



CONSTITUTION of COUNTRY SOCIAL NETWORK INC

Incorporated in New South Wales

Registered Number: Y2063541

22 October 2023

First Edition: 1994

Second Edition: 1998

Third Edition: 2012

Fourth Edition: 2015

Fifth Edition: 2017

Sixth Edition: 2023

Disclaimer

This publication must not be relied on as legal advice. For more information, please refer to the appropriate legislation or seek independent legal advice.

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Aims and Objects

The objects of Country Social Network Inc are:

1. To help overcome the social and emotional isolation experienced by any person who identifies as male, and as a member of the LGBTIQ+ community living in rural areas by facilitating and promoting communication among persons who identify as male, and as a member of the LGBTIQ+ community have an interest in the country.
2. To promote a sense of community among any person who identifies as male and as a member of the LGBTIQ+ community, and to encourage good public relations between the LGBTIQ+ community and the general communities in which they live, particularly in country areas.
3. To ensure any person who identifies as male, and as a member of the LGBTIQ+ community in the country enjoy the same civil rights as all other citizens.
4. To engage in and promote charitable services and other activities within the LGBTIQ+ communities.
5. To promote an interest in the preservation of the natural environment and heritage.
6. To engage in all activities giving effect to the above Aims either by itself or with like- interested groups. These activities may include, among others, social events such as parties, picnics, conventions, and other gatherings; the provision of support and information services; hospitality and assistance to any person who identifies as male, and as a member of the LGBTIQ+ community travelling in the country; and the publication of a newsletter and other appropriate literature.

Overview

Country Network is:

- an incorporated organisation registered in NSW with the Dept. of Fair Trading.
- a non-sectarian, non-political, and non-profit organisation for people who identify as male, and as a member of the LGBTIQ+ community.
- An organisation that is run by volunteers with a philosophy of 'lots of people doing a little bit of work'.



Part 1 Preliminary

1. Definitions

In this constitution:

- **committee member** means an office-bearer or ordinary committee member.
- **exercise a function** includes perform a duty.
- **function** includes a power, authority, or duty.
- **office-bearer** means a committee member who is elected to an office referred to in clause 14(1)(a)(i) - (iv).
- **ordinary committee member** means a committee member who is not an office-bearer.
- **register of members** means the register of members maintained under clause 4.
- **secretary**, of the association, means:
 - I. the person holding office under this constitution as secretary, or
 - II. if no person holds that office -the public officer of the association.
- **special general meeting**, of the association, means a general meeting of the association other than an annual general meeting.
- **subcommittee** means a subcommittee established under clause 20.
- **the Act** means the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.
- **the Regulation** means the Associations Incorporation Regulation 2022.

Note: The Act and the Interpretation Act 1987 contain definitions and other provisions that affect the interpretation and application of this constitution.

The Interpretation Act 1987 applies to this constitution as if it were an instrument made under the Act.

Note: The Act, Part 4 deals with various matters relating to the management of associations.



Part 2 Members of Association

2. Membership generally

1. An individual is taken to be a member of the association the person is a natural person who has attained the age of 18 years and who:
 - a) complies with the requirements of the application form currently in use.
 - b) has been approved for membership by the membership coordinator, or any other.
 - c) Is the member of the association authorised to receive an application for membership.
 - d) Is the person applied to be a member under clause 3(1) and the application has been approved.

3. Membership applications

1. An application by a person to be a member of the association must be:
 - a) made in writing, and
 - b) in the form determined by the committee, and
 - c) lodged with the Membership Coordinator.
2. The committee may determine that an application may be made or lodged by email or other electronic means.
3. The Membership Coordinator may refer an application to the committee as soon as practicable after receiving the application if he deems it necessary.
4. The committee must approve or reject the application if it is referred to the committee.
5. As soon as practicable after the committee has decided the application, the Membership Coordinator must give the applicant written notice of the decision, including by email or other electronic means if determined by the committee.
6. The Membership Coordinator must enter the applicant's name in the register of members as soon as practicable after the applicant pays the annual subscription fee.
7. The applicant becomes a member once the applicant's name is entered in the register.

