriginal council’s* area during voting hours at the booth; and
- (b) completing the declaration form given to the elector by an issuing officer.

(2) If the issuing officer is satisfied the elector has properly completed the declaration form, the officer must give a ballot paper and the approved declaration envelope to the elector.

(3) On being given the ballot paper and the declaration envelope, the elector must, without delay—

- (a) sign the appropriate declaration on the declaration envelope before the issuing officer and have the officer sign the envelope as

¹⁴ An electoral roll mentioned in the *Electoral Act 1992*, section 58(5) may be in a form other than a printed form.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- witness; and
- (b) go alone into an unoccupied voting compartment in the polling booth; and
 - (c) there, in private, mark a vote on the ballot paper in accordance with division 11 (Marking of ballot papers); and
 - (d) fold the ballot paper, put it in the envelope and seal the envelope; and
 - (e) put the sealed envelope in the appropriate ballot box in the polling booth; and
 - (f) leave the polling booth.

Distribution of ballot papers to electors for postal ballot election

295. *(omitted)*

Record of ballot papers given to postal voters

296. The issuing officer who gives a ballot paper and declaration envelope under section 293 (Distribution of ballot papers to electors who may or must cast declaration vote) (*words omitted*) must—

- (a) keep a record of the ballot paper and envelope given; and
- (b) sign the record.

Casting a declaration vote by post

297.(1) An elector who has received a ballot paper and declaration envelope under section 293 (Distribution of ballot papers to electors who may or must cast declaration vote) (*words omitted*) must, before 6 p.m. on polling day—

- (a) sign the declaration on the declaration envelope in the presence of an adult, and have the adult sign the envelope as witness; and
- (b) in private, mark a vote on the ballot paper in accordance with division 11 (Marking of ballot papers); and

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- (c) fold the ballot paper, put it in the declaration envelope and seal the envelope; and
- (d) put the sealed declaration envelope containing the ballot paper in the prepaid post envelope mentioned in section 293(6) (*words omitted*) and post or give the envelope to the returning officer for the election.

(2) On receipt of the sealed envelope, the returning officer must put it in the appropriate ballot box.

Declaration voting before polling day

298.(1) The returning officer must declare at least 1 of the following places as a polling booth to enable electors entitled to cast a declaration vote under section 289 (Who may cast a declaration vote) to cast a vote at the election before polling day—

- (a) the *Aboriginal council's office, or a part of the office; or*
- (b) (*omitted*)
- (c) another convenient place in the *Aboriginal council's* area.

(2) An elector mentioned in subsection (1) may, at any time during the relevant election period when the *council's* office is open for the conduct of business, ask an issuing officer at the office for a ballot paper.

(3) Subject to section 282(5) to (7) (Procedure for voting at a polling booth), the issuing officer must comply with the request.

(4) An elector who wishes to vote under subsection (1)—

- (a) must complete and sign the approved application form; and
- (b) must comply with section 282; and
- (c) need not complete a declaration envelope.

(5) If an elector is an elector who must cast a declaration vote under section 290 (Who must cast a declaration vote in ordinary elections), the elector—

- (a) must complete and sign the approved application form and

 SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

declaration form; and

- (b) on being given a ballot paper and the approved declaration envelope, must comply with section 294(3) (How declaration vote may be cast at a polling booth) without delay.

(6) In subsection (2)—

“relevant election period” means the period—

- (a) not earlier than—
 - (i) 14 days before polling day; or
 - (ii) the longer period that the returning officer fixes and notifies *by displaying a notice in a conspicuous position* in the *Aboriginal council’s* area; and
- (b) not later than 6 p.m. on the day before polling day.

Distribution of declaration envelopes when separate ballot papers or polls on same day

298A.(1) This section applies if *an Aboriginal council*—

- (a) under section 272,¹⁵ instructs the use of separate ballot papers in polls for elections of the *chairperson* and another councillor conducted on the same day; or
- (b) (*omitted*)

(2) In the conduct of the polls—

- (a) only 1 declaration envelope may be distributed to a declaration voter with the ballot papers for use in the polls; and
- (b) this part, other than this section, applies (with any necessary changes) as if the references to the distribution, marking and other dealing with a ballot paper were a reference to all or each of the ballot papers in the polls, as the case requires.

¹⁵ Section 272 (Separate ballot papers for separate polls)

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

*Division 11—Marking of ballot papers***Optional-preferential voting**

299. *(omitted)*

First-past-the-post voting

300.(1) *(words omitted)* A vote is validly cast if the elector votes in accordance with this section.

(2) For an election of *chairperson*, the elector must mark on the ballot paper the numeral 1, or a tick or cross, in the square opposite the name of the candidate whom the elector prefers.

