



CONSTITUTION



DEFINITIONS

In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires the following terms and derivatives of those terms have the meanings ascribed in this clause –

Affiliation means a formal relationship in writing between the Party and another political Party.

By-law means any By-law adopted by State Council pursuant to clause F.5(h).

Constitution means this constitution, as amended from time to time according to its provisions.

Executive means the leadership team of the Party, usually referring to the President, Vice Presidents, Party Secretary, Chair persons and any identified member as established by the President in writing from time to time.

Federal Division means a Federal Division for the purpose of electing members of the House of Representatives in the Australian Parliament.

Immediate Past President means the immediate past president of the Watchdog Party of Australia.

Member means a financial member of the Party.

Month means a calendar month.

Party means the Watchdog Party of Australia and includes all state and region parties bearing the Watchdog Party affix (e.g. Watchdog Party Queensland)

Relative means a spouse or de facto spouse, a child, a grandchild, a parent, a grandparent, a sister, a brother, a nephew, a niece, an aunt, an uncle, a brother-in-law, a sister-a-law, a mother-in-law or a father-in-law.

State means the State of Australia in which document is issued. In this case Queensland, and in the case of a nation-wide party, all states.

State Electorate means a State Electorate for the purposes of electing members of the Parliament.

State Electorate Council means a Council Established by this constitution for the purposes of electing members of the Parliament

A THE PARTY

A.1 The name of the Party shall be the Watchdog Party of Australia and/or the Watchdog Party with State name trailing (i.e. Watchdog Party Queensland), and these names can be used interchangeably yet mean the same thing.

A.2 The Party shall be a voluntary organisation.

B VALUES

These values provide an objective and timeless foundation for the Constitution. They complement statements around Party policy as pronounced from time to time, belief and philosophy and underpin these as the primary filter for Party decisions and behaviour.

The Party's values -

- (a) Freedom of truth, individual free-will and absolute equality of standards is the building block of a robust and fair society.
- (b) Government with a sustainable level of debt which does not impose an unfair burden on future generations.
- (c) The worth and dignity of every individual, the priority of helping the marginalised, and public and personal integrity, in underpinning a society in which people of different beliefs and cultures live in peace and harmony with each other, contributing to the common good, respecting others and taking seriously their obligations as citizens of Australia.
- (d) Smaller government with its emphasis on facilitating the potential of people, catalysing their intuition to do good and encouraging rather than stifling initiative. This helps shape a community open to new ideas, supporting innovators and risk takers and valuing entrepreneurs – economic and social as fundamental to a vibrant and prosperous community.
- (e) The right to private property and the right to be rewarded for effort, recognising that in any exchange freely undertaken, both parties will benefit. The encouragement and facilitation of wealth flows through to people enjoying the highest possible standards of living, health and education and a society which provides opportunity for all and support for those in need.
- (f) A sustainable environment balancing the need to be productive while preserving our natural assets to be enjoyed by future generations.
- (g) A safe and secure outlook that reinforces our culture and its longevity.
- (h) Not to intentionally become a major party, but to be a balance of power watchdog to keep other parties honest, however, should balance of power become impossible we will become what is needed to maintain the integrity of the Australian systems.

C OBJECTS

C.1 The objects of the Party shall be to have an Australian nation -

(a) Human Rights, Freedom and Values

- (i) dedicated to political liberty and the freedom, welfare and dignity of its citizens and residents;
- (ii) which gives due recognition to known truth as best represented by exceptional scientific methodology as a basis for the advancement of those objectives into the future;

(b) Democratic Principles

in which an intelligent and free Australian democracy shall be maintained by -

- (i) championing and preservation of the Westminster system of Government;
- (ii) Parliament controlling the executive and the law controlling all;
- (iii) independence of the judiciary;
- (iv) recognition of efficient government;
- (v) equality of standards, and the freedoms of truth determined by science as ultimate governor;
- (vi) freedom of citizens to choose their own way of living and of life which is absolutely subject to the free-will of the individual or organisation within itself;

- (vii) protecting the people against exploitation;
- (viii) looking primarily to the encouragement of individual initiative and private enterprise as the dynamic force of progress; and
- (ix) developing to the fullest extent a national spirit in Australia;

(c) National Security

safe from external aggression and living in Australia, playing its part in a world security order which maintains the necessary force to defend the peace;

(d) Defence

in which the spirit of patriotism is fostered and all are Australians united in the common service of their country;

(e) Ex-service Members

in which men and women who have been members of the fighting services and their dependants shall enjoy honour and security, and where preference and generous repatriation benefits are recognised;

(f) Social Provision

in which social provision is made for those who are unable to provide for themselves;

(g) Medical Services

in which adequate medical services are within the reach of all;

(h) Industry and Trade

- (i) in which primary, secondary and tertiary industries are promoted, new and adequate markets developed, the lifestyle of country people improved, rural amenities increased and decentralisation of industries encouraged;
- (ii) which breaks the welfare reliance all communities through improved education, better integration methodology (including but not limited to community separation and freedom of choice of inclusion) and the facilitation of enterprise;

(i) Employment

in which there shall be no nationalisation of any Australian industry without the approval of the people;

(j) Workplace Relations

- (i) in which constant employment at good wages is available to all willing and able to work;
- (ii) in which employer and employee have a sense of common interest and duty and share as co- operators in all advances of prosperity and in which living standards rise steadily as physical resources expand and ingenuity grows;
- (iii) which ensures a right to freedom of association in the workplace;

(k) Education

in which a comprehensive system of child and adult education is designed to develop the spirit of true citizenship and in which no consideration of wealth or privilege shall be a determining factor;

(l) Youth

in which the youth of the nation is given every encouragement to develop its talent to the full, recognising that from its ranks will come the leaders of tomorrow;

(m) Family

in which family life is seen as fundamental to the wellbeing of society and in which every family is enabled to live in and own a comfortable home at reasonable cost and with adequate community amenities;

(n) Environment

in which there is an ongoing commitment to the protection of the environment, the prudent management of our natural resources for all Australians, and a commitment to sustainable development;

(o) Cultural Heritage

which respects Australia's heritage, aboriginal and islander peoples and the multi-cultural character of Australian Society; and

(p) Non-Discrimination

in which there is no discrimination on grounds proscribed in Australian legislation;

C.2 The Party shall formulate from time to time a platform which embodies these objects and seek to secure the election of

candidates selected by the Party to the Australian Parliament, the State Parliament and to such local governments as the Party shall from time to time determine.

D MEMBERSHIP

Eligibility for Membership

- D.1 Any person 18 years or older who subscribes to the objects and platform of the Party may apply for ordinary membership of the Party. A person 16 years or older may apply to be a member of the Young Liberal Nationals.
- D.2 Any person who -
- (a) is not enrolled on the Commonwealth electoral roll; and/or
 - (b) whose residential address as provided to the Party Secretary is not as described in the Commonwealth electoral roll; shall not be entitled to -
 - become a member of the Party;
 - vote at any meeting of the Party including pre-selection ballots of the Party; or
 - seek or continue to hold office in the Party until such time as such discrepancy is rectified.
- D.3 Any person who has been convicted of a disqualifying electoral offence within legislative timeframes shall not be entitled to apply to become a Member.

Classes of Membership

- D.4 There shall a single standard of membership and the membership fee and entitlements of any class or classes of membership will be standardised nationally.
- D.5 Membership shall be on an annual basis. Renewal procedures will be standardized nationally.
- D.6 The annual membership fee shall payable on a single date for all members.
- D.7 The Party may offer perpetual membership on the terms and conditions imposed by the president, upon the basis that a perpetual Member shall, upon payment of the prescribed fee, be entitled to the full rights of a Member but shall not be obliged to pay an annual membership subscription.

Becoming a Member

- D.8 A person desiring to become a Member shall complete such form of application as is prescribed by President and shall lodge such completed form of application together with the applicable membership fee or a direct debit for payment of such membership fee with the Party Secretary and subject to clause D.9 hereof, shall be a Member from the date of such lodgment but shall have no voting rights nor have such membership included for the calculation of any delegate voting entitlement for a period of one month from that date.
- D.9 The President, or delegated authority, may reject any such application without assigning any reason.
- D.10 If any application for membership is rejected by the President the membership fee paid, if any, shall be returned to the applicant.
- D.11 No payment for or on account of membership shall be paid by any person other than the person or a Relative of the person who has applied to become a Member or is renewing membership.
- D.12 For the avoidance of doubt no Party Unit shall accept membership subscriptions or renewals.
- D.13 No Member shall make any material offer or reward to any person as an inducement to any person to become a Member without the approval of the President in writing, and no person who has accepted such an offer or reward shall be accepted as a Member.
- D.14 Membership fees shall be paid to the Party Secretary by way of a cheque, bank order or debit, credit card or such other means as is approved by the President in writing.
- D.15 Membership will be National-only and no branches or sub entities of any kind will be allowed.

