

**CONSTITUTION
OF
AUSTRALIA COUNCIL OF RECYCLING**

Australian Company Number (ACN) [671 620 607]
Australian Business Number (ABN) [60 574 301 921]
A company limited by guarantee

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Part 1. Preliminary

1.1. Name of the company

The name of the **company** is Australian Council of Recycling Ltd (the **company**).

1.2. Type of company

The **company** is a not-for-profit public **company** limited by guarantee which is established to be, and to continue as, a charity.

1.3. Limited liability of members

The liability of members is limited to the amount of the guarantee in clause 1.4.

1.4. The guarantee

Each member must contribute an amount not more than \$1 (the guarantee) to the property of the **company** if the **company** is wound up while the member is a member, or within 12 months after they stop being a member, and this contribution is required to pay for the:

- (a) debts and liabilities of the company incurred before the member stopped being a member, or
- (b) costs of winding up.

1.5. Definitions

In this constitution, words and phrases have the meaning set out in clauses 19.1 and 19.3.

Part 2. Charitable purposes and powers

2.1. Object

The **company's** object is to pursue the following charitable purpose(s):

- (a) advancing an Australian circular economy where resource recovery, remanufacturing and recycling are central to generating economic and social value, while improving the health of our environment.; and
- (b) providing the pre-eminent peak industry forum to lead the transition to a circular economy through the resource recovery, remanufacturing and recycling supply chain.

2.2. Powers

Subject to clause 2.3, the **company** has the following powers, which may only be used to carry out its purpose(s) set out in clause 2.1:

- (a) the powers of an individual, and
- (b) all the powers of a **company** limited by guarantee under the **Corporations Act**.

2.3. Not-for-profit

2.3.1 The **company** must not distribute any income or assets directly or indirectly to its members, except as provided in clauses 2.3.2 and 18.2.

2.3.2 Clause 2.3.2 does not stop the **company** from doing the following things, provided they are done in good faith:

- (a) paying a member for goods or services they have provided or expenses they have properly incurred at fair and reasonable rates or rates more favourable to the **company**, or

- (b) making a payment to a member in carrying out the **company's** charitable purpose(s).

2.4. Amending the constitution

- 2.4.1 Subject to clause 2.4.2, the members may amend this constitution by passing a **special resolution**.
- 2.4.2 The members must not pass a **special resolution** that amends this constitution if passing it causes the **company** to no longer be a charity.

Part 3. Members

3.1. Membership and register of members

- 3.1.1 The company must give current members access to the register of members.
- 3.1.2 Information that is accessed from the register of members must only be used in a manner relevant to the interests or rights of members.

3.2. Who can be a member

- 3.2.1 A person who supports the purposes of the **company** is eligible to apply to be a member of the **company** under clause 3.5.
- 3.2.2 In this clause, 'person' includes a partnership, body corporate, association, joint venture, governmental or local authority, and any other body or entity whether incorporated or not.

3.3. Types of membership

3.3.1 Voting Members:

- (a) must have resource recovery, recycling and/or remanufacturing as a core part of their business;
- (b) have direct capital investment and operational infrastructure to support their business in Australia;
- (c) attend, request the convening of, vote at and be heard at all general meetings of the Company;
- (d) shall have the ability to nominate its member representative for election as a director; and
- (e) with the approval of the board, have its member representative appointed a member of any committee, with or without a determinative vote.

3.3.2 Non-Voting Members:

- (a) must be associated with the industry of resource recovery, recycling and/or remanufacturing;
- (b) may attend all general meetings of the Company;
- (c) does not have the right to request the convening of or to vote at or be heard at general meetings of the Company; and
- (d) with the approval of the **board**, have its member representative appointed a member of any committee, without a determinative vote.

3.3.3 From time to time, the **board** may create

- (a) sub-categories of membership with different rights, obligations and restrictions; and
- (b) additional qualifications for admission to each membership type and the rights attached to each membership type

3.4. Membership Fee

- 3.4.1 Each **member** must pay an annual membership fee as determined by the **board** from time to time.
- 3.4.2 The membership fee for each class of membership:
- (a) is the amount determined by the **board** from time to time; and
 - (b) is payable when, and in the way, the **board** determines.

3.5. How to apply to become a member

A person may apply to become a **member** of the **company** by writing to the secretary stating that they:

- (a) want to become a member
- (b) support the objects of the **company**, and
- (c) agree to comply with the **company's** constitution, including paying the guarantee under clause 1.4 if required.

3.6. Directors decide whether to approve membership

- 3.6.1 The **board** must consider an application for membership within a reasonable time after the secretary receives:
- (a) the application for the membership; and
 - (b) payment of the appropriate membership fee as determined by the **board** from time to time for the application.
- 3.6.2 If the **board** approve an application, the secretary must as soon as possible:
- (a) enter the new member on the register of members, and
 - (b) write to the applicant to tell them that their application was approved, and the date that their membership started (see clause 3.7).
- 3.6.3 If the directors reject an application, the secretary must write to the applicant as soon as possible to tell them that their application has been rejected, but does not have to give reasons.
- 3.6.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the directors may approve an application even if the application does not state the matters listed in clauses 3.5(a), 3.5(b) or 3.5(c). In that case, by applying to be a member, the applicant agrees to those three matters.

3.7. When a person becomes a member

Other than **initial members**, an applicant will become a member when they are entered on the register of members.