4. Register of members

1. The Membership Coordinator must establish and maintain a register of members of the association.
2. The register:
 - a) may be in written or electronic form, and
 - b) must include, for each member:
 - i. the member's full name, and
 - ii. a residential, postal or email address, and



- iii. the date on which the person became a member, and
 - iv. if the person ceases to be a member - the date on which the person ceased to be a member, and
- c) must be kept in New South Wales:
- I. at the association's main premises, or
 - II. if the association has no premises - at the association's official address, and
- d) must be available for inspection, free of charge, by members at a reasonable time, and
- e) if kept in electronic form - must be able to be converted to hard copy.
3. If the register is kept in electronic form, the requirements in subclause (2)(c) and (d) apply as if a reference to the register is a reference to a current hard copy of the register.
 4. A member may obtain a hard copy of the register, or a part of the register.
 5. Information about a member, other than the member's name, must not be made available for inspection if the member requests that the information not be made available.
 6. A member must not use information about a member obtained from the register to contact or send material to the member, unless:
 - a) the information is used to send the member:
 - I. a newsletter, or
 - II. a notice for a meeting or other event relating to the association, or
 - III. other material relating to the association, or
 - b) it is necessary to comply with a requirement of the Act or the Regulation.

5. Fees and subscriptions

1. The membership fee to be paid to the association by a person whose application to be a member of the association has been approved shall be determined by the committee.
2. A member must pay the association an annual membership fee before the first day of the financial year of the association in each calendar year.
3. In the case of a person who has been a member of the association for not less than five years in total and who during that time has rendered distinguished service to the association or in other ways has contributed to its aims and objectives.
4. A Special General Meeting may waive all future annual fees for that member. A member for whom fees have been thus waived shall be known as a Life Member. Recommendations for Life Membership shall be made in writing and signed by five or more financial members and be accompanied by a statement of the service on which the recommendation is based.



6. Members' liabilities

The liability of a member of the association to contribute to the payment of either of the following is limited to the amount of any outstanding fees for the member under clause 5:

- a) the debts and liabilities of the association.
- b) the costs, charges, and expenses of the winding up of the association.

7. Disciplinary action against members

1. A person may make a complaint to the committee that a member of the association has:
 - a) failed to comply with a provision of this constitution, or
 - b) wilfully acted in a way prejudicial to the interests of the association.
2. The committee may refuse to deal with a complaint if the committee considers the complaint is trivial or vexatious.
3. If the committee decides to deal with the complaint, the committee must:
 - a) serve notice of the complaint on the member, and
 - b) give the member at least fourteen days from the day the notice is served on the member within which to make submissions to the committee about the complaint, and
 - c) consider any submissions made by the member.
4. The committee may, by resolution, expel the member from the association or suspend the member's membership if, after considering the complaint, the committee is satisfied that:
 - a) the facts alleged in the complaint have been proved, and
 - b) the expulsion or suspension is warranted.
5. If the committee expels or suspends the member, the secretary must, within seven days of that action being taken, give the member written notice of:
 - a) the action taken, and
 - b) the reasons given by the committee for taking the action, and
 - c) the member's right to appeal under clause 8.
6. The expulsion or suspension does not take effect until the later of the following:
 - a) the day the period within which the member is entitled to exercise the member's right of appeal expires, or
 - b) if the member exercises the member's right of appeal within the period - the day the association confirms the resolution under clause 8.

8. Right of appeal against disciplinary action

1. A member may appeal against a resolution of the committee under clause 7 by lodging a notice of appeal with the secretary within seven days of being served notice of the resolution.



2. The member may include, with the notice of appeal, a statement of the grounds on which the member intends to rely for the purposes of the appeal.
3. The secretary must notify the committee that the secretary has received a notice of appeal.
4. If notified that a notice has been received, the committee must call a general meeting to be held within twenty-eight days of the day the notice was received.
5. At the general meeting:
 - a) no business other than the question of the appeal is to be transacted, and
 - b) the member must be given an opportunity to state the member's case orally or in writing, or both, and
 - c) the committee must be given the opportunity to state the committee's case orally or in writing, or both, and
 - d) the members present must vote on the question of whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
6. The appeal is to be determined by a simple majority of votes cast by the members.

9. Resolution of internal disputes

1. The following disputes must be referred to a Community Justice Centre within the meaning of the *Community Justice Centres Act 1983* for mediation:
 - a) a dispute between two or more members of the association, but only if the dispute is between the members in their capacity as members, or
 - b) a dispute between one or more members and the association.
2. If the dispute is not resolved by mediation within three months of being referred to the Community Justice Centre, the dispute must be referred to arbitration.

Note: The *Commercial Arbitration Act 2010* applies to a dispute referred to arbitration.

10. Membership entitlements not transferable

A right, privilege, or obligation that a person has because the person is a member of the association:

- a) cannot be transferred to another person, and
- b) terminates once the person ceases to be a member of the association.