Honorary and Reciprocal Membership

- D.16 Any Member who has rendered service that, in the opinion of the President, warrants recognition may be awarded by the President an Honorary Life Membership, Certificate of Merit or other award. Any such Honorary Life Member shall thereafter be deemed to be a financial Member.
- D.17 Reciprocal membership rights may be granted to an honorary life or perpetual member of the Watchdog Party of Australia.

Obligations of Membership

- D.18 All Members are bound by -

- (a) this Constitution including any By-laws made by National Council; and
 - (b) any code or procedure established or approved by National Council.
- D.19 It shall be the responsibility of any individual applicant or Member to ensure that any membership application or renewal, and any payment, nomination, ballot or other communication, is received by the Party Secretary.
- D.20 Members shall -
- (a) not demean any person or group on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, race, gender, sexuality, religion, age, or physical or mental capacity;
 - (b) not engage in any conduct that is violent, threatening, disrespectful or cruel;
 - (c) ensure that any confidential information they may gain as Members or officers of the Party will remain confidential;
 - (d) not misuse confidential information gained as a Member or officer of the Party;
 - (e) not publicly criticise the Party, its office-bearers, parliamentary representatives or candidates but direct any criticism through the President, a Vice-President;
 - (f) not make an electronic recording of any part of a meeting of any Party Unit without approval by the President; and,
 - (g) be financially responsible for any costs to remediate violation of all member requirements.
- D.21 A Member shall not seek improperly to obtain, and shall not improperly accept, any pecuniary benefit arising by or in connection with membership of the Party or association with any officer or member of any government in which the Party participates.

Ceasing to be a Member

- D.22 (a) Subject to paragraph (b), the membership of a Member whose fee is in arrears in excess of 60 days shall lapse and such person shall vacate any office which he or she holds. If the Member pays the fee within that period, his or her financial membership and any Party office will be taken to have continued uninterrupted.
- (b) On application to the Party Secretary before the due date for renewal, in a case of hardship President may extend the period of 60 days by such period as it considers to be appropriate in the interests of the Party.
- D.23 Subject to the definitions set out above any Member who is a member of any other political party or any organisation that National Council determines, for future or up to one year in the past, to be opposed to the objects of the Party shall upon becoming such a member cease to be a Member and whilst being such a member shall not be eligible to become a Member. All votes and contributions from the time determined by the National Council will also be identified and removed.
- D.24 (a) Any Member who without the prior approval of President nominates, or announces an intention to nominate, as a candidate in any election against a candidate selected, or to be selected, by the Party shall, unless President otherwise resolves, cease to be a Member upon submission of the nomination papers, or the making of the announcement.
- (b) Any Member who State Executive determines has actively assisted a candidate standing against an endorsed candidate of the Party shall cease to be a Member. In that event such person may appeal such determination to the President within 28 days of notification of such determination.
- (c) Any Member, not being the endorsed candidate of the Party, who signifies to any Government his or her availability to serve the remaining term of a Party Senator whose seat becomes vacant shall by force of such signification cease to be a Member.
- (d) Any Member whose membership has ceased by operation of paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) above shall be prohibited from applying for membership of the Party for a period of three years or such other period as may be determined by the President.
- D.25 Any Member -
- (a) convicted of a disqualifying electoral offence, as provided for in each Electoral Act; or
 - (b) convicted of an indictable offence against the law any State or Territory of Australia or any State deemed by the President in writing to be of comparable standards to Australia; or
 - (c) sentenced to a term of imprisonment unacceptable to the President in writing;
- shall cease to be a Member upon such conviction being recorded or period of imprisonment being imposed and the President shall forthwith enter such details in the records of the Party.

Miscellaneous

- D.26 The official record of membership of the Party kept by the Party Secretary shall be prima facie evidence of membership of the Party and of the date and circumstances of such membership.
- D.27 No person shall be provided with access to the membership records of the Party without the authority of the President in accordance with guidelines determined by President.

E PARTY UNITS

- E.1 The operational Party Units shall be the following -
- (a) Committees established in writing by the President
 - (b) National Councils established in writing by the President
 - (c) Parliamentary Members established by status within Elected office
 - (d) Young Watchdogs
 - (e) any council, executive, committee or other body established under By-laws adopted by the President.
- E.2 Party Units shall advance the interests of the Party in every way possible, consistently with the objects and platform.

E.3 No Party Unit shall enter into any contract or take part in any legal proceedings on its own account.

E.4 A Party Unit may not direct the vote of an elected member.

F NATIONAL COUNCIL

F.1 A National Council may be formed.

F.2 A National Council will consist of either -

- (a) all confirmed Senior Members, or
- (b) all Members with nominated with majority voting rights by approved delegation methods.

F.3 (a) A National Council must meet at least twice in each calendar year.

(b) One of the meetings must be an Annual General Meeting, and it must be held no more than 15 months after the previous Annual General Meeting.

(c) The Annual General Meeting must be separated by a period of not less than two months.

(d) A copy of the draft minutes for each meeting (clearly marked as such) must be forwarded to the Party Secretary promptly after the meeting.

(e) If the minutes as subsequently adopted differ from the draft, a copy of the minutes must be forwarded to the Party Secretary promptly after adoption.

F.4 A quorum of a National Council meeting shall be not less than 10 members, or 50% of its total membership, whichever is the lesser.

F.5 The duties of National Council shall be to -

- (a) organise and to conduct the campaign of the endorsed candidate for any election in co-operation with such candidate;
- (b) hold meetings as and when required;
- (c) take part in the selection of a candidates concerned as herein provided;
- (d) consider recommendations from Members relating to matters of policy, or the constitution or administration of the Party;
- (e) consider and act upon any other matters brought before them;
- (f) open and maintain a bank account in accordance with the procedures determined by the President;
- (g) deposit all funds received therein;
- (h) adopt By-laws not inconsistent with the Provisions herein. These By-laws:
 - can relate to the affairs of or operations of the Party or a Party Unit;
 - may be repealed or amended;
 - shall have the effect as if they were part of this constitution; and
 - must be approved by the president before they are enforceable.;
- (i) operate all accounts in accordance with any relevant By-laws, and any relevant code or procedure established;
- (j) either itself or by a duly appointed committee, authorise expenditure and be responsible for all money received; and
- (k) administer the finances provided to it.

F.6 A National Council meeting must be convened by written notice to members of the Council within 14 days of a request in writing.

F.7 At the annual National Council members shall elect by quorum an Executive comprising -

- (b) Chairman;
 - (c) Vice-Chairman;
 - (d) Secretary;
 - (e) Treasurer;
- and such other officers as it considers necessary by the President. Such Members must be in attendance at the meeting or have signified to the President that they are willing to accept a position for which they may be nominated. The National Council may also elect a committee consisting of the Executive officers and such other members it considers necessary. It may also appoint such other officers or committees as it considers necessary.

F.8 A Chairman -

- (a) shall take all necessary steps to be aware of the activities of the Party;
- (b) shall be available for consultation at a reasonable amount by office bearers members on matters of Party policy and organisation;
- (c) may institute any other activities that will promote the objectives of the Party;
- (d) may form a Committee consisting of officers approved by the President to undertake party approved tasks as the Chairman may determine;
- (e) shall act as chairman thereof.

G NATIONAL CONVENTION

G.1 A National Convention shall be convened once in each year at a place and time to be determined by the President. At least 50 days' notice of National Convention shall be given.

G.2 A Special National Convention may be called by the President at any time and must be called upon the written request of not

less than 25 Senior Members if an Election is announced. At least 10 days' notice of such Special National Convention shall be given.

G.3 A National Convention shall comprise -

- (a) all members of National Council; and,
- (b) video attendance of any member wishing to be eligible for membership in the coming two years.

G.4 Registration of delegates to National Convention will close on the day nominated by the Party Secretary which is no more than seven days before the Convention.