3.8. Member Representative

- 3.8.1 A **member** must nominate a natural person to act as its representative in all matters as permitted by the Corporations Act and subject to any restrictions on the representative's powers imposed by the **member**.
- 3.8.2 Subject to this Constitution, a representative is entitled to:
- (a) exercise at a general meeting all the powers which its appointing **member** could exercise if it were a natural person;
 - (b) be counted towards a quorum on the basis that the **member** will be deemed present at a general meeting by its Representative; and
 - (c) be nominated, in their personal capacity, as a director of the Company.
- 3.8.3 A **member** may vary or revoke its nominated representative.
- 3.8.4 A nomination, variation or revocation to a member's representative:

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- (a) must be made in writing (including by email or other electronic means if the board so determines) in a form determined by the board; and
- (b) must be lodged (including by electronic means, if the company so determines) with the Secretary of the company.

3.9. When a person stops being a member

A person immediately stops being a member if they:

- (a) are wound up or otherwise dissolved or deregistered (for an incorporated member)
- (b) resign, by writing to the secretary
- (c) are expelled under clause 4.2, or
- (d) fails to renew their membership.

Part 4. Dispute resolution and disciplinary procedures

4.1. Dispute resolution

4.1.1 The dispute resolution procedure in this clause applies to disputes (disagreements) under this constitution between a member or director and:

- (a) one or more members
- (b) one or more directors, or
- (c) the company.

4.1.2 A member must not start a dispute resolution procedure in relation to a matter which is the subject of a disciplinary procedure under clause 4.2 until the disciplinary procedure is completed.

4.1.3 Those involved in the dispute must try to resolve it between themselves within 14 days of knowing about it.

4.1.4 If those involved in the dispute do not resolve it under clause 4.1.3, they must within 10 days:

- (a) tell the directors about the dispute in writing
- (b) agree or request that a mediator be appointed, and
- (c) attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.

4.1.5 The mediator must:

- (a) be chosen by agreement of those involved, or
- (b) where those involved do not agree:
 - i for disputes between members, a person chosen by the directors, or
 - ii for other disputes, a person chosen by either the Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission or the president of the law institute or society in the state or territory in which the company has its registered office.

4.1.6 A mediator chosen by the directors under clause 4.1.5(b) above:

- (a) may be a member or former member of the **company**
- (b) must not have a personal interest in the dispute, and
- (c) must not be biased towards or against anyone involved in the dispute.

4.1.7 When conducting the mediation, the mediator must:

- (a) allow those involved a reasonable chance to be heard
- (b) allow those involved a reasonable chance to review any written statements
- (c) ensure that those involved are given natural justice, and
- (d) not make a decision on the dispute.

4.2. Disciplining members

- 4.2.1 In accordance with this clause, the directors may resolve to warn, suspend or expel a member from the **company** if the directors consider that:
- (a) the member has breached this constitution, or
 - (b) the member's behaviour is causing, has caused, or is likely to cause harm to the **company**.
- 4.2.2 At least 14 days before the directors' meeting at which a resolution under clause 4.2.1 above will be considered, the secretary must notify the member in writing:
- (a) that the directors are considering a resolution to warn, suspend or expel the member
 - (b) that this resolution will be considered at a directors' meeting and the date of that meeting
 - (c) what the member is said to have done or not done
 - (d) the nature of the resolution that has been proposed, and
 - (e) that the member may provide an explanation to the directors, and details of how to do so.
- 4.2.3 Before the directors pass any resolution under clause 4.2.1 above, the member must be given a chance to explain or defend themselves by:
- (a) sending the directors a written explanation before that directors' meeting, and/or
 - (b) speaking at the meeting.
- 4.2.4 After considering any explanation under clause 4.2.3 above, the directors may:
- (a) take no further action
 - (b) warn the member
 - (c) suspend the member's rights as a member for a period of no more than 12 months
 - (d) expel the member
 - (e) refer the decision to an unbiased, independent person on conditions that the directors consider appropriate (however, the person can only make a decision that the directors could have made under this clause), or
 - (f) require the matter to be determined at a **general meeting**.
- 4.2.5 The directors cannot fine a member.
- 4.2.6 The Secretary must give written notice to the member of the decision under clause 4.2.4 as soon as possible.
- 4.2.7 Disciplinary procedures must be completed as soon as reasonably practical.
- 4.2.8 There will be no liability for any loss or injury suffered by the member as a result of any decision made in good faith under this clause.

Part 5. General meetings of members

5.1. General meetings called by directors

- 5.1.1 The **board** may call a **general meeting**.
- 5.1.2 If members with at least 5% of the votes that may be cast at a **general meeting** make a written request to the **company** for a **general meeting** to be held, the **board** must:
- (a) within 21 days of the members' request, give all members notice of a **general meeting**, and
 - (b) hold the **general meeting** within 2 months of the members' request.
- 5.1.3 The members who make the request for a **general meeting** must:

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- (a) state in the request any resolution to be proposed at the meeting
- (b) sign the request, and
- (c) give the request to the **company**.

5.1.4 Separate copies of a document setting out the request may be signed by members if the wording of the request is the same in each copy.

5.2. General meetings called by members

5.2.1 If the **board** do not call the meeting within 21 days of being requested under clause 5.1.2, 50% or more of the members who made the request may call and arrange to hold a **general meeting**.

