

Constitution

Renew Australia Inc.

ABN 57 533 056 318

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Renew Australia Inc.

An incorporated association

1 Association's name

The name of the association is Renew Australia Inc. (**association**).

2 Association's purposes

The association's principal purpose is to protect and enhance the natural environment by, without limitation:

- (a) being a highly trusted and sought after source of knowledge, expertise and inspiration on sustainable technologies and lifestyles for communities and householders;
- (b) maintaining an independent and credible knowledge base built on our technical expertise and our member's practical experiences;
- (c) supporting the householder and communities to accelerate the adoption of practical and effective sustainability solutions;
- (d) establishing and maintaining a public fund to be called the Renewable Energy Development Public Fund for the specific purpose of accepting gifts and donations to support and further the principal purpose;
- (e) promoting such things as are incidental to the attainment of the principal purpose.

3 Association's powers

Solely for carrying out the association's purposes, the association may exercise all of the powers of an incorporated association under the Associations Act.

4 Not for profit

4.1 Application of the association's income and property

- (a) The association's income and property must be applied solely towards promoting the association's purposes.
- (b) No part of the income or property may be paid, transferred or distributed, directly or indirectly, by way of bonus or other profit distribution, to any member in their capacity as a member.
- (c) This rule 4 does not prohibit indemnification of, or payment of premiums on contracts of insurance for, any board member to the extent permitted by law and this constitution.

4.2 Payment of board member fees

No board member fees may be paid to the board members.

4.3 Other payments to committee members

All other payments to board members must be approved by the board members including, but not limited to:

- (a) out-of-pocket expenses incurred by a board member in performing a duty as a board member of the association; or
- (b) a service rendered to the association by a board member in a professional or technical capacity or as an employee, other than in the capacity as a board member of the association, where:
 - (1) the provision of the service has the prior approval of the board members; and
 - (2) the amount payable is not more than an amount which commercially would be reasonable payment for the service.

5 Membership

5.1 Members

- (a) The association must have at least 50 members.
- (b) The members are:
 - (1) the persons who are members at the time of adopting this constitution; and
 - (2) any other persons who are admitted to membership in accordance with this rule 5.
- (c) Every applicant for membership of the association (except the initial members) must apply in the form and manner decided by the board members.
- (d) Every member agrees to comply with this constitution and support the purposes of the association set out in rule 2.

5.2 Membership fee

- (a) An annual membership fee may be decided by the board members, and notified to the members.
- (b) The board members must notify all persons entered on the register of members of the amount and time for payment of any annual membership fee and of any alteration to the annual membership fee. Varying amounts may be applied as decided by the board members and made available to the members in a notice or a membership policy.
- (c) Where the annual membership fee is not received:
 - after one month of the due date, the board members may issue a written reminder notice to the member; and
- (d) If a member who was issued a reminder notice pursuant to rule 5.2(c) has not paid an annual membership fee for more than 1 month after the written reminder notice, the person ceases to be a member.

5.3 Register of Members

- (a) The association must maintain a register of members setting out the name, address, alternative electronic or other address (if any) for receipt of notices and date membership starts and ceases.
- (b) The date membership ceases must be recorded within 14 days of that date

5.4 Grievance procedure

- (a) Any dispute under this constitution between a member and another member or between a member and the association must, unless the parties otherwise agree, be dealt with by the procedure in this rule 5.4.
- (b) Any party to a dispute between members may refer the dispute to the board members for determination or mediation.
- (c) The board members may, subject to rule 5.4(e), act as a mediator or decision maker (provided they are unbiased) or may appoint a third party as a mediator or decision maker.
- (d) If there is a dispute between the association and a member, either party may require the dispute be referred to mediation.
- (e) The mediator must be unbiased and:
 - (1) a person chosen by agreement between the parties to the dispute; or
 - (2) in the absence of agreement within 14 days of a party requiring mediation;
 - (A) in the case of a dispute between a member and another member, a person appointed by the board members;
 - (B) in the case of a dispute between a member and the association, a person who is a mediator appointed or

employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (Department of Justice) or its successor in law.

- (f) A member can be a mediator, provided they are unbiased.
- (g) Any party to a dispute may appoint any person to act on behalf of that party.
- (h) In each dispute:
 - (1) the parties to the dispute must have a reasonable opportunity to be heard;
 - (2) due consideration must be given to any written statement submitted by a party; and
 - (3) natural justice must be accorded to the parties to the dispute throughout the process.
- (i) If the mediation process does not result in the dispute being resolved, within a reasonable time as decided by the mediator, or failing this decision, within one month of the party requiring mediation, any party to the dispute may refer the matter to an unbiased decision maker.
- (j) A determination made under this rule is final and binding on all parties to the dispute.