(3) For an election of other councillors, the elector must mark on the ballot paper—

- (a) if 1 candidate is to be elected—the numeral 1, or a tick or cross, in the square opposite the name of the candidate whom the elector prefers; or
- (b) if 2 or more candidates are to be elected—
 - (i) the numeral 1, or a tick or a cross, in the square opposite the name of 1 candidate for whom the elector wishes to vote; and
 - (ii) the numeral 2, or the numerals 2, 3 and so on (in regular arithmetical sequence by intervals of 1 whole numeral), as the case may be, in the squares opposite the names of the other candidate or candidates for whom the elector wishes to vote, up to the number of candidates to be elected.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Division 12—Replacement ballot papers**Use of replacement ballot papers**

301.(1) If, while voting at a polling booth or voting under section 284 (Arrangements for electors with disability) (*words omitted*), a ballot paper given to an elector is accidentally defaced or destroyed, an issuing officer must give to the elector a replacement ballot paper for use in the poll.

(2) However, before a replacement ballot paper can be given—

- (a) the ballot paper it replaces (the “**replaced ballot paper**”) must not have been already put in a ballot box in use in the poll; and
- (b) the elector must declare, in the approved declaration form, before the issuing officer that—
 - (i) the replaced ballot paper has been accidentally defaced or destroyed; and
 - (ii) the elector has not voted in the election; and
- (c) if the replaced ballot paper has been accidentally defaced—the elector must give the defaced ballot paper to the issuing officer; and
- (d) if the replaced ballot paper has been accidentally destroyed—the elector must give to the issuing officer, if practicable, the remains of the ballot paper; and
- (e) the issuing officer must put the defaced ballot paper, or any remains of the destroyed ballot paper, in an envelope, seal the envelope and set it aside in the officer’s custody for separate identification under section 308(1)(g)(ii) (Preliminary counting by presiding officer).

(3) If a ballot paper given to an elector under section 293 (Distribution of ballot papers to electors who may or must cast declaration vote) (*words omitted*) is lost in transit or is accidentally defaced or destroyed, the returning officer for the election must, before 6 p.m. on polling day, give to the elector a replacement ballot paper and the approved declaration envelope for use in the election.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- (4) However, before a replacement ballot paper can be given—
- (a) the elector must declare, in the approved declaration form, before the issuing officer or an adult witness that—
 - (i) the ballot paper it replaces (the “**replaced ballot paper**”) has not been received by the elector or has been accidentally defaced or destroyed; and
 - (ii) the elector has not voted in the election; and
 - (b) if the replaced ballot paper has been accidentally defaced—the elector must put the defaced ballot paper into the elector’s original declaration envelope or a replacement declaration envelope, seal the envelope and give the envelope to the issuing officer; and
 - (c) if the replaced ballot paper has been accidentally destroyed—the elector must, if practicable, put the remains of the destroyed ballot paper into the elector’s original declaration envelope or a replacement declaration envelope, seal the envelope and give the envelope to the issuing officer; and
 - (d) the issuing officer must set aside the elector’s declaration envelope in the officer’s custody for separate identification under section 308(1)(g)(ii) (Preliminary counting by presiding officer).
- (5) The returning officer must record, in the approved form, the name and place of residence of each person to whom a replacement ballot paper is given.
- (6) If a replacement ballot paper is used for voting—
- (a) the voting must take place under the appropriate provisions of division 9 (Voting generally) or 10 (Declaration voting); and
 - (b) the vote cast must be dealt with under the appropriate provisions of division 14 (Counting of votes).

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Division 13—Effect of ballot papers**Effect of ballot papers—optional-preferential voting**

302. *(omitted)*

Effect of ballot papers—first-past-the-post voting

303.(1) *(omitted)*

(2) For a ballot paper to have effect as recording a vote in the election—

- (a) the ballot paper—
 - (i) must be completed in accordance with section 300 (First-past-the-post voting); or
 - (ii) must contain writing or marking indicating the elector's intended preference, or intention to vote for any particular candidate or candidates; and
- (b) the ballot paper must not contain any writing or mark (other than one authorised by this part) by which the elector can, in the returning officer's opinion, be identified; and
- (c) the ballot paper must have been put in the appropriate ballot box as required by this part; and
- (d) for a ballot paper put into a declaration envelope as required by section 297 (Casting a declaration vote by post)—
 - (i) section 297(1) must have been complied with; and
 - (ii) if the elector is an elector mentioned in section 289 or 290¹⁶ or an applicant who is given an approved declaration form under section 293(4)¹⁷ *(words omitted)*, and the declaration on the envelope is witnessed by a person other than an

¹⁶ Section 289 (Who may cast a declaration vote) or 290 (Who must cast a declaration vote in ordinary elections)

¹⁷ Section 293 (Distribution of ballot papers to electors who may or must cast declaration vote)

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

issuing officer—the signature of the person making the declaration must correspond to the signature of the relevant applicant under section 293 (*words omitted*); and

- (iii) if the declaration envelope is posted to the returning officer—it must be received by the returning officer within 10 days after polling day.

(3) A ballot paper must not be rejected merely because it indicates the elector's intention to vote for a number of candidates greater than the number to be elected.