5.2.2 To call and hold a meeting under clause 5.1.2 the members must:

- (a) as far as possible, follow the procedures for **general meetings** set out in this constitution
- (b) call the meeting using the list of members on the **company's** member register, which the **company** must provide to the members making the request at no cost, and
- (c) hold the **general meeting** within three months after the request was given to the **company**.

5.2.3 The **company** must pay the members who request the **general meeting** any reasonable expenses they incur because the **board** did not call and hold the meeting.

5.3. Annual general meeting

5.3.1 A **general meeting**, called the annual **general meeting**, must be held:

- (a) within 18 months after registration of the **company**, and
- (b) after the first annual **general meeting**, at least once in every calendar year.

5.3.2 Even if these items are not set out in the notice of meeting, the business of an annual **general meeting** may include:

- (a) a review of the **company's** activities
- (b) a review of the **company's** finances
- (c) any auditor's report
- (d) the election of directors, and
- (e) the appointment and payment of auditors, if any.

5.3.3 For an annual general meeting to be held, at least 3 voting members (a quorum) must be present (in person, by proxy or by representative) for the whole meeting.

5.3.4 Before or at the annual **general meeting**, the directors must give information to the members on the **company's** activities and finances during the period since the last annual **general meeting**.

5.3.5 The chairperson of the annual **general meeting** must give members as a whole a reasonable opportunity at the meeting to ask questions or make comments about the management of the **company**.

5.4. Notice of general meetings

5.4.1 Notice of a **general meeting** must be given to:

- (a) each member,
- (b) each director, and
- (c) the auditor (if any).

5.4.2 Notice of a **general meeting** must be provided in writing at least 21 days before the meeting.

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- 5.4.3 Subject to clause 5.4.4, notice of a meeting may be provided less than 21 days before the meeting if:
- (a) for an annual **general meeting**, all the members entitled to attend and vote at the annual **general meeting** agree beforehand, or
 - (b) for any other **general meeting**, members with at least 95% of the votes that may be cast at the meeting agree beforehand.
- 5.4.4 Notice of a meeting cannot be provided less than 21 days before the meeting if a resolution will be moved to:
- (a) remove a director
 - (b) appoint a director in order to replace a director who was removed, or
 - (c) remove an auditor.
- 5.4.5 Notice of a **general meeting** must include:
- (a) the place, date and time for the meeting (and if the meeting is to be held in two or more places, the technology that will be used to facilitate this)
 - (b) the general nature of the meeting's business
 - (c) if applicable, that a **special resolution** is to be proposed and the words of the proposed resolution
 - (d) a statement that members have the right to appoint proxies and that, if a member appoints a proxy:
 - i the proxy does not need to be a member of the **company**
 - ii the proxy form must be delivered to the **company** at its registered address or the address (including an electronic address) specified in the notice of the meeting, and
 - iii the proxy form must be delivered to the **company** at least 48 hours before the meeting.
- 5.4.6 If a **general meeting** is adjourned (put off) for one month or more, the members must be given new notice of the resumed meeting.
- 5.5. Quorum at general meetings**
- 5.5.1 For a **general meeting** to be held, at least 3 voting members (a quorum) must be present (in person, by proxy or by representative) for the whole meeting. When determining whether a quorum is present, a person may only be counted once (even if that person is a representative or proxy of more than one member).
- 5.5.2 No business may be conducted at a **general meeting** if a quorum is not present.
- 5.5.3 If there is no quorum present within 30 minutes after the starting time stated in the notice of general meeting, the general meeting is adjourned to the date, time and place that the chairperson specifies. If the chairperson does not specify one or more of those things, the meeting is adjourned to:
- (a) if the date is not specified – the same day in the next week
 - (b) if the time is not specified – the same time, and
 - (c) if the place is not specified – the same place.
- 5.5.4 If no quorum is present at the resumed meeting within 30 minutes after the starting time set for that meeting, the meeting is cancelled.
- 5.6. Auditor's right to attend meetings**
- 5.6.1 The auditor (if any) is entitled to attend any **general meeting** and to be heard by the members on any part of the business of the meeting that concerns the auditor in the capacity of auditor.
- 5.6.2 The **company** must give the auditor (if any) any communications relating to the **general meeting** that a member of the **company** is entitled to receive.

5.7. Using technology to hold meetings

- 5.7.1 The **company** may hold a **general meeting** at two or more venues using any technology that gives the members as a whole a reasonable opportunity to participate, including to hear and be heard.
- 5.7.2 Anyone using this technology is taken to be present in person at the meeting.

5.8. Chairperson for general meetings

- 5.8.1 The elected chairperson is entitled to chair general meetings.
- 5.8.2 The members present and entitled to vote at a **general meeting** may choose a director or member to be the chairperson for that meeting if:
- (a) there is no elected chairperson, or
 - (b) the elected chairperson is not present within 30 minutes after the starting time set for the meeting, or
 - (c) the elected chairperson is present but says they do not wish to act as chairperson of the meeting.

5.9. Role of the chairperson

- 5.9.1 The chairperson is responsible for the conduct of the **general meeting**, and for this purpose must give members a reasonable opportunity to make comments and ask questions (including to the auditor (if any)).

5.10. Adjournment of meetings

- 5.10.1 If a quorum is present, a **general meeting** must be adjourned if a majority of **members present** direct the chairperson to adjourn it.
- 5.10.2 Only unfinished business may be dealt with at a meeting resumed after an adjournment.

