The Australian Constitution Alteration process

A bill (proposed law) is introduced into either house of the Federal Parliament

A bill is passed by an absolute majority in the originating house

The bill is considered in the other house

The bill is passed by an absolute majority in the other house*
* The Constitution provides for the process to go forward if the bill is rejected by the other house

Referendum process begins

Members of parliament who support the proposed change prepare the ‘Yes’ case

Members of parliament who oppose the proposed change prepare the ‘No’ case

The Australian Electoral Commission prints and distributes an information leaflet to voters outlining the proposed alterations and the ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ cases

Voters vote in a referendum ‘Yes’ or ‘No’

‘Double majority’
The bill becomes law and the Constitution is altered

No ‘Double majority’
The Constitution is not altered

Minimum 2 months, maximum 6 months

AEC
Australian Electoral Commission