11. Member resignation

1. A member of the association may resign from being a member by giving the secretary written notice of at least one month, or another period determined by the committee, of the member's intention to resign.
2. The member ceases to be a member on the expiration of the notice period.

12. Cessation of membership

1. A person ceases to be a member of the association if the person:
 - a) dies, or



- b) resigns from being a member, or
- c) is expelled from the association, or
- d) fails to pay the annual subscription fee payable under clause 5(2) within (one) 1 month of the due date.



Part 3 Committee

Division 1 Constitution

13. Functions of committee

1. Subject to the Act, the Regulation, this constitution, and any resolution passed by the association in general meeting, the committee:
 - a) is to control and manage the affairs of the association, and
 - b) may exercise all the functions that may be exercised by the association, other than a function that is required to be exercised by the association in general meeting, and
 - c) has power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for the proper management of the affairs of the association.

14. Composition of committee

2. The committee must have nine members, as elected in accordance with clause 15, consisting of the following office-bearers:
 - a) the president,
 - b) the vice-president,
 - c) the secretary,
 - d) the treasurer,
 - e) the membership coordinator, and
 - f) at least four ordinary committee members.

Note: The Act, section 28 contains requirements relating to membership eligibility and composition of the committee.

3. An office-bearer may hold up to two offices, other than both the offices of president and vice-president.

15. Election of committee members

1. Any member of the association may be nominated as a candidate for election as an office-bearer or ordinary committee member.
2. The nomination must be:
 - a) made in writing, and
 - b) signed by at least two members of the association, not including the candidate, and
 - c) accompanied by the written consent of the candidate to the nomination, and
 - d) given to the Returning Officer at sixty days before the date fixed for the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.
3. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies the persons nominated shall be deemed to be elected, subject to Clause 15 (11).
4. If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled the persons nominated shall be deemed to be elected, subject to Clause 15 (11).



5. If the number of nominations received is more than the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot must be held at the meeting in the way directed by the committee.
6. A ballot shall be conducted in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Associations Incorporation Regulation; and the returning officer shall in the case of an electronic ballot: organise an electronic ballot that gives each of the association's members a reasonable opportunity to participate; and be available to each member of the association within fourteen days of the close of nominations. An electronic ballot paper must be returned to the returning officer no later than fourteen days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting at which the election shall take place.
7. If any positions remain unfilled following the ballot, further nominations shall be received at the annual general meeting, and any ballot to be held for these positions at the annual general meeting shall be in such usual and proper manner as the committee may direct.
8. If insufficient further nominations are received, any vacant positions remaining on the committee shall be deemed to be casual vacancies. Any casual vacancies may be filled by the decision of the committee.
9. The nomination of a candidate for election under this clause is not valid if that candidate has been elected to another office at the same election.
10. Candidates nominating for election may submit a personal profile for circulation to all members of the association.
11. Candidates nominated for office bearers of the association and qualifying for election in accordance with Clause 15 (3) or Clause 15 (4) must be approved by way of voting at the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.

16. Terms of office

1. Subject to this constitution, a committee member holds office from the day the member is elected until immediately before the next annual general meeting.
2. A member is eligible, if otherwise qualified, for re-election.
3. There is no limit on the number of consecutive terms for which a committee member may hold office.

17. Vacancies in office

1. A casual vacancy in the office of a committee member arises if the member:
 - a) dies, or
 - b) ceases to be a member of the association, or
 - c) resigns from office by written notice given to the secretary, or
 - d) is removed from office by the association under this clause, or
 - e) is absent from three consecutive meetings of the committee without the consent of the committee, or
 - f) becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth, or
 - g) is prohibited from being a director of a company under the *Corporations Act*



2001 of the Commonwealth, Part 2D.6, or

- h) is convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty for which the maximum penalty is imprisonment for at least three months, or
 - i) becomes a mentally incapacitated person.
2. The association committee in general meeting may, by resolution:
 - a) remove a committee member from office at any time, and
 - b) appoint another member of the association to hold office for the balance of the committee member's term of office.
 3. A committee member to whom a proposed resolution referred to in subclause (2) relates may:
 - a) give a written statement, of a reasonable length, to the president or secretary, and
 - b) request that the committee send a copy of the statement to each member of the association at least seven days before the general meeting at which the proposed resolution will be considered.
 4. If the committee fails to send a copy of a statement received under subclause (3)(a) to each member in accordance with a request made under subclause (3)(b), the statement must be read aloud by the member presiding at the general meeting at which the proposed resolution will be considered.
 5. The committee may appoint a member of the association to fill a casual vacancy other than a vacancy arising from the removal from office of a committee member.
 6. Subject to this constitution, a member appointed to fill a casual vacancy holds office until the next annual general meeting.