Part 6. Members' resolutions and statements

6.1. Members' resolutions and statements

- 6.1.1 Members with at least 5% of the votes that may be cast on a resolution may give:
- (a) written notice to the **company** of a resolution they propose to move at a **general meeting** (members' resolution), and/or
 - (b) a written request to the **company** that the **company** give all of its members a statement about a proposed resolution or any other matter that may properly be considered at a **general meeting** (members' statement).
- 6.1.2 A notice of a members' resolution must set out the wording of the proposed resolution and be signed by the members proposing the resolution.
- 6.1.3 A request to distribute a members' statement must set out the statement to be distributed and be signed by the members making the request.
- 6.1.4 Separate copies of a document setting out the notice or request may be signed by members if the wording is the same in each copy.
- 6.1.5 The percentage of votes that members have (as described in clause 6.1.1) is to be worked out as at midnight before the request or notice is given to the **company**.
- 6.1.6 If the **company** has been given notice of a members' resolution under clause 6.1.1(a), the resolution must be considered at the next **general meeting** held more than two months after the notice is given.
- 6.1.7 This clause does not limit any other right that a member has to propose a resolution at a **general meeting**.

6.2. Company must give notice of proposed resolution or distribute statement

6.2.1 If the **company** has been given a notice or request under clause 6.1:

- (a) in time to send the notice of proposed members' resolution or a copy of the members' statement to members with a notice of meeting, it must do so at the **company's** cost, or
- (b) too late to send the notice of proposed members' resolution or a copy of the members' statement to members with a notice of meeting, then the members who proposed the resolution or made the request must pay the expenses reasonably incurred by the **company** in giving members notice of the proposed members' resolution or a copy of the members' statement. However, at a **general meeting**, the members may pass a resolution that the **company** will pay these expenses.

6.2.2 The **company** does not need to send the notice of proposed members' resolution or a copy of the members' statement to members if:

- (a) it is more than 1,000 words long
- (b) the directors consider it may be defamatory
- (c) clause 6.2.1(b) applies, and the members who proposed the resolution or made the request have not paid the **company** enough money to cover the cost of sending the notice of the proposed members' resolution or a copy of the members' statement to members, or
- (d) in the case of a proposed members' resolution, the resolution does not relate to a matter that may be properly considered at a **general meeting** or is otherwise not a valid resolution able to be put to the members.

6.3. Circular resolutions of members

6.3.1 Subject to clause 6.3.3, the directors may put a resolution to the members to pass a resolution without a **general meeting** being held (a circular resolution).

6.3.2 The directors must notify the auditor (if any) as soon as possible that a circular resolution has or will be put to members, and set out the wording of the resolution.

6.3.3 Circular resolutions cannot be used:

- (a) for a resolution to remove an auditor, appoint a director or remove a director
- (b) for passing a **special resolution**, or
- (c) where the **Corporations Act** or this constitution requires a meeting to be held.

6.3.4 A circular resolution is passed if all the members entitled to vote on the resolution sign or agree to the circular resolution, in the manner set out in clause 6.3.5 or clause 6.3.6.

6.3.5 Members may sign:

- (a) a single document setting out the circular resolution and containing a statement that they agree to the resolution, or
- (b) separate copies of that document, as long as the wording is the same in each copy.

6.3.6 The **company** may send a circular resolution by email to members and members may agree by sending a reply email to that effect, including the text of the resolution in their reply.

Part 7. Voting at general meetings

7.1. How many votes a member has

Each voting member has one vote.

7.2. Challenge to member's right to vote

- 7.2.1 A voting member or the chairperson may only challenge a person's right to vote at a **general meeting** at that meeting.
- 7.2.2 If a challenge is made under clause 7.2.1, the chairperson must decide whether or not the person may vote. The chairperson's decision is final.

7.3. How voting is carried out

- 7.3.1 Voting must be conducted and decided by:
- (a) a show of hands
 - (b) a vote in writing, or
 - (c) another method chosen by the chairperson that is fair and reasonable in the circumstances.
- 7.3.2 Before a vote is taken, the chairperson must state whether any proxy votes have been received and, if so, how the proxy votes will be cast.
- 7.3.3 On a show of hands, the chairperson's decision is conclusive evidence of the result of the vote.
- 7.3.4 The chairperson and the meeting minutes do not need to state the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour or against on a show of hands.

7.4. When and how a vote in writing must be held

- 7.4.1 A vote in writing may be demanded on any resolution instead of or after a vote by a show of hands by:
- (a) at least five **members present**,
 - (b) **members present** with at least 5% of the votes that may be passed on the resolution on the vote in writing (worked out as at the midnight before the vote in writing is demanded), or
 - (c) the chairperson.
- 7.4.2 A vote in writing must be taken when and how the chairperson directs, unless clause 7.4.3 applies.
- 7.4.3 A vote in writing must be held immediately if it is demanded under clause 7.4.1:
- (a) for the election of a chairperson under clause 5.8.2, or
 - (b) to decide whether to adjourn the meeting.
- 7.4.4 A demand for a vote in writing may be withdrawn.

