

**RULES OF ASSOCIATION**  
**AUSTRALIAN CANAL SOCIETY**

*An unincorporated association*

**(1) OVERVIEW**

These rules of association (hereinafter "Rules") apply to the unincorporated association which operates under the name of AUSTRALIAN CANAL SOCIETY (hereinafter "Association").

These Rules shall be binding on the members of the Association and shall be enforceable in the courts of New South Wales.

**(2) DEFINITIONS**

In these Rules, the following definitions shall apply:

*"Association"* means AUSTRALIAN CANAL SOCIETY

*"Committee"* means the committee of the Association, such committee being created under these Rules.

*"Greater Sydney Region"* means the area of greater Sydney bounded by and including the following Local Government Areas – Sutherland Shire, Campbelltown, Camden, Liverpool, Penrith, Blacktown, The Hills Shire, Hornsby, and the Northern Beaches.

*"Member"* means a member of the Association, having attained membership in accordance with these Rules.

*"Rules"* means these rules of Association.

**(3) PURPOSE**

(a) The Association is established for the following purpose ("the Purpose"):

The Association will

- Promote interest in and educate members and the general public in relation to inland water navigation and canals.
- Meet and discuss inland waterways with other enthusiasts
- Learn about the canal systems of Britain, Europe, and other parts of the world
- Discover the fascinating history of canals and inland waterways

- Promote the appreciation of the scenic beauty of inland waterways and surrounding areas
- Maintain knowledge of current issues affecting the inland waterways
- Enjoy and benefit from the boating experiences of others
- Facilitate members to planning and organising individual canal cruises
- Support inland waterway restoration projects around the globe

(b) The Association may do all things that help it to achieve or further the Purpose, in accordance with these Rules.

(c) The Association may only do things for the Purpose.

(d) The Association may only use any assets and income of the Association for the Purpose.

(e) For the sake of clarity, the Association is permitted to do the following:

(I) pay a Member an amount less than or equal to a fair market rate, for goods or services that the Member provides to the Association in accordance with the Purpose; or

(II) provide a benefit to the Member, including a financial benefit, if that benefit is in accordance with the Purpose or is necessary in order to further the Purpose.

#### **(4) MEMBERSHIP**

(a) Any person ("the Applicant") may apply to become a Member of the Association, by undertaking the application process as determined by the Committee from time to time.

(b) In order to be eligible to become a Member, an Applicant must, (among other things):

(I) satisfy the Committee that the Member supports the Purpose; and

(II) agree to be bound by these Rules.

(c) After the Committee has made a determination regarding the Applicant's application, the Committee will contact the Applicant as soon as possible, to tell them whether the application has been approved or rejected.

(d) In the event that an Applicant's application is rejected, the Association does not need to provide reasons to the Applicant.

## **(5) FEES**

The Association may charge fees ("Fees") in the following manner:

- (I) Each member must pay an annual membership Fee.
- (II) Membership Fees will be set from time to time for
  - (a) Members residing in the Greater Sydney Region,
  - (b) Members residing outside the Greater Sydney Region, but not overseas, and
  - (c) Members residing overseas
- (III) Members residing together at the same address are only required to pay one membership Fee each year
- (IV) Upon resolution by the Committee, and in recognition of exceptional service to the Association, certain members may be granted an exemption from the requirement in 5(I) for a period of time (which may be perpetual) as determined by the Committee.

## **(6) SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

- (a) A person's membership may be suspended if that person fails to pay Fees when they fall due.
- (b) A person's membership may be cancelled if that person fails to pay Fees within six months of that person's membership being suspended.
- (c) A person stops being a member altogether if that person:
  - (I) provides to the Committee written notice of resignation; or
  - (II) has their membership cancelled in accordance with these Rules; or
  - (III) dies.
- (d) If a person has had their membership suspended, that person cannot exercise any member's rights (such as voting at meetings), unless and until the period of suspension ends.
- (e) If a person has stopped being a member, then that person must reapply for membership in the ordinary manner, and must have that application accepted by the Committee, before being able to exercise any member's rights.
- (f) In the event that a person resigns as a Member, that person is not entitled to any reimbursement of any Fees (or any part of any Fees) that have been paid.