18. Secretary

1. As soon as practicable after being elected as secretary, the secretary must lodge a notice with the association specifying the secretary's address.
2. The secretary must keep minutes of:
 - a) all elections of committee members, and
 - b) the names of committee members present at a meeting of the committee or a general meeting, and
 - c) all proceedings at committee meetings and general meetings.
3. The minutes must be:
 - a) kept in written or electronic form, and
 - b) for minutes of proceedings at a meeting -signed, in writing or by electronic means, by:
 - I. the member who presided at the meeting, or
 - II. the member presiding at the subsequent meeting.

19. Treasurer

The treasurer of the association must ensure:



- a) all money owed to the association is collected, and
- b) all payments authorised by the association are made, and
- c) correct books and accounts are kept showing the financial affairs of the association, including full details of receipts and expenditure relating to the association's activities.

20. Delegation to subcommittees

1. The committee may:
 - a) establish one or more subcommittees to assist the committee to exercise the committee's functions, and
 - b) appoint one or more members of the association to be the members of the subcommittee.
2. The committee may delegate to the subcommittee the exercise of the committee's functions specified in the instrument, other than:
 - a) this power of delegation, or
 - b) a duty imposed on the committee by the Act or another law.

Note: The Interpretation Act 1987, section 49 deals with various matters relating to delegations.

Division 2 Procedure

21. Committee meetings

1. The committee must meet at least three times in each twelve-month period at the place and time determined by the committee.
2. Additional meetings of the committee may be called by any committee member.
3. The procedure for calling and conducting business at a meeting of a subcommittee is to be as determined by the subcommittee.

Note: The Act, section 30(1) provides that committee meetings may be held as and when the association's constitution requires.

22. Notice of committee meeting

1. The secretary must give each committee member oral or written notice of a meeting of the committee at least 48 hours, or another period on which the committee members unanimously agree, before the time the meeting is due to commence.
2. The notice must describe the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
3. The only business that may be transacted at the meeting is:
 - a) the business described in the notice, and
 - b) business that the committee members present at the meeting unanimously agree is urgent business.

23. Quorum

1. The quorum for a meeting of the committee is five committee members.



2. No business may be transacted by the committee unless a quorum is present.
3. If a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time the meeting commences, the meeting is adjourned:
 - a) to the same place, and
 - b) to the same time of the same day in the following week or at a date and time set by members at the adjourned meeting.
4. If a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time the adjourned meeting commences, the meeting is dissolved.
5. If the number of committee members is less than the number required to constitute a quorum for a committee meeting, the committee members may appoint 1 or more members of the association as committee members to enable the quorum to be constituted.
6. A committee member appointed under subclause (5) holds office, subject to this constitution, until the next annual general meeting.
7. This clause does not apply to the filling of a casual vacancy to which clause 17 applies.

Note: The Act, section 28A provides for the filling of vacancies on the committee to constitute a quorum.

24. Presiding committee member

1. The following committee member presides at a meeting of the committee:
 - a) the president,
 - b) if the president is absent - the vice-president,
 - c) if both the president and vice-president are absent - one of the members present at the meeting, as elected by the other members.
2. The member presiding at the meeting has:
 - a) a deliberative vote, and
 - b) in the event of an equality of votes - a second or casting vote.

25. Voting

A decision supported by a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the committee or a subcommittee at which a quorum is present is the decision of the committee or subcommittee.

26. Acts valid despite vacancies or defects

1. Subject to clause 23(1), the committee may act despite there being a casual vacancy in the office of a committee member.
2. An act done by a committee or subcommittee is not invalidated because of a defect relating to the qualifications or appointment of a member of the committee or subcommittee.



Part 4 General meetings of association

27. Annual general meetings

1. The association must hold an annual general meeting within:
 - a) six months of the last day of the association's financial year, or
 - b) the later period allowed or prescribed in accordance with the Act, section 37(2)(b).
2. Subject to the Act and subclauses (1) and (2), the annual general meeting is to be held at the place and time determined by the committee.
3. Appointment of proxies.
4. Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member as proxy by notice given to the secretary no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed. The notice appointing the proxy shall be in the form currently in use.
5. The business that may be transacted at an annual general meeting includes the following:
 - a) confirming the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and any special general meetings held since the previous annual general meeting.
 - b) receiving reports from the committee on the association's activities during the previous financial year.
 - c) electing office-bearers and ordinary committee members.
 - d) receiving and considering financial statements or reports required to be submitted to members of the association under the Act.