5.5 Disciplinary action

- (a) The board members may decide there are grounds to investigate if:
 - (1) a member has failed to comply with the rules or any procedures or policies of the association; or
 - (2) it is in the interests of the association for a member to no longer remain a member; or
 - (3) the member is not supporting the purposes of the association or by act or omission may cause detriment to the association or its reputation.
 - (4) The board members may establish a sub-committee or consider the matter itself or refer the matter to a third party, provided the decision maker is unbiased.
- (b) At least two weeks before a meeting to consider the issues, the decision maker, must give the member written notice:
 - (1) stating the date, place and time of the meeting;
 - (2) setting out the grounds on which the investigation is based; and
 - (3) informing the member that she or he may attend the meeting and may give an oral or written explanation or submission.
- (c) The decision maker has 4 weeks to consider the issues and may call for further information and hearings. The decision maker may decide on the appropriate disciplinary action, if any, including a decision to expel the member. Any decision must be notified to the member within 6 weeks from the meeting referred to in rule 5.5(b).
- (d) A member who has received notice under rule 5.5(b) must not initiate a grievance procedure under rule 5.4 until the determination under this rule 5.5.
- (e) A determination by the decision maker is final and binding on all parties.

5.6 When membership ceases

A person ceases to be a member if the person:

- (a) dies;
- (b) resigns as a member by giving written notice to the association;
- (c) becomes bankrupt or insolvent or makes any arrangement or composition with her or his creditors;
- (d) is expelled under rule 5.5;
- (e) has not replied within 3 months of a written notice sent to the person asking to confirm in writing that the person wishes to remain a member; or
- (f) ceases to be a member under rule 5.2.

5.7 Rights, obligations and liabilities of members

- (a) The members have the right to :
 - (1) receive notice, attend, participate and vote at general meetings in accordance with rule 9;
 - (2) inspect the association's records, including the register of members, in accordance with rule 16.3.
- (b) The members are required to comply with this constitution and any policies of the association that are applicable to members.
- (c) The liabilities of a member, as a member, are limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of any membership fee.

6 Winding up

- (a) If, on the winding up or dissolution of the association, any property remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, and after the application of rule 7.10, this property must only be given or transferred to an entity that is charitable at law.
- (b) The entity referred to in rule 6(a) must be decided by the board members, or if the board members do not wish to decide or do not decide, it must be decided by the members by ordinary resolution at or before the time of winding up or dissolution of the association.

7 Inclusion on the Register

7.1 Application of this rule

This rule 7 only applies if the association is on the Register of Environmental Organisations and only to the extent required by relevant law, regulation or guideline applicable to the association, or any

administrative requirement or practice of the Department, the Australian Taxation Office or any regulator.

7.2 Maintaining a Public Fund

- (a) The association must establish and maintain for its environmental purposes set out in rule 2 a fund to be called the **Renewable Energy Development Public Fund (Public Fund)**:
 - (1) to which Gifts and Deductible Contributions are made;
 - (2) to which any money received by the association because of those Gifts and Deductible Contributions is credited; and
 - (3) that does not receive any other money or property.
- (b) The association must seek donations from the public to the Public Fund.
- (c) Rule 4 applies to the Public Fund.

7.3 Ministerial rules

The association must comply with any rules that the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Commissioner or the Minister responsible for the Register make to ensure that Gifts or Deductible Contributions made to the Public Fund will be used only for the association's principal purposes set out in clause 2.

7.4 Bank account

- (a) The association must maintain a separate bank account and proper accounting records for the Public Fund.
- (b) The signatories must be Australian resident members authorised by the association.

7.5 Receipts

Receipts for Gifts or Deductible Contributions to the Public Fund must be made in the name of the Public Fund and state:

- (a) the number of the receipt;
- (b) the name and ABN of the association
- (c) the name of the Public Fund and a reference to it being on the Register;
- (d) the date and amount (or value, if property) of the Gift or Deductible Contribution;
- (e) the name of the donor or contributors; and
- (f) the fact that it was a Gift or Deductible Contribution (and if it was a Deductible Contribution, the relevant fundraising event and GST inclusive market value of the event or goods or services purchased).

7.6 Notifying the Department

The association must notify the Department as soon as practicable of:

- (a) any changes to the association's name or the name of its public fund;
- (b) any changes to its principal purposes as set out in rule 2;

- (c) any change to the committee administering the Public Fund;
- (d) any departure from this rule 7;
- (e) the association becoming insolvent or any process for the winding up of the association commencing or the association experiencing any other financial difficulties; or
- (f) any other issues reasonably requested by the Department.