Posted vote presumed valid until contrary proved

304. If a declaration envelope and ballot paper to which section 297 (Casting a declaration vote by post) applies is received by a returning officer by post, it must be presumed the provisions of section 297(1) have been complied with in relation to the declaration on the envelope until the contrary is proved.

Formal and informal ballot papers

305.(1) A ballot paper that has effect to record a vote is a formal ballot paper.

(2) A ballot paper that has no effect to record a vote is an informal ballot paper.

Ballot paper partly formal and partly informal

306.(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an election for *chairperson* and an election for the other councillors of the *Aboriginal council* are held at the same time and 1 ballot paper is used for both elections; and
- (b) the ballot paper, as completed for an election, is informal but, as completed for the other election, is formal.

(2) The informal part of the ballot paper must be rejected and the formal

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

part of the ballot paper must be counted under division 14 (Counting of votes).

Division 14—Counting of votes**Votes to be counted in accordance with this division**

307. Votes cast in an election are to be counted as required by this division.

Preliminary counting by presiding officer

308.(1) As soon as practicable after the end of ordinary voting hours on polling day, the presiding officer for a polling booth, at a place nominated by the presiding officer, in the presence of another issuing officer and any candidates and scrutineers who wish to attend, must—

- (a) open all ballot boxes used at the polling booth; and
- (b) identify, and keep in a separate parcel, all declaration votes; and
- (c) examine all ballot papers that are not in declaration envelopes, and—
 - (i) identify, and keep in a separate parcel, all informal ballot papers; and
 - (ii) (*words omitted*) count the number of votes for each candidate marked on all formal ballot papers, and keep the ballot papers in a separate parcel; *and*
 - (iii) (*omitted*)
- (d) prepare a written statement in duplicate in the approved form that—
 - (i) sets out, in words and numerals, the number of votes for each candidate (*words omitted*); and
 - (ii) sets out the number of declaration envelopes and informal ballot papers; and

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- (iii) is signed by the presiding officer, and the issuing officer and any scrutineers who are present and wish to sign; and
- (e) seal up in separate parcels all formal and informal ballot papers, declaration envelopes and unused ballot papers; and
- (f) endorse on each parcel a description of its contents, sign the endorsement and allow any scrutineers, who wish to do so, to countersign the endorsement; and
- (g) put into separate parcels—
 - (i) the voters roll and all books and papers used by the presiding officer in the poll with 1 copy of the statement prepared under paragraph (d); and
 - (ii) all ballot papers or remains of ballot papers set aside, under section 283(2) (Duties of issuing officer for returned papers) or 301(2)(e) or (4)(d) (Use of replacement ballot papers), for separate identification;and endorse on each parcel a description of its contents; and
- (h) endorse on each parcel—
 - (i) the name of the *area of the Aboriginal council* for which the election was held; and
 - (ii) the name of the polling booth from which the parcel has come; and
- (i) sign each endorsement.

(2) The presiding officer must then, if the officer is not the returning officer, give to the returning officer, or to a person nominated by the returning officer, as soon as practicable—

- (a) the parcels mentioned in subsection (1); and
- (b) the copy of the statement prepared under subsection (1)(d) (other than the copy mentioned in subsection (1)(g)); and
- (c) a reconciliation statement in the approved form for all ballot papers given out at the presiding officer's polling booth and all votes put in ballot boxes at the booth.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

(3) The returning officer or other person who receives things from the presiding officer under subsection (2) must give to the presiding officer a receipt for the things.

(4) The presiding officer may do anything required under subsection (1) or (2) through an issuing officer authorised by the presiding officer for that purpose.

Example for subsection (4)—

An issuing officer could be authorised to sort and bundle ballot papers and prepare a reconciliation statement for the presiding officer.

Preliminary processing of declaration votes by returning officer

309.(1) After 8 a.m. on polling day, the returning officer may open all ballot boxes containing only declaration votes and examine the declaration envelopes to decide whether the ballot papers in the envelopes are to be accepted for counting.

(2) As soon as practicable after 6 p.m. on polling day, the returning officer may open all other ballot boxes containing declaration votes and examine the declaration envelopes to decide whether the ballot papers in the envelopes are to be accepted for counting.

(3) As soon as practicable after receipt by the returning officer of a parcel of declaration votes from a polling booth, the returning officer may open the parcel and examine the declaration envelopes to decide whether the ballot papers in the envelopes are to be accepted for counting.

Procedure for processing declaration envelopes

310.(1) The returning officer must inform all candidates for election of the times when, and the places where, declaration envelopes will be examined by the returning officer and allow them, or their scrutineers, to attend at the processing of declaration votes.

