

**CONSTITUTION OF  
FRIENDS OF THE WESTERN GROUND PARROT INC.  
An Incorporated Association**

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# Friends of the Western Ground Parrot Inc.

## An incorporated association

### 1. Name of Association

The name of the Association is Friends of the Western Ground Parrot Inc.

### 2. Definitions and interpretation

#### 2.1 Definitions

The following definitions apply in this Constitution unless the context requires otherwise:

**Act** means the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015* (WA) and any regulations made under that statute;

**Annual General Meeting** means the annual general meeting of the Association convened under clause 8.1;

**Association** means Friends of the Western Ground Parrot Inc;

**Business Day** means a day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, public holiday or bank holiday in Perth, Western Australia;

**Chairperson** means the person elected or appointed to the office of chairperson of the Association from time to time, subject to clause 12.2(d);

**Commissioner** means the person designated as the Commissioner from time to time under section 153 of the Act;

**Committee** means the management Committee referred to in clause 11.1;

**Committee Member** means a person elected or appointed to the Committee from time to time;

**Committee Register** means the register maintained in accordance with section 58 of the Act and referred to in clause 13.5;

**Constitution** means this constitution as amended, supplemented or replaced from time to time;

**convene** means to call together for a formal meeting;

**Financial Records** includes:

(1.a) invoices, receipts, orders for the payment of money, bills of exchange, cheques, promissory notes and vouchers;

(1.b) documents of prime entry; and

(1.c) working papers and other documents needed to explain:

(1.c.i) the methods by which financial statements are prepared; and

(1.c.ii) adjustments to be made in preparing financial statements;

**Financial Report** means a financial report of a tier 2 association or tier 3 association prepared in accordance with Part 5 of the Act and which consists of:

(1.a) the Financial Statements for the relevant Financial Year;

(1.d) the notes to the Financial Statements; and

(1.e) the Committee's declaration about the Financial Statements and notes;

**Financial Statements** means financial statements prepared in accordance with Division 3 of the Act;

**Financial Year** has the meaning given in clause 18.5;

**General Meeting** means a general meeting of the Members of which all Members are entitled to receive notice and attend;

**Member** means a member of the Association entered in the Register;

**Membership Fee** has the meaning given in clause 5.6(a);

**Objects** means the objects of the Association as set out in clause 3.1;

**Officer** has the meaning given in section 3 of the Act;

**Ordinary Resolution** means a resolution of the Association other than a Special Resolution;

**Organisational Member** means a Member described in clause 5.3(b);

**Poll** means voting conducted in written form (as opposed to a show of hands);

**Present** means, in connection with a meeting, a Member being present in person or by proxy, attorney or Representative, and includes being present at a different venue from the venue at which other Members are participating in the same meeting, providing the pre-requisites for a valid meeting at different venues are observed;

**Register** means the register of Members of the Association maintained in accordance with section 53 of the Act and referred to in clause 7.1;

**Representative** means a natural person representing an Organisation Member in accordance with clause 5.7;

**Secretary** means the person elected or appointed to the office of secretary of the Association from time to time;

**Special Resolution** means a resolution passed by the Association at a General Meeting in accordance with section 51 of the Act, by the votes of not less than three-fourths of the Members who validly cast a vote at the General Meeting;

**Tax Act** means the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth);

**Term** has the meaning given in clause 13.2;

**Tier 1 association** means an incorporated association to which section 64(1) of the Act applies;

**Tier 2 association** means an incorporated association to which section 64(2) of the Act applies; and

**Tier 3 association** means an incorporated association to which section 64(3) of the Act applies.

## 2.2 Interpretation

In this Constitution, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (2.a) the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
- (2.b) the headings are used for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this Constitution;
- (2.c) other grammatical forms of defined words or expressions have corresponding meanings;

- (2.d) a reference to a document includes the document as modified from time to time and any document replacing it;
- (2.e) if something is to be or may be done on a day that is not a Business Day then it must be done on the next Business Day;
- (2.f) the word "person" includes a natural person, partnership, body corporate, association, governmental or local authority, agency and any other body or entity whether incorporated or not;
- (2.g) the word "month" means calendar month and the word "year" means 12 months;
- (2.h) the words "written" or "in writing" include any communication sent by letter, facsimile transmission or email or any other form of communication capable of being read by the recipient;
- (2.i) a reference to all or any part of a statute, rule, regulation or ordinance (**statute**) includes that statute as amended, consolidated, re-enacted or replaced from time to time;
- (2.j) a reference to any agency or body, if that agency or body ceases to exist or is reconstituted, renamed or replaced or has its powers or functions removed (**defunct body**), means the agency or body that performs most closely the functions of the defunct body; and
- (2.k) any expression in a provision of this Constitution that relates to a particular provision of the Act has the same meaning as in that provision of the Act.

### **2.3 Compliance with the Act**

This Constitution is subject to the Act, which overrides any clause in this Constitution that is inconsistent or not permitted by the Act.

### **2.4 Transitional**

Everything done under this Constitution continues to have the same operation and effect after the adoption of any successor Constitution as if properly done under that Constitution.

## **3. Objects and powers of the Association**

### **3.1 Objects**

The objects of the Association are:

- (1.a) to raise awareness about the Western Ground Parrot
- (1.b) to assist with the recovery of the species to a sustainable population level in collaboration with the South Coast Threatened Bird Recovery Team
- (1.c) The association maintains a public fund called "Western Ground Parrot Rescue Fund" to seek funds from the public for the specific purpose of supporting the environmental objectives of the association.

### **3.2 Powers**

The Association has all the powers of an incorporated association under the Act. The Association may only use its powers to do:

- (2.a) anything which it considers will advance or achieve the Objects; and
- (2.b) all other things that are incidental to carrying out the Objects.

## **4. Not for profit**

- (1.a) All property and income of the Association must be applied solely towards promoting the Objects, and no part of the Association's property or income may be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly to any Member, except in good faith in promoting the Objects.
- (1.b) A payment may be made (directly or indirectly) to a Member out of the funds of the Association only if it is authorised under clause (1.b) 4(c).
- (1.c) A payment to a Member out of the funds of the Association is authorised if it is:
  - (1.c.i) a payment in good faith to that Member of reasonable remuneration for services provided to the Association; or reasonable compensation for goods supplied to the Association in the ordinary course of business;
  - (1.c.ii) payment on an indemnity or insurance policy in favour of any Member against any losses, liabilities, damages, costs, charges or expenses incurred by the Member in providing paid or unpaid services to the Association;
  - (1.c.iii) the payment of interest on money borrowed from a Member by the Association, at a rate not exceeding the cash rate published from time to time by the Reserve Bank of Australia;
  - (1.c.iv) the payment of reasonable rent to the Member for any premises leased by the Member to the Association; or
  - (1.c.v) the reimbursement of reasonable expenses properly incurred by a Member on behalf of the Association.