7.7 Statistical information

- (a) The association must provide to the Department statistical information on the Gift and Deductible Contributions made to the Public Fund within four months of the end of the financial year.
- (b) The association must provide an audited financial statement for the association and the Public Fund with the annual statistical return which provides information on the expenditure of the Public Fund monies and the management of the Public Fund assets.

7.8 Conduit policy

The association must not act as a mere conduit for a donor by passing a donation of money or property to other charities, bodies or persons as directed or indicated by the donor. It must not act as a collection agency for donations intended by a donor for another institution or person.

7.9 Public Fund committee

The Public Fund must be managed and administered by at least 3 people, a majority of whom are Responsible Persons. This may be the board members of the association or a committee formed by the board for this purpose.

7.10 Winding up or revocation

At the first occurrence of:

- (a) the winding up of the Public Fund;
 - (b) the association ceasing to be endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under Subdivision 30-BA of ITAA 97; or
 - (c) the association and the Public Fund ceasing to be on the Register,
- any surplus assets of the Public Fund must be transferred to a fund on the Register, the identity of which must be decided by the association.

8 Altering this constitution

- (a) The association must not pass a special resolution altering this constitution, if, as a result, the association would cease to be a charity.
- (b) A resolution purporting to alter this constitution in breach of rule 8(a) will have no effect.
- (c) This constitution may only be altered, deleted or added to, in accordance with section 50 of the Associations Act.

9 Accountability to members

9.1 Accountability to members

The association must be accountable to the members within the terms of the law, including, as applicable, the Associations Act, the ACNC Act and this constitution.

9.2 Convening general meetings

- (a) The association must in each calendar year convene an annual general meeting of the members within 5 months of the end of the Financial Year.
- (b) The board members may convene a general meeting at such time and place as the board members think fit.
- (c) If members with at least 5% of the votes that may be cast at a general meeting make a written request to the association for a general meeting to be held for a proper purpose and with a valid resolution, the board members must:
 - (1) within 21 days of the members' request, give all members notice of a general meeting; and
 - (2) hold the meeting within 2 months of the members' request.
- (d) The members who make the request for a general meeting must:
 - (1) state in the request the resolution to be proposed at the meeting;
 - (2) sign the request; and
 - (3) give the request to the association.
- (e) The board members may not postpone or cancel a general meeting convened in response to a member's requisition under rule 9.2(c) in accordance with rule 9.4 without the prior written consent of the persons who requisitioned or convened the meeting.

9.3 Notice of general meetings

- (a) At least 21 days' notice of every general meeting must be given in any manner authorised by rule 14.1 to each person who is at the date of the notice:
 - (1) a member;
 - (2) a board member; or
 - (3) the Auditor, if applicable.
- (b) A notice of a general meeting must:
 - (1) specify the date, time and place of the meeting;
 - (2) state the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting; if a special resolution is proposed,
 - (3) state in full any proposed special resolution and state that the resolution is being proposed as a special resolution; and
 - (4) specify any details of voting such as proxies, voting by notice or other methods, if any, as decided by the board members.
- (c) The non-receipt of notice of a general meeting or proxy form by, or a failure to give notice of a general meeting or a proxy form to, any person entitled to

receive notice of a general meeting does not invalidate anything done or resolution passed at the general meeting if:

- (1) the non-receipt or failure occurred by accident or error; or
- (2) before or after the meeting, the person notifies the association of that person's agreement to that thing or resolution.
- (d) A person's attendance at a general meeting waives any objection to a failure to give notice, or the giving of a defective notice, of the meeting.

9.4 Changing, postponing or adjourning general meetings

- (a) The board members may change the venue for, postpone, adjourn or cancel a general meeting if:
 - (1) they reasonably consider that the meeting has become unnecessary;
 - (2) the venue would be unreasonable or impractical;
 - (3) a change is necessary in the interests of conducting the meeting efficiently; or
 - (4) a quorum is not present under rule 9.5.
- (b) No business may be transacted at any adjourned meeting except the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
- (c) Where a meeting is adjourned for 30 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given as for an original meeting.
- (d) Except as provided by rule 9.4(c), it is not necessary to give any notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.

9.5 Quorum at general meetings

- (a) No business may be transacted at a general meeting, except the election of a chair and the adjournment of the meeting, unless a quorum of members is present when the meeting proceeds to business.
- (b) A quorum consists of at least 20 members entitled to vote and who are present personally, by proxy or who have submitted a vote by notice in accordance with rule 9.11 (if permitted).
- (c) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for a general meeting the meeting stands adjourned to the day, and at the time and place, that the board members decide or, if the board members do not make a decision, to the same day in the next week at the same time and place.
- (d) If at the adjourned meeting under rule 9.4(c), a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting must be dissolved.