(2) On examining the declaration envelopes, if the returning officer is satisfied the declaration has been properly completed, the envelope is sealed and the declarant on the envelope is entitled to cast a declaration vote, the returning officer must—

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- (a) detach the elector's declaration from the envelope; and
- (b) either—
 - (i) place a mark in ink against the declarant's name on the voters roll; or
 - (ii) if the voters roll is kept in an electronic form—record in a way approved by the returning officer that the declarant has voted; and
- (c) place the envelope containing the ballot paper (the **“accepted envelope”**) in a locked or sealed ballot box; and
- (d) keep the accepted envelope in the ballot box until dealt with under subsection (3) or section 311.¹⁸

(3) The returning officer may take the accepted envelopes from the locked or sealed ballot box and remove the ballot papers from the envelopes, without unfolding them, or allowing anyone else to unfold them, and keep them in a locked or sealed ballot box until dealt with under section 311.

(4) The returning officer must—

- (a) put all ballot papers (not in declaration envelopes) that are in a ballot box opened under section 309(2) (Preliminary processing of declaration votes by returning officer) into a locked or sealed ballot box, without unfolding them, or allowing anyone else to unfold them; and
- (b) keep them there until they are dealt with in the official counting of votes.

(5) If a declaration envelope is rejected, the returning officer must set it aside in the officer's custody for separate identification.

(6) The returning officer must seal up in separate parcels, and keep in the officer's custody for separate identification, all rejected declaration envelopes, accepted envelopes from which ballot papers have been removed

¹⁸ Section 311 (Official counting of votes)

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

and electors' declarations that have been removed from declaration envelopes.

Official counting of votes

311.(1) As soon as practicable after close of the poll in an election, the returning officer must follow the procedures set out in this section, in the presence of candidates for election, or scrutineers, who wish to attend.

(2) First, the returning officer must ascertain from the presiding officers' statements under section 308(2) (Preliminary counting by presiding officer)—

- (a) (*words omitted*) the number of votes cast for each candidate; or
- (b) (*omitted*)

(3) Second, the returning officer must—

- (a) open all sealed parcels of ballot papers given to the returning officer under section 308(2); and
- (b) examine all ballot papers that are not in declaration envelopes and—
 - (i) (*words omitted*) count the number of votes cast for each candidate on formal ballot papers, and keep the ballot papers in a separate parcel; or
 - (ii) (*omitted*)

(4) Third, the returning officer must—

- (a) open all other ballot boxes on hand; and
- (aa) open all accepted envelopes mentioned in section 310(2)(d)¹⁹ that have not yet been opened and remove the ballot papers; and
- (b) identify, and keep in a separate parcel, all informal ballot papers; and
- (c) examine all formal ballot papers and—

¹⁹ Section 310 (Procedures for processing declaration envelopes)

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- (i) (*words omitted*) count the number of votes cast for each candidate on the ballot papers, and keep the ballot papers in a separate parcel; or
- (ii) (*omitted*)

(5) Fourth, the returning officer must add together—

- (a) (*words omitted*) the number counted under subsections (3)(b)(i) and (4)(c)(i); or
- (b) (*omitted*)

(6) Fifth, the returning officer must reapply subsections (4) and (5) as more declaration envelopes are received by the returning officer under section 297 (Casting a declaration vote by post) after close of the poll.

Treatment of ballot paper to which objection is made

312.(1) If, while a presiding officer or returning officer is complying with section 308 (Preliminary counting by presiding officer) or 311 (Official counting of votes), a candidate or scrutineer objects to treatment of a ballot paper as informal, the officer must mark on the back of it ‘formal’ or ‘informal’ according to whether the officer’s decision is to treat it as formal or informal.

(2) If, while a presiding officer or returning officer, is complying with section 308 or 311, a candidate or scrutineer objects to the counting of a vote for a particular candidate, the officer must mark on the back of the relevant ballot paper the name of the candidate for whom it is counted.

Counting of votes for optional-preferential system

313. (*omitted*)

Counting of votes for first-past-the-post system

314.(1) (*omitted*)

(2) If the election is for *chairperson of the Aboriginal council*, the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes is elected.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

(3) If the election is for councillors (other than the *chairperson*) of the *Aboriginal council*—

- (a) if 1 person only is to be elected—the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes is elected; and
- (b) if 2 or more persons are to be elected—the candidates elected are—
 - (i) the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes; and
 - (ii) the candidate who receives the next highest number of votes; and
 - (iii) the candidate who receives the next highest number of votes; and so on, up to the number of persons to be elected.

(4) If 2 or more candidates receive the same number of votes so that subsection (2) or (3)(a) or (b) cannot be applied, the returning officer must decide, by way of a casting vote, which candidate is elected.

(5) In casting a vote under subsection (4), the returning officer need not complete a ballot paper.

(6) Subsection (4) has effect despite section 280 (Who may vote).

Returning officer's duty after counting votes

315.(1) When the result of the poll for the election is known, the returning officer must—

- (a) seal up all of the formal ballot papers, informal ballot papers, rejected declaration envelopes, accepted envelopes from which ballot papers have been removed, electors' declarations that have been removed from declaration envelopes, defaced ballot papers, remains of destroyed ballot papers, unused ballot papers, books and papers (other than the voters roll) of each presiding officer used in the poll; and
- (b) endorse on each parcel a description of its contents and sign the endorsement; and
- (c) allow any scrutineers, who wish to do so, to countersign the

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

endorsement.