G.5 Annual National Convention shall -

- (a) determine the general policy of the Party, and details thereof;
- (b) consider motions that may submitted by members, by at least 30 days' notice given to the Party Secretary;
- (c) consider such business as President may submit;
- (d) subject to clause P.33 in addition to any proposals for constitutional amendment submitted under another provision of this clause, consider such proposals for constitutional amendment as a special purpose committee appointed by the President to review the Constitution may submit;
- (e) consider such further business as the President, or in the absence of the President, the presiding Vice-president may permit; and
- (f) consider such other business as President may decide.

G.6 The Party Secretary shall give notice of the proposed motions to be considered by National Convention in open session to delegates no less than seven days before the commencement of National Convention, by posting them on the Party's website, or by other electronic means.

G.7 One in every five National Convention, as determined by the President shall elect from the Members the following office bearers -

- (a) A President
The President will hold office until the official tally of votes are counted at the applicable Annual National Convention. A President candidate can only be nominated from those current members who have held the office of Vice President and/or Presidents in the last four years.

G.8 Each National Convention, when party membership exceeds 1000 members, shall elect from the Members the following office bearers -

- (a) Two Vice-Presidents, one of whom must be a Member ordinarily resident in an Urban Area, and the other of whom must be a Member ordinarily resident in, rural, regional or remote Area.
- (b) The Vice-Presidents will hold office until the votes are counted at the applicable Annual National Convention.

G.9 The Party Secretary will call for nominations for those positions no fewer than 21 days before the first day of National Convention, to be open for at least 10 days and to close no fewer than seven days before the first day, with nominations to be lodged with the Party Secretary.

For clauses J -

- (a) A regional area will be defined as any city with a regional population under 500,000 people; and,
- (b) an urban areas will be defined as a capital city, or city with a regional population exceeding 500,000 people.

H COMMITTEES OF THE PARTY

H.1 Party Development

H.2 There may be a Party Development Committee comprising the founding members being the President and the Vice Presidents (if any), and any other member nominated by a majority vote of founding member -

- (a) promote Party development throughout the Nation; and
- (b) assist throughout the Nation in conducting their affairs.

H.3 Agenda

H.4 The President or both Vice Presidents(if any) shall, from amongst the members appoint an Agenda Committee which -

- (a) shall determine -
 - the order of business to be submitted to each meeting l;
 - the phrasing of notices of motion to be submitted to each meeting; and,
 - the consolidation of such notices of motion which are similar in interest or intent; and,
- (b) may recommend to the President additional urgent notices of motion for any meeting.

H.5 Disputes

H.6 There shall be a Disputes Committee to hear and determine -

- (a) any appeals arising out of the conduct or result of any pre-selection proceedings, and
- (b) disciplinary proceedings referred to it by President or both Vice Presidents (if any), and
- (c) any other investigation, complaint or dispute referred to it by virtue of this Constitution or otherwise by over 100 independent members.

National Council may by By-law determine the procedures by which the Disputes Committee shall operate.

A decision of the Disputes Committee on a matter within paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) shall be final and binding on the Party and all Members.

- H.7 Senior Members, with written approval of the President or both Vice Presidents may establish the following panels -
- (a) a panel of legal members, who shall be legal practitioners of not less than fifteen years standing;
 - (b) a panel of non-legal members comprised of all Honorary Life Members, former Trustees of the Party, former Presidents, former Vice-Presidents and Members who are former members of the Australian or Queensland Parliaments; and
 - (c) a panel of mediator members, who shall hold qualifications in mediation recognised by a legal professional body or the Department of Justice for the State.
- H.8 For any appeal or reference the Disputes Committee will comprise such persons selected from the panels established under clause H.7 as by President or both Vice Presidents may determine.
- H.9 Where a complaint is made against a Member for conduct of a kind described in clause H.15, only the President may decide to deal with the complaint themselves, or it may refer the complaint to the Disputes Committee.
- H.10 If the President decides to deal with a complaint against a Member itself it may investigate the complaint as it considers appropriate, but must give the Member an opportunity to be heard and appeal to the Disputes Committee. In the circumstance of appeal, Disputes Committee is required to seal the proceedings unless the President or both Vice Presidents may determine it be opened to the Members.
- H.11 The President may suspend or otherwise restrict the membership rights of the Member pending the investigation and report of the Disputes Committee or its own consideration of the matter.
- H.12 It is the duty of a Member to co-operate with the President or a Disputes Committee in relation to the investigation and consideration of a complaint. In particular a Member must provide such documents and information and do or refrain from doing such things, and within such timeframes, as the President or a Disputes Committee, or the President or Party Secretary or the Chairman of a Disputes Committee may reasonably require.
- H.13 If President refers a complaint to the Disputes Committee the following procedure shall be followed -
- (a) The Disputes Committee shall investigate the complaint in accordance with the principles of natural justice and any By-laws adopted by the Party and report its findings the President.
 - (b) If the Disputes Committee finds a complaint proved in whole or in part, it must in its report make a recommendation as to a penalty to be imposed, or recommend that no penalty be imposed.
 - (c) Where the Disputes Committee finds that the complaint has not been proved, the President shall take no further action.
 - (d) Where the Disputes Committee finds that a complaint has been proved, the President may impose a penalty no greater than that recommended by the Disputes Committee, or it may decide not to impose a penalty.
- H.14 The penalties which may be imposed by President or which may be recommended by the Disputes Committee are -
- (a) to expel the Member;
 - (b) to suspend the Member for a period of time; or
 - (c) to censure the Member.
- H.15 The types of conduct that may be made the subject of disciplinary action are -
- (a) disloyalty to the Party;
 - (b) breach of confidentiality;
 - (c) conduct substantially embarrassing to the Party or bringing the Party into disrepute;
 - (d) engaging in conduct substantially harmful to the best interests of the Party;
 - (e) deliberately infringing this Constitution or By-laws made in accordance with this Constitution;
 - (f) wilfully disobeying or failing to comply with a reasonable decision of the President, both Vice Presidents, President's Committee, National Council or National Convention ; or
 - (g) wilfully disobeying or failing to comply with a reasonable directive of the President or the Party Secretary in connection with the affairs of the Party.
- H.16 Audit**
- H.17 There shall be an Audit Committee comprising, unless President decides otherwise, the Trustees and such other persons (if any) as President may decide.
- H.18 The role of the Audit Committee is to assist the President, the President's Committee and the Finance Committee ("oversight bodies") in the discharge of their responsibilities as to the oversight of the Party's financial affairs.
- H.19 The functions of the Audit Committee are -
- (a) to evaluate and report to the oversight bodies in relation to -
 - the appropriateness of, and of any changes to, the Party's accounting and financial management policies;
 - the reports of the Party's external auditors;

- the Party's internal control, probity and other risk management arrangements;
 - the effectiveness of any code of conduct established by the Party relevant to the Party's financial affairs and those engaged in them; and
 - the Party's compliance with electoral and other laws applicable to it;
- (b) to make recommendations to the oversight bodies as to the appointment and terms of engagement of the Party's external auditors;
- (c) to liaise with and between the Party's external auditors and management, and review and monitor the implementation of the Party's external audit plan; and
- (d) to address such other matters connected with the Party's governance and financial affairs as the President's Committee or President may refer to it.

H.20 Policy Committees

H.21 There may be a Policy Standing Committee which shall –

- (a) co-ordinate the activities of the respective Policy Committees so as to ensure that the policies of the Party are consistent with one another; and
- (b) monitor the development of policy and philosophy generally.

H.22 The Policy Standing Committee shall comprise –

- (a) a Chairman, elected in accordance with clause M.25;
- (b) the State Parliamentary Leader and Deputy State Parliamentary Leader; and
- (c) the President and, if possible, Vice-Presidents.

H.23 The Policy Standing Committee may, at the discretion of the President or both Vice Presidents, comprise –

- (a) two members of the State Parliamentary Party who are not Party spokespersons;
- (b) a representative elected by the Australian Parliamentary Members;
- (c) a representative of the Members;
- (d) the Chairman of each Policy Committee; and
- (e) one representative of the Young Watchdog Party.

H.24 Each Policy Committee shall conduct its affairs so as to provide to the Party, in respect of its area of policy -

- (a) continuing review of existing Party policy to ensure it remains adapted to changing circumstances;
- (b) development and evaluation of initiatives for consideration by the State and Australian Parliamentary Leaders for inclusion in election policies;
- (c) studies of any proposed legislation or contemplated policy initiative to establish whether it is consistent with Party philosophy and briefings to Parliamentary Members as to technical deficiencies and possible amendments;
- (d) a forewarning system with respect to emerging problems; and
- (e) reports upon matters referred to it by any member or source deemed appropriate by the President.