7.5. Appointment of proxy

- 7.5.1 A member may appoint a proxy to attend and vote at a **general meeting** on their behalf.
- 7.5.2 A proxy does not need to be a member.
- 7.5.3 A proxy appointed to attend and vote for a member has the same rights as the member to:
- (a) speak at the meeting
 - (b) vote in a vote in writing (but only to the extent allowed by the appointment), and
 - (c) join in to demand a vote in writing under clause 7.4.1.
- 7.5.4 An appointment of proxy (proxy form) must be signed by the member appointing the proxy and must contain:
- (a) the member's name and address
 - (b) the **company's** name
 - (c) the proxy's name or the name of the office held by the proxy, and
 - (d) the meeting(s) at which the appointment may be used.

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- 7.5.5 A proxy appointment may be standing (ongoing).
- 7.5.6 Proxy forms must be received by the **company** at the address stated in the notice under clause 5.4.5(d) or at the **company's** registered address at least 48 hours before a meeting.
- 7.5.7 A proxy does not have the authority to speak and vote for a member at a meeting while the member is at the meeting.
- 7.5.8 Unless the **company** receives written notice before the start or resumption of a **general meeting** at which a proxy votes, a vote cast by the proxy is valid even if, before the proxy votes, the appointing member:
- (a) revokes the proxy's appointment, or
 - (b) revokes the authority of a representative or agent who appointed the proxy.
- 7.5.9 A proxy appointment may specify the way the proxy must vote on a particular resolution.
- 7.6. Voting by proxy**
- 7.6.1 A proxy is not entitled to vote on a show of hands (but this does not prevent a member appointed as a proxy from voting as a member on a show of hands).
- 7.6.2 When a vote in writing is held, a proxy:
- (a) does not need to vote, unless the proxy appointment specifies the way they must vote
 - (b) if the way they must vote is specified on the proxy form, must vote that way, and
 - (c) if the proxy is also a member or holds more than one proxy, may cast the votes held in different ways.

Part 8. Directors

8.1. Number of directors

- 8.1.1 The company must have at least three and no more than twelve directors or such other maximum lesser number of directors as determined by the Board from time to time.
- 8.1.2 The board of directors will elect a director to be the Chairperson, Deputy-Chairperson and Finance Director.
- 8.1.3 Each Director will, subject to this constitution, hold office until the conclusion of the annual general meeting at which that director retires, but may be eligible for re-election in accordance with this constitution.

8.2. Election and appointment of directors

- 8.2.1 The initial directors are the people who have agreed to act as directors and who are named as proposed directors in the application for registration of the **company**. Each of the initial directors will, subject to this constitution, hold office until the conclusion of the first annual general meeting, but are eligible for re-election in accordance with this constitution.
- 8.2.2 Apart from the initial directors and directors appointed under clause 8.2.5, the members may elect a director by a resolution passed in a **general meeting**.
- 8.2.3 Each of the directors must be appointed by a separate resolution, unless:
- (a) the members present have first passed a resolution that the appointments may be voted on together, and
 - (b) no votes were cast against that resolution.
- 8.2.4 Subject to clause 8.3.2, a person is eligible for election as a director of the **company**, in their personal capacity, if they:
- (a) are a member representative (appointed under clause 3.8),

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- (b) give the **company** their signed consent to act as a director of the **company**,
and
- (c) are not ineligible to be a director under the **Corporations Act** or the **ACNC Act**.

- 8.2.5 Any member may replace a director who is that member's representative during the director's term of office with another representative of that member. That replacement person will be deemed to have been appointed to fill a casual vacancy, and any such appointment is subject to clauses 8.2.6 and 8.2.7.
- 8.2.6 The directors may appoint a person as a director to fill a casual vacancy or as an additional director if that person:
- (a) is a member representative (appointed under clause 3.8)
 - (b) gives the **company** their signed consent to act as a director of the **company**,
and
 - (c) is not ineligible to be a director under the **Corporations Act** or the **ACNC Act**.
- 8.2.7 A person appointed to fill a casual vacancy, including those appointed under clause 8.2.5, shall hold office until the next annual general meeting. If that person is re-elected as a director at that annual general meeting, that person will hold office until the date on which the remaining term of office of the person being replaced by that director would have expired had that person not been replaced, if that remaining term is greater than 12 months.
- 8.2.8 If the number of directors is reduced to fewer than three or is less than the number required for a quorum, the continuing directors may act for the purpose of increasing the number of directors to three (or higher if required for a quorum) or calling a **general meeting**, but for no other purpose.

8.3. Chairperson

- 8.3.1 A person is eligible for election as the Chairperson of the company if they:
- (a) are elected by the directors to be the Chairperson,
 - (b) give the company their signed consent to act as a director of the company, and
 - (c) are not ineligible to be a director under the Corporations Act or the ACNC Act.
- 8.3.2 The Chairperson is not required to be a member representative.

8.4. Finance Director

- 8.4.1 The directors may elect one of the directors as the Finance Director.
- 8.4.2 On behalf of the directors, the Finance Director must, as soon as practicable after the end date of each financial year, ensure a financial statement for its last financial year is prepared.

8.5. Term of office

- 8.5.1 The term of office of any director shall not exceed the later of three years or the conclusion of the third annual general meeting after the commencement of that director's current term of office.
- 8.5.2 At each annual general meeting after the first annual general meeting, one third (or the number nearest one third) of directors must retire from office. The directors to retire at that annual general meeting must be those who have been longest in office since their last election, but, as between persons who became directors on the same day, those to retire must be determined by lot, unless they otherwise agreed between themselves.
- 8.5.3 At an annual general meeting:
- (a) those directors that are to retire from office pursuant to clause 8.5.2 must retire; and
 - (b) any director appointed pursuant to clause 8.2.5 or appointed by the directors to fill a casual vacancy or as an additional director must retire.