9.6 Digital meetings

- (a) The simultaneous linking together by telephone or digital means of a sufficient number of the members in person, to constitute a quorum constitutes a meeting of the members, provided each member has a reasonable opportunity to participate at the meeting.
- (b) All the provisions in this rule 9 apply to meetings of the members by telephone or digital means.

- (c) A member who takes part in a meeting by telephone or digital means is taken to be present in person at the meeting.
- (d) A meeting by telephone or digital means is taken as held at the place decided by the chair of the meeting, as long as at least one of the members involved was at that place for the duration of the meeting.
- (e) The board members may decide the procedures in relation to voting at a meeting by telephone or digital means, including specifying the form, method and timing of voting by notice.

9.7 Chair of general meetings

- (a) The chair of the board must preside as chair at a general meeting if present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting and willing to act.
- (b) If there is no chair of the board or both the conditions in rule 9.7(a) have not been met, the members present must elect another chair of the meeting.
- (c) A chair elected under rule 9.7(b) must be:
 - (1) another board member who is present and willing to act; or
 - (2) if no other board member present at the meeting is willing to act, a member who is present and willing to act.
- (d) A question arising at a general meeting relating to the order of business, procedure or conduct of the meeting must be referred to the chair of the meeting, whose decision is final.
- (e) Where the votes on a proposed resolution are equal, the chair has the second or casting vote.

9.8 Decisions of the members

- (a) Every member has one vote.
- (b) The board members may decide the manner voting is held at a meeting or, where a meeting is not required, by postal, electronic or any other means of voting.
- (c) Unless otherwise decided by the board members, each member entitled to vote at a meeting of members may vote:
 - (1) in person, or where a member is a body corporate, by its representatives;
 - (2) by proxy;
 - (3) by notice in accordance with 9.11 (if permitted).
- (d) A proxy or representative is entitled to a separate vote for each member the person represents, in addition to any vote the person may have as a member in her or his own right.
- (e) If the board members decide, voting by notice may be permitted in addition to or instead of proxy voting.
- (f) An objection to the qualification of a person to vote must be:
 - (1) raised before the vote objected to is counted; and
 - (2) referred to the chair, whose decision is final.
- (g) A vote not disallowed by the chair under rule 9.8(f)(2) of a meeting is valid for all purposes.

- (h) Except where by law a resolution requires a special majority, questions arising at a general meeting must be decided by a majority of votes cast by the members.

9.9 Voting by show of hands or ballot

- (a) A resolution put to the vote of a general meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless, before the vote is taken or immediately after the declaration of the result of the show of hands, a ballot (poll) is demanded by:
 - (1) the chair of the meeting; or
 - (2) any member present.
- (b) A demand for a ballot does not prevent a general meeting continuing for the transaction of any business except the question on which the ballot has been demanded.
- (c) Unless a ballot is duly demanded, a declaration by the chair of a general meeting that a resolution has been carried or carried unanimously, or carried by a particular majority, or lost, and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of the proceedings of the association, is conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.
- (d) If a ballot is duly demanded at a general meeting, it must be taken in such manner, and either at once or after an interval or adjournment or otherwise, as the chair of the meeting directs. The result of the ballot is the resolution of the meeting at which the ballot was demanded.
- (e) A ballot demanded at a general meeting on the election of a chair of the meeting or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately.
- (f) The demand for a ballot may be withdrawn.

9.10 Voting by proxy or representative

- (a) A member may appoint a proxy by notice to the association, and an incorporated member (a body corporate) may appoint a proxy or a representative, to attend a meeting and vote on behalf of the member.
- (b) The proxy or representative does not need to be a member of the association.
- (c) The written appointment of a proxy or representative may direct the manner in which the proxy or representative is to vote in respect of a particular resolution and, where this is provided, the proxy or representative is not entitled to vote on the proposed resolution except as directed in the appointment.
- (d) The appointment of a proxy or representative is not revoked by the appointer attending and taking part in the general meeting but, if the appointer votes on a resolution in person, the person acting as proxy or representative for the appointer is not entitled to vote, and must not vote, as the appointer's proxy on the resolution.

9.11 Voting by giving notice to the association

- (a) The board members may decide that a member who is entitled to attend and vote on a resolution at a general meeting is entitled to vote by notice in respect of that resolution.

- (b) The board members may decide the procedures in relation to voting by notice, including specifying the form, method and timing of casting a vote at a meeting.
- (c) A person who has cast a vote by notice prior to a meeting is entitled to attend the meeting. If a member attempts to cast more than one vote on a particular resolution, the vote cast in person at the meeting prevails over the vote cast by notice prior to the meeting.