## **5. Membership of the Association**

### **5.1 Number of Members**

- (1.a) The minimum number of Members of the Association is 10.
- (1.b) The maximum number of Members of the Association is at the discretion of the Committee.

### **5.2 Membership classes**

- (2.a) The membership of the Association will consist of:
  - (2.a.i) ordinary Members, who are natural persons; and
  - (2.a.ii) Organisational Members, who are organisations or bodies corporate; and
  - (2.a.iii) any other classes of Members as may be established by the Committee from time to time in accordance with clause 5.2(b).
- (2.b) Subject to the Act and without derogating from the rights of existing Members, the Committee may at any time create additional classes of membership of the Association and determine the eligibility criteria, rights, obligations, restrictions and any nomination procedure attaching to those other classes of membership.

### **5.3 Membership rights**

- (3.a) Ordinary Members

An ordinary Member has all the rights provided to Members under this Constitution, including (but not limited to) the right to:

- (3.a.i) receive notices from the Association;

(3.a.ii) attend, request the convening of and vote at all General Meetings of the Association; and

(3.a.iii) be elected to the Committee and any sub-Committees of the Association.

(3.b) Organisational Members

(3.b.i) Subject to clause 5.2(b)(ii), an Organisational Member has all the rights provided to Members under this Constitution, including (but not limited to) the right to:

(3.b.i.A) receive notices from the Association; and

(3.b.i.B) attend, request the convening of and vote at all General Meetings of the Association.

(3.b.ii) The Representative of an Organisational Member is eligible for election or appointment to the Committee.

#### **5.4 Eligibility for membership**

(4.a) Any natural person who:

(4.a.i) supports the Objects;

(4.a.ii) complies with any additional eligibility criteria set by the Committee from time to time; and

(4.a.iii) who is nominated in writing by one Member and seconded by another Member

is eligible to apply for membership as an ordinary Member.

(4.b) An organisation or body corporate who, in the opinion of the Committee, will contribute to the Objects is eligible to apply for membership as an Organisational Member.

#### **5.5 Applying for membership**

(5.a) Every application for membership of the Association must be:

(5.a.i) in a written form approved by the Committee for that purpose and signed by the applicant

(5.a.ii) submitted to the Secretary or in any other way approved by the Committee and

(5.a.iii) accompanied by payment of the Membership Fee.

(5.b) The Committee will consider membership applications and in its absolute discretion may approve or reject an application, without giving reasons. The Committee may require the applicant to supply evidence of eligibility for membership.

(5.c) The Secretary must inform applicants of the outcome of their application within a reasonable period.

(5.d) If the Committee approves the membership application, the Secretary must notify the applicant and within 28 days after the person becomes a Member, enter the Member's name in the Register.

(5.e) An applicant whose membership application has been approved will not become a Member until the Association has:

(5.e.i) received payment of any required Membership Fee; and

(5.e.ii) the applicant's details are entered in the Register in accordance with clause 7.1.

## **5.6 Membership Fees**

- (6.a) Membership Fees may consist of any fees determined by the Committee from time to time for each class of membership, including (but not limited to) annual, half-yearly or quarterly membership fees.
- (6.b) The Committee may:
  - (6.b.i) set different Membership Fees for different Members, including (without limitation) reduced fees for Members who are students, pensioners, or otherwise financially disadvantaged; and
  - (6.b.ii) in its absolute discretion may waive all or part of a Membership Fee payable by any Member.
- (6.c) Membership Fees are payable in advance by the date directed by the Committee from time to time.
- (6.d) If any amount owing under this clause 5.6 remains unpaid for a period of 3 months after it falls due, the Secretary will send a notice to the Member requiring payment of the outstanding amount within 30 days of the date of the notice.
- (6.e) If the amount is not paid within this 30 day period then the Member will at the end of the period automatically and without further notice cease to be a Member.
- (6.f) The Committee may, in its absolute discretion, reinstate the Member on payment of all arrears of amounts owing.

## **5.7 Representatives of Organisational Members**

- (7.a) An Organisational Member may by duly executed instrument appoint a natural person (who need not be a Member) to act as its Representative at General Meetings in all matters, subject to the Act and subject to any restrictions on the Representative's powers imposed by the Member. The instrument or a certified copy of it must be lodged with the Committee.
- (7.b) Subject to this Constitution, a Representative is entitled to:
  - (7.b.i) exercise at a General Meeting all the powers which its appointing Member could exercise if it were a natural person; and
  - (7.b.ii) be counted towards a quorum at any General Meeting on the basis that the Member will be deemed Present at a General Meeting by its Representative.
- (7.c) Where:
  - (7.c.i) a Representative's appointment has been revoked; and
  - (7.c.ii) the Secretary has not received written notice of the revocation prior to a General Meeting,any vote given at the relevant meeting in accordance with the terms of instrument appointing the Representative is valid.
- (7.d) If written notice of the appointment of a Representative has not been received in accordance with clause 5.7(a), the Chairperson of a General Meeting may allow a Representative to attend the meeting and vote on condition that they establish their status as a Representative to the satisfaction of the Chairperson of the General Meeting.

## 5.8 Liability of Members

- (8.a) The liability of Members is limited to payment of their applicable Membership Fees in accordance with clause 5.6.
- (8.b) A Member is not liable, by reason of their membership, for the liabilities of the Association or the cost of winding up the Association.

## 5.9 No transfer of membership

A right, privilege or obligation of a person by reason of their membership:

- (9.a) is not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another person; and
- (9.b) terminates upon the cessation of membership.

## 6. Ceasing to be a Member

### 6.1 When a Member ceases to be a Member

A Member will cease to be a Member:

- (1.a) if the Member resigns by notice in writing to the Secretary, on the date that the notice is received by the Secretary, or any later date specified in the notice;
- (1.b) if their membership is revoked in accordance with clauses 5.6(d) or 6.2;
- (1.c) where the Member is an individual, if the Member dies; or
- (1.d) where the Member is an organisation, if it is wound up, dissolved, deregistered or otherwise ceases to be an organisation.