H.25 The Chairman of the Policy Standing Committee and the Chairmen of the Policy Committees shall be elected annually at the National Council meeting. The By-laws must provide for nominations to be called in the notice of the meeting of National Council.

H.26 Each Policy Committee may elect from amongst its members a Deputy Chairman who shall in the absence of the Chairman exercise his or her authority.

H.27 The membership of each Policy Committee may, at the discretion of the President, include -

- (a) the State Parliamentary spokesperson responsible for Party policy in its area;
- (b) if possible at least one member of the State Parliamentary Party other than the Party spokesperson, ideally being a member of the appropriate Committee of the Parliamentary Party or Ministerial Committee;
- (c) if possible, at least one member of the Australian Parliament;
- (d) consultant members who, whilst not being members of the Party, have particular expertise in the relevant policy area which, in the opinion of the President, it is desirable to have made available to the Policy Committee.

H.28 Any such member may be a correspondent member. Each Policy Committee Chairman shall as far as possible encourage correspondent members to join his or her Committee to enable Members throughout the State to participate in the activities of the Committee.

H.29 Members of each Committee shall be appointed by its Chairman subject to By-laws established by National Council relating to Policy Committees, and to ratification of the President.

H.30 The position of a member of a Policy Committee other than a correspondent member shall become vacant if the member is absent from two consecutive meetings without leave of the Party Secretary. All positions shall become vacant at the conclusion of the National Convention.

H.31 Each Policy Committee shall communicate or meet at least once in each three month period. Should the Committee not so communicate or meet, the office of the Chairman and all members of the Committee shall be liable to be vacated upon a resolution of the President.

- H.32 A quorum for meetings shall be a majority of Policy Committee members or five, whichever is the lesser.
- H.33 Each Policy Committee Chairman shall submit a written report to the Party Secretary 45 days before the commencement of each National Convention for inclusion in the National Convention papers.
- H.34 Each such report shall be presented to and considered by the National Council meeting immediately preceding the National Convention.
- H.35 Other Committees**
- H.36 National Convention and the President may appoint Standing Committees.
- H.37 A special purpose committee may be appointed at any time by the President, or in the absence of the President, both Vice-Presidents. A special purpose committee shall report back to the person or body that appointed it.
- H.38 The officer appointing a committee shall designate one of its members as chairman of the committee.
- H.39 At a meeting of any committee which is not expressly otherwise provided for herein, a majority of its members shall be a quorum except that a quorum for Standing Committees appointed by national Council shall be a majority of the Committee.
- H.40 If at any time attendance is an issue, the President in their sole discretion can determine that a quorum is the majority of those in attendance for an important and time-dependent issue.

J PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

- J.1 There shall be a President's Committee comprising the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the Honorary Legal Advisor, to be known as the President's Committee.
- J.2 In the event of any exigency arising between meetings, the President's Committee is empowered to take such action in relation thereto as it considers to be appropriate in the interests of the Party.
- J.3 The President's Committee may meet informally but a record is to be maintained of any action taken pursuant to the powers hereby conferred.
- J.4 In the event that after reasonable efforts a member of the President's Committee cannot be consulted, a decision of the President and other members of the President's Committee will be deemed to be the decision of the President's Committee.
- J.5 A resolution signed by each member of the President's Committee or, if a member cannot reasonably be consulted and the minute contains a note to that effect, by the President and the other members, shall be as valid and effectual as a decision of a meeting of the Committee. The resolution may be in one or more paper writings, or facsimile or in the form of e-mail in which event it is afterwards to be reduced to writing for presentation to the National Council.
- J.6 Should a resolution of the President's Committee not be ratified by National Council, the resolution shall be deemed not authorised to proceed further but shall be valid up to that date.

K STATE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY

- K.1 The State Parliamentary Party shall consist of Members elected to the State Parliament as candidates endorsed by the Party and such other Members who are elected to the State Parliament as the Party shall determine.
- K.2 The State Parliamentary Party shall appoint a Leader, Deputy Leader and such other officers as it may decide and shall govern its affairs according to its own rules.
- K.3 The State Parliamentary Party shall be responsible for the implementation of the Party platform in the State sphere as far as is possible.
- K.4 The State Parliamentary Party shall consider policy decisions of State Council and State Convention forwarded to it and shall communicate its decision in respect of such decisions and the reasons therefor to the State Executive within a reasonable time of the State Parliamentary Party's receipt of the same and in any event before the next meeting of State Council or Annual State Convention.

L AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY MEMBERS

- L.1 Members elected to any Australian Parliament shall govern their affairs in accordance with the rules of the parliamentary parties of which they are respectively members in accordance with the provisions hereof.
- L.2 It shall be the responsibility of members of the Party in the Australian Parliament to implement the Party platform as far as is possible.
- L.3 The members of the Party in the Australian Parliament shall advise the President of action taken and proposed to be taken by them in respect of policy decisions of the national Council or the National Convention forwarded to them within a reasonable time of their receipt of such decisions, and in any event before the next meeting of National Council or National Convention.
- L.4 The President shall determine which Party Units shall be responsible for the conduct of the campaign in each area in which the

Party endorses a team.

M YOUNG WATCHDOG PARTY

M.1 For the purposes of this section of the Constitution and any By-laws made thereunder, the following definitions shall apply, unless the context otherwise requires -

Convention: The Convention of the Young Watchdog Party.
 Executive: The Executive of the Young Watchdog Party.
 Executive Council: The Executive Council of the Young Watchdog Party.
 Council: The Council of the Young Watchdog Party
 By-laws: The By-laws of the Young Watchdog Party as adopted in accordance with this Constitution.

M.2 There shall be a Young Watchdog Party, also known as the Young Watchdog Party, comprising, subject to clause M.10 such members below the ages of eighteen as elect to join.

M.3 There shall be a Convention of the Young Watchdog Party, which shall be the supreme body thereof. The Convention shall be held and constituted in accordance with the By-laws.

M.4 There shall be an Executive of the Young Watchdog Party which shall, subject to the rights of Council under the By-laws manage the affairs of the Young Watchdog Party of between Conventions. The Executive shall be constituted in accordance with the By-laws.

M.5 There shall be an Executive Council of the Young Watchdog Party, which shall have the rights specified in this Constitution and the By-laws. The Executive Council shall be constituted in accordance with the By-laws.

M.6 There may be a Council of the Young Watchdog Party, which shall be the supreme body thereof between Conventions. The Council shall be held and constituted in accordance with the By-laws.

M.7 There shall be By-laws of the Young Watchdog Party, which shall be approved by the Convention of the Young Watchdog Party and ratified by the President of the Party. The By-laws shall, subject to this Constitution, govern the affairs of the Young Watchdog Party. The By-laws shall provide for, amongst other things, the operation of all party units of the Young Watchdog Party including any party units thereof established under the By-laws.

M.8 The By-laws may be amended by the Convention, and such amendments shall come into effect upon ratification by the National Convention of the Party.

M.9 Subject to this Constitution, all records, property, funds and assets of any branch or unit of the Young Watchdog Party shall be the records, property, funds and assets of the Party and Young Watchdog Party, and the Executive may by resolution require any person or any body, whether corporate or unincorporated, to deliver to such person as may be nominated any records, property, funds and assets.

M.10 Convention, on the recommendation of the Executive, may by secret ballot award Honorary Life Membership of the Young Watchdog Party.

M.11 Bullying of any kind, determined at the discretion of the President, shall result in immediate dismissal from the Party.

N FINANCE AND PROPERTY

N.1 The property and assets of the Party shall be vested on behalf of the Party in three Trustees who shall be appointed annually by the President at its first meeting after each National Convention and the Trustees shall at all times deal with the same in accordance with the directions or resolutions of the President's Committee or, failing a direction or resolution of the President's Committee, then in accordance with the direction or resolution of President.

N.2 All books, records, documents, funds and property held by any Party Unit shall be deemed to be the property of the Party and under the day to day control of the President and Party Secretary on behalf of the Party and the Trustees.

N.3 No Party Unit, and to remove any doubt, nor any campaign committee, member of Parliament, Senator, member of a Local Government or candidate, shall open or maintain a bank account or any other financial facility without the written authority of the President and the Party Secretary who shall at all times ensure that the financial affairs of the Party are conducted in accordance with best practice and in accordance with –

- (a) this Constitution or By-laws made in accordance with this Constitution;
- (b) any Fundraising or Expenditure Code approved by National Council;
- (c) any funding or disclosure legislation applicable to any Member, the Party or any Party Unit;
- (d) any requirement of the Party's auditor or as recommended by the Audit Committee; and
- (e) any other applicable legislative or accounting requirement.