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- 8.5.4 A director retiring under rule 8.5.3 holds office until the conclusion of the annual general meeting at which that director retires but is eligible for re-election subject to clause 8.5.8.
- 8.5.5 The company may at an annual general meeting at which a director retires or otherwise vacates office, by resolution fill the vacated office by electing a person to that office in accordance with clause 8.2.2.
- 8.5.6 Other than a director appointed under clauses 8.2.5 or 8.2.6, a director's term of office starts at the end of the annual **meeting** at which they are elected.
- 8.5.7 A director who retires under clause 8.5.3 may nominate for election or re-election, subject to clause 8.5.8.
- 8.5.8 A director who has held office for a continuous period of nine years or more may only be re-appointed or re-elected by a special resolution.

8.6. When a director stops being a director

- 8.6.1 A director stops being a director if they:
- (a) give written notice of resignation as a director to the **company**
 - (b) die
 - (c) are removed as a director by a resolution of the members
 - (d) the Member for which that individual is a Member Representative:
 - i ceases to be a Member of ACOR; or
 - ii becomes insolvent within the meaning of the Corporations Act,
 - (e) are absent for 3 consecutive directors' meetings without approval from the directors,
 - (f) become ineligible to be a director of the **company** under the **Corporations Act** or the **ACNC Act**, or
 - (g) cease to be a **member representative**, when the director is not the **chairperson**.

Part 9. Powers of directors

9.1. Powers of directors

- 9.1.1 The directors are responsible for managing and directing the activities of the **company** to achieve the purpose(s) set out in clause 2.1.
- 9.1.2 The directors may use all the powers of the **company** except for powers that, under the **Corporations Act** or this constitution, may only be used by members.
- 9.1.3 The directors must decide on the responsible financial management of the **company** including:
 - (a) any suitable written delegations of power under clause 9.2, and
 - (b) how money will be managed, such as how electronic transfers, negotiable instruments or cheques must be authorised and signed or otherwise approved.
- 9.1.4 The directors cannot remove a director or auditor. Directors and auditors may only be removed by a members' resolution at a **general meeting**.

9.2. Delegation of directors' powers

- 9.2.1 The directors may delegate any of their powers and functions to a committee, a director, an employee of the **company** (such as a chief executive officer) or any other person, as they consider appropriate.
- 9.2.2 The delegation must be recorded in the **company's** minute book.

9.3. Payments to directors

9.3.1 The **company** must not pay fees to a director for acting as a director.

9.3.2 The **company** may:

- (a) pay a director for work they do for the **company**, other than as a director, if the amount is no more than a reasonable fee for the work done, or
- (b) reimburse a director for expenses properly incurred by the director in connection with the affairs of the **company**.

9.3.3 Any payment made under clause 9.3.2 must be approved by the directors.

9.3.4 The **company** may pay premiums for insurance indemnifying directors, as allowed for by law (including the **Corporations Act**) and this constitution.

9.4. Execution of documents

The **company** may execute a document if the document is signed by:

- (a) two directors of the **company**, or
- (b) a director and the Secretary.

Part 10. Duties of directors

10.1. Duties of directors

The directors must comply with their duties as directors under legislation and common law (judge-made law), and with the duties described in governance standard 5 of the regulations made under the **ACNC Act** which are:

- (a) to exercise their powers and discharge their duties with the degree of care and diligence that a reasonable individual would exercise if they were a director of the **company**
- (b) to act in good faith in the best interests of the **company** and to further the charitable purpose(s) of the **company** set out in clause 2.1
- (c) not to misuse their position as a director
- (d) not to misuse information they gain in their role as a director
- (e) to disclose any perceived or actual material conflicts of interest in the manner set out in clause 10.2
- (f) to ensure that the financial affairs of the **company** are managed responsibly, and
- (g) not to allow the **company** to operate while it is insolvent.

10.2. Conflicts of interest

10.2.1 A director must disclose the nature and extent of any actual or perceived material conflict of interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting of directors (or that is proposed in a circular resolution):

- (a) to the other directors, or
- (b) if all of the directors have the same conflict of interest, to the members at the next **general meeting**, or at an earlier time if reasonable to do so.

10.2.2 The disclosure of a conflict of interest by a director must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

10.2.3 Each director who has a material personal interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting of directors (or that is proposed in a circular resolution) must not, except as provided under clause 10.2.4:

- (a) be present at the meeting while the matter is being discussed, or
- (b) vote on the matter.

- 10.2.4 A director may still be present and vote if:
- (a) their interest arises because they are a member of the **company**, and the other members have the same interest
 - (b) their interest relates to an insurance contract that insures, or would insure, the director against liabilities that the director incurs as a director of the **company** (see clause 17.2)
 - (c) their interest relates to a payment by the **company** under clause 17.1 (Indemnity), or any contract relating to an indemnity that is allowed under the **Corporations Act**
 - (d) the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) makes an order allowing the director to vote on the matter, or
 - (e) the directors who do not have a material personal interest in the matter pass a resolution that:
 - i identifies the director, the nature and extent of the director's interest in the matter and how it relates to the affairs of the **company**, and
 - ii says that those directors are satisfied that the interest should not stop the director from voting or being present.