Note: The Act, section 37(1) and (2) provides for when annual general meetings must be held.

28. Special general meetings

1. The committee may call a special general meeting whenever the committee thinks fit.
2. The committee must call a special general meeting if the committee receives a request made by at least 5% of the total number of members.
3. The request:
 - a) must be in writing, and
 - b) must state the purpose of the meeting, and
 - c) must be signed by the members making the request, and
 - d) may consist of more than one document in a similar form signed by one or more members, and
 - e) must be lodged with the secretary, and
 - f) may be in electronic form and signed and lodged by electronic means.
4. If the committee fails to call a special general meeting within one month of the request being lodged, one or more of the members who made the request may call a special general meeting to be held within three months of the date the request was lodged.



5. A special general meeting held under subclause (4) must be conducted, as far as practicable, in the same way as a general meeting called by the committee.

29. Notice of general meeting

1. The secretary must give each member notice of a general meeting:
 - a) if a matter to be determined at the meeting requires a special resolution at least 21 days before the meeting, or
 - b) otherwise at least 14 days before the meeting.
2. The notice must specify:
 - a) the place and time at which the meeting will be held, and
 - b) the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting, and
 - c) if a matter to be determined at the meeting requires a special resolution - that a special resolution will be proposed, and
 - d) for an annual general meeting - that the meeting to be held is an annual general meeting.
3. The only business that may be transacted at the meeting is:
 - a) the business specified in the notice, and
 - b) for an annual general meeting - business referred to in clause 28(3).
4. A member may give written notice to the secretary of business the member wishes to raise at a general meeting.
5. If the secretary receives a notice under subclause (4), the secretary must specify the nature of the business in the next notice calling a general meeting.

30. Quorum

1. The quorum for a general meeting is five members of the association entitled to vote under this constitution.
2. No business may be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum is present.
3. If a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time the meeting commences, the meeting:
 - a) if called on the request of members - is dissolved, or
 - b) otherwise - is adjourned:
 - I. to the same time of the same day in the following week or at a date and time set by members at the adjourned meeting, and
 - II. to the same place, unless another place is specified by the member presiding at the meeting at the time of the adjournment or in a written notice given to members at least one day before the adjourned meeting.
4. If a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time an adjourned meeting commences, but there are at least three members present, the members present constitute a quorum.



31. Adjourned meetings

1. The member presiding at a general meeting may, with the consent of the majority of the members present, adjourn the meeting to another time and place.
2. The only business that may be transacted at the adjourned meeting is the business remaining from the meeting at which the adjournment took place.
3. If a meeting is adjourned for at least 14 days, the secretary must give each member oral or written notice, at least one day before the adjourned meeting, of:
 - a) the time and place at which the adjourned meeting will be held, and
 - b) the nature of the business to be transacted at the adjourned meeting.

32. Presiding member

1. The following member presides at a general meeting:
 - a) the president,
 - b) if the president is absent - the vice-president,
 - c) if both the president and vice-president are absent - one of the members present at the meeting, as elected by the other members.
2. The member presiding at the meeting has:
 - a) a deliberative vote, and
 - b) in the event of an equality of votes - a second or casting vote.

33. Voting

1. A member is not entitled to vote at a general meeting unless the member:
 - a) is at least 18 years of age, and
 - b) has paid all money owed by the member to the association.
2. Each member has one vote, except as provided by clause 33(2)(b).
3. A question raised at the meeting must be decided by:
 - a) a show of hands, or
 - b) if clause 36 applies - an appropriate method as determined by the committee, or
 - c) a written ballot, but only if:
 - III. the member presiding at the meeting moves that the question be decided by ballot, or
 - IV. at least five members agree the question should be determined by ballot.
4. If a question is decided using a method referred to in subclause (3)(a) or (b), either of the following is sufficient evidence that a resolution has been carried, whether unanimously or by a majority, or lost, using the method:
 - a) a declaration by the member presiding at the meeting,
 - b) an entry in the association's minute book.



5. A written ballot must be conducted in accordance with the directions of the member presiding.
6. A member cannot cast a vote by proxy.