10 Board members

10.1 Composition of board

- (a) The board members will be the persons who were board members immediately before the adoption of this constitution.
- (b) The minimum number of board members is 7. The maximum number of board members is to be fixed by the board members, but may not be more than 11. The board members may appoint any individual as a board member, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing board members, provided:
 - (1) the number of board members does not exceed the maximum number fixed under rule 10.1(b);
 - (2) before appointing the board member, that individual signs a consent to act as a board member;
 - (3) the individual is not disqualified managing a corporation under the Corporations Act nor from being a responsible entity under the ACNC Act;
 - (4) the individual is not an employee at the time of appointment
- (c) Subject to rule 10.4, the board members must resign from office as provided in rule 10.2.

10.2 Process for retirement and re-election

- (a) Subject to rule 10.4, a board member appointed by the board members under rule 10.1(b) holds office only until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting following her or his appointment.
- (b) Subject to rule 10.4, a board member elected by the members holds office until the second annual general meeting following the meeting at which the board member was last elected or re-elected.
- (c) A board member retiring from office is eligible for re-election subject to a maximum of 3 terms.

- (d) The retirement of a board member from office and the re-election of the board member or the election of another person to that office (as the case may be) takes effect at the conclusion of the meeting at which the retirement and re-election or election occur.

10.3 Nomination of board members

- (a) Nominations of candidates for election as board members will be received by the secretary at least 30 days prior to the annual general meeting of the association at which elections will be held unless the board members agree to accept nominations after this time.
- (b) The nominations must be:
 - (1) made in writing, signed by one member other than the candidate;
 - (2) accompanied by a short biographical statement and the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination);
 - (3) delivered to the secretary before the date notified.

10.4 Vacation of office

The office of a board member becomes vacant if:

- (a) the board members resigns by giving notice to the association;
- (b) the board member is removed from office by special resolution of the members;
- (c) the board member is appointed for a specific term of office and is not reappointed;
- (d) except to the extent of a leave of absence granted by the board members, the board member fails to attend at least three consecutive board meetings or at least four meetings over a period of one year;
- (e) a person is appointed to make decisions on behalf of the board member under a law relating to mental health; or
- (f) a statutory manager is appointed under the Associations Act to conduct the affairs of the association.

10.5 Powers and duties of board members

- (a) The board members are responsible for managing the association's affairs and carrying out the association's purposes set out in rule 2.
- (b) The board members may exercise all the association's powers which are not required, by the Associations Act or by this constitution, to be exercised by the members in general meeting.
- (c) The board members must ensure they are aware of, and comply with their duties set out in the Associations Act and in the regulations of the ACNC Act.
- (d) The board members may delegate any of their powers and functions to one or more of the board members, a committee, an employee, an agent or other person as the board members decide.

10.6 Board positions

- (a) The board members may elect a chair, a deputy chair, a treasurer, or other positions as and when the board members decide and may decide the period for which that board member is to hold that position.
- (b) The secretary must be appointed in accordance with rule 11 and need not be a member of the board.

10.7 Board members' interests

- (a) Subject to rule 10.7(b), a board member who has a perceived or actual material conflict of interest (including a material personal interest) in a matter being considered by the board members must:
 - (1) as soon as she or he becomes aware of her or his interest, disclose to the board members the nature and extent of her or his interest and the relation of the interest to the activities of the association; and
 - (2) where it is a material personal interest, disclose the nature and extent of the interest to the members at the next general meeting.
- (b) Rule 10.7(a)(2) does not apply in respect of an interest that exists only by virtue of the fact that the board member:
 - (1) is a member of a class of persons for whose benefit the association is established; or
 - (2) has the interest in common with all or a substantial proportion of the members.
- (c) A board member who has a perceived or actual material conflict of interest in a contract, or proposed contract, with the association, or who has a perceived or actual material conflict of interest in a matter being considered by the board members, must not, unless rule 10.7(b)(2) and (3) applies:
 - (1) be present while the matter is being considered; or
 - (2) vote on the matter.
- (d) A disclosure under rule 10.7(a)(1) and (2) must be recorded in the minutes of the meetings at which the disclosure was made. This may be a standing notice of disclosure.
- (e) A contract is not liable to be avoided by the association on any ground arising from the fiduciary relationship between the board member and the association and the board member is not liable to account for profits derived from the contract, provided rules 10.7(a) and (c) have been complied with (if applicable) by the board member.
- (f) If there are not enough board members to form a quorum to consider a matter due to rule 10.7(c), any board member (including a board member with a perceived or actual material conflict of interest) may call a general meeting to consider the matter.
- (g) The board members may make regulations or adopt a policy dealing with a conflict of interest, including requiring the disclosure of interests that a board member, and any person considered by the board members as related to or associated with the board member, may have, or may be perceived to have, in any matter concerning or which may affect the association, in any way.