## **(7) REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

- (a) The Association will maintain a register of Members ("the Register").
- (b) A person will become a Member when that person's name is entered in the Register.
- (c) The following details for each Member ("Details") will be recorded in the Register:
  - (I) full name;
  - (II) postal address;
  - (III) date of commencement of membership;
  - (IV) phone number;
  - (V) email address;
  - (VI) Classification – Within Greater Sydney region (WGS); Outside Greater Sydney region but within Australia (OGS); Overseas (OS); Exempt in accordance with 5(IV) (EXE)
- (d) If a person stops being a Member, the Association will enter in the Register the date that the person stopped being a Member, as soon as possible after the person stops being a Member.
- (e) If a Member requests that access to some or all of the Member's Details be restricted, the Committee may, in the Committee's discretion, determine whether or not to restrict access to such Details.

## **(8) ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS**

- (a) Members may request access to or copies of the following documents ("the Documents"):
  - (I) the Rules;
  - (II) the Register (excluding those details requested and agreed by the Committee to be restricted in accordance with 7(e)); or
  - (III) minutes of general meetings of the Association.
- (b) For the sake of clarity, the Association is not required to provide Members with access to or copies of Committee meeting minutes, unless the Committee explicitly allows it.

(c) The Association must provide the Member with access to or copies of the Documents, unless:

(I) the request that the Member has made for the access to or copies of the Documents is unreasonable; or

(II) the Documents contain information which is confidential, or which relates to another person's personal, legal, medical, health, employment, or financial matters; or

(III) providing access to or copies of the Documents may cause a breach of a law; or

(IV) providing access to or copies of the Documents could cause harm or damage to the Association.

(d) In the event that the Association refuses for a reason described under the preceding sub-clause hereof to provide a Member with access to or copies of any Documents, but the Association may be able to provide limited access or limited copies without causing one of the issues in the preceding sub-clause hereof, then the Association will provide such limited access or limited copies to the Member.

(e) Any documents or copies that the Association is providing to a Member under this clause will be provided within a reasonable time.

(f) The Association may charge reasonable fees for producing copies of any documents in accordance with this clause.

## **(9) THE COMMITTEE**

(a) The Association will have a committee ("the Committee") which is made up of committee members ("Committee Members").

(b) The Committee has the following role:

(I) governing the Association;

(II) managing the day-to-day operation of the Association;

(III) ensuring that the Association is managed responsibly;

(IV) ensuring that the Association operates in pursuit of its purpose.

(c) The Committee will have all of the specific powers and functions that the Association has except for those powers or functions which are reserved to be exercised by the Members.

(d) The Committee may delegate its powers or functions to sub-committees, Members of the Association, or to Committee Members, as permitted by law.

(e) Committee Members will be elected at every biennial general meeting of the Association, by a ballot or poll of the Members.

(f) The Committee must have a minimum number of 5 Committee Members at any time.

(g) At the first Committee meeting after each biennial general meeting, the Committee must appoint a Committee Member as chair of the Committee ("the Chair"), a Committee Member as treasurer ("the Treasurer"), a Committee Member as membership registrar ("the Membership Registrar"), and a Committee Member as secretary ("the Secretary")

(h) The Committee has the power to appoint and remove Committee Members from various positions, and may determine the roles and responsibilities of any Committee Member.

(i) A Committee Member is appointed for a term of up to two years, and stops being a Committee Member at the end of the biennial general meeting after that Committee Member was appointed.

(j) After a Committee Member's term ends, that person may be appointed as a Committee Member for a subsequent term.

(k) If a Member wishes to join the Committee, that Member must:

(I) have another Member support their application; and

(II) put forward a nomination by writing to the Committee, or put forward a nomination at a general meeting where an election for the Committee is being held.

