



THE PROCESS OF CREATING NEW ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

The PNG Constitution describes the electoral boundaries commission as a constitutionally independent and neutral body responsible for establishing and reviewing PNG's electoral boundaries. Electoral boundaries are reviewed and regularly adjusted to ensure each electorate has about the same number of enrolled voters. This gives equal representation in Parliament.

01 **GAZETTE**

SECTION 37: PUBLISH A NATIONAL GAZETTE FOR PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION
Where the Boundaries Commission is of the opinion that a redetermination of boundaries if required, it shall -
a. publish in the National Gazette and a national newspaper its notice of intention to redetermine boundaries; and
b. exhibit at such National, Provincial and Local-level Government offices a map with a description of the boundaries of the proposed electorates for public access and view.
The notice in the gazette and newspaper shall -
a. invite public attention to the map
b. fix a date and place where a public inquiry into the proposed redistribution will be heard.

02

SECTION 38: HOLD A PUBLIC INQUIRY
The Boundaries Commission shall hold a public inquiry at the place and date fixed and shall consider all representations and objections made at the public inquiry or previously submitted to the Chairman of the Boundaries Commission.

03

SECTION 39: FORWARD REPORT TO THE PRIME MINISTER
After completion of the public inquiry the Boundaries Commission shall forward to the Minister a report of its proposals for the re-distribution of the country into electorates, together with a map signed by not less than three members of the Boundaries Commission showing the boundaries of each proposed electorate. The report must state the population in each proposed electorate.

04

SECTION 40: PRIME MINISTER TO PRESENT REPORT TO PARLIAMENT
The report and map shall be presented by the Minister to the Parliament within seven sitting days after its receipt by him.

05

SECTION 41: PARLIAMENT TO DETERMINE NEW ELECTORATES
The Parliament shall consider the report presented and shall by resolution made within 2 months of the date of presentation of the recommendations -
a) accept the recommendations; or
b) reject the recommendations; or
c) reject the recommendations and refer back to the Boundaries Commission specific matters relating to the recommendations for redistribution.

06

SECTION 42: CHANGE OF ELECTORS FROM ONE ROLL TO ANOTHER
When the National Gazette publishes the new electorates and their boundaries the transfer of the names of the electors from one Roll to another shall be made -
a) by removing the names of those electors from the Roll from which they are changed; and
b) by inserting the names so removed in the Roll to which they are changed.
The transfer of names of electors from one Roll to another Roll must be notified by the Electoral Commission in the National Gazette and in a newspaper. If this notice is not likely to reach the affected elector, the Electoral Commission may opt for post or take other action to ensure adequate publicity.

```

    graph TD
      P[PARLIAMENT] --> R[REJECT]
      P --> A[ACCEPT]
      P --> RB[REFER BACK TO THE EBC]
      
      R --> EBC[EBC HAS 40 DAYS TO RECONSIDER INITIAL RECOMMENDATION]
      EBC --> MFR[MAKE FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS OR CONFIRM PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS]
      MFR --> PR[PRESENT THE REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PM]
      PR --> P
      
      A --> AR[ACCEPT BY RESOLUTION]
      A --> APD[ACCEPT BY PARLIAMENT DEFAULT]
      AR --> GD[GAZETTE FINAL DETERMINATION OF ELECTORATES]
      APD --> GD
      
      RB --> P
      
      P --> P40[Parliament has 40 days to make a determination by:  
a. Simple majority accept or  
b. Two-thirds majority reject]
      P40 --> A2
      P40 --> F2M[FAILS TO OBTAIN TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY]
      P40 --> F40D[PARLIAMENT FAILS TO MAKE A DETERMINATION WITHIN 40 DAYS]
      P40 --> T3MR[TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY REJECT]
      
      A2 --> GD2[GAZETTE FINAL DETERMINATION OF ELECTORATES]
      F2M --> GD2
      F40D --> GD2
      
      T3MR --> END[ONCE THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE REJECTED THE PROCESS IS ENDED. UNTIL A FURTHER REVIEW IS MADE TO RESTART THE PROCESS.]
      
      GD --> GD_TEXT[THE FINAL PART OF THIS PROCESS IS TO GAZETTE THE NUMBER OF OPEN ELECTORATES AND THEIR BOUNDARIES.]
      GD2 --> GD2_TEXT[THE FINAL PART OF THIS PROCESS IS TO GAZETTE THE NUMBER OF OPEN ELECTORATES AND THEIR BOUNDARIES.]
  
```