(2) The returning officer must then—

- (a) examine the voters rolls used in the election and marked by issuing officers to ascertain whether any elector has voted more than once; and
- (b) make a list in the approved form of the names and numbers on the voters roll of all electors who appear to have voted more than once in the election, enclose the original of the list with the voters rolls in a sealed up parcel, and give a copy of the list to each person who was a candidate in the election.

Division 15—Actions following poll

Declaration of poll

316.(1) As soon as practicable after the result of a poll for the election is known, the returning officer must, by notice in the approved form, declare—

- (a) the result of the poll; and
- (b) the names of each candidate who has been elected.

(2) The returning officer must—

- (a) display the notice in a conspicuous place in the *Aboriginal council's* office; and
- (b) *(omitted)*

(3) The returning officer must not delay complying with subsection (1) or (2) merely because some ballot papers have not been received by the returning officer, if it is clear the votes recorded on the ballot papers could not affect the result of the election.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Notice of final result of poll

317.(1) The returning officer must give notice of the final result of the poll to each candidate as soon as practicable after—

- (a) all ballot papers used in the poll have been examined; and
- (b) all votes cast in the poll on ballot papers that appear to be formal have been counted.

(2) The notice must be in the approved form.

Resolution about electors who fail to vote

317A. As soon as practicable after the conclusion of the election, the *Aboriginal council* must make a resolution deciding whether to take action under section 319²⁰ about electors who failed to vote in the election.

List of electors failing to vote

318.(1) This section applies only if the *Aboriginal council* makes a resolution under section 317A²¹ deciding to take action under section 319 about electors who failed to vote in the election.

(2) The returning officer must make a list of the names and addresses, and the numbers shown on the voters roll, of all electors who—

- (a) have not been issued with ballot papers for the election; or
- (b) in the case of electors mentioned in section 289 (Who may cast a declaration vote) (*words omitted*)—have not given their ballot papers to the returning officer.

(3) The returning officer must—

- (a) certify the list by declaration in the approved form; and
- (b) deposit the list with the *Aboriginal council*.

²⁰ Section 319 (Notice of failure to vote etc.)

²¹ Section 317A (Resolution about electors who fail to vote)

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

(4) The list is to be held in the *Aboriginal council's* office, in the *clerk's* custody.

Notice of failure to vote etc.

319.(1) Subject to subsection (2), the *Aboriginal council*—

- (a) must, as soon as practicable after a resolution by the *council* to take action under this section, send a notice in the approved form to each elector shown on the list deposited under section 318²² at the elector's address shown on the list; and
- (b) must record on the list, against the elector's name, the fact that the notice has been given.

(2) The notice must—

- (a) show the elector's full name and address and number on the voters roll; and
- (b) state that—
 - (i) the elector appears to have failed to vote at the election; and
 - (ii) it is an offence to fail, without a valid and sufficient reason, to vote at an election; and
 - (iii) the elector may, if the elector considers the elector has committed the offence, pay one-half of a penalty unit (the "**penalty**") to the *council* by a specified day, not earlier than 21 days after the elector receives the notice (the "**appropriate day**"), and, if the *council* receives the payment by the appropriate day, no further steps will be taken against the elector about the offence; and
- (c) require the elector—
 - (i) if the elector intends paying the penalty by the appropriate day—to sign the approved form about payment of the penalty included in or with the notice and post or give the

²² Section 318 (List of electors failing to vote)

 SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

form, together with the amount of the penalty, to the *council* so it is received by the appropriate day; or

- (ii) if the elector does not intend paying the penalty by the appropriate day—to state, in the approved form included in or with the notice, whether the elector voted and, if not, the reason for failing to vote and to sign the form and post or give it to the *council* so it is received by the appropriate day.

(3) The elector must comply with the requirements of the notice.

(4) If—

- (a) the elector is absent, or unable, because of physical incapacity, to comply with the requirements of the notice; and
- (b) another elector who has personal knowledge of the facts complies with the requirements and in doing so also has his or her signature on the form witnessed;

the first elector is taken to have complied with the notice's requirements.

Payments for failure to vote

319A.(1) If the *Aboriginal council* sends an elector a notice under section 319(1) for an election and payment is made to the *council* under section 319(2) to (4), the *council* must—

- (a) accept the payment; and
- (b) give the person a receipt for the payment; and
- (c) not take any proceeding against the elector for failing to vote at the election.

(2) In this section—

“**proceeding**” includes serving an infringement notice.

Recording response to notice

320. The *Aboriginal council* must record against the name of an elector who is given a notice under section 319 (*Notice of failure to vote etc.*) on the

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

list made under section 318 (List of electors failing to vote) whether the elector—

- (a) has complied with the requirements of the notice under section 319(2)(c); and
- (b) had a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote at the election.