N.4 The President may appoint a Member as Assistant Treasurer.

N.5 There shall be a Finance Committee to undertake the work of raising funds and to attend to the financial business of the Party that shall consist of -

- (a) the Trustees;

- (b) the President;
 - (c) the Vice-Presidents;
 - (d) the Treasurer and, if an Assistant Treasurer has been appointed, the Assistant Treasurer; and
 - (e) two members elected by the National Council.
- N.6 All moneys received by the Party shall be banked as soon as possible after receipt into an account authorised by the President or Party Secretary.
- N.7 Party Units have the power to collect and administer funds within their respective areas, but, unless exempted from doing so by the President, must provide an annual audited report of their respective Party Unit to the Party Secretary not less than every three months.
- N.8 The President shall retain all funds (whether they be income or corpus) paid to the President by any Trustee for the members (or a class or classes of members) of the Party in respect of each period of 12 calendar months ending on 30 June in each year in respect of any such Trust for the members, for 12 months following such period. Any member requiring any such funds held by the President on behalf of such member to be forwarded to such member, shall during the period from 1 July to 30 June in each year give notice in writing to the President requiring that such funds received by the President in respect of the year ending on the preceding 30 June in respect of such Trust from the Trustee thereof be forwarded to such member. Any member failing to give such notice shall be deemed to have donated such funds to the Party and after the said 12 months the President shall transfer the funds so donated as aforesaid to the Treasurer of the Party for use on behalf of the Party and the receipt of the Treasurer for such funds shall be a full and sufficient discharge to the President.
- N.9 The President shall retain all funds (whether they be income or corpus) paid to him or her by any Trustee for the members or Honorary Life Members of the Party, in respect of any period other than a period of twelve months ending on 30 June in each year in respect of any Trust for the members for a period of three calendar months from the end of any such other period and the provisions of clause N.8 hereof shall otherwise, with all necessary adaptations, apply to all funds paid to the President in respect of any such other period.
- N.10 Each Party Unit shall forward to the Party Secretary as soon as practicable after 30 June in each year a financial statement of the year's transactions.
- N.11 All Party Units shall furnish to the President and the Party Secretary whenever requested such financial statements or documentation as may be required.
- N.12 At the end of each year terminating on 30 June, a statement of income and expenditure for the preceding year and a balance sheet, containing a summary of property, assets and liabilities of the Party as at that date shall be prepared and audited and presented to the President and the Audit Committee.
- N.13 National Council shall at its first meeting following a vacancy in the position of auditor appoint a person or persons, or a firm or firms, as auditors of the Party.
- N.14 A person or firm appointed as auditor will hold office until death or resignation or removal.
- N.15 President may, by resolution, remove an auditor from office provided that notice of the proposed removal is given in the notice convening the meeting and a copy of such notice is provided to the auditor not less than 21 days prior to the date of the meeting at which the proposed removal is to be discussed.
- N.16 Upon the dissolution of any Party Unit, all books, documents, money, funds, securities and other property belonging to it shall be handed over to the Party Secretary.
- N.17 All income and property of the Party shall be applied towards the objects of the Party and no distribution whether in money, property or otherwise shall be made to Members.
- N.18 All Party Units including any member of Parliament, Senator or member of a Local Government shall keep all necessary records to enable the President and the Party Secretary to accurately complete all documents and returns the Party is required to keep, maintain or lodge in accordance with the law including Queensland and Australian electoral acts or the Income Tax Assessment Act.
- N.19 The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of every Party Unit, every member of Parliament, Senator or member of a Local Government and every candidate shall keep such records as may be required by the President or the Party Secretary, or as is required by any relevant law.
- N.20 In particular, every Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of every Party Unit, and member of Parliament, Senator, member of a Local Government and candidate will keep on behalf of the Party and make available for inspection at any time by the President or the Party Secretary or their nominees -
- (a) a record of the true names and addresses of all donors to the Party whether for a purpose related to an election or otherwise; and
 - (b) a record of expenditure incurred in relation to any election (whether or not incurred during the election period) on -
 - the broadcasting, during the election period, of advertisements relating to the election;
 - the publishing in journals, during the election period, of advertisements relating to the election;
 - the display, during the election period, at theatres or other places of entertainment, of advertisements relating to the election;
 - the production of advertisements relating to the election, being advertisements that are broadcast, published or displayed as mentioned in paragraphs (i), (ii) or (iii);

- the production of any materials (not referred to in paragraphs (i), (ii) or (iii)) that are required in accordance with any law including any relevant electoral law to include the name and or address of the author or the person authorising the material used during the election period;
 - services provided during the election period, being services relating to the election;
 - material relating to the election;
 - material relating to the election that is used during the election;
 - the carrying out, during the election period of opinion polls, or other research, relating to the election; and
 - the making of a gift by any person or organisation to a Party Unit or any elected member or Senator or any candidate.
- N.21 All Party Units shall within one month of the end of each calendar year and each financial year provide the Party Secretary with details of all gifts and donations received from any source in the period of six months from the end of the period, including the name of the donor, the amount of the donation and such other information as the Party Secretary may request to facilitate compliance with electoral laws.
- N.22 (a) To ensure compliance with the law the President and the Party Secretary are empowered to direct any Member and any Party Unit to provide such information and such documents as any of them deem to be necessary to comply with this Constitution or the law.
- (b) To remove any doubt the powers vested in the President and the Party Secretary in order to ensure compliance with the law shall override any other provision of the Constitution.
- N.23 No member of Parliament, Senator, member of a Local Government or endorsed candidate shall operate, be a signatory to, nor accept the benefit for campaign purposes of any account with a financial institution other than an account operated by the Party and disclosed to and authorised by the President and the Party Secretary.
- N.24 Further, and to remove any doubt and in order to enable the Party to comply with the law including any taxation law and to enable the completion of such income tax returns and business activity statements as the law may require -
- (a) The Party and every Member shall comply with the Party's Fundraising Code and Expenditure Code as adopted and modified by the President or National Council.
 - (b) The President shall nominate a financial institution as the banker for the Party.
 - (c) All funds of the Party are to be held with such banker in the name of the Watchdog Party.
 - (d) Notwithstanding any other person or persons being purportedly authorised to operate any account containing the funds of the Party the President and the Party Secretary shall have the absolute authority to operate such accounts.
 - (e) The President and the Party Secretary shall be authorising persons for each and every account containing funds of the Party.
 - (f) All Members are to ensure that any account held otherwise than in accordance with these provisions is immediately disclosed to the President and the Party Secretary.
 - (g) All Members shall comply with any reasonable instruction of the President or the Party Secretary in respect of any account containing any funds of the Party.

O SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

Applications

- O.1 Candidates shall be endorsed where possible or desirable in the opinion of National Council and/or the President as early as practicable before an election is held.
- O.2 Except for a local government area which does not have wards or divisions, subject to clause O.33 there will be only one endorsed candidate for each State Electorate, Federal Division or local government area contested by the Party.
- O.3 With a view to affording the widest possible choice of applicants for selection, the Party may -
- (a) call for applications by public advertisement or media announcement;
 - (b) invite National members and any other Party Unit to submit names of possible applicants;
 - (c) invite individuals to submit their names; and
 - (d) take such other steps as may be considered appropriate to bring the name of any possible applicant for selection before National Council.
- O.4 Applications for endorsement as a candidate shall be accepted only from persons who are financial members of the Party.
- O.5 Excluding the Founding President, an applicant for selection must be nominated by Members in accordance with the requirements of such application form as is prescribed by the President and the applicant and the nominators must complete and sign the application form. In the case of a selection for a Federal Division, a State Electorate or a local government area the nominators must reside in the Division, Electorate or local government area.
- O.6 All applications for endorsement as a candidate shall be accompanied by an application fee in such amount as may be prescribed by the President.
- O.7 (a) If, following an invitation for applications for endorsement, an elected representative -
- (i) does not apply for endorsement as the Party's candidate for election to the position which he or she holds, and had not made it generally known for a reasonable period before the closing time for applications that he or she did not propose to apply, or
 - (ii) is disallowed from proceeding to endorsement as a result of a decision of the President under clause U.14, unless the President's Committee decides that it would not be in the interests of the Party to do so, the time for applications for the position must be extended for a period which, in the opinion of the President's Committee, is reasonable.
- (b) In this clause, an elected representative is a Member who is a member of the Australian or Queensland Parliament or of a Local

Government at the closing time for applications for endorsement for the elected representative's position.