### 6.2 Revocation of membership

- (2.a) Subject to this clause 6.2, the Committee may at a Committee meeting resolve to revoke a Member's membership if in its opinion:
  - (2.a.i) the Member's status or conduct is detrimental to the interests of the Association, including (without limitation) if the Member has brought the Association into disrepute;
  - (2.a.ii) the Member has failed to comply with this Constitution or any by-laws of the Association; or
  - (2.a.iii) the Member no longer meets the applicable criteria for membership in clause 5.4.
- (2.b) At least 30 days before the Committee meeting referred to in clause 6.2(a) (**Revocation Meeting**), the Secretary must give written notice to the Member:
  - (2.b.i) of the proposed revocation of membership and the reasons for that proposed revocation;
  - (2.b.ii) of the date, time and place of the Revocation Meeting;
  - (2.b.iii) informing the Member that the Member or the Member's Representative (if applicable) may attend the Revocation Meeting and will be given a full and fair opportunity to make oral and written submissions to the Committee.
- (2.c) At the Revocation Meeting, the Committee must:
  - (2.c.i) give the Member or its Representative a full and fair opportunity to make oral submissions and must give reasonable consideration to any written submissions; and

(2.c.ii) determine whether the Member's membership should be revoked.

### **6.3 Consequences of ceasing to be a Member**

(3.a) Any person ceasing to be a Member:

(3.a.i) will have its name removed from the Register;

(3.a.ii) is not entitled to any refund (or part refund) of any Membership Fee paid, unless the Committee resolves otherwise; and

(3.a.iii) will remain liable for and must pay to the Association all fees and any other amounts which were due to the Association at the date they cease to be a Member.

(3.b) The Secretary must keep a record, for at least 1 year after a person ceases to be a Member, of:

(3.b.i) the date on which the person ceased to be a Member; and

(3.b.ii) the reason why the person ceased to be a Member.

## **7. Register of Members**

### **7.1 Maintaining the Register of Members**

(1.a) The Secretary (or any other person authorised by the Committee) must keep and maintain a Register at the Association's premises or any other suitable place in accordance with section 53 of the Act, containing:

(1.a.i) the name and residential, postal or email address of each Member;

(1.a.ii) the class of membership of each Member (if applicable);

(1.a.iii) the date on which each Member's name was entered into the Register; and

(1.a.iv) the name and date of appointment of each Representative.

(1.b) Any change in the membership of the Association must be recorded in the Register within 28 days.

### **7.2 Inspecting and copying the Register**

(2.a) The Register is available for inspection free of charge by any current Member upon written request to the Secretary.

(2.b) A Member may make a copy of entries in the Register.

(2.c) A Member may apply in writing to the Committee for a copy of the Register. The Committee may in its discretion require the Member to provide a statutory declaration setting out the purpose of the request and declaring that the purpose is connected with the affairs of the Association.

(2.d) The Committee in its discretion may charge a reasonable fee for providing a copy of the Register.

(2.e) A Member must not use or disclose any information in the Register for any purpose other than a purpose that:

(2.e.i) is directly connected with the affairs of the Association; or

(2.e.ii) relates to the administration of the Act.

## **8. General meetings**

### **8.1 Annual General Meetings**

- (1.a) The Association must hold an Annual General Meeting once in each calendar year and no later than 6 months after the end of each Financial Year, except where the Commissioner has allowed for a longer period under the Act.
- (1.b) The Committee must determine the place, date and time of the Annual General Meeting.

### **8.2 Business at Annual General Meeting**

Even if these items are not set out in the notice of meeting, the business of an Annual General Meeting may include:

- (2.a) reviewing the Association's activities and finances since the last preceding Annual General Meeting;
- (2.b) confirming the minutes of the last preceding Annual General Meeting and of any other General Meeting held since the last preceding Annual General Meeting;
- (2.c) receiving and considering:
  - (2.c.i) the Committee's annual report on the Association's activities during the preceding Financial Year;
  - (2.c.ii) if the Association is a tier 1 association, the Financial Statements of the Association for the preceding Financial Year presented under Part 5 of the Act;
  - (2.c.iii) if the Association is a tier 2 association or a tier 3 association, the Financial Report of the Association for the preceding Financial Year presented under Part 5 of the Act; and
  - (2.c.iv) if required to be presented for consideration under Part 5 of the Act, a copy of the review report or the auditor's report on the Financial Statements or Financial Report (as applicable);
- (2.d) electing Committee Members;
- (2.e) (where relevant) appointing an auditor or reviewer and fixing their remuneration; and
- (2.f) transacting any other business which under this Constitution or the Act may properly be brought before the meeting.

### **8.3 Special General Meetings**

- (3.a) The Committee may at any time convene a General Meeting of the Members, or of any class of Members.
- (3.b) The Committee must convene a General Meeting of Members if it receives a request to do so and the following requirements are met:
  - (3.b.i) the request is made by Members with at least 20% of the votes that may be cast at a General Meeting;
  - (3.b.ii) the request is in writing, signed by all the Members making the request, and states the business to be conducted at the General Meeting; and
  - (3.b.iii) the request is lodged with the Secretary, or the Chairperson in the absence of the Secretary.
- (3.c) On receipt of a request from Members under clause 6.3(b), the Committee must:

(3.c.i) give all Members 21 days' notice of the General Meeting;

(3.c.ii) hold the General Meeting within 2 months of the date of the request.

(3.d) Subject to the Act, the Committee may cancel or postpone any General Meeting or change its venue by giving notice to all persons to whom the notice of the original meeting was given, but may not cancel a General Meeting which was called or requested by Members, without the prior written consent of those Members.

#### **8.4 Failure of Committee to hold a General Meeting requested by Members**

(4.a) If the Committee fails to convene a General Meeting within the time period specified in clause 8.3(c), the Members who made the request may call and arrange to hold a General Meeting.

(4.b) A General Meeting called under clause 8.4(a) must be held within 3 months after the date of the original request under clause 8.3(b) and may only consider the business stated in the original request.

(4.c) As far as reasonably practicable, a General Meeting under this clause 8.4 must be called and held in the same way in which General Meetings of the Association are called.

(4.d) The Association must bear the reasonable expenses of calling and holding a General Meeting under this clause 8.4.

#### **8.5 Notice of General Meetings**

(5.a) Notice of every General Meeting must be given in the manner authorised by clause 17.1 to every Member and Committee Member; and to any reviewer or auditor of the Association.

(5.b) No other person is entitled to receive notice of a General Meeting, except any person authorised by the Committee.

(5.c) Notice of General Meetings (including Annual General Meetings) must be provided to Members at least 21 days before any General Meeting.

#### **8.6 Content of notice of General Meetings**

The notice of General Meeting must:

(6.a) specify the place, date and time for the General Meeting (and, if the meeting is to be held in two or more places in accordance with clause 8.8, the technology that will be used to facilitate this);

(6.b) state the general nature of the business to be transacted at the General Meeting;

(6.c) if a Special Resolution is to be proposed at the General Meeting, set out an intention to propose the Special Resolution and state the resolution; and

(6.d) contain a statement of each Member's right to appoint a natural person (who is also a Member) as their proxy.

#### **8.7 Failure to give notice**

Any resolution passed at a General Meeting is not invalidated by:

(7.a) the accidental omission to give notice of a General Meeting to any Member or non-receipt of that notice by a Member; or

(7.b) the accidental omission to send out the instrument of proxy to a person entitled to receive notice or non-receipt of that instrument by a Member.

