

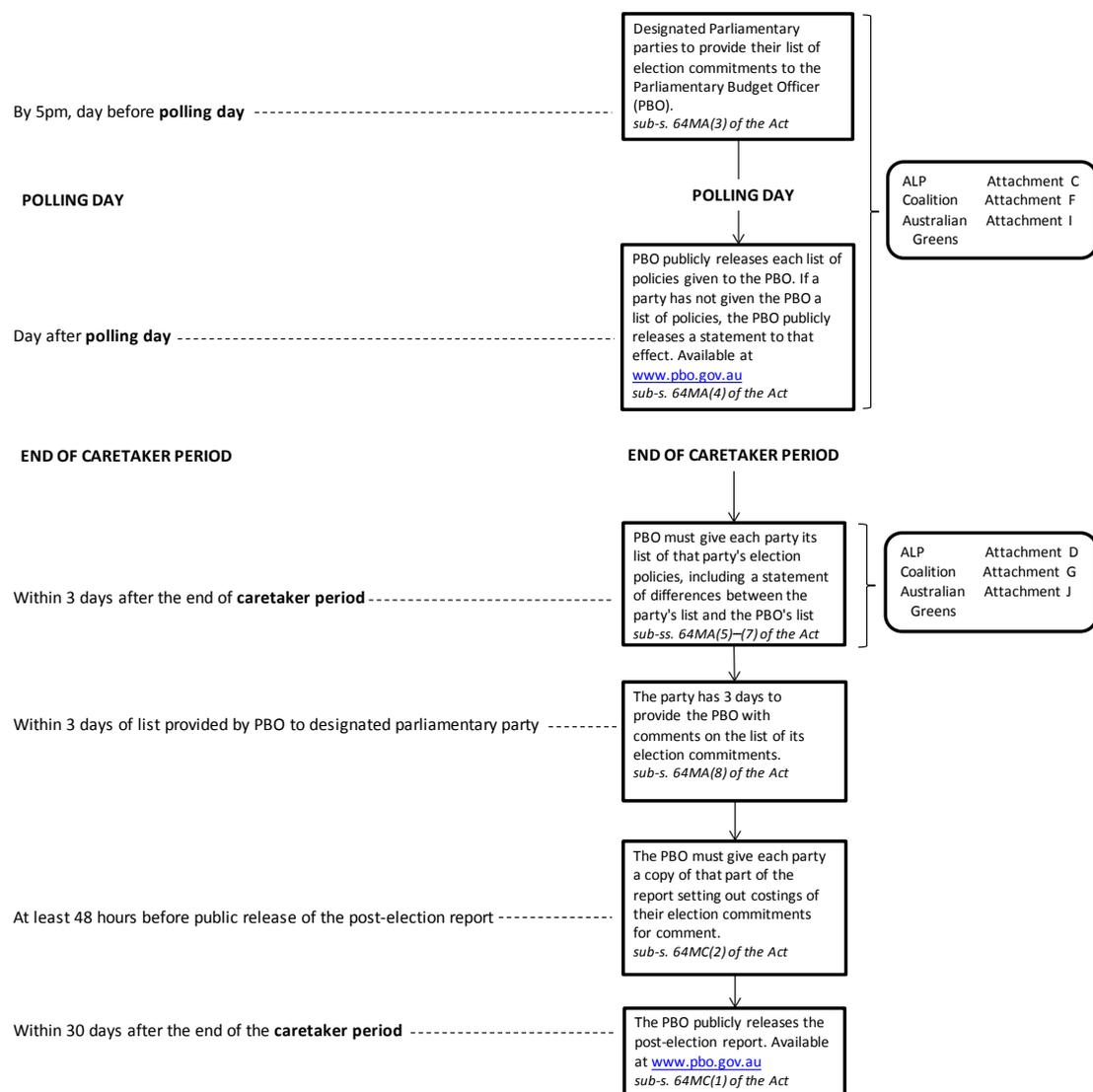
Attachments

Attachment A

Process for consultation with the designated Parliamentary parties

The Act sets out the process for the Parliamentary Budget Officer to consult with the designated Parliamentary parties for the purposes of compiling this report. This process is summarised in **figure 1**.

Figure 1 – Process for consultation with the designated Parliamentary parties



Under subsection 64MA(3) of the Act, each designated Parliamentary party must, before 5pm on the day before polling day in the election, give the Parliamentary Budget Officer a list, in writing, of the policies that the party has publicly announced it intends to seek to have implemented after the election. These lists are prepared independently of the Parliamentary Budget Officer by the

designated Parliamentary parties, and do not represent the Parliamentary Budget Officer's assessment of election commitments to be included in the post-election report.

Consistent with subsection 64MA(4) of the Act, on the day after the election, the Parliamentary Budget Officer must publicly release each of these lists. They were made available on the Parliamentary Budget Office's website on 8 September 2013: www.aph.gov.au/pbo.

As per subsection 64MA(5) of the Act, the Parliamentary Budget Officer must prepare, for each designated Parliamentary party, a list in writing of the election commitments of that party that the Parliamentary Budget Officer, in his or her best professional judgement, reasonably believes would have a material impact on the Commonwealth budget.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer is required to give the list to the party, not later than three days after the end of the caretaker period for the election. Where this list is different from the party's list of policies, the Parliamentary Budget Officer must include a statement explaining the reasons for the difference.

In preparing these lists of election commitments, the Parliamentary Budget Officer must have regard to: the lists of policies given to the Parliamentary Budget Officer by the parties before 5pm on the day before polling day; and any public announcements made by the parties before or during the caretaker period for the election.

Under subsection 64MA(8) of the Act, within three days after a designated Parliamentary party receives the Parliamentary Budget Officer's list of election commitments, the party must give the Parliamentary Budget Officer comments on the list. While subsection 64MAA(2) of the Act allows the Parliamentary Budget Officer to take account of these comments, he or she is not required to do so. The post-election report must set out any comments given to the Parliamentary Budget Officer. If no comments were provided, the post-election report must include a statement to this effect.

As per section 64MAA of the Act, the post-election report must not include costings of election commitments other than those in the list of election commitments prepared by the Parliamentary Budget Officer and provided to the designated Parliamentary parties within three days of the end of the caretaker period, or those referred to in the designated Parliamentary parties' comments on the above list provided to the Parliamentary Budget Officer.

At least 48 hours before publicly releasing the post-election report, the Parliamentary Budget Officer must give each designated Parliamentary party a copy of the part of the report setting out the costings of that party's election commitments and the total combined impact those election commitments would have on the Commonwealth budget estimates, as required by section 64MC of the Act.

Each part of the report must be accompanied by a notice informing the designated Parliamentary party that it be kept confidential; and requesting the party to give the Parliamentary Budget Officer any comments in relation to the part of report as soon as practicable. If the Parliamentary Budget Officer receives comments in relation to part of the post-election report, the Parliamentary Budget Officer may, if it is practicable to do so, include the comments in the report or revise the report to take account of the comments.

Subsection 64MC(1) of the Act requires the Parliamentary Budget Officer to publicly release the report not later than 30 days after the end of the caretaker period for the general election to which the report relates.