

## 29 November 2020 Constitutional Update Minutes

Opened 1405.

Present by Zoom: Mark Spain, Peter Tait, Sue Ingram, Gilles Rohan, Caroline Lecouteur, Petra Cram, John Christensen, Plaxy McCulloch,

Apologies: Penny Lockwood, Margaret Lee, Fiona Tito-Wheatland, Don Limn, Marwan Atlalib,

Proxies: Peter Tait for Margaret Lee

Welcome and acknowledgement of Country and Planet.

There were no questions on the overall reasoning behind changing the constitution.

Meeting agreed to approach the changes in reverse order.

### 1. Remove of sample membership form from Appendices

The motion is: **Remove membership form as an appendix.**

Moved Sue Ingram, seconded Petra Cram, passed unanimously.

The motion to **amend Clause 8(1)(a) from:**

8. Application for membership

(1) A person or organisation may seek membership of the association—

(a) by requesting membership of the Association and agreeing in writing or electronically to the objectives of the association, as set out in the sample membership form in

Appendix 1;

To:

8. Application for membership

(1) A person or organisation may seek membership of the association—

(a) by requesting membership of the Association and agreeing in writing or electronically to the objectives of the association;

Moved Sue Ingram, seconded Petra Cram, passed unanimously.

### 2. Define attendance to include by electronic means.

The motion: to **add a clause** to the definitions section that says:

**Meetings:** All meetings of the Association may be conducted in-person, by telephone or video conference or other electronic means.

Moved Plaxy McCulloch, seconded Mark Spain, passed unanimously.

### 3. Update obsolete Inaugural General Meeting Committee election clauses with currently relevant ones

The motion: to **amend current Clause 17** parts 3, 4 and 5 which read:

(3) Except for the inaugural committee, each member of the committee holds office, subject to these rules, until the conclusion of the annual general meeting 2 years

following the date of the member's election, but is eligible for re-election.

(4) To ensure continuity and stability in the organisation, by reducing the turnover of the committee on an annual basis, half of the inaugural committee established will hold office for 1 year, and half for 2 years.

(5) The length of term of each inaugural member will be determined by consensus or, if that is not possible, by the drawing of lots.

**to read:**

(3) Each member of the committee holds office, subject to these rules, until the conclusion of the annual general meeting 2 years following the date of the member's election, but is eligible for re-election.

(4) In the event that the positions of all office bearers and ordinary members of the Committee become vacant at the same AGM, then approximately one half of those being selected will hold office for 1 year, and half for 2 years. The length of term for each of these office bearers and ordinary members will be determined by the drawing of lots.

Moved Plaxy McCulloch, seconded Sue Ingram, passed unanimously.

#### **4. Revise Objectives**

The motion:

to revise our current Objectives which read:

##### **4. Objectives of the Association**

(1) To empower people in Canberra to own and plan for our common future and the common good by developing and supporting citizen, community and civil society engagement in public decision making.

(2) To facilitate opportunities for citizen input to government deliberation

(3) To develop and assist citizen capacity to hold government more directly accountable.

- a) By inserting a meta-objective specifically ***to promote human wellbeing, ecosystem health and the common good by these measures***: before the current Objectives,
- b) By changing objective (1) by adding ***and Australia*** after Canberra and deleting ***and the common good***.

**So new objectives would read:**

##### **4. Objectives of the Association**

To promote human wellbeing, ecosystem health and the common good by these measures:

(1) To empower people in Canberra and Australia to own and plan for our common by developing and supporting citizen, community and civil society engagement in public decision making,

(2) To facilitate opportunities for citizen input to government deliberation,

(3) To develop and assist citizen capacity to hold government more directly accountable.

Moved Peter Tait.

**Amendment:** moved John Christensen:

To insert ***the rest of*** before Australia in Objective (1) so it would now read:

(1) To empower people in Canberra and **the rest of** Australia to own and plan for our common future by developing and supporting citizen, community and civil society engagement in public decision making,

**Further Amendments** moved by Sue Ingram:

1. to change the meta-objective to read: To promote *community wellbeing and* the common good by;
2. to change the infinitives at the beginning of each sentence to present participles;
3. to return **Canberra and the rest of Australia** in Objective (1) to just **Canberra**;

Sue spoke to her motion.

General discussion revised the Objectives to now read:

To promote individual and community wellbeing and the common good in a healthy environment by:

- (1) empowering people in Canberra, and Australia more broadly, to own and plan for our common future by developing and supporting citizen, community and civil society engagement in public decision making,
- (2) stimulating and facilitating opportunities for citizen and community input to government deliberation,
- (3) developing and assisting citizen and community capacity to hold government more directly accountable.

Previous motions withdrawn.

New motion: to amend the objectives of the association to read:

#### **4. Objectives of the Association**

To promote individual and community wellbeing and the common good in a healthy environment by:

- (1) empowering people in Canberra, and Australia more broadly, to own and plan for our common future by developing and supporting citizen, community and civil society engagement in public decision making,
- (2) stimulating and facilitating opportunities for citizen and community input to government deliberation,
- (3) developing and assisting citizen and community capacity to hold government more directly accountable.

Moved Peter Tait, Seconded John Christensen, passed unanimously.

Closed 1501