## **8.8 Use of technology**

- (8.a) The Association may hold a General Meeting (including an Annual General Meeting) at 2 or more venues using any technology that gives Members a reasonable opportunity to participate, provided that arrangements are made at each venue for the recording of all votes cast.
- (8.b) The General Meeting is taken to be held where the Chairperson of the General Meeting conducts the General Meeting. All proceedings conducted in accordance with this clause 8.8 are as valid as if conducted at a single gathering of a quorum of those entitled to be Present.

## **8.9 Quorum**

- (9.a) No business may be transacted at a General Meeting unless a quorum of Members is Present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business.
- (9.b) Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, a quorum constitutes 5 Members Present and eligible to vote at the General Meeting.

## **8.10 If a quorum not Present**

If a quorum is not Present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the General Meeting in the notice:

- (10.a) where the meeting is convened on the requisition of Members, the meeting must be automatically dissolved; or
- (10.b) in any other case:
  - (10.b.i) the meeting stands adjourned to a day and at a time and place as the Committee decides or, if no decision is made by the Committee, to the same day in the next week at the same time and place; and
  - (10.b.ii) if no quorum is Present at the resumed meeting within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, provided at least 2 Members eligible to vote are Present at the resumed meeting, they will be taken to constitute a quorum.

## **8.11 Adjournments**

- (11.a) The Chairperson may, and must if directed to do so by the General Meeting, adjourn a General Meeting from time to time and from place to place.
- (11.b) Only business left unfinished at a meeting which was adjourned may be transacted at a meeting resumed after an adjournment.
- (11.c) A resolution passed at a meeting resumed after an adjournment is passed on the day it was in fact passed.
- (11.d) When a meeting is adjourned for 30 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given as in the case of the original meeting. In all other cases it is not necessary to give notice of the adjourned meeting.

## **9. Voting at General Meetings**

### **9.1 Voting rights**

- (1.a) At General Meetings each Member entitled to attend and vote in accordance with this Constitution:
  - (1.a.i) has one vote on each resolution; and
  - (1.a.ii) may attend and vote in person or by proxy, or attorney and (for Organisational Members) by Representative.

- (1.b) A Member may appoint a natural person who is also a Member as their proxy to attend and vote at General Meetings on behalf of the Member.

## **9.2 Members' resolutions**

- (2.a) A resolution put to the vote at a General Meeting must be decided by a majority of votes cast by the Members Present at the General Meeting, except where it is required by this Constitution or otherwise by law that the resolution be a Special Resolution.
- (2.b) A resolution put to the vote at a General Meeting must be decided in the manner determined by the Chairperson, which may be on a show of hands or a Poll.
- (2.c) Any 3 Members Present at a General Meeting may demand a Poll.
- (2.d) A Poll is to be taken in the manner and at the time the Chairperson directs, except that any Poll demanded on the election of a Chairperson or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately. The Chairperson may determine the method of recording votes cast, including proxy votes, in any written form, which may be a written record of votes cast. Individual voting papers are not mandatory to record votes cast on a Poll.
- (2.e) Before a vote is taken, the Chairperson must inform the General Meeting whether any proxy votes have been received and how the proxy votes are to be cast on the resolution.
- (2.f) In the case of an equality of votes on a show of hands or on a Poll, the Chairperson of the relevant General Meeting has a casting vote in addition to the Chairperson's deliberative vote (if any).
- (2.g) A declaration by the Chairperson that a resolution has on a show of hands or on a Poll been carried or lost and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting is conclusive evidence of that fact. Neither the Chairperson nor the minutes of the meeting need to state the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour or against the resolution.

## **9.3 Objection to qualification to vote**

- (3.a) An objection to a person's right to vote at a General Meeting:
  - (3.a.i) may only be raised at the General Meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered; and
  - (3.a.ii) must be determined by the Chairman of the meeting, whose decision is final.
- (3.b) A vote allowed after an objection is valid for all purposes.

## **9.4 Direct voting**

- (4.a) The Committee may determine that, at any General Meeting or class meeting, a Member who is entitled to attend and vote on a resolution at that meeting is entitled to vote by direct vote in respect of that resolution. A direct vote includes a vote delivered to the Association by post or any other means approved by the Committee, subject to compliance with the Act.
- (4.b) Where clause 9.4(a) applies, the notice of meeting must indicate that direct voting is available at the relevant meeting or on particular resolutions.
- (4.c) The Committee may prescribe procedures in relation to direct voting, including (without limitation):
  - (4.c.i) specifying the form, method and timing of casting a direct vote at a meeting for the vote to be valid; and

(4.c.ii) the circumstances in which a direct vote may be withdrawn by the Member or deemed withdrawn.

## 9.5 Votes counted in error

If any vote is counted which ought not to have been counted or might have been rejected, the error will not invalidate the resolution unless the error is:

- (5.a) detected at the same General Meeting; and
- (5.b) of sufficient magnitude, in the opinion of the Chairperson, as to invalidate the resolution.

## 10. Minutes

- (1.a) The Committee must cause minutes to be made of:
  - (1.a.i) proceedings and resolutions of General Meetings of the Members and resolutions passed by Members without a meeting;
  - (1.a.ii) all appointments of Committee Members; and
  - (1.a.iii) proceedings and resolutions of Committee meetings and resolutions passed by the Committee without a meeting,and retain the minutes in a minute book.
- (1.b) The Association must ensure that minutes are signed within a reasonable time after the date of the meeting or of the resolution being passed by:
  - (1.b.i) the Chairperson of the meeting;
  - (1.b.ii) the Chairperson of the next meeting; or
  - (1.b.iii) in the case of a resolution without a meeting, a Committee Member.
- (1.c) In the absence of evidence to the contrary, contents of the minute book that is recorded and signed in accordance with this clause is evidence of the matters shown in the minute.

## 11. Committee

### 11.1 The Committee

- (1.a) The affairs of the Association will be managed by a management Committee (**Committee**) consisting of up to 8 Committee Members, with the Committee responsible for determining the appropriate number of Committee Members (up to the maximum) from time to time:
- (1.b) Following each Annual General Meeting, the Committee will determine which Committee Members will hold the following offices on the Committee, with any remaining Committee Members to be ordinary Committee Members:
  - (1.b.i) a Chairperson
  - (1.b.ii) a Secretary;
  - (1.b.iii) a Treasurer; and
  - (1.b.iv) any other office holders designated by the Committee from time to time.

