

Key Points Announced:

1. A merged new party will be called the Liberal/National Party of Queensland
2. It will have a new constitution that is democratic and empowers the membership;
3. A new constitution will bring together the values of both the existing Queensland Nationals and Liberal Party;
4. The current Leader of the Opposition and The Nationals, Lawrence Springborg will be leader of the party and Premier upon attaining Government at the next election;
5. The current Leader of the Liberal Party, Mark McArdle, will be deputy leader of the party and Deputy Premier upon attaining Government at the next election;
6. The new party preserves the existing relationships that each organization currently has with its federal arm;
7. The status quo remains federally
8. A joint convention will elect a party president and vice president;
9. The new party does NOT take effect until both the existing Queensland Nationals and Liberal Party of Australia | Qld Division agree to constitutional changes and hold an inaugural convention on 26th and 27th July 2008;
10. The parliamentary wing of the Liberal-National Party will determine the election platform;

The Process agreed upon so far:

Upon their re-election as Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Lawrence Springborg and Fiona Simpson gave a commitment to drive a merger between the existing Queensland Nationals and Liberal Party into a new united non-Labor Party with a new constitution;

Upon their election as Leader and Deputy of the Liberal Party, Mark McArdle and Tim Nicholls gave in-principle support for a merger between the existing Queensland Nationals and Liberal Party into a new united non-Labor Party with preference for such a move to be federally driven and/or sanctioned;

In April 2008, a meeting of The Nationals Central Council gave President Bruce McIver support for the 9,000 Nationals financial members to be given a voluntary vote, by way

of plebiscite, on whether they supported a merger into a new party of like minded Queenslanders. Almost 60% of members voted and with 97.3% support.

In March 2008, Gary Spence was elected President of the Queensland Liberal Party and called for submissions from branches and individual branch members on whether they supported a merger. On 1st May it was announced that Liberal Party submissions revealed broad support for a merger of the parties.

At a meeting of the State Council of the Liberal Party held on Friday 8th May the following occurred:

1. Liberal State President Gary Spence outlined to State Council' members progress made so far on a working document to merge the National and Liberal Parties in Queensland;
2. The Nationals President, Mr Bruce McIver was invited to attend part of the State Council meeting for a Q&A session.
3. After the presentation the State Council of the Liberal Party agreed to the following:
 - i. Authorized its President to conclude negotiations of a draft 'Principles Agreement' and draft Constitution with The Nationals President, Bruce McIver.
 - ii. Established a Constitutional Convention be held on the weekend of 26/27 July 2008;
 - iii. That a copy of any 'Principles Agreement' and draft Constitution be made available to all Liberal Party Members in Queensland by 24 May 2008.
 - iv. That a plebiscite of all 5,500 Liberal Party members be conducted by the end of June in time for the 26th and 27th July seeking rank and file endorsement of the agreement; and
4. The Queensland Nationals annual conference is scheduled to be held on 25th, 26th and 27th July.
5. It is intended that this conference will ratify the joint agreement, presented on 24th May, and make the necessary constitutional changes to facilitate a merger of the existing parties;
6. Delegates to the Nationals Annual Conference and delegates to the Liberal Annual Convention will then become delegates to the inaugural annual convention of the Liberal-National Party to be held on that weekend.

Common Questions:

What party am I a member of, if I am currently a Queensland Nationals MP in the Legislative Assembly?

You will become a Member of the Liberal/National Party of Queensland

What party am I a member of, if I am currently a Queensland Liberal MP in the Legislative Assembly?

You will become a Member of the Liberal/National Party of Queensland

What party am I a member of, if I am currently a Queensland Liberal MP in the Commonwealth House of Representatives or a Senator?

You will become a Member of the Liberal/National Party of Queensland. you will continue to sit in the Commonwealth Parliament with the Liberal Party and hold all existing voting rights in the party-room;

What party am I a member of, if I am currently a Queensland Nationals MP in the Commonwealth House of Representatives or a Senator?

You will become a Member of the Liberal/National Party of Queensland. you will continue to sit in the Commonwealth Parliament with The Nationals and hold all existing voting rights in the party-room;

If I am currently a State MP will I have to face pre-selection of the new party's membership?

All existing Members of the Legislative Assembly will be endorsed as for the next election if it is their intention to seek re-election;

How will the electoral redistribution effect my endorsement?

It is expected that new state electoral boundaries will be finalized and gazetted within the next three to four months. Where a new electorate contains at least 50.1% of an MP's existing seat, they will receive endorsement for that seat as the Liberal-Nationals single candidate;

Who would be the President of the Liberal-National Party?

The President and Vice President will be elected from the delegates at the first inaugural convention to be held on 26th and 27th July. The Vice-President will be elected from the membership of the other former party from that of the President

Have both Federal Organisations and Parliamentary Leaders been consulted about this merger?

Yes, both Federal Organisational and Parliamentary leaders have been consulted about all Queensland negotiations, and are broadly in support of a merger.