(l) In order to be eligible to be a Committee Member, a person must:

(I) be a Member, both at the time of that person's nomination, at the time of their appointment as a Committee Member, and for the duration of that person's term as a Committee Member; and

(II) be nominated in accordance with this clause; and

(III) provide to the Association a signed consent to act as a Committee Member.

(m) A person stops being a Committee Member if that person:

(I) provides to the Committee written (including email) notice of resignation; or

(II) is removed by a resolution of the Members; or

(III) stops being a Member; or

(IV) is absent from all Committee Meetings, without the consent of the Committee, for six months or more; or

(V) dies.

(n) In the event that the number of eligible applicants nominated to be Committee Members is equal to or less than the number of Committee Members required, the Chair may appoint those nominated Committee Members as Committee Members, without holding a ballot.

(o) In the event that a Committee Member stops being a Committee Member before the end of the biennial general meeting after that Committee Member was appointed, the Committee may appoint a Member to be a Committee Member until the next biennial general meeting.

## **(10) COMMITTEE DUTIES**

(a) In addition to any other duties and responsibilities provided by law or elsewhere in these Rules, the Committee has the following duties:

(I) ensuring that accurate minutes are kept in relation to general meetings and committee meetings; and

(II) ensuring that other records are kept in accordance with these Rules; and

(III) ensuring that the Association's documents are made available to Members as required by these Rules.

## **(11) COMMITTEE MEMBER DUTIES**

(a) Committee Members must:

(I) comply with their duties under Australian law; and

(II) ensure that the Association complies with its duties under Australian law.

## **(12) COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

(a) A Committee Member may call a meeting of the Committee ("Committee Meeting") in the following circumstances:

(I) by providing reasonable notice to the other Committee Members if the Committee Meeting is urgent; or

(II) by providing seven days' notice to the other Committee Members in all other circumstances.

- (b) The Committee may determine how often it will hold Committee Meetings.
- (c) The Committee may determine the manner in which Committee Meetings may be held, including whether Committee Members must attend in person, or whether they may attend via technological systems such as telephone or video link.
- (d) The Chair will chair any Committee Meetings.
- (e) In the event that the Chair is not present at a particular Committee Meeting, the Committee may appoint a different Committee Member to act as chair for that particular Committee Meeting.
- (f) In order for a resolution to be passed, more than half of the Committee Members present at the particular Committee Meeting must vote in favour of the resolution.
- (g) The Committee may, in the Committee's discretion, permit circular resolutions.
- (h) The Committee may, in the Committee's discretion, determine the method by which Committee Members may vote on a circular resolution, which may include but is not limited to the following methods:
  - (I) Australia Post; or
  - (II) email; or
  - (III) other electronic means.
- (i) In order to pass a circular resolution, the resolution must be proposed in writing and every Committee Member must agree in writing to the resolution (by a means as determined by the Committee, in accordance with the preceding sub-clause hereof). The circular resolution is passed at the time that the last Committee Member has agreed to it in writing.

### **(13) QUORUM FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

A quorum for Committee Meetings is more than 50% of the Committee Members. If any more than 50% of the Committee Members are present at a Committee Meeting, the Committee Meeting is validly held.

### **(14) GENERAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

- (a) The Committee may call a general meeting (either biennial or extraordinary) of the Members ("General Meeting").
- (b) If a group of Members which makes up at least 10% of the total Members entitled to vote at General Meetings asks the Committee to call an extraordinary



General Meeting, then the Committee must call an extraordinary General Meeting.

(c) Any Members requesting an extraordinary General Meeting under the preceding sub-clause hereof must, at the time of the request for the extraordinary General Meeting, provide details of any resolution that is to be proposed at the extraordinary General Meeting.

