

NEWCASTLE PRIDE INC
2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SPECIAL RESOLUTION MOTION



SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

The proposed changes to the Constitution are as follows:

1. **1A Association Name (Newcastle Pride Inc), Aims And Objectives & Registered Business Names** section added. This new section will clearly outline the priorities and focus of Newcastle Pride Inc and the commitments the Association makes to our members and wider community.
2. New Membership categories of **2.2 Associate Membership** (aka Community Organisations and Business Membership) and **2.3 Lifetime Membership** have been added. This will enable Newcastle Pride Inc to accept Membership applications from organisations and businesses who wish to support the critical work of Newcastle Pride, and also allow the Association to formally recognise the outstanding service and achievements individuals make to the Association and / or to the wider LGBTIQ+ community in the Newcastle / Hunter Region.
3. **3A Obligations of Membership** section has been added. This section aligns with the Aims And Objectives of Newcastle Pride Inc - for example, to foster an inclusive and safe environment for all people irrespective of sexual or gender identity, and advocate for equity for all.
4. **4. Cessation of Membership** has been made clearer to avoid confusion and unnecessary additional workload on the Committee during the peak festival period. Likewise, **8. Fees And Subscriptions** has been simplified to reflect current practice and give the Committee greater flexibility (i.e. during events such as the COVID19 pandemic - the ability to lower the Annual Membership Fee to improve Membership access).
5. Improved flexibility for the Committee to address complaints made against members (**clause 11**).
6. **Removal of the now redundant and unnecessary subclause (14.11)** which was inserted last year into the Constitution to setup and commence the tranche system. Subclauses 14.12 and 14.13 will consequently now be listed as 14.11 and 14.12. No change to the tranche system itself will occur.
7. Added clarification and flexibility of who can be appointed to the role of Returning Officer for a given AGM Election to avoid a perceived conflict of interest and ensure the Membership has confidence in the democracy of Newcastle Pride Inc (**subclause 15.6**). Furthermore, clarification has been made to **subclause 15.7**, as specified by the Associations

Incorporation Act 2009, which requires all candidates running for election must be at least 18 years of age.

8. Quorum threshold for Committee Meetings has been changed to: half plus one (50% + 1) rounded down to the nearest full number of the current Committee Members (subclause 20.5). Currently the Quorum threshold sits at 3.
9. Quorum threshold for General Meetings has been changed to: 19, or 10% of the current Membership of the Association, whatever is lower (subclause 29.2). Currently the Quorum threshold sits at 5. Also, clarification has been added stipulating that Proxy Votes cannot be used to achieve the Quorum threshold to ensure adequate Membership participation occurs at Meetings of the Association (see below for more information concerning Proxy Votes).
10. To always comply with the mandated legal requirement (again specified by the Associations Incorporation Act 2009), the section on **33. Special Resolutions** has been clarified so that the Constitution makes clear that at least 75% or more of votes cast by members of the Association are required for that Special Resolution to pass. This will ensure future Members of the Newcastle Pride Committee are fully aware of the legal requirement without having to refer to the Act itself.
11. Lowered the minimum age to vote at General Meetings from 18 > 16 (subclause 34.4). This change aligns will Newcastle Pride's commitment to empower our young people and to encourage meaningful engagement and participation into the future.
12. Appointment of Proxies are now permitted at General Meetings (clause 35). This will allow Members who are unable to participate in the AGM process face-to-face the opportunity to still have their voice counted by nominating a Proxy to act on their behalf.
13. **Clause 48** has been added to ensure against unauthorised use of the Newcastle Pride Inc logo/s.

The above amendments are proposed to improve the efficient, transparent, fair, and equitable operation and governance of Newcastle Pride Inc. The Committee unanimously endorses the above amendments after an exhaustive review of the Constitution underpinned by the Committees commitment to improve the meaningful engagement, inclusion and participation of the Membership. Should the Membership of Newcastle Pride Inc vote to accept the proposed new Constitution, this will come into effect at the conclusion of the 2020 Annual General Meeting (5th December 2020).

For a copy of the proposed new Constitution head to our website:

www.newcastlepride.com.au