- O.8 (a) If, without the prior approval of the President, a Member or a person who at the time is not a Member makes a statement or comment, either on or off the record, to a journalist or media organisation -
- (i) concerning an applicant or potential applicant for endorsement for a particular candidacy, or
 - (ii) in relation to the selection process for a particular candidacy,
- and subsequently applies for endorsement for that candidacy, the applicant will not be allowed to proceed to a selection except with the approval of the President or the President's Committee.
- (b) If an applicant for endorsement makes a statement or comment, either on or off the record, to a journalist or media organisation concerning -
- (i) his or her application,
 - (ii) another applicant or potential applicant for the endorsement, or
 - (iii) in relation to the selection process,
- the applicant will not be allowed to proceed to a selection except with the approval of the President or the President's Committee.
- (c) As a condition of its approval under paragraph (a) or (b) President or the President's Committee may impose such conditions as it considers appropriate in the interests of the Party, including, in the case of a selection by a Selection Committee or by National Council, a condition limiting the time to be available to the applicant under clause O.25(j) in which to address the Selection Committee or National Council and/or to take questions.
- O.9 If an applicant for endorsement is indebted to the Party on any account at the time at which he or she applies for endorsement, the application will be of no effect.

Applicant Review

- O.10 There shall be an Applicant Review Committee which shall review all applications for endorsement and conduct such inquiries into any particular applicant as it considers to be appropriate.
- O.11 (a) President and the President's Committee may appoint Members to a panel from which members of the Applicant Review Committee will be appointed.
- (b) The panel, if possible, must include two members who are resident of regional Australia.
 - (c) The President will appoint members drawn from the panel to form an Applicant Review Committee of not less than three members for an application for endorsement.
- O.12 The Applicant Review Committee must make such recommendations to the President as it considers necessary concerning any particular applicant for selection, including, in an appropriate case, a recommendation that the application not be allowed to proceed.
- O.13 The Applicant Review Committee may recommend to an applicant that his or her application for endorsement be withdrawn. If the applicant accepts the recommendation and withdraws the application, the application fee or so much of it as the Committee determines will be refunded.
- O.14 Having given the applicant an opportunity to be heard, the President may make such decision in relation to the application as it considers is in the best interests of the Party, including that the application will not be allowed to proceed.

Selection Methods

- O.15 No candidate may be selected for any location even if there are applicants.
- O.16 The selection of candidates for election to the Senate shall be made by National Council, subject to clause O.17, in such a manner as State Council may determine.
- O.17 (a) For the selection of a candidate by National Council, by a Selection Committee or by Plebiscite -
- (i) only Members who are electors may vote;
 - (ii) only Members who are eligible to vote in the ballot under the Constitution may vote;
 - (iii) each Member has only one vote;
 - (iv) voting must be exhaustive secret ballot;
 - (v) a Member must not be improperly influenced in voting;
 - (vi) a Member's ballot paper must be counted if the Member's intention is clear;
 - (vi) Members' votes must be accurately counted;
 - (vii) each applicant may be represented by another person at the ballot and for the scrutiny and counting of votes.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Constitution, a pre-selection ballot, as that term is defined any relevant Electoral Act, must satisfy the general principles of free and democratic elections, within the meaning of that Act.
- O.18 Any member of a Committee or Council who has applied for selection as a candidate shall withdraw from meetings of such Party Unit while any business affecting such selection is under consideration and shall take no part as a member of such Party Unit in arriving at any decision thereon.
- O.19 Unless National Council for special reasons allows otherwise, to be eligible to participate in a selection or plebiscite a Member -
- (a) must be over the legal age for selection, in the case of a Plebiscite, on the day on which the election will be held;
 - (b) must have been financial throughout the period of 12 months ending on the day prior to the closing date for applications; and
 - (c) must have been financial throughout the period commencing on the closing date for applications and ending -
 - in the case of a Plebiscite, on the day on which the ballot closes; or
 - in the case of a selection by State Council or a Selection Committee, the day of the selection.

- O.20 National Council shall, as far as practicable, ascertain the views of any existing Party Units and persons or bodies interested in the welfare of the Party and shall take such action to select a candidate for any Federal Division, State Electorate or local government area as it considers will best serve the interests of the Party.
- O.21 For the avoidance of doubt, a person who would otherwise be eligible to vote in a Plebiscite or Selection Committee shall not be entitled to vote if he or she is an applicant for selection in that Plebiscite or Selection Committee.
- O.22 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution no person shall be eligible to participate in a Plebiscite or Selection Committee unless they are enrolled to vote in State or Federal elections.

Selection by Plebiscite

- O.23 A Plebiscite shall be conducted by preferential postal ballot with the applicants who receive the lowest votes being eliminated in turn and their preference votes being allocated until one applicant has received an absolute majority and otherwise in accordance with this Constitution and any relevant By-laws.

Selection by Selection Committee

- O.24 (a) For a Federal Division or a State Electorate, a Selection Committee will consist of the Members residing in the Federal Division or State Electorate together with the Senior Members, provided that the Members who are resident in the Federal Division or State Electorate are in the majority.
- (b) For a local government division or ward, a Selection Committee will consist of the Members residing in the local government division or ward, together with the Senior Members provided that the Members who are resident in the local government division or ward are in the majority.
- (c) For the selection of a candidate for Lord Mayor or Mayor or for a local government that does not have divisions or wards, a Selection Committee will consist of the Members residing in the local government area, together with the Senior Members provided that the Members who are resident in the local government area, are in the majority.
- (d) If the number of non-resident Senior Members is more than is allowable under paragraph (a), (b) or (c), the members who will participate in the selection will be the President and the Vice- Presidents, if they are present, and such others as are chosen by lot.
- (e) The President will determine any issues as to residence and any other matters and all arrangements concerning the selection of the candidate by a Selection Committee.
- (f) A Selection Committee will select a candidate by secret exhaustive ballot.
- O.25 A Selection Committee must be conducted in the following manner -
- (a) The Selection Committee must be chaired by the President, a Vice-President or a Senior Member nominated by the President or, in the absence of the President, the Vice-Presidents and in the absence of the President or Vice-Presidents' nominee, an eligible selector appointed by the Party Secretary.
- (b) The Party Secretary or their nominee shall act as returning officer to ensure the selection ballot is conducted according to law.
- (c) A statement of the particulars of each applicant in a form approved by the President must be distributed to each eligible selector at the commencement of each Selection Committee.
- (d) The Selection Committee may allow an applicant not in attendance to participate in the ballot, and to address the Selection Committee for up to eight minutes by video, tape recording, telephone, letter or such other medium as the Selection Committee allows. Another person who is an eligible selector must represent such applicant.
- (e) At the commencement of the Selection Committee, the Chairman must –
- introduce each applicant for selection; and
 - ask all eligible selectors and each applicant whether they are satisfied with the constitution of the Selection Committee.
- (f) If an objection is made to the constitution of the Selection Committee the Chairman must either -
- determine the objection; or
 - allow the Selection Committee to consider the objection and to determine it; or
 - adjourn the Selection Committee and refer the objection to the Honorary Legal Advisor for advice and then to President for decision.
- (g) If an applicant does not make an objection to the constitution of the Selection Committee, that applicant shall be deemed to have waived any right he or she might otherwise have had to object to the constitution of the Selection Committee at a later time.
- (h) Following the introduction and a decision on the constitution of a Selection Committee, the applicants, except for the applicant to first address the Selection Committee, will withdraw from the room where the Selection Committee is held.
- (i) After the remaining applicants withdraw, no person shall be entitled to remain in the room where the Selection Committee is held other than -
- all eligible selectors;
 - the applicant currently addressing the Selection Committee;
 - all Members who are members of a Party Unit for which the Selection Committee is being held, but who are not otherwise eligible selectors;
 - all Members of State Council; and
 - officials employed by the Party.
- (j) Subject to clause O.8 each applicant is entitled to address the Selection Committee for up to eight minutes and is entitled to take questions for a further seven minutes.
- (k) After all applicants have addressed the Selection Committee, the Chairman or any five eligible selectors may require -
- a period of discussion providing this period is not used for lobbying or campaigning on behalf of any candidate; and/or
 - that one or more of the applicants be requested to return to the Selection Committee for such further period of questions as the Selection Committee determines.
- (l) After the conclusion of all business provided for by paragraphs (e) to (k), the Selection Committee must proceed to a ballot. The ballot shall be conducted by exhaustive secret ballot provided that if any one applicant has an absolute majority on the first or