10.8 Use of information or position

- (a) A board member must not:
 - (1) while a board member; and
 - (2) after ceasing to be a board member,
knowingly or recklessly make improper use of information acquired by virtue of her or his position in the association so as to:
 - (3) gain, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary benefit or material advantage for himself or herself or any other person; or
 - (4) cause a detriment to the association.
- (b) A board member must not knowingly or recklessly make improper use of her or his position in the association so as to:
 - (1) gain, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary benefit or material advantage for himself or herself or any other person; or
 - (2) cause detriment to the association.

10.9 Convening board meetings

- (a) A board member may convene a meeting of the board members by giving reasonable notice to the other board members.
- (b) The secretary must, on the requisition of a board member, convene a meeting of the board members.
- (c) A notice of a board meeting:
 - (1) must specify the time and place of the meeting;
 - (2) need not state the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting;
 - (3) may be given immediately before the meeting; and
 - (4) may be given in any way authorised by rule 14.1.
- (d) A board member may waive the requirement of notice of a meeting of board members by giving notice to the association.
- (e) The non-receipt of notice of a meeting of board members by, or a failure to give notice of a meeting of board members to, a board member does not invalidate anything done or resolution passed at the meeting if:
 - (1) the non-receipt or failure occurred by accident or error;
 - (2) the board member has waived or waives notice of that meeting before or after the meeting;
 - (3) the board member notifies the secretary or chair of her or his agreement to that thing or resolution in any way authorised by rule 14.2 before or after the meeting; or
 - (4) the board member attended the meeting.

10.10 Digital board meetings

- (a) A board member who takes part in a meeting by telephone or digital means is taken to be present in person at the meeting.

- (b) The simultaneous linking together by telephone or digital means of a sufficient number of the board member to constitute a quorum constitutes a board meeting.
- (c) All the provisions in this constitution relating to meetings of board members apply, as far as they can and with any necessary changes, to board meetings by telephone or digital means.
- (d) A meeting by telephone or other electronic means is taken as held at the place decided by the chair of the meeting, as long as at least one of the board members was at that place for the duration of the meeting.
- (e) If a technical difficulty occurs which means that one or more board members cannot participate, the chair may adjourn the meeting until the difficulty is remedied or may, if a quorum of board member remains present, continue with the meeting.

10.11 Quorum at board meetings

- (a) No business may be transacted at a board meeting unless a quorum of board members is present at the time the business is dealt with.
- (b) A quorum consists of at least 5 board members.
- (c) If the number of board members in office at any time is less than the minimum number of board members fixed under this constitution, the remaining board members must act as soon as possible to appoint additional board members, as required, and, until that has happened, may only act if and to the extent that there is an emergency requiring them to act.

10.12 Chair

- (a) The board members may elect one of the board members as chair and may decide the period for which that person is to be the chair.
- (b) The chair of the board must preside as chair at each board meeting if present within 10 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting and willing to act.
- (c) If there is no chair or the conditions in rule 10.12(b) have not been met, the board members present must elect one of the board members as chair of the meeting.

10.13 Decisions of board members

- (a) A resolution at a board meeting must be decided by a majority of votes cast by the board members present.
- (b) Where the votes on a proposed resolution are equal, the chair of the meeting does has a second or casting vote.

10.14 Decisions without a meeting

- (a) A resolution is taken to have been passed by a meeting of board members if:
 - (1) all of the board members who would be entitled to receive notice and vote on a resolution are given a document setting out that resolution; and
 - (2) all the board members sign or consent to the resolution.
- (b) A board member may consent to a resolution by:

- (1) signing the document containing the resolution (or a copy of that document);
 - (2) giving the association notice agreeing to the resolution and either setting out its terms or otherwise clearly identifying them; or
 - (3) telephoning the secretary or the chair and signifying assent to the resolution and clearly identifying its terms.
- (c) The resolution is taken as passed when the last board member signs or consents to that resolution.

10.15 Committees

- (a) The board members may delegate any of their powers to one or more committees consisting of any number of board members and/or others.
- (b) A committee must exercise its powers within the terms of the delegation.
- (c) The procedures in this rule 10 apply as far as possible to the decision-making of any committees.

10.16 Validity of acts

An act done by:

- (a) a person acting as a board member;
- (b) a meeting of board members; or
- (c) a committee under rule 10.15,

is not invalidated merely because of one of the following circumstances, if that circumstance was not known by the person, the board members or the committee (as applicable) when the act was done:

- (d) a defect in the appointment of the person as a board member;
- (e) the person being disqualified to be a board member or having vacated office; or
- (f) the person not being entitled to vote.