## **11.2 Powers of the Committee**

- (2.a) The Committee is responsible for managing the business of the Association and may exercise all powers of the Association which are not required by the Act or this Constitution to be exercised by the Association in a General Meeting.
- (2.b) Without limiting the generality of clause 11.2(a), the Committee may exercise all the powers of the Association to:
  - (2.b.i) acquire, hold, deal with, and dispose of any real or personal property;
  - (2.b.ii) open and operate bank accounts;
  - (2.b.iii) borrow money on terms and conditions as the Committee thinks fit;
  - (2.b.iv) invest money not immediately required for the Objects as the Committee thinks fit;
  - (2.b.v) grant security for the discharge of liabilities and obligations of the Association;
  - (2.b.vi) appoint agents to transact business on behalf of the Association; and
  - (2.b.vii) enter into any contract or arrangement.

## **11.3 Sub-Committees**

- (3.a) The Committee may create sub-Committees as it sees fit, consisting of such Members, Committee Members or other persons who are not Members as the Committee thinks fit.
- (3.b) The Committee may delegate to any sub-Committee the exercise of such functions of the Committee as are specified in the delegation other than:
  - (3.b.i) the power of delegation; and
  - (3.b.ii) a function which is a duty imposed on the Committee by the Act or any other law.
- (3.c) A sub-Committee must exercise the powers granted to it in accordance with any direction of the Committee. Any power exercised in accordance with this clause is taken to be exercised by the Committee.
- (3.d) Clauses 15.1, 15.2, 15.4 and 15.6 apply to any sub-Committee as if each reference in those clauses to the Committee Members was a reference to the members of the sub-Committee and each reference to a Committee meeting were to a sub-Committee meeting.
- (3.e) Minutes of all the proceedings and decisions of every sub-Committee must be made, entered and signed in the same manner in all respects as minutes of proceedings of the Committee are required by the Act to be made, entered and signed.

## **11.4 Payments to Committee Members**

- (4.a) The Association must not pay fees to a Committee Member for acting as a Committee Member.
- (4.b) The Association may, by resolution of the Committee:
  - (4.b.i) reimburse a Committee Member for out-of-pocket travel and accommodation expenses incurred in connection with the performance of the Committee Member's functions; and

- (4.b.ii) pay premiums on insurance policies indemnifying Committee Members and any other Officers of the Association against liabilities, damages, costs, charges and expenses of any kind incurred as a Committee Member or Officer.

## **11.5 Indemnity**

To the full extent permitted by law and without limiting the powers of the Association, the Association may indemnify any person who is or has been an Officer of the Association against all losses, liabilities, damages, costs, charges and expenses of any kind incurred by the Officer as an officer of the Association.

## **12. Responsibilities and roles of Committee Members**

### **12.1 Responsibilities of Committee Members and declaring interests**

- (1.a) Each Committee Member must exercise their powers and discharge their duties as Committee Member in accordance with the Act and all applicable laws.
- (1.b) Committee Member who has a material personal interest in a matter which is or will be considered at a Committee meeting must:
  - (1.b.i) as soon as the Committee Member becomes aware of the interest, disclose at the relevant Committee meeting the nature and extent of the interest and how the interest relates to the activity of the Association;
  - (1.b.ii) not be present while the matter is being considered at the Committee meeting or vote on the matter; and
  - (1.b.iii) ensure the nature and extent of the interest and how the interest relates to the activity of the Association is disclosed at the next General Meeting to the extent required by Section 42 of the Act.
- (1.c) Clause 12.1(b) does not apply to any material personal interest that exists only because the Committee Member:
  - (1.c.i) is an employee of the Association;
  - (1.c.ii) is a member of a class of persons for whose benefit the Association is established; or
  - (1.c.iii) that the Committee Member has in common with all, or a substantial proportion of, the Members.

### **12.2 Chairperson**

- (2.a) The Chairperson will chair Committee meetings and General Meetings.
- (2.b) Where a Committee meeting is held and the Chairperson is not present or declines to act as chair, the Committee Members present must elect one of their number to chair the meeting.
- (2.c) Where a General Meeting is held and the Chairperson is not present or declines to act as chair, the Members present must elect a Committee Member present to chair the General Meeting.
- (2.d) Where a person chairs a meeting under clauses 12.2(b) or 12.2(c), in relation to that meeting, references to the Chairperson in this Constitution include a reference to that person.

### **12.3 Secretary**

The Secretary's responsibilities include ensuring the following tasks are carried out:

- (3.a) preparing notices of meeting for Committee meetings and General Meetings;

- (3.b) keeping the minutes of Committee meetings and General Meetings and recording any resolutions passed by the Committee without a meeting;
- (3.c) maintaining the Register in accordance with section 53 of the Act and clause 7.1; and providing for Members to inspect the Register and take copies in accordance with the Act and clause 7.2;
- (3.d) recording in the relevant minutes disclosures of material personal interests of Committee Members made at Committee meetings and General Meetings;
- (3.e) maintaining records of Committee Members, any other Officers and any appointed trustees in accordance with section 58 of the Act and clause 13.5 and providing for Members to inspect these records and take copies in accordance with the Act and clause 13.6;
- (3.f) maintaining an up-to-date copy of this Constitution in accordance with section 35 of the Act and providing for Members to inspect this Constitution and take copies in accordance with the Act;
- (3.g) ensuring that all notices of the Association are duly given in accordance with this Constitution or as required by law;
- (3.h) unless the Committee resolves otherwise, being responsible for the secure custody of the books, records and documents of the Association at the Association's premises or any other suitable place; and
- (3.i) generally performing all duties incidental to the office of secretary and such other duties as may be assigned to the Secretary by the Committee from time to time.

#### **12.4 Treasurer**

The Treasurer's duties include:

- (4.a) coordinating the collection of amounts payable to the Association, crediting them to the appropriate account of the Association and issuing receipts on behalf of the Association;
- (4.b) paying out the funds of the Association in accordance with authority from the Committee or the Members;
- (4.c) ensuring the Association complies with all financial reporting obligations imposed on it under the Act, including (but not limited to):
  - (4.c.i) keeping and retaining Financial Records in accordance with Division 2 of Part 5 of the Act;
  - (4.c.ii) coordinating the preparation of the Association's Financial Report or Financial Statements in accordance with the applicable requirements of Division 3 of Part 5 of the Act, for submission to Members at the Annual General Meeting; and
  - (4.c.iii) where a review or audit of the Association's Financial Report or Financial Statements is being conducted, providing any assistance required by the auditor or reviewer;
- (4.d) unless the Committee resolves otherwise, being responsible for the secure custody of the Association's Financial Records, Financial Reports and Financial Statements (as applicable), for at least 7 years after their creation;
- (4.e) reporting to the Committee on the financial status and performance of the Association; and
- (4.f) generally performing all duties incidental to the office of treasurer and such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Committee from time to time.