- any subsequent count no further ballot shall be taken. If the total combined vote of any two or more applicants does not equal or exceed the vote of the next applicant for selection, those two or more applicants shall be eliminated from subsequent ballots.
- (m) Except in the case of President, instead of casting a vote for an applicant, a selector may cast a “No Candidate” vote, signifying that the selector prefers to have none of the applicants as the candidate. For paragraphs (l) and (n) the No Candidate vote will be counted as if it were a vote for another applicant, and references to applicants include No Candidate as an applicant.
 - (n) If two or more applicants receive an equal number of votes and three attempts to break the tie have failed to eliminate an applicant, the Returning Officer must write the name of each such applicant on a ballot paper and place those ballot papers into a container. The chairman of the Selection Committee will then withdraw one of the ballot papers at random, and the applicant whose name is withdrawn will be declared the winning applicant.
 - (o) At the conclusion of the balloting, the Chairman must invite all applicants to appear before the Selection Committee and announce the name of the winning applicant, or that no applicant has been chosen.
 - (p) At the conclusion of the proceedings of the Selection Committee, the Chairman must cause all copies of the statements of the applicants’ particulars and ballot papers to be held by the President who shall retain the papers in accordance with the relevant in force Electoral Act.
 - (q) No tape recording, filming or video recording of the proceedings of a Selection Committee shall be permitted without a resolution by the Selection Committee or the prior written consent of the President.
 - (r) A quorum for a Selection Committee held under this provision consists of 15 people entitled to attend and vote at the Selection Committee.
 - (s) If a quorum cannot be formed as required by this rule then the Selection Committee cannot select a candidate but may only make a recommendation to the President. President must then select the candidate by exhaustive secret ballot.
- O.26 National Council shall have the right to endorse or refuse to endorse any applicant selected by a Selection Committee, after consultation with concerned Party Units.

Complaints and Appeals

- O.27 (a) Any Member may complain to the President in writing if they believe that -
- (i) an applicant for selection; or
 - (ii) any person acting with the express or implied concurrence of such applicant for selection; or
 - (iii) an eligible selector to such selection;
- has been guilty of conduct gravely detrimental to the Party and which is calculated to affect the outcome of the selection.
- (b) Upon receipt of such document, the President shall investigate the complaint and shall report to the President the results of such investigation.
 - (c) Upon receipt of the President’s report, if the President is satisfied that there has been conduct which is gravely detrimental to the Party and which is calculated or likely to affect the outcome of the selection, by any applicant for selection, or any person acting with the express or implied concurrence of an applicant for selection, then the President shall have the power to exclude such applicant from the selection and from any other selection.
 - (d) If the applicant has already been endorsed then the President may set aside such endorsement.
 - (e) Upon receipt of the President’s report, if the President is satisfied that an eligible selector has engaged in conduct which is gravely detrimental to the Party and which is calculated or likely to affect the outcome of such selection then the President shall have the power to disqualify that selector from such selection and from any other selection.
 - (f) Prior to taking any decisions pursuant to this clause, the President shall give any Member against whom the President is considering exercising its power under this clause the right to be heard.
 - (g) The President shall not exercise any of the powers given to it pursuant to this clause, save and except by a motion carried by two thirds of those members of Senior Members present and voting.
- O.28 Any applicant may appeal to the Disputes Committee against the conduct or result of any selection proceedings on the ground of unfair treatment or grave irregularity. Such applicant shall prepare a written statement, stating concisely their ground of appeal and prior to the selection or within three days thereafter, shall send copies of such statement to the President and the Chairman of the relevant Councils concerned and such appeal shall be accompanied by an appeal lodgment fee in the sum of \$1,000.00 or such other sum as is fixed by By-law. On receipt of such statement, the Disputes Committee shall call for a report from the Relevant Council concerned and the matter shall be considered at a meeting of the Committee called for that purpose. The Disputes Committee subject to the directions of National Council may decide -
- (a) to confirm the selection; or
 - (b) to declare the selection void and to give directions for the making of a fresh selection, provided that should a fresh selection not be able to be made within a reasonable time before the nomination day, National Council shall select the applicant. In such a case the Disputes Committee may determine that part or all of the appeal lodgment fee be refunded to the appellant.
- O.29 Notice of the decision of the Disputes Committee shall be forwarded by registered mail to the appellant as soon as the matter has been finally determined and such notice shall be deemed to have been received by the person to whom it is addressed at the time when in the ordinary course of posting it would have been delivered. Nothing in this clause shall prevent the communication of the result of the appeal to the appellant or to another person by the Disputes Committee in some other manner.

Conditions of Endorsement

- O.30 All endorsements shall be subject to the conditions that -
- (a) the candidate must continue as a financial member of the Party, and that membership must not be suspended;
 - (b) the candidate will abide by the decisions of the President and the Campaign Committee in respect of the campaign;
 - (c) the candidate will abide by any decision by the President or the Party Secretary in relation to the provisions of the relevant electoral legislation;
 - (d) the candidate will sign such forms as may be required to be signed by the candidate personally pursuant to such legislation, and authorise the President and the Party Secretary to sign any other such forms which are not required to be signed by the candidate personally;
 - (e) the candidate will campaign in accordance with such financial limits as may be approved for the campaign by the

- (f) Campaign Committee or the President;
 - (g) the candidate will be personally liable for any campaign expenditure in excess of that approved; and
 - (g) the candidate will refrain from accepting any donation from any person or organisation which imposes on the candidate any guarantee or pledge and/or undertaking; and such further conditions as the President may impose either generally or in a particular case.
- O.31 Any endorsed candidate who breaches a condition of endorsement shall be liable to have that endorsement cancelled, to be expelled from the Party, and to be personally liable for any expenses incurred by any Party Unit in the promotion of the campaign for such candidate.
- O.32 The President shall determine any violation of any undertaking and take appropriate action.

Provisions applicable to all Selections

- O.33 National Council may resolve that any endorsement be cancelled or that a further candidate be endorsed if in the opinion of National Council such cancellation or further endorsement is desirable in the interests of the Party. In either case a new selection must be made in accordance with the provisions of this Part.

P MISCELLANEOUS

- P.1 The President, or in the absence of the President, a Vice-President shall preside at meetings of the National Council and National Convention.
- P.2 Any member of a Party Unit or officer of a Party Unit who is absent without leave from two consecutive meetings of the Party Unit concerned shall be liable to have such position vacated by resolution of the body concerned which shall fill such vacancy as soon as practicable thereafter.
- P.3 National Council shall be empowered to fill a vacancy in the office of President or Vice-President or in the place of another member of the Executive for which provision is not otherwise made herein. In the event of a vacancy occurring in any other office of a Party Unit such vacancy shall be filled by the Party Unit that made the original appointment.
- P.4 The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Party Secretary, Parliamentary members and the Chairmen of Councils shall be non-voting ex officio members of Party Units as follows -
- (a) Each of the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Party Secretary shall be a member of all Party Units and committees of the Party;
 - (b) A member of the House of Representatives shall be a member of the corresponding Council and of all State Electorate Councils within their Federal Division and a member of the Senate shall be a member of all Councils.
 - (c) A member of the Legislative Assembly shall be a member of the corresponding Electorate Council and of the National Council in which that electorate is situated and if situated in more than one any Relevant Councils;
 - (d) The Chairman of each Council shall be a member of each Party Unit that operates within such Federal Division or State Electorate and the Chairman of a Council shall be a member of each State Electorate Council of a State Electorate wholly or partly within such Federal Division.
- P.5 It shall be competent for -
- (a) Conferences;
 - (b) Councils;
 - (c) the Executive; and
 - (d) Committees established under a provision of the Constitution to co-opt one or more Members if they consider that it is in the best interests of the Party Unit to do so, subject to the following -
 - (i) no more than 10% of the members of a Party Unit may be co-opted members;
 - (ii) the resolution for the co-option of a Member must specify a date or event upon which the co-option will end;
 - (iii) if it does not end sooner under paragraph (ii), the co-option of a Member will end 15 months after the date of the resolution for co-option;
 - (iv) a co-opted Member will not have voting rights as a member of the Party Unit to which he or she is co-opted, but otherwise will have all the rights of a member of the Party Unit including to hold office and to be a delegate or representative of the Party Unit; and
 - (v) a co-opted Member who is a delegate or representative of the Party Unit or who holds an ex officio appointment in consequence of an office held in the Party Unit, will have all the rights (including voting rights) of a delegate or representative or attaching to the appointed office.
- P.6 A Standing Committee shall report back to the body that appointed it except where that body determines that the report be made elsewhere. A Standing Committee may also report to a body other than the one that appointed it unless that body shall otherwise determine. The chairman of a Standing Committee shall be a member of National Council unless the body appointing the Committee otherwise determines.
- P.7 The expenses of any Member attending a meeting of any Party Unit shall be the responsibility of such Member unless the Member attends such meeting in a representative capacity and the Party Unit represented determines to contribute to such expenses, in which case only that Party Unit will be responsible for such expenses but only to the extent so determined.
- P.8 Any person who incurs expenses without authority from a Party Unit empowered to give such authority shall be liable for such expenditure.
- P.9 The Trustees, members of the Executive and other officers for the time being of the Party acting in relation to any of the affairs