11 Secretary

11.1 Appointment

- (a) The board members must appoint a secretary to hold the position subject to the Associations Act and carry out the duties provided in the Associations Act and any additional duties as decided by the board members.
- (b) Before being appointed, the secretary must:
 - (1) consent to the appointment;
 - (2) be at least 18 years old; and
 - (3) be a resident of Australia.
- (c) The secretary may hold any other position or office in the association but is not required to be a board member.
- (d) Rule 10.8 relating to use of information or position applies to the secretary as though she or he is a board member.

11.2 Vacation in office

- (a) The office of a secretary becomes vacant if:
 - (1) the secretary resigns by giving notice to the association;
 - (2) the secretary is removed from office by resolution of the board members;
 - (3) the secretary ceases to be a resident of Australia;
 - (4) a person is appointed to make decisions on behalf of the secretary under a law relating to mental health; or
 - (5) a statutory manager is appointed under the Associations Act to conduct the affairs of the association.
- (b) The board members must appoint a new secretary within 14 days of the office becoming vacant and provide notice as required under the Associations Act.

12 Indemnity and insurance

12.1 Persons to whom the indemnity and insurance apply

The indemnity and insurance referred to in this rule 12 applies to Indemnified Officers.

12.2 Indemnity

- (a) The association must indemnify, on a full indemnity basis and to the full extent permitted by law, each Indemnified Officer against all losses or liabilities (including costs and expenses) incurred by the person as an officer of the association.
- (b) This indemnity:
 - (1) is a continuing obligation and is enforceable by an Indemnified Officer even though that person has ceased to be an officer of the association;
 - (2) is enforceable without that person having first to incur any expense or make any payment; and
 - (3) operates only to the extent that the loss or liability in question is not covered by insurance.

12.3 Insurance

The association may, to the extent permitted by law:

- (a) purchase and maintain insurance; or
- (b) pay or agree to pay a premium for insurance,

for any Indemnified Officer against any liability incurred by the person as an officer of the association where the board members consider it appropriate to do so.

12.4 Savings

Nothing in this rule 12:

- (a) affects any other right or remedy that an Indemnified Officer may have in respect of any loss or liability referred to in this rule 12; or
- (b) limits the capacity of the association to indemnify or provide or pay for insurance for any person to whom this rule 12 does not apply.

13 Financial records

13.1 Keep financial records

- (a) The board members must keep financial records that:
 - (1) correctly record and explain the association's transactions and financial position and performance; and
 - (2) enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared as required by the Associations Act or any other law.
- (b) The records must be retained for at least 7 years.

13.2 Tier one, tier two or tier three association

- (a) Each year the board members must determine whether the association is a tier one, tier two or tier three association in accordance with the Associations Act and comply with the requirements of reporting, review and audit applicable to that tier as set out in the Associations Act.
- (b) At the time of adoption of this constitution:
 - (1) tier one has total revenue less than \$250,000 during the previous Financial Year;
 - (2) tier two has total revenue of more than \$250,000 but less than \$1,000,000 during the previous Financial Year;
 - (3) tier three has total revenue of more than \$1,000,000 during the previous Financial Year.

14 Notice

14.1 Notice from the association

The association may give notice and any communication:

- (a) personally;
- (b) by post to the person's nominated address;
- (c) by email or other electronic means; or
- (d) by notifying the person by email or other electronic means, that the notice or communication or publication is available at a specified electronic address.

14.2 Notice to the association

Notice may be given to the association:

- (a) by personal service at its registered address;
- (b) by post to its registered address;
- (c) by sending it to the association's principal email address, or if there is no principal email address, to the email address of the secretary;
- (d) in relation to voting by notice, in the manner decided by the board members.

14.3 Time of service

- (a) A notice from the association properly addressed and posted is taken to be served at 10.00am on the day that is three Business Days after the date it was posted.
- (b) Where the association sends a notice by email or other electronic means, the notice is taken as served at the time it is sent.
- (c) If service under rule 14.3(b) is on a day which is not a Business Day or is after 4.00pm (addressee's time), the notice is regarded as having been received at 9.00am on the following Business Day.

14.4 Other communications and documents

Rules 14.1 to 14.3 apply, as far as they can, with any necessary changes, to the service of any communication or document.

15 Source and management of funds

- (a) The funds of the association are to be derived from fees, subscriptions, gifts, sponsorships, donations, government grants, fundraising activities and such other sources as the board members determine.
- (b) The funds must be managed as decided by the board members.
- (c) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed:
 - (1) as the board members decide; or
 - (2) failing a decision, by any 2 board members.

16 Records

16.1 Custody of records

The board members or their delegate for this purpose must keep in its or their custody, or under its or their control, all records, books, documents and securities of the association.