(d) In the event that a group of Members requests an extraordinary General Meeting under the preceding sub-clauses hereof, but the Committee does not call a extraordinary General Meeting within two months of having received that request:

(I) 50% or more of the group of Members who initially requested the extraordinary General Meeting (being the group of at least 10% of the total Members entitled to vote at General Meetings) may call an extraordinary General Meeting; and

(II) the extraordinary General Meeting must be held within three months of the initial request for an extraordinary General Meeting; and

(III) the extraordinary General Meeting should, as much as possible, be held in accordance with the procedures set out in these Rules; and

(IV) the Members shall be entitled to claim, from the Association, any reasonable expenses that the Members respectively incur as a result of calling and/or organising the extraordinary General Meeting.

(e) Members (and any auditor that may have been appointed to the Association) must be given at least 21 days' notice of any General Meeting.

(f) The notice of any General Meeting must be provided in writing (including email), and sent to the Member using the contact details that are recorded in the Register.

(g) The notice of any General Meeting must include the details of the General Meeting, any resolutions to be proposed at the General Meeting, any issues that are proposed to be discussed at the General Meeting, and whether any technological systems may be used to enable Members to attend the General Meeting from a different location.

(h) The Association must hold a biennial general meeting within 18 months of the Association first coming into existence.

(i) After the Association holds its first biennial general meeting, it must hold subsequent biennial general meetings at least once every second calendar year.

(j) At each biennial general meeting, the Association must provide reports to its Members about the activities of the Association and the financial position of the Association.

(k) The ordinary business which the Association must undertake at the biennial general meeting includes confirming the minutes of the previous biennial general meeting, receiving reports and statements on the previous two financial years, and electing Committee Members ("Ordinary Business").

(l) If the Association proposes to undertake any other matters at a biennial general meeting, besides the Ordinary Business, the notice of the biennial general meeting must include details of those other matters, as well as any special business or resolutions to be considered at that biennial general meeting.

(m) Members can propose resolutions to be voted on at a General Meeting in the following manner:

(I) a group of at least 10% of Members who are entitled to vote at a General Meeting may write to the Committee to propose the resolution;

(II) provided that the Committee is able to meet the requirements regarding notifying Members of proposed resolutions prior to the General Meeting, then the Committee will notify Members of the proposed resolution;

(III) the proposed resolution will be proposed at the next General Meeting, held no later than two months after the date the Members first propose the resolution.

(n) Members may propose resolutions in any other way permitted by law or by these Rules.

(o) The Chair will chair General Meetings.

(p) In the event that the Chair does not attend, the Members at the General Meeting can choose another Committee Member to be the chair for that General Meeting.

(q) The Chair is responsible for the conduct of the General Meeting

(r) The Chair must give members a reasonable opportunity to make comments and ask questions, including to any auditor that may have been appointed to the Association.

(s) Each Member in attendance at a General Meeting (whether in person, or by some other means) has one vote.

(t) Votes at a General Meeting may be taken in the following manner:

(I) by a show of hands; or

(II) by a written ballot; or

(III) by any other method that the chair determines to be reasonable in the circumstances.

(u) If a vote is held initially by a show of hands, any Member can request that the vote be held again by written ballot.

(v) A vote only passes if a majority of the Members voting on it, vote in favour of it. The chair does not have a deciding vote.

(w) In the event that a vote is held by a show of hands, the chair will be responsible for counting the show of hands, and the chair's decision as to the result of that show of hands is conclusive evidence of the result of the vote.

## **(15) QUORUM FOR GENERAL MEETINGS**

A quorum for General Meetings is 10% of the Members entitled to vote at a General Meeting. If 10% or more of the Members entitled to vote at a General Meeting are present at a particular General Meeting, the General Meeting is validly held.

## **(16) ADJOURNING GENERAL MEETINGS**

(a) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the General Meeting was scheduled to start, the chair of that General Meeting may adjourn the General Meeting.

(b) If the chair of a General Meeting determines that there is not enough time at the General Meeting to consider all of the business that needs to be considered at that General Meeting, then the chair may adjourn the General Meeting.