of the Party and every one of them and every one of their heirs, executors and administrators are hereby indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds and the profits of the Party from and against all actions, costs, charges, losses, damages and expenses, which they or any of them, or any of their heirs, executors and administrators shall or may incur or sustain by or by reason of any act done, concurred in, or omitted in or about the execution of their duty or supposed duty in their respective offices, except such (if any) as they shall incur and sustain by or through their own willful neglect or wilful default and none of them shall be answerable for the acts or defaults of the other or others of them or for joining in any receipt for the sake of conformity, or for the default of any bankers or other persons with whom any moneys or effects belonging to the Party shall or may be lodged or deposited for safe custody or for the insufficiency or deficiency of any security upon which any moneys of or belonging to the Party shall be placed or invested, or for any other loss, misfortune or damage which may happen in the execution of their respective offices or trusts or in relation thereto except where the same shall happen by or through their own wilful neglect or wilful default respectively.

- P.10 The National Chairman, President or the Vice-Presidents may convene such meetings of members or representatives of Party Units, Councils or Electorate Councils or any combination of the foregoing as necessary to transact such business as the convenor thinks fit.
- P.11 In the event of a redistribution of Federal Divisions or State Electorates, National Council shall -
- (a) fix a date after which this Constitution shall have effect on the basis of the altered Federal Divisions or State Electorates;
 - (b) determine which Party Units are to continue in existence in relation to the altered Federal Divisions or State Electorates, and which are to be dissolved; and
 - (c) apply the funds and property of any dissolved Party Unit amongst new or continuing Party Units in such manner as it deems appropriate;
- and this Constitution shall have effect in the manner provided by such determination.
- P.12 No communication within the Party or otherwise may be made in the name of a Party Unit unless authorised by a properly constituted meeting of the Party Unit, provided always that the President may make such communications as he or she may deem necessary on behalf of the Party.
- P.13 Public statements on behalf of the Party may be made only by the President. No Member shall make any statement or comment, either on or off the record, to any journalist or media organisation about the affairs of the Party without the prior approval of the President.
- P.14 Where this Constitution or the By-laws provide for the giving of Notice to Members of any meeting -
- (a) The Notice shall be in writing and shall include the time and place of the meeting.
 - (b) The Notice may be given -
 - (i) by hand;
 - (ii) by post;
 - (iii) where the Member has recorded a facsimile number with the Party, by facsimile transmission; or
 - (iv) where the Member has recorded an e-mail address with the Party, by e-mail transmission.
 - (c) Party Units shall ensure that any time requirement for the giving of such Notice is complied with.
 - (d) Any failure to comply with any time requirement for the giving of such Notice shall not of itself invalidate any act or resolution of a Party Unit.
- P.15 The powers of Council or the President to fix any times for the doing of any act or delivery of any notice or document under this Constitution shall be deemed to include a power to fix or delimit any time on any such day for that purpose.
- P.16 There shall be not less than 20 days Notice of any annual General Meeting of Party Units and not less than 7 days Notice of any other major meeting, or, if a meeting is to be held via digital means, not less than 2 days notice.
- P.17 Notice of any annual General Meeting shall provide for -
- (a) nominations in writing for any position provided for in this Constitution to be elected at such meeting;
 - (b) a closing date for such written nomination to be not less than seven days before the date set for the holding of such meeting; and
 - (c) nominations for positions made returnable to the Party Secretary.
- P.18 Where there is only one nominee for any such position the Party Secretary shall declare such nominee duly elected.
- P.19 Where there is more than one nominee for any such position a ballot shall be held at the meeting.
- P.20 Only where there are no nominees for any such position will it be permissible for nominations from the floor to be called at any such meeting.
- P.21 Other than for the selection of candidates which is covered in this Constitution, ballots required under this Constitution shall be conducted by secret, mandatory preferential voting.
- P.22 Notice of any annual meeting shall be given to all members of such Party Unit entitled to attend the meeting.
- P.23 The President or the President's Committee may cancel or postpone a meeting of a Party Unit if it considers it would be in the best interests of the Party to do so, provided such cancellation or postponement will not prevent the Party Unit from electing delegates.
- P.24 The President shall, subject to direction or ratification by National Council, determine all questions relating to the meaning and

effect of the Constitution and this determination shall be in effect until National Council confirms or rejects it.

- P.25 Where a redistribution occurs and the Party already has a member of Parliament, or has endorsed a candidate for an electorate which is wholly or partly within a new or altered Electorate, the President may declare the member of Parliament or the endorsed candidate to be the member of Parliament or the endorsed candidate for the new or altered electorate. If there are a number of such members of Parliament or endorsed candidates the President may declare which of them is to be the appropriate member or endorsed candidate.
- P.26 There may be admitted to affiliation with the Party such kindred organisations as National Council shall admit on terms and subject to such conditions as National Council shall determine.
- P.27 The President, as custodian of the constitution, has the ability to veto any council decision believed to be in conflict with this Constitution.
- P.28 The President, in the need to efficiently run the party, may establish any By-laws that must then be ratified at the next National Council.
- P.29 (a) If in the opinion of President or the President's Committee any relevant circumstances are such that it would be in the best interests of the Party for it to do so National Council or the President's Committee may take a decision affecting a Member, including a decision to suspend the membership of the Member, or to restrict the Member's rights as a Member, without first giving the Member an opportunity to be heard.
 (b) If National Council, the President or the President's Committee exercises a power under paragraph (a), it must ensure that the Member is given an opportunity to be heard as soon as it is reasonably practicable to do so.
 (c) For paragraph (b), it will not be necessary for a meeting of National Council, the President or the President's Committee to be convened at a date earlier than it otherwise would have been convened if, in the opinion of the President's Committee, it would not be in the best interests of the Party to do so.
- P.30 The Party shall employ a Party Secretary, and may employ any Deputy, as salaried officers of the Party engaged on such terms as may be approved by the President's Committee.
- P.31 The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Party and will be responsible to the President's Committee for the proper and efficient administration of the Party. With the approval of the President's Committee the President may delegate powers and functions to a Deputy and or to the Party Secretary either absolutely or on such terms as may be specified in the delegation.
- P.32 The Party Secretary shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Party and is responsible to the President for the proper and efficient administration of the Party.
- P.33 Members of Executive and the President's Committee may participate in meetings of by contemporaneous linking together in oral communication by telephone or other electronic means and where there is to be a vote on any motion by secret ballot shall be entitled to cast their vote by nominating a person present or the President as an amanuensis.
- P.34 No alteration or amendment of this Constitution shall be made except in the following manner -
 (a) a proposal for an amendment or alteration must be given in writing signed by the mover and must be in the hands of the Party Secretary at least 50 days before the date of the meeting at which it is first considered;
 (b) subject to clause P.34, no constitutional amendment shall be considered at any National Convention other than the convention to be held in 2025 and the conventions held every five years thereafter; and
 (c) the proposed alteration or amendment shall be carried only when and if the votes recorded in its favour total two thirds or more of the votes cast on the question.
- P.35 If National Council resolves by not less than a three fourths majority that a National Convention may consider a proposed amendment identified in the resolution, that convention may do so.
- P.36 Senior Members will be only appointed by the President, and hence forth will be life members with no possibility of demotion from Senior Member other than by direction of the Disputes Council, or legal necessity as defined by party membership and the relevant Electoral Act.

END OF CONSTITUTION