## **13. Election or appointment of Committee Members**

### **13.1 Eligibility**

- (1.a) Any person may become a Committee Member either:
  - (1.a.i) by election at an annual general meeting under clause 13.4; or
  - (1.a.ii) by appointment of the Committee under clause 14.2(a).
- (1.b) A person is eligible for election or appointment to the Committee only if they:
  - (1.b.i) are a Member who is a natural person. A Representative is not eligible for election or appointment to the Committee;
  - (1.b.ii) are not disqualified under sections 39 and 40 of the Act or any other legislation which applies to the Association; and
  - (1.b.iii) satisfy any eligibility requirements set out in this Constitution or determined by the Committee from time to time.

### **13.2 Term of office and re-appointment or re-election**

- (2.a) The term of office of a Committee Member (**Term**):
  - (2.a.i) begins, as applicable, when the Committee Member is:
    - (2.a.i.A) elected at an Annual General Meeting in accordance with clause 13.4, or
    - (2.a.i.B) appointed to fill a casual vacancy in accordance with clause 14.2(a); and
  - (2.a.ii) ends at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting after the Committee Member's election or appointment, or otherwise under clause 14.1.
- (2.b) Subject to the Act, the Association in a General Meeting may by resolution remove a Committee Member from the Committee.

### **13.3 Nomination for the Committee**

- (3.a) Any Member who wishes to stand for election to the Committee must send a nomination to the Secretary at least 7 days before the Annual General Meeting.
- (3.b) A nomination under clause 13.3(a) must be in writing in such form as is approved by the Committee from time to time and signed by the Member.
- (3.c) In the nomination form the Member must certify that they are eligible to be elected to the Committee in accordance with clause 13.1. The Committee may reject a nomination if in its reasonable opinion the Member is not eligible for election to the Committee.

### **13.4 Election of Committee Members**

- (4.a) At the annual general meeting, each Committee Member's term of office ends and all vacancies on the Committee are open for election.
- (4.b) A retiring Committee Member is eligible for re-election without needing to give any prior notice of an intention to submit for re-election and holds office as a Committee Member until the end of the meeting at which the Committee Member retires.
- (4.c) There must be a separate election for each vacancy on the Committee.

- (4.d) If there is no nomination for any position on the Committee under clause 13.2, the Chairperson may call for nominations from the Members Present at the annual general meeting.
- (4.e) If only one Member has nominated for any Committee position, the Chairperson must declare that Member elected to the position.
- (4.f) If more than one Member has nominated for a Committee position, the Members Present must vote to elect the Committee Member, in accordance with any procedures set by the Committee. A Member who has nominated for a Committee position may vote for himself or herself.
- (4.g) Any person elected to the Committee who has not completed a nomination in accordance with clause 13.2 must within 14 days confirm in writing to the Committee their eligibility under clause 13.1(b). If the person is not eligible, their appointment to the Committee is deemed not to have taken place.

### **13.5 Committee Register**

- (5.a) The Secretary (or any person authorised by the Committee) must keep and maintain a Committee Register in accordance with section 58 of the Act, including:
  - (5.a.i) the name; and
  - (5.a.ii) at least one of the residential address, business address, post office box address or email address,for each person identified in clause 13.5(b).
- (5.b) Clause 13.5(a) applies to:
  - (5.b.i) each Committee Member;
  - (5.b.ii) any other person who holds any office in the Association;
  - (5.b.iii) every person who is authorised to use the seal of the Association (if any); and
  - (5.b.iv) any person who is appointed or who acts as trustee on behalf of the Association.

### **13.6 Inspecting and copying the Committee Register**

- (6.a) The Committee Register is available for inspection free of charge by any Member upon written request to the Secretary.
- (6.b) A Member may make a copy of entries in the Committee Register or take an extract but a Member does not have the right to remove the Committee Register for that purpose.
- (6.c) A Member must not use or disclose any information in the Committee Register for any purpose other than a purpose that:
  - (6.c.i) is directly connected with the affairs of the Association; or
  - (6.c.ii) relates to the administration of the Act.

## **14. Resignation and removal from office**

### **14.1 Vacancy on the Committee**

A Committee Member's Term ends and that office becomes vacant if the Committee Member:

- (1.a) dies, or resigns by notice in writing delivered to the Secretary or, if the Committee Member is the Secretary, to the Chairperson;
- (1.b) is or becomes ineligible to act as a Committee Member under clause 13.1;
- (1.c) becomes physically or mentally incapable of performing the Committee Member's duties and the Committee resolves that the Committee Member's office be vacated for that reason;
- (1.d) is absent from more than:
  - (1.d.i) 3 consecutive Committee meetings without leave of absence granted from the Committee; or
  - (1.d.ii) 3 Committee meetings in the same Financial Year without tendering an apology to the relevant Chairperson of each meeting, which apology is accepted by the Chairperson,and the Committee determines that the Committee Member's office be vacated for that reason;
- (1.e) engages in conduct detrimental to the interests of the Association including (without limitation) if the Committee Member has brought the Association into disrepute and the Committee resolves that the Committee Member's office be vacated for that reason;
- (1.f) ceases to be a Member; or
- (1.g) is the subject of a resolution passed by Members terminating the Committee Member's appointment as a Committee Member.

## **14.2 Filling casual vacancies**

- (2.a) The Committee may appoint a Member (who is eligible under clause 13.1) at any time to fill a Committee position:
  - (2.a.i) that has become vacant under clause 14.1; or
  - (2.a.ii) that was not filled in accordance with clause 13.4.
- (2.b) A Committee Member appointed under clause 14.2(a) holds office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting, and is eligible for election or appointment to the Committee in accordance with this Constitution.

## **14.3 Return of books and records**

- (3.a) As soon as practicable after a Committee Member's term of office ends, that person (or if the Committee Member has died, their personal representative) must deliver to the Committee all books, records and documents of the Association in the Committee Member's possession, whether in hard copy or electronic format.
- (3.b) The Committee may require the outgoing Committee Member to certify in writing that, having complied with clause 14.3(a), the Committee Member has destroyed all remaining electronic copies of books, records and documents of the Association.

## **15. Committee proceedings**

### **15.1 Calling and holding Committee meetings**

- (1.a) The Committee must meet as often as required to discharge its duties, with a gap of no more than 4 months between each Committee meeting.

- (1.b) The Chairperson may call a Committee meeting by giving reasonable notice to each Committee Member.
- (1.c) The Secretary (or any Committee Member in the Secretary's absence) must call a Committee meeting when requested to do so by any 2 Committee Members.
- (1.d) The Committee may adjourn and otherwise regulate its meetings as it thinks fit.