Evidentiary value of list under s 318

321. In a proceeding, a document purporting to be a list, or a copy of or extract from a list, made under section 318 (List of electors failing to vote), and to be certified by the *Aboriginal council's clerk* is evidence of the matters contained in the document.

Disposal of material resulting from election

322.(1) As soon as practicable after giving notice of the final result of the poll to candidates, the returning officer must—

- (a) destroy all unused ballot papers; and
- (b) seal up in packets all other parcels sealed up under section 315 (Returning officer's duty after counting votes); and
- (c) endorse on each packet—
 - (i) a description of its contents; and
 - (ii) the name of the *area of the Aboriginal council* for which the election was held; and
 - (iii) the polling day;and sign the endorsement; and
- (d) if the returning officer is not the *council's clerk*—give each packet to the *clerk*.

(2) The *clerk* must keep the packets in safe custody for 1 year.

(3) At the end of the year, the *clerk* must—

- (a) destroy all ballot papers contained in the packets; and

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- (b) dispose of the other contents of the packets in the way the *clerk* considers appropriate.

(4) Each councillor of the *Aboriginal council* may attend during the destruction of ballot papers by, or at the direction of, its *clerk* to ensure the papers are destroyed.

Ballot papers as evidence

323. In a proceeding, a ballot paper apparently used at an election and identified by evidence as 1 of the ballot papers given to, or held by, the *Aboriginal council's clerk* under section 322 (Disposal of material resulting from election) is evidence of the vote or votes cast in the election as recorded on the ballot paper.

Notice to electors whose ballot papers are not accepted

323A.(1) Subsection (2) applies if—

- (a) in an election, a person makes a declaration vote under section 290(a);²³ and
- (b) the person's ballot paper is not accepted for counting under section 310²⁴ because the returning officer is not satisfied that the declarant on the declaration envelope is entitled to cast a declaration vote in the election.

(2) As soon as practicable after an election, the *Aboriginal council* must send a notice in the approved form to the person advising the person why the ballot paper was not accepted for counting.

Notice to electoral commission of certain declaration votes

324. As soon as practicable after the election, the returning officer must give to the electoral commission notice of the names and addresses of all

²³ Section 290 (Who must cast a declaration vote in ordinary elections)

²⁴ Section 310 (Procedure for processing declaration envelopes)

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

persons permitted to vote at the election whose names are not on the voters roll, apparently because of official error, if the error relates to the keeping of an electoral roll under the *Electoral Act 1992*.

Division 16—Enforcement***Subdivision 1—Offences in general*****False or misleading statements**

325.(1) A person must not—

- (a) state something under this *schedule* that the person knows is false or misleading in a material particular; or
- (b) omit from a statement made under this *schedule* anything without which the statement is, to the person's knowledge, misleading in a material particular.

Maximum penalty—4 *penalty units*.

(2) A complaint against a person for a contravention of subsection (1) is sufficient if it states that the statement was false or misleading to the person's knowledge.

False, misleading or incomplete electoral documents

326. A person must not give a document under this *schedule* containing information that the person knows is false, misleading or incomplete in a material particular without—

- (a) indicating that the document is false, misleading or incomplete and the respect in which the document is false, misleading or incomplete; and
- (b) giving the correct information if the person has, or can reasonably obtain, the correct information.

Maximum penalty—4 *penalty units*.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Bribery

327.(1) In this section—

“**election conduct**”, of a person, means—

- (a) the way in which the person votes at an election; or
- (b) the person’s nominating as a candidate for an election; or
- (c) *(omitted)*

(2) A person must not—

- (a) ask for or receive; or
- (b) offer, or agree, to ask for or receive;

property or a benefit of any kind (whether for the person or someone else) on the understanding that the person’s election conduct will be influenced or affected.

(3) A person must not, in order to influence or affect another person’s election conduct, give, or promise or offer to give, property or a benefit of any kind to anyone else.

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

Providing money for illegal payments

328. A person must not knowingly give money for—

- (a) any payment that is contrary to law relating to elections; or
- (b) replacing any money that has been spent in making a payment mentioned in paragraph (a).

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

Improperly influencing electoral officers

329. A person must not improperly influence an electoral officer in the performance of the officer’s duties under this *regulation.*

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Interfering with election right or duty

330. A person must not hinder or interfere with the free exercise or performance, by another person, of another right or duty under this regulation that relates to an election.

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

Forging or uttering electoral papers

331.(1) A person must not—

- (a) forge an electoral paper; or
- (b) utter a forged electoral paper knowing it to be forged.

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

(2) A person must not make someone else's signature on an electoral paper.

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

Wilful neglect etc. of electoral officers

332. An electoral officer must not wilfully neglect or fail to perform a duty under this *regulation.*

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

No record to be made of vote cast

333. An electoral officer, or scrutineer, must not make a mark, memorandum or note on a voters roll or other list of voters or otherwise—

- (a) that indicates for whom a person has cast a vote; or
- (b) that would enable the officer or scrutineer to know or remember for whom a person has cast a vote.