(c) The chair of a General Meeting must adjourn the General Meeting if the majority of Members who are entitled to vote at the General Meeting (and who are in attendance at the General Meeting) tell the chair to do so.

(d) In the event that a General Meeting is adjourned, no new business may be dealt with at the resumed meeting ("the New Meeting"). Only unfinished business from the adjourned meeting ("the Adjourned Meeting") may be addressed.

(e) In the event that a General Meeting is adjourned, a notice of the New Meeting must be provided to all Members using the contact details that are recorded in the Register.

(f) In the event that the New Meeting is scheduled for a date that is less than 21 days from the date of the Adjourned Meeting, then a notice of the New Meeting does not need to comply with the 21 day notice requirements, (but still needs to be provided to Members).

## **(17) SPECIAL RESOLUTION**

(a) A special resolution of the Association ("Special Resolution") is passed if:

(I) at least 21 days' notice of the Meeting at which the Special Resolution will be proposed has been given to the Members; and

(II) at least 75% of the Members who are entitled to vote at the Meeting (and are in attendance at the Meeting), vote in favour of the Special Resolution.

## **(18) ORDINARY RESOLUTION**

An ordinary resolution of the Association ("Resolution") is passed if at least 50% of the Members present at a General Meeting (whether in person, or by some other means), vote in favour of the Resolution.

## **(19) SOCIAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

- a) The Committee may arrange social meetings or events ("Social Meeting") for the benefit and enjoyment of Members at times and places throughout the year as the Committee determines
- b) For the abundance of clarity a Social Meeting is not a General Meeting, however a General Meeting may precede or follow a Social Meeting provided appropriate notice has been given of the General Meeting

## **(20) USE OF FUNDS**

(a) The Association may receive funding from any of the following sources:

(I) application fees or joining fees;

(II) annual membership fees;

(III) grants;

(IV) fundraising;

(V) interest;

(VI) any other lawful source which is approved by the Committee and which is consistent with furthering the Association's Purpose.

(b) Any funds held by or on behalf of the Association must be handled in the following manner:

Funds must be held in a cheque account, interest bearing account or term deposit with a registered financial institution.

Foreign currency funds (from overseas memberships - usually Pounds Sterling) may be held in a private bank account on behalf of the Association.

Expenditure in excess of AUD200.00 per individual item of expenditure must be approved by the Committee

(c) The funds may be used in the manner as directed by the Committee from time to time.

(d) The oversight of the collection, management and use of funds is the responsibility of the following person(s):

The Treasurer

(e) In the event that the Association deals with one or more assets that are held in a trust, then the Association must satisfy any obligations that apply to those trust assets.

## **(21) RECORD KEEPING**

(a) The Association must maintain written records ("the Records") that:

(I) correctly record its operations; and

(II) correctly record and explain its financial situation; and

(III) enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared and audited.

(b) The Association must produce the Records if and when required by law;

(c) The Association must retain the Records for at least seven years or such time as required by law.

## **(22) AMENDMENTS TO RULES**

(a) Subject to the other provisions of these Rules, and subject to any applicable laws, these Rules may be amended by the Members passing a Special Resolution at a General Meeting in support of the proposed amendment.

## **(23) FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Association's financial year will run for one calendar year, starting on the following day every year: 1 January

The Committee may pass a resolution to change the financial year.

## **(24) INDEMNITY**

(a) To the maximum extent permitted by law, the Association hereby indemnifies Members for any expenses, debts or liabilities that the Member incurs on behalf

of the Association, provided that the Member was authorised by the Association to incur those expenses, debts or liabilities, and the Member was acting in good faith and in the best interests of the Association when the Member incurred the expenses, debts or liabilities.

(b) In the event that the indemnity described in this clause ("the Indemnity") applies to a Member, the Member shall be entitled to be reimbursed out of the assets or income of the Association.

(c) The Indemnity only applies if the Member is not entitled to be indemnified by any other party, and is not actually indemnified by any other party.