34. Postal or electronic ballots

1. The association may hold a postal or electronic ballot, as determined by the committee, to decide any matter other than an appeal under clause 8.
2. The ballot must be conducted in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Regulation.

35. Transaction of business outside meetings by electronic means

1. The association may transact its business by the circulation of papers, including by electronic means, among all members of the association.
2. The association may transact its business at a general meeting at which ones or more members participate by electronic means, provided a member who speaks on a matter can be heard by the other members.
3. The member presiding at the meeting and each other member have the same voting rights as they would have at an ordinary meeting of the association for the purposes of:
 - a) the approval of a resolution under subclause (2), or
 - b) a meeting held in accordance with subclause (3).
4. A resolution approved under subclause (2) must be recorded in the minutes of the meetings of the association.

Note: The Act, section 37(3) and (4) contains requirements relating to meetings held at 2 or more venues using technology.



Part 5 Administration

36. Change of name, objects, or constitution

An application for registration of a change in the association's name, objects or constitution made under the Act, section 10 must be made by:

- a) the public officer, or
- b) a committee member.

37. Funds

1. Subject to a resolution passed by the association, the association's funds may be derived from the following sources only:
 - a) the entrance fees and annual subscription fees payable by members,
 - b) donations,
 - c) other sources as determined by the committee.
2. Subject to a resolution passed by the association, the association's funds and assets must be used to pursue the association's objects in the way that the committee determines. As soon as practicable after receiving money, the association must:
 - a) deposit the money, without deduction, to the credit of the association's authorised deposit-taking institution account, and
 - b) issue a receipt for the amount of money received to the person from whom the money was received.

Note: The Act, section 36 provides for the appointment of authorised signatories.

38. Insurance

The association may take out and maintain insurance as appropriate for the association's assets and liabilities, or in any other circumstances as required.

39. Non-profit status

Subject to the Act and the Regulation, the association must not conduct the association's affairs in a way that provides a pecuniary gain for a member of the association.

Note: See the Act, section 40.

40. Service of notices

1. For the purposes of this constitution, a notice may be given to or served on a person:
 - a) by sending the notice by pre-paid post to the address of the person, or
 - b) by sending the notice by electronic transmission to an address specified by the person for giving or serving the notice.
2. A notice is taken to have been given to or served on a person, unless the contrary is proved:
 - a) for a notice sent by pre-paid post - on the date on which the notice would have



- been delivered in the ordinary course of post, or
- b) for a notice sent by electronic transmission:
 - I. on the date the notice was sent, or
 - II. if the machine from which the transmission was sent produces a report indicating the notice was sent on a later date—on the later date.

41. Custody of records and books

Except as otherwise provided by this constitution, all records, books and other documents relating to the association must be kept in New South Wales:

- a) at the association's main premises, in the custody of either of the following persons, as determined by the committee:
 - I. the public officer,
 - II. a member of the association, or
- b) if the association has no premises - at the association's official address, in the custody of the public officer.

42. Inspection of records and books

1. The following documents must be available for inspection, free of charge, by members of the association at a reasonable time:
 - a) this constitution,
 - b) minutes of committee meetings and general meetings of the association,
 - c) records, books and other documents relating to the association.
2. A member may inspect a document referred to in subclause (1):
 - a) in hard copy, or
 - b) in electronic form, if available.
3. A member may obtain a hard copy of a document referred to in subclause (1) on payment of a fee of not more than \$1, as determined by the committee, for each page copied.
4. The committee may refuse to allow a member to inspect or obtain a copy of a document under this clause:
 - a) that relates to confidential, personal, commercial, employment or legal matters, or
 - b) if the committee considers it would be prejudicial to the interests of the association for the member to do so.

43. Financial year

The association's financial year is:

- a) the period commencing on the date of incorporation of the association and ending on the following 30 June, and
- b) each period of 12 months after the expiration of the previous financial year, commencing on 1 July and ending on the following 30 June.



Note: The Regulation, section 21 contains a substitute clause 44 for certain associations incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1984*.

44. Distribution of property on winding up

1. Subject to the Act and the Regulation, in a winding up of the association, the surplus property and monies of the association must be transferred to another organisation:
 - a) with similar objects, and
 - b) which is not carried on for the profit or gain of the organisation's members.
2. In this clause **surplus property** has the same meaning as in the Act, section 65.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, waters, and knowledge for the places where we gather to collaborate and strengthen communities. In our work, we recognise the importance of Country—not just as a place, but how it also maintains community, family, kin, lore and language.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present. This always was, always will be, Aboriginal land. We support the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#).