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Subdivision 2—Offences about electoral advertising and information**Responsibility for election matter**

334.(1) A person must not, during the election period for an election—

- (a) print, publish, distribute or broadcast; or
- (b) permit or authorise someone else to print, publish, distribute or broadcast;

any advertisement, handbill, pamphlet or notice containing election matter unless there appears, or is stated, at its end the particulars required by subsection (2).

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

(2) The particulars are—

- (a) in any case—the name and address (other than a post office box or facility) of the person who authorised the advertisement, handbill, pamphlet or notice; and
- (b) for an advertisement or notice printed except in a newspaper—the name and place of business of the printer.

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply to an advertisement that—

- (a) is printed, published or distributed on a car sticker, T-shirt, lapel badge, pen, pencil or balloon; or
- (b) *(omitted)*

Headline to electoral advertisements

335. The proprietor of a newspaper commits an offence if—

- (a) an article, or a paragraph, containing matter about an election is printed in the newspaper; and
- (b) either—
 - (i) the insertion of the article or paragraph is, or is to be, paid for; or

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- (ii) any reward or compensation, or promise of reward or compensation, is, or is to be, made for the insertion of the article or paragraph; and
- (c) the proprietor does not cause the word ‘advertisement’ to be printed as a headline to the article or paragraph in letters not smaller than 10 point or long primer.

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

Misleading voters

336.(1) During an election period, a person must not print, publish, distribute or broadcast anything that is intended or likely to mislead an elector about the way of voting at the election.

(2) A person must not, for the purpose of affecting the election of a candidate, knowingly publish a false statement of fact about the personal character or conduct of the candidate.

(3) During an election period, a person must not print, publish, distribute or broadcast by television anything that purports to be a representation of a ballot paper for use in the election, if it is likely to induce an elector to vote other than in accordance with this part.

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

Subdivision 3—Offences about voting**Failure to vote**

337.(1) An elector must not—

- (a) fail to vote at an election without valid and sufficient reason; or
- (b) fail to comply with the requirements of a notice given to the elector under section 319 (Notice of failure to vote etc.); or
- (c) purport to comply with the requirements of a notice given to the elector under section 319, make a statement the elector knows to be false or misleading in a material particular.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Maximum penalty—1 penalty unit.

(2) An elector's belief that it is part of the elector's religious duty not to vote at elections is valid and sufficient reason for the elector's failure to vote in a particular election.

(3) A complaint against a person for a contravention of subsection (1)(c) is sufficient if it states that the statement was false or misleading to the person's knowledge.

Leave to vote

338.(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an employee who is an elector asks his or her employer, before polling day for an election, for leave of absence to vote at the election; and
- (b) the absence is necessary to enable the employee to vote at the election.

(2) The employer must allow the employee leave of absence for a reasonable period (not more than 2 hours) to enable the employee to vote at the election, unless the absence is reasonably likely to cause danger or substantial loss to the employer in relation to the employment concerned.

(3) The employer must not impose any penalty or disproportionate deduction of pay for the leave of absence.

(4) An employee must not ask for leave of absence under subsection (1) to vote at an election unless the employee genuinely intends to vote at the election.

Maximum penalty—4 *penalty units*.

Canvassing in or near polling booths

339.(1) During an election period, a person must not do any of the things mentioned in subsection (2)—

- (a) inside a polling booth; or
- (b) within 6 m of an entrance to a building if—

 SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- (i) the building is, or is part of, a polling booth; and
- (ii) either a ballot box is in the building for use in the election, or a person is in the building for the purpose of casting a vote in the election.

(2) The things are—

- (a) canvassing for votes; or
- (b) inducing an elector not to—
 - (i) vote in a particular way; or
 - (ii) vote at all in the election; or
- (c) loitering; or
- (d) obstructing the free passage of a person seeking to vote.

Maximum penalty—4 *penalty units*.

Interrupting voting etc.

340. A person must not—

- (a) enter or remain in a polling booth other than under this *regulation*; or
- (b) wilfully interrupt, obstruct or disturb any proceeding at an election; or
- (c) enter a voting compartment other than under this *regulation*; or
- (d) prevent a scrutineer from entering or leaving a polling place—
 - (i) during voting hours for the polling place; or
 - (ii) while votes are being counted at the polling place; or
- (e) obstruct or wilfully mislead an electoral officer in the performance of a duty.

Maximum penalty—4 *penalty units*.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Influencing voting

341. A person must not, by violence or intimidation, influence a person's vote at an election.

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

Party badges not to be worn in polling booths

342. *(omitted)*

Voting if not entitled

343. A person must not, at an election—

- (a) vote in someone else's name (including a dead or fictitious person); or
- (b) vote more than once; or
- (c) cast a vote that the person knows the person is not entitled to cast; or
- (d) if the person knows someone else is not entitled to vote at the election, procure the other person to vote.