Part 11. Directors' meetings

11.1. When the directors meet

The directors may decide how often, where and when they meet.

11.2. Calling directors' meetings

11.2.1 A director may call a directors' meeting by giving reasonable notice to all of the other directors.

11.2.2 A director may give notice in writing or by any other means of communication that has previously been agreed to by all of the directors.

11.3. Chairperson for directors' meetings

11.3.1 The **elected Chairperson**, or in the absence of a Chairperson, the **Deputy-chairperson**, is entitled to chair directors' meetings.

11.3.2 The directors at a directors' meeting may choose a director to be the chairperson for that meeting if the **elected Chairperson** or the **Deputy-chairperson** is:

- (a) not present within 30 minutes after the starting time set for the meeting, or
- (b) present but does not want to act as Chairperson of the meeting.

11.4. Quorum at directors' meetings

11.4.1 Unless the directors determine otherwise, the quorum for a directors' meeting is a majority (more than 50%) of directors.

11.4.2 A quorum must be present personally or represented by a duly nominated representative or by proxy for the whole directors' meeting.

11.5. Using technology to hold directors' meetings

11.5.1 The directors may hold their meetings by using any technology (such as video or teleconferencing) that is agreed to by all of the directors.

11.5.2 The directors' agreement may be a standing (ongoing) one.

11.5.3 A director may only withdraw their consent within a reasonable period before the meeting.

11.6. Passing directors' resolutions

A directors' resolution must be passed by a majority of the votes cast by directors present and entitled to vote on the resolution.

11.7. Circular resolutions of directors

11.7.1 The directors may pass a circular resolution without a directors' meeting being held.

11.7.2 A circular resolution is passed if all the directors entitled to vote on the resolution sign or otherwise agree to the resolution in the manner set out in clause 11.7.3 or clause 11.7.4.

11.7.3 Each director may sign:

- (a) a single document setting out the resolution and containing a statement that they agree to the resolution, or
- (b) separate copies of that document, as long as the wording of the resolution is the same in each copy.

11.7.4 The **company** may send a circular resolution by email to the directors and the directors may agree to the resolution by sending a reply email to that effect, including the text of the resolution in their reply.

11.7.5 A circular resolution is passed by a majority of directors in the manner set out in clause 11.7.3 or clause 11.7.4.

Part 12. Secretary

12.1. Appointment and role of secretary

12.1.1 The **company** must have at least one Secretary, who may also be a director.

12.1.2 A Secretary must be appointed by the directors (after giving the **company** their signed consent to act as secretary of the **company**) and may be removed by the directors.

12.1.3 The directors must decide the terms and conditions under which the secretary is appointed, including any remuneration.

12.1.4 The role of the secretary includes:

- (a) maintaining a register of the **company's** members, and
- (b) maintaining the minutes and other records of **general meetings** (including notices of meetings), directors' meetings and circular resolutions.

Part 13. Minutes and records

13.1. Minutes and records

13.1.1 The **company** must, within one month, make and keep the following records:

- (a) minutes of proceedings and resolutions of **general meetings**
- (b) minutes of circular resolutions of members
- (c) a copy of a notice of each **general meeting**, and
- (d) a copy of a members' statement distributed to members under clause 6.2.

13.1.2 The **company** must, within one month, make and keep the following records:

- (a) minutes of proceedings and resolutions of directors' meetings (including meetings of any committees), and
- (b) minutes of circular resolutions of directors.

13.1.3 To allow members to inspect the **company's** records:

- (a) the **company** must give a member access to the records set out in clause 13.1.1, and

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- (b) the directors may authorise a member to inspect other records of the **company**, including records referred to in clause 13.1.2 and clause 13.2.1.

13.1.4 The directors must ensure that minutes of a general meeting or a directors' meeting are signed within a reasonable time after the meeting by:

- (a) the chairperson of the meeting, or
- (b) the chairperson of the next meeting.

13.1.5 The directors must ensure that minutes of the passing of a circular resolution (of members or directors) are signed by a director within a reasonable time after the resolution is passed.

13.2. Financial and related records

13.2.1 The **company** must make and keep written financial records that:

- (a) correctly record and explain its transactions and financial position and performance, and
- (b) enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared and to be audited.

13.2.2 The **company** must also keep written records that correctly record its operations.

13.2.3 The **company** must retain its records for at least 7 years.

13.2.4 The directors must take reasonable steps to ensure that the **company's** records are kept safe.

Part 14. By-laws

14.1. By-laws

14.1.1 The directors may pass a resolution to make by-laws to give effect to this constitution.

14.1.2 Members and directors must comply with by-laws as if they were part of this constitution.

Part 15. Notice

15.1. What is notice

15.1.1 Anything written to or from the **company** under any clause in this constitution is written notice and is subject to clauses 15.2 to 15.4, unless specified otherwise.

15.1.2 Clauses 15.2 to 15.4 do not apply to a notice of proxy under clause 7.5.6.

15.2. Notice to the company

15.2.1 Written notice or any communication under this constitution may be given to the **company**, the directors or the secretary by:

- (a) delivering it to the **company's** registered office
- (b) posting it to the **company's** registered office or to another address chosen by the **company** for notice to be provided, or
- (c) sending it to an email address or other electronic address notified by the **company** to the members as the **company's** email address or other electronic address.