(d) The Indemnity is a continuing obligation and is enforceable by a person even if the person has stopped being a Member of the Association.

## **(25) DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

(a) In the event that there is a dispute between one or more Members and/or Committee Members ("the Parties"):

(I) the Parties must first attempt, in good faith, to resolve the dispute between themselves; and

(II) if, 14 days after the dispute first arose between the Parties, the Parties have been unable to resolve the dispute, then the Parties must notify the Committee about the dispute; and

(III) the Committee will determine how the dispute may be resolved.

(b) The Committee may, from time to time, implement an additional or different policy or policies regarding dispute resolution.

(c) Any dispute resolution policy must require the parties to the dispute to first seek to resolve the matter directly between themselves.

(d) Any dispute resolution policy must allow each party to the dispute a reasonable opportunity to present their respective arguments.

(e) In the event that a dispute cannot be resolved the Committee may appoint a person who is independent to the dispute ("Independent Person"), to resolve the dispute. This Independent Person may be a Member (provided that Member is independent to the dispute), but need not be.

## **(26) DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS**

(a) The Committee may take disciplinary action against a Member if it considers that the Member:

- (I) has breached these Rules; or
  - (II) has caused, is causing or will cause harm or loss to the Association (whether financial or otherwise).
- (b) The Committee may, from time to time, implement whatever disciplinary policy or policies it chooses to, provided that:
- (I) before taking any further disciplinary action against a Member, the Committee must firstly write to the Member to tell the Member why the Committee proposes to take disciplinary action; and
  - (II) the outcome of any disciplinary procedure must be determined by an unbiased and independent decision-maker, who is not a Committee Member; and
  - (III) the Member that is the subject of the disciplinary action must be given a reasonable opportunity to provide an explanation or to defend himself or herself; and
  - (IV) any disciplinary action must be taken as soon as reasonably practicable after the occurrence of the incident(s) which gave rise to the disciplinary action; and
  - (V) the Committee must notify the Member of the outcome of any disciplinary action as soon as reasonably practicable.
- (c) The Committee and the Association will not be liable for any loss or harm that a Member may incur as a result of disciplinary action that the Committee or the Association takes in good faith against the Member in accordance with this clause.

## **(27) WINDING UP**

- (a) The Association may be wound up upon the passing at a General Meeting of a Special Resolution to wind up the Association.
- (b) Upon the winding up of the Association, the assets of the Association may be used to pay any debts and other liabilities of the Association.
- (c) Subject to clause (d), any residual assets of the Association that remain after the settlement of any debts and other liabilities of the Association are to be converted into Pounds Sterling and remitted as a general donation amongst the Inland Waterways Association UK and other similar UK based organisations having the preservation of the canal and navigable river systems in the UK as one of its objectives.
- (d) If the residual assets of the Association contain a physical collection of books, maps, photographs, magazines, video recordings and the like, they may be –

(I) firstly offered as a donation to a public library or libraries either in whole or part,

(II) secondly distributed to individual Members after a general communication to all Members by way of an auction in a fair and equitable way, or

(III) lastly disposed of to a charity.

(c) If any assets of the Association are affected by a trust, then the Association must satisfy any debts, liabilities or obligations that apply to those trust assets.

Adopted this Ninth day of March 2022

Signed by the Members:

Signature: Signed

Name: Jan Roden

Address: Supplied on original document

Signature: Signed

Name: Peter Lucas

Address: Supplied on original document

Signature: Signed

Name: John Colville

Address: Supplied on original document



Signature: Signed  
Name: V. Helen Storey  
Address: Supplied on original document

Signature: Signed  
Name: Christopher D. Cooper  
Address: Supplied on original document

Signature: Signed  
Name: Stephen Halgren  
Address: Supplied on original document

Signature: Signed  
Name: Y. Clarke  
Address: Supplied on original document

Signature: Signed  
Name: Maureen Dignam  
Address: Supplied on original document