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

Offences relating to ballot papers

344.(1) A person must not—

- (a) wilfully fail to comply with section 282 (Procedure for voting at a polling booth) or 297 (Casting a declaration vote by post); or
- (b) take a ballot paper out of a polling booth other than under this part; or
- (c) place in a ballot box a ballot paper that has not been—
 - (i) given to an elector under this part; or
 - (ii) marked by the elector.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

(2) A person must not, without lawful excuse, obtain possession of or have in the person's possession—

- (a) a ballot paper that has been marked by anyone else; or
- (b) a declaration form or envelope that has been signed by anyone else.

Maximum penalty—4 penalty units.

Failure to deliver or post documents for someone else

345.(1) If a person is given, for delivery or posting to the returning officer—

- (a) an application by someone else to be treated as a declaration voter; or
- (b) a declaration form that appears to be completed;

the person must promptly deliver or post it to the returning officer.

(2) If a person is given, for delivery or posting to the returning officer, a declaration envelope that appears to be completed, the person must give or post it to the returning officer before 6 p.m. on polling day.

Maximum penalty—4 penalty units.

Breach of confidentiality of vote

346.(1) A person must not examine a ballot paper used in the election to ascertain the candidates for whom an elector has voted.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a proceeding in a court or a person in the performance of functions under this *regulation*.

(3) If, in performing a function for an election, a person has ascertained the candidates for whom an elector has cast a vote, the person must not disclose, or assist in disclosing, that fact, unless the person is required by law to make the disclosure.

Maximum penalty—4 penalty units.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Breaking seals on parcels

347. A person must not wilfully open or break the seal of a parcel or packet sealed under this part unless the person is authorised under this regulation or ordered by a court to open or break the seal.

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

Duty of witness to signing of declaration voting papers

348. A person (the “**witness**”) must not sign a declaration envelope as witness under section 297 (Casting a declaration vote by post) unless—

- (a) the witness is satisfied of the identity of the elector who signs the declaration before the witness; and
- (b) the witness has seen the elector sign the declaration; and
- (c) either—
 - (i) the witness knows that the declaration made by the elector is true; or
 - (ii) the witness is satisfied that the declaration is true because of inquiries of the elector or otherwise.

Maximum penalty—*4 penalty units.*

Subdivision 4—(omitted)

PART 7—FRESH ELECTIONS**Requirements for fresh election**

350. *(omitted)*²⁵

²⁵ See *Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984*, section 22 (Order for fresh election) which provides that, if the Governor in Council has dissolved an Aboriginal council, the Governor in Council may order that a fresh election for the council be held.

SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

Time for fresh election

351. (omitted)²⁶

Returning officer for fresh election

352. The returning officer for a fresh election of councillors of an *Aboriginal council* is the *council's clerk* or, if there is no *clerk*, a person appointed by the Minister.

Voters roll for fresh election

353. A voters roll for a fresh election must be compiled under the *order in council* directing the holding of the fresh election.

Other provisions of *schedule* apply

354. The provisions of this *schedule* (other than this part) apply, with all necessary changes (*words omitted*) to a fresh election as if the election were a triennial election.

Extension of term of councillors

355. (omitted)

PART 8—(omitted)

²⁶ See *Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984*, section 22 (Order for fresh election) which provides that, if the Governor in Council has dissolved an Aboriginal council, the Governor in Council may order that a fresh election for the council be held.

SCHEDULE 2

DICTIONARY

section 2

“clerk” means the person appointed by an Aboriginal council, under section 51, as the clerk of the council.

“conclusion”, of an election for an Aboriginal council, see section 3.

“councillor”, of an Aboriginal council, includes the chairperson.

“cut-off date” see section 14.

“directly elected”, for a chairperson of an Aboriginal council, means directly elected by the electors of the council’s area.

“elector” means a person entitled to vote under this regulation.

“fine option order” has the meaning given by the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*.²⁷

“pecuniary interest disclosure” means a disclosure made under section 27A²⁸ of the Act.

“post-election meeting” means a meeting held under section 27.

“trust money”, of an Aboriginal council or the Aboriginal Coordinating Council, means—

- (a) an amount paid to the council—
 - (i) by way of deposit; or

²⁷ Under the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*, section 4, a fine option order means a fine option order made under part 4, division 2 of the Act. Under a fine option order an order that an offender pay a fine may be suspended to allow the offender to perform community service in place of payment of the fine. The number of hours of community service that may be required in place of a fine must not be more than 10 hours for each penalty unit, or part of a penalty unit, that was imposed as a fine under the original order.

²⁸ Section 27A (Disclosure of interests at meetings)

SCHEDULE 2 (continued)

- (ii) in trust for a person; or
 - (b) an amount paid to the council that is required by an Act to be paid into its trust fund.
-

ENDNOTES

1. Made by the Governor in Council on 23 June 1998.
2. Notified in the gazette on 26 June 1998.
3. Laid before the Legislative Assembly on . . .
4. The administering agency is the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.