Constitution and Rules

Revised June 2026

THE NATIONALS for Regional NSW

NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA – NSW CONSTITUTION AND RULES

First printed 14 October 1920. Ratified April 1926. Revised 20 June 1986. Reprinted May 1987. Reprinted October 1994. Reprinted October 1995. Revised June 1997. Reprinted December 1997. Revised June 2000. Reprinted January 2001. Reprinted July 2002. Reprinted September 2003. Revised June 2004. Revised June 2006. Revised June 2008. Revised June 2009. Revised and Reprinted September 2011. Revised June 2013. Revised June 2014. Revised June 2015. Revised and reprinted June 2016. Revised and reprinted June 2017. Revised June 2022. Revised June 2023. Revised June 2024. Revised June 2025. Revised June 2026.

YOUNG NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA – NSW CONSTITUTION AND RULES

First approved January 1965. Revised June 1986. Approved September 1986. Reprinted May 1987. Revised October 1990. Adopted June 1991. Reprinted October 1994. Revised April 1997. Adopted July 1997. Reprinted 2001. Reprinted 2002. Reprinted September 2003. Revised June 2004. Revised June 2006. Revised and Reprinted June 2008. Revised and Reprinted October 2015. Revised June 2022.

NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA - NSW WOMEN'S COUNCIL CONSTITUTION AND RULES

First approved March 2024.

Frequently Used Rules

SECRET, PREFERENTIAL BALLOTS – OFFICE-BEARERS (INCLUDING PRESELECTIONS)

Voting for all and any elected positions in the Party, including preselections, shall be conducted by secret ballot, using the full preferential voting system. **Rule 1.4.1**

6 MONTH MEMBERSHIP RULE – ELECTORATE COUNCILS + CONFERENCES

Members of at least six (6) months standing shall be entitled to vote as individuals free from direction from any part of the organisation at any elections of the Party, including preselections, except at Branch meetings where voting entitlements shall be as per Rules 2.1.2-2.1.5 and 4.2.5-4.2.6. **Rule 1.4.2**

All Party Members of at least six (6) months standing, other than Associate Members, shall be entitled to attend and vote at Annual General Conference and General Conferences. **Rule 3.2.1**

All Members of at least six (6) months standing, other than Associate Members, shall be entitled to attend and vote at Regional Conferences and Electorate Council meetings provided they reside within the designated area of a Regional Conference or are enrolled to vote at Federal or State parliamentary elections in the area governed by a Federal or State Electorate Council. **Rule 3.2.2**

NEW MEMBERSHIPS – EFFECTIVE 30 DAYS FROM APPLICATION UNLESS BRANCH REFUSES ENROLMENT WITHIN 3 MONTHS

Branch enrolment of a prospective Member or Associate Member shall be formalised by the State Director who shall allocate the person making application to their local or their nominated Branch and informing that Branch. The enrolment and election shall be effective thirty (30) days from the date of application unless within three (3) calendar months the Branch refuses the enrolment. A new Member's right to vote at an Electorate Council meeting or to be elected as an Electorate Council office-bearer shall apply after six (6) months from the date of the new Member's membership application. **Rule 2.1.4**

QUORUM – BRANCH & BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

At Branch meetings a quorum shall be formed with not less than five (5) Members and/or Associate Members, and at committee meetings with not less than three (3) Members and/or Associate Members, being present. **Rule 4.5.5**

QUORUM – ELECTORATE COUNCILS

At any meeting of an Electorate Council a quorum shall be formed with not less than seven (7) Members present. **Rule 5.1.2.** (See Rules 5.4.1-5.4.4 relating to Electorate Council Executive).

ANNUAL MEETINGS – BRANCHES

The Annual Meeting shall be held not later than 31st July in each calendar year. The Branch Secretary shall give to all Branch Members and Associate Members at least seven (7) days notice of the Annual Meeting. **Rule 4.6.1**

Whenever practicable all Annual Meetings of Branches are to be completed before Annual Meetings of Electorate Councils. **Rule 4.6.2**

ANNUAL MEETINGS – ELECTORATE COUNCILS

The Annual Meeting shall be held not later than 31st July in each calendar year. The Council Secretary shall give to all Branches and Council Members at least fourteen (14) days notice of the Annual Meeting. In exceptional circumstances Central Council may waive this Rule. **Rule 5.5.7** (See also Rule 4.6.2 above)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES – SEE RULES 2.3.1-2.12.1

PRESELECTIONS - 12 MONTH MEMBERSHIP RULE

Prospective candidates shall not be eligible for preselection or endorsement unless they have been Members of the Party for at least twelve (12) months immediately prior to submitting their name for nomination. Central Council may, in exceptional circumstances waive this requirement. **Rule 12.1.4**