16.2 Minutes

- (a) The board members must ensure:
 - (1) minutes of general meetings, board meetings and committee meetings (including all resolutions proposed); and

- (2) records of resolutions passed by members, board members and committees, without a meeting,
are recorded and kept as part of the association's records. The records must be made within one month after the relevant meeting is held or resolution passed.
- (b) The minutes of a meeting must be signed within a reasonable time by the chair of the meeting or the chair of the next meeting.

16.3 Inspection of records

- (a) The documents associated with incorporation, this constitution, the trust deed of any trust of which the association is a trustee, and the minutes of general meetings, including accounting records and financial statements submitted to that general meeting, must be made available for inspection by any member who gives the chair, the secretary or delegate for this purpose, reasonable notice that the member wishes to inspect them.
- (b) The board members must give a member a copy of anything referred to in rule 16.3(a) within 14 days of a written request from a member
- (c) A member (other than a board member) may apply in writing to the board members to have access to:
 - (1) minutes of board meetings or meetings of committees;
 - (2) any resolutions of the board or any committee;
 - (3) records, books, relevant documents or securities of the association.
- (d) The application must state the member's purpose of the access and specify how the member will use the information.
- (e) The board members must review the application at the board meeting following the receipt of the application, or if that is not practicable, at the next following board meeting. The board members may request further information or written undertakings from the member as to the use of the information. The board members may:
 - (1) agree to the application, subject to the association's legal and other duties (including privacy, commercial confidentiality, governance) on such terms and conditions as it considers necessary, including setting access and time limits to control any disruption or inconvenience to management or volunteer time, and may require the member to enter a confidentiality deed or deed restricting the use and disclosure, and any other conditions the board members consider necessary or desirable; or
 - (2) refuse the application in its absolute discretion if it considers it may not be in the interests of the association, or any of the other entities referred to in the relevant documents, to allow the member access.

16.4 Returning documents of the association

Any person who has possession or control of documents that belong to the association are required to return the documents to the secretary within 28 days after the person ceases to be a member, or ceases to hold the position or role by virtue of which she or he had possession or control of the documents.

17 Common seal

There is no common seal. Contracts and documents of the association must be signed:

- (a) as authorised by the board members; or
- (b) by any 2 board members; or
- (c) by a board member and the secretary.

18 Definitions and interpretation

18.1 Definitions

The meanings of the terms used in this constitution are set out below.

Term	Meaning
ACNC Act	<i>Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth).</i>
Associations Act	<i>Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic).</i>
Auditor	the auditor of the association for the purposes of audit or review under the Associations Act.
board member	a member of the committee of management of the association.
Business Day	Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding New Years' Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, ANZAC Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
Commissioner	the Commissioner of Taxation, a Second Commissioner of Taxation or a Deputy Commissioner of Taxation for the purposes of ITAA 97.
Corporations Act	<i>Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).</i>
Deductible Contribution	a voluntary transfer of money or property in relation to an eligible fundraising event as described in item 7 or item 8 of the table in section 30 15 of the ITAA 97.
Department	the Department of the Commonwealth responsible for the Register.

Term	Meaning
Financial Year	period of 12 months ending on 30 June.
Gift	a voluntary transfer of money or property (including financial assets such as shares) where the donor receives no material benefit or advantage as described in item 1 of the table in section 30-15 of the ITAA 97.
Indemnified Officer	each person who is or has been a board member or secretary of the association; and <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 an office holder within the meaning of the Associations Act; and 2 any former officer holder as the board members in each case decide.
ITAA 97	<i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> (Cth).
Public Fund	the public fund named Renewable Energy Development Public Fund referred to in rule 7.2.
Register	the Register of Environmental Organisations maintained by the Department.
vote by notice	a vote submitted by a member by giving notice to the association for or against the identified resolution.

18.2 Interpretation

In this constitution:

- (a) a reference to any legislation includes all delegated legislation made under it and amendments, consolidations, replacements or re-enactments of any of them;
- (b) a word or expression defined or used in the Corporations Act, covering the same subject, has the same meaning in this constitution;
- (c) a reference to 'written' or 'in writing' includes electronic communications;
- (d) a reference to a document being 'signed' or to 'signature' includes that document being executed under hand or under seal or by any other method and, in the case of a communication in electronic form, includes the document being authenticated in accordance with the Corporations Act or any other method approved by the board members;
- (e) a reference to a member present at a general meeting is a reference to a member present in person or by proxy, attorney or representative; and

- (f) the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular.

19 Application of the Associations Act

19.1 Associations Act

Unless the contrary intention appears:

- (a) an expression used in a rule that deals with a matter dealt with by a provision of the Associations Act has the same meaning as in that provision; and
- (b) subject to rule 19.1(a), an expression in a rule that has a defined meaning for the purposes of the Associations Act has the same meaning as in the Associations Act.

19.2 Model rules

The provisions of this constitution displace each provision of the Model rules, except to the extent required by the Associations Act.