## **15.2 Meetings by telecommunications**

Without limiting the Committee's power to regulate its meetings as it thinks fit, the Committee may hold a valid meeting using any medium by which each of the Committee Members can simultaneously hear all the other participants (including telephone, video conferencing or any other means of instant communication), and in that case:

- (2.a) the participating Committee Members are taken to be present at the meeting for the purposes of this Constitution;
- (2.b) the meeting is taken to be held where the Chairperson of the meeting is;
- (2.c) if a failure in communications prevents any Committee Member present at the meeting from participating in the meeting, then the meeting will be suspended until communications are restored, unless communications cannot be restored within 15 minutes, in which case the meeting will be deemed to have terminated; and
- (2.d) all proceedings of the Committee conducted in accordance with this clause are as valid and effective as if conducted at a meeting at which all of the Committee Members were present in person.

## **15.3 Quorum**

- (3.a) At a Committee meeting, the number of Committee Members whose presence is necessary to constitute a quorum is 3.
- (3.b) If any office on the Committee becomes vacant, the remaining Committee Members may act but, if the total number of remaining Committee Members is not sufficient to constitute a quorum at a Committee meeting, the Committee Members may act only for the purpose of:
  - (3.b.i) approving new Member applications for the purpose of appointing those new Members as additional Committee Members;
  - (3.b.ii) increasing the number of Committee Members to a number sufficient to constitute a quorum; or
  - (3.b.iii) convening a General Meeting.

## **15.4 Guests at Committee meetings**

- (4.a) The Committee may invite a Member or any other person who is not a Committee Member to attend a Committee meeting or any part thereof.
- (4.b) A person invited to attend a Committee meeting under clause 15.4(a) has no right to vote and no right to do any of the following without the Committee's consent:
  - (4.b.i) receive any agendas, notices or papers relating to the Committee meeting; and
  - (4.b.ii) comment on any matters discussed at the Committee meeting.

## **15.5 Committee resolutions**

- (5.a) Subject to this Constitution, a resolution of the Committee must be passed by a majority of the votes of Committee Members present and entitled to vote on the resolution.
- (5.b) Subject to clause 15.5(c), each Committee Member has one vote on any resolution on which the Committee Member is entitled to vote.
- (5.c) In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson has a second or casting vote in addition to the Chairperson's deliberative vote (if any).

## **15.6 Written Committee resolutions**

- (6.a) The Committee may pass a resolution without a Committee meeting being held if a majority of the Committee Members entitled to vote on the resolution sign a document containing a statement that they are in favour of the resolution set out in the document.
- (6.b) Identical copies of the document may be distributed for signing by different Committee Members and taken together will constitute the same document.
- (6.c) A Committee Member may sign an electronic copy of a document by typing their name in the signature block of the electronic copy, or otherwise indicating their approval by any means approved by the Committee.
- (6.d) The resolution is passed when the last Committee Member signs the document.

## **15.7 By-laws**

- (7.a) The Committee has the power to make by-laws regulating the establishment, organisation and conduct of the Association, provided such by-laws are not inconsistent with this Constitution or the Act.
- (7.b) All by-laws made and in force from time to time are binding on the Members.

## **15.8 Acts valid despite defective appointment**

Subject to the Act, any act done at any Committee meeting by any person acting as a Committee Member, even if it is later discovered that there was some defect in the appointment or election of any such Committee Member or that the Committee member was not eligible for election under clause 13.1, is valid as if the Committee Member had been duly appointed and was qualified to be a Committee Member.

## **16. Execution of documents**

### **16.1 Execution generally**

- (1.a) The Association may validly execute a document (including a deed) if the document is signed by a Committee Member and countersigned by another Committee Member or another person appointed by the Committee to countersign that document or a class of documents in which that document is included.
- (1.b) Clause 16.1(a) does not limit the Committee's ability to authorise a person who is not a Committee Member to execute a document for and on behalf of the Association.

### **16.2 Common seal**

- (2.a) The Association need not have or use a common seal to execute documents or deeds. The Committee may resolve whether or not the Association is to have or use a common seal.

- (2.b) Where the Association has a common seal, it must only be used with the authority of the Committee. The Secretary or any other Committee Member authorised by the Committee must ensure the safe custody of the seal.
- (2.c) The Secretary must record in a seal register details of every document to which the common seal of the Authority is fixed.

## **17. Notices**

### **17.1 How notice to be given**

- (1.a) All notices, including notices of meeting and ballot papers, may be given by the Association to any Member by:
  - (1.a.i) serving it on the Member personally;
  - (1.a.ii) sending it by post to the Member's nominated address;
  - (1.a.iii) sending it by email to an email address nominated by the Member, or by any other electronic means nominated by the Member; (except in the case of ballot papers for a written ballot) or
  - (1.a.iv) giving it by any other means permitted or contemplated by the Act.

### **17.2 When notice is given**

A notice is deemed to be given by the Association and received by the Member:

- (2.a) if delivered in person, when delivered to the Member;
- (2.b) if posted, on the day after the date of posting to the Member, whether delivered or not;
- (2.c) if sent by facsimile transmission, on the day after the date of its transmission; or
- (2.d) if sent by email or other electronic means, on the day after the date of its transmission,

but if the delivery or receipt is on a day which is not a Business Day or is after 4.00 pm (addressee's time), it is deemed to have been received at 9.00 am (addressee's time) on the next Business Day.

### **17.3 No notice of no valid address**

If:

- (3.a) any Member has not provided to the Association an address for registration in the Register; or
- (3.b) the Association believes that a Member is not known at the address registered in the Register,

unless and until the Member provides a valid address to the Association, all notices to be sent to that Member are taken to be given to the Member if the notice is displayed at the Association's address or website for 48 hours, and are taken to be served at the commencement of that period.

## **18. Funds and accounts**

### **18.1 Control of funds**

- (1.a) The funds of the Association must be kept in an account or accounts in the name of the Association in a financial institution determined by the Committee.

- (1.b) The Committee is responsible for expenditure of the funds of the Association and may authorise any other person or persons to expend the funds of the Association within specified limits, and subject to appropriate supervision.
- (1.c) The funds of the Association are to be used to do:
  - (1.c.i) anything which it considers will advance or achieve the Objects; and
  - (1.c.ii) all other things that are incidental to carrying out the Objects.
- (1.d) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments of the Association are to be executed by:
  - (1.d.i) any 2 Committee Members; or
  - (1.d.ii) any person or persons authorised by the Committee, within the expenditure limits specified by the Committee.
- (1.e) All electronic payments by the Association are to be made or authorised by:
  - (1.e.i) any 2 Committee Members; or
  - (1.e.ii) any person or persons authorised by the Committee, within the expenditure limits specified by the Committee.

## **18.2 Source of funds**

(2.a) The Association may derive funds in any way permitted by the Act.