15.3. Notice to members

15.3.1 Written notice or any communication under this constitution may be given to a member:

- (a) in person
- (b) by posting it to, or leaving it at the address of the member in the register of members or an alternative address (if any) nominated by the member for service of notices

- (c) sending it to the email or other electronic address nominated by the member as an alternative address for service of notices (if any), or
- (d) if agreed to by the member, by notifying the member at an email or other electronic address nominated by the member, that the notice is available at a specified place or address (including an electronic address).

15.3.2 If the **company** does not have an address for the member, the **company** is not required to give notice in person.

15.4. When notice is taken to be given

A notice:

- (a) delivered in person, or left at the recipient's address, is taken to be given on the day it is delivered
- (b) sent by post, is taken to be given on the third day after it is posted with the correct payment of postage costs
- (c) sent by email or other electronic method, is taken to be given on the business day after it is sent, and
- (d) given under clause 15.3.1(d) is taken to be given on the business day after the notification that the notice is available is sent.

Part 16. Financial year

16.1. Company's financial year

The **company's** financial year is from 1 July to 30 June, unless the directors pass a resolution to change the financial year.

Part 17. Indemnity, insurance and access

17.1. Indemnity

17.1.1 The **company** indemnifies each officer of the **company** out of the assets of the **company**, to the relevant extent, against all losses and liabilities (including costs, expenses and charges) incurred by that person as an officer of the **company**.

17.1.2 In this clause, 'officer' means a director or secretary and includes a director or secretary after they have ceased to hold that office.

17.1.3 In this clause, 'to the relevant extent' means:

- (a) to the extent that the **company** is not precluded by law (including the **Corporations Act**) from doing so, and
- (b) for the amount that the officer is not otherwise entitled to be indemnified and is not actually indemnified by another person (including an insurer under an insurance policy).

17.1.4 The indemnity is a continuing obligation and is enforceable by an officer even though that person is no longer an officer of the **company**.

17.2. Insurance

To the extent permitted by law (including the **Corporations Act**), and if the directors consider it appropriate, the **company** may pay or agree to pay a premium for a contract insuring a person who is or has been an officer of the **company** against any liability incurred by the person as an officer of the **company**.

17.3. Directors' access to documents

17.3.1 A director has a right of access to the financial records of the **company** at all reasonable times.

- 17.3.2 If the directors agree, the **company** must give a director or former director access to:
- (a) certain documents, including documents provided for or available to the directors, and
 - (b) any other documents referred to in those documents.

Part 18. Winding up

18.1. Surplus assets not to be distributed to members

If the **company** is wound up, any **surplus assets** must not be distributed to a member or a former member of the **company**, unless that member or former member is a charity described in clause 18.2.1.

18.2. Distribution of surplus assets

18.2.1 Subject to the **Corporations Act** and any other applicable Act, and any court order, any **surplus assets** that remain after the **company** is wound up must be distributed to one or more charities:

- (a) with charitable purpose(s) similar to, or inclusive of, the purpose(s) in clause 2.1, and
- (b) which also prohibit the distribution of any **surplus assets** to its members to at least the same extent as the **company**.

18.2.2 The decision as to the charity or charities to be given the **surplus assets** must be made by a **special resolution** of members at or before the time of winding up. If the members do not make this decision, the **company** may apply to the Supreme Court to make this decision.

Part 19. Definitions and interpretation

19.1. Definitions

In this constitution:

ACNC Act means the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)

board means the board of directors of the **company**.

company means the **company** referred to in clause 1.1

Corporations Act means the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)

elected chairperson means a person elected by the directors to be the **company's** chairperson under clause 8.3

general meeting means a meeting of members and includes the annual **general meeting**, under clause 5.3.1

initial member means a person who is named in the application for registration of the **company**, with their consent, as a proposed member of the **company**

member present means, in connection with a **general meeting**, a **member present** in person, by representative or by proxy at the venue or venues for the meeting

non-voting member means a member who is not entitled to vote at a **general meeting** under this constitution pursuant to clause 3.3.2 and clause 3.9

registered charity means a charity that is registered under the **ACNC Act**

special resolution means a resolution:

- (a) of which notice has been given under clause 5.4.5(c), and
- (b) that has been passed by at least 75% of the votes cast by **members present** and entitled to vote on the resolution

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surplus assets means any assets of the company that remain after paying all debts and other liabilities of the company, including the costs of winding up.

voting member means a member entitled to vote at a general meeting under this constitution, pursuant to clause 3.3.1 and clause 3.9

19.2. Reading this constitution with the Corporations Act

19.2.1 The replaceable rules set out in the **Corporations Act** do not apply to the **company**.

19.2.2 While the **company** is a **registered charity**, the **ACNC Act** and the **Corporations Act** override any clauses in this constitution which are inconsistent with those Acts.

19.2.3 If the **company** is not a **registered charity** (even if it remains a charity), the **Corporations Act** overrides any clause in this constitution which is inconsistent with that Act.

19.2.4 A word or expression that is defined in the Corporations Act, or used in that Act and covering the same subject, has the same meaning as in this constitution.

19.3. Interpretation

19.3.1 In this constitution:

- (a) the words 'including', 'for example', or similar expressions mean that there may be more inclusions or examples than those mentioned after that expression, and
- (b) reference to an Act includes every amendment, re-enactment, or replacement of that Act and any subordinate legislation made under that Act (such as regulations).