(2.b) Donations

All money received by the association as gifts or deductible contributions for the principal purpose of the association, are to be deposited into the gift fund. The fund will be operated on a not-for-profit basis.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) all gifts, donations and contributions received;
- (b) investment returns from money or property that continues to be part of the gift fund;
- (c) sale of gifted property; and
- (d) all amounts that may be credited to the gift fund in accordance with applicable income tax law and the rulings, guidelines, practices and procedures of the Commissioner of Taxation.

Amounts that are not allowed by income tax law to be credited to the gift fund must not be credited to the gift fund.

(2.c) Use of the Public Fund

The association must establish and maintain a separate bank account (the "gift fund") into which all gifts, or deductible contributions, of money or sale of gifted property for the principal purpose of the association must be paid.

The association must only use the gift fund to carry out the principal purpose of the association.

The association must notify the Australian Taxation Office in writing of any changes to the rules of the gift fund. Proper accounting records and procedures are to be kept and used for the fund.

The association must issue receipts for any gifts it receives.

The receipt issued by the association must state:

- the association's name;
- the Australian Business Number ("ABN") and the fact that the receipt is for a gift.

(2.d) Conduit Policy

Any allocation of funds or property to other persons or organisations will be made in accordance with the established purposes of the association not be influenced by the preference of the donor.

(2.e) Management of the Public Fund

A committee of management of no fewer than three persons will administer the fund. The committee will be appointed by the organisation. A majority of the members of the committee are required to be 'responsible persons' as defined by the Guidelines to the Register of Environmental Organisations.

(2.f) Ministerial Rules

The organisation agrees to comply with any rules that the Treasurer and the Minister with responsibility for the environment may make to ensure that gifts made to the fund are only used for its principal purpose.

(2.g) Requirements of the Public Fund

The association must inform the department responsible for the environment as soon as possible if:

- it changes its name or the name of its public fund; or
- there is a change to the management committee of the public fund; or
- there has been any departure from the model rules for public funds located in the Guidelines to the Register of Environmental Organisations

The association will supply annual statistical information requested by the department on donations within four months after the end of the financial year.

An audited financial statement for the association and its public fund will be supplied with the statistical information. The statement will provide information on the expenditure of public fund monies and management of public fund assets.

### **18.3 Financial Records**

(3.a) The Association must keep Financial Records that:

(3.a.i) correctly record and explain its transactions, financial position and performance; and

(3.a.ii) enable true and fair Financial Statements to be prepared in accordance with Part 5 of the Act.

(3.b) The Association must retain its Financial Records for at least 7 years after the transactions covered by the records are completed.

(3.c) The Association must allow the Committee Members and the auditor to inspect those accounts at all reasonable times.

### **18.4 Financial reporting, audit and review**

(4.a) The Committee must cause the Association to comply with all financial reporting obligations imposed on it under the Act or any other applicable legislation.

- (4.b) Without limiting clause 18.4(a), the Committee must cause the Association to:
- (4.b.i) if it is a tier 1 association, prepare annual Financial Statements, presented under Part 5 of the Act;
  - (4.b.ii) if it is a tier 2 association or tier 3 association, prepare an annual Financial Report, presented under Part 5 of the Act;
  - (4.b.iii) have its Financial Statements or Financial Report reviewed or audited (as applicable) if:
    - (4.b.iii.A) it is required under the Act or under any other law or regulatory requirement applicable to the Association;
    - (4.b.iii.B) it is directed by the Commissioner; or
    - (4.b.iii.C) the Members pass a resolution requiring it; and
  - (4.b.iv) if required to be presented for consideration under Part 5 of the Act, present a copy of the report of the review or the auditor's report on the Financial Statements or Financial Report (as applicable) to the Annual General Meeting.

## **18.5 Financial Year**

The Financial Year of the Association is the 12 month period starting on 1 July.

## **18.6 Inspection of records**

- (6.a) Subject to the Act and to this Constitution, the Committee must determine whether and on what terms the books, records and other documents of the Association will be open to the inspection of Members other than Committee Members.
- (6.b) A Member other than a Committee Member does not have the right to inspect any document of the Association except as provided by the Act, or otherwise as authorised by the Committee.

## **19. Resolving disputes**

### **19.1 Application of disputes procedure**

The disputes procedure set out in this clause applies to disputes under or relating to this Constitution between:

- (1.a) a Member and another Member or Members; and
- (1.b) a Member or Members and the Association.

### **19.2 Disputes procedure**

- (2.a) The parties to the dispute must attempt to resolve the dispute (in person or by telephone, email, or any other means of communication) within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all of the parties. In the case of a dispute involving the Association, the Chairperson (or any Committee Member appointed by the Chairperson) will represent the Association.
- (2.b) If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute within the 14 day period specified in clause 19.2(a), either party may initiate the dispute resolution procedure by giving a written notice to the Secretary identifying the parties to the dispute and the subject of the dispute.
- (2.c) Within 21 days of receipt of a notice under clause 19.2(b), a Committee meeting must be convened to determine the dispute.

- (2.d) The Secretary must give the parties to the dispute at least 7 days' prior written notice of the Committee meeting, informing them that they may attend the meeting (in person or via telephone, video conferencing or any other available means of instant communication) and make oral or written submissions (or both).
- (2.e) At the Committee meeting, the Committee must:
  - (2.e.i) give each party to the dispute a full and fair opportunity to make oral or written submissions and must give reasonable consideration to any submissions; and
  - (2.e.ii) determine the dispute.
- (2.f) Written notice of the Committee's decision regarding the dispute must be given to all parties to the dispute within 7 days after the Committee meeting.
- (2.g) If any party to the dispute is not satisfied with the Committee's decision, the Committee may refer the matter to an external dispute resolution procedure in accordance with by-laws made by the Committee for that purpose.

## **20. Affiliation and membership of other similar organisations**

The Committee may determine that the Association will affiliate with or become a member of, or accept affiliation with or membership of, any organisation (including any regional or international association) having similar or like interests to the Association.

## **21. Winding up, cancellation and distribution of surplus property**

- (1.a) For the purposes of this clause **Surplus Property** has the meaning given in section 3 of the Act.
- (1.b) Subject to the Act, the Association may cease its activities and be wound up or cancelled in accordance with a Special Resolution.
- (1.c) If the association is wound up or if the endorsement of the association as a deductible gift recipient is revoked, the assets remaining after the payment of the association's liabilities shall be transferred to another fund with similar objectives that is on the Register of Environmental Organisations.
- (1.d) The organisation or organisations selected for the purpose of clause 21.1(c) will be determined by a Special Resolution or if it not practicable to obtain such a Special Resolution, by a Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia who has jurisdiction in the matter.

## **22. Variation or amendment of Constitution**

This Constitution may be varied, amended or rescinded from time to time by Special Resolution in accordance with Division 2 of Part 3 of the Act.