PRESELECTIONS - NOMINATIONS + PRESELECTION MEETING TIMELINE

At an appropriate time before a parliamentary election, Federal and State Electorate Councils may call for nominations for prospective candidates for Party endorsement. Such nominations may be submitted by Branches of more than six (6) months standing located within the boundaries of the relevant Federal or State Electorate Council. Electorate Councils shall fix dates by which nominations shall be made. Unless otherwise determined by Central Council, the minimum period between the opening and closing of nominations shall be twenty-one (21) days and the preselection meeting shall take place not less than twenty-eight (28) days after the date of the close of nominations. Where a parliamentary election is imminent and an Electorate Council has yet to be constituted, Central Council may call for nominations in that electorate and set a timetable for preselection of a candidate. **Rule 12.1.1**

Preamble

WE BELIEVE

We believe in equal opportunity for all Australians so they can fully contribute to and share in the wealth of our nation.

We believe in freedom of speech, movement and philosophy; freedom of religious activity, association and assembly; and equality and justice for all before the law.

We believe the constitutional monarchy is a rich and practical heritage and we uphold the Westminster system of parliamentary democracy with laws decided by our elected representatives.

We believe in the three tiers of government – Federal, State and Local – and in the decentralisation of responsibility.

We believe in private enterprise and ownership, with minimum government interference in industry, commerce, production and distribution.

We believe initiative deserves rewarding so that those who work hardest can prosper from their efforts.

We believe in lower taxes, smaller government and individual economic freedom.

We believe in the development of our economy, the decentralisation of population and services, and the balanced protection of our environment.

We believe the family is the basis of a strong and stable society.

We believe the very young, the aged and the disadvantaged are entitled to the support of society and to receive appropriate help to live in comfort and dignity.

We believe every Australian has a right to the best possible education.

We believe individual groups of people have the right to associate to defend and promote their interests, ideas and pursuits, providing they act responsibly towards the community and within the law.

We believe Australia must have a strong defence force that can defend our nation, police our coastline, and meet our reasonable international obligations.

We believe all Australians should foster a spirit of national pride and Australian identity, joining together to make a better future as one people, with one flag, as one nation.

We believe Australians, as individuals and as a nation, must be prepared to oppose social and political ideas that threaten freedom and democracy in Australia and throughout the world.

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1. Introduction

THE ORGANISATION

1.1.1 The name of the organisation shall be the National Party of Australia – NSW.

1.1.2 The National Party of Australia - NSW, hereafter referred to as the Party, shall comprise:

(a) Members, including Members of the Young National Party of Australia - NSW and the NSW Nationals Women's Council.
(b) Branches
(c) State Electorate Councils
(d) Federal Electorate Councils
(e) Central Council
(f) Central Executive
(g) Annual General Conference and General and Regional Conferences
(h) Zone Councils
(i) Members of the New South Wales Parliamentary National Party
(j) New South Wales Members of the Federal Parliamentary National Party
(k) The Federal Leader of the National Party of Australia

OBJECTIVES

1.2.1 The objectives of the Party shall be:

(a) to promote a just, democratic and secure society in which freedom of speech, worship and association is guaranteed and in which private enterprise may flourish

(b) to formulate a platform and policies which embody these objectives and to create a climate of opinion favourable to the Party's beliefs and ideals

(c) to select candidates adhering to the Constitution, beliefs and ideals of the Party and secure their election to the Commonwealth Parliament and the New South Wales Parliament

(d) to respond to the developing beliefs and ideals held by the Party's Members and to summarise these from time to time in a preamble to this Constitution.

DEFINITIONS

1.3.1 **NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA – NSW.** The organisation known as the National Party of Australia – NSW shall include all Members of the Party residing within the State of New South Wales, and, with the consent of the Central Council, all Members of the Party residing within the Australian Capital Territory, and any other State or Territory within the Commonwealth of Australia wherein there is no political organisation affiliated with the Federal Council of the National Party of Australia.

1.3.2 **CENTRAL COUNCIL.** The governing body of the National Party of Australia – NSW (Section 7).

1.3.3 **CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.** The committee of Central Council which, under powers delegated to it by Central Council, supervises Party activities in the intervals between Central Council meetings (Section 8).

1.3.4 **ELECTORATE COUNCIL.** A Council of Chairmen and Members (other than Associate Members) of at least one (1) constitutional Branch enrolled to vote within the relevant Federal or State electorate (Section 5).

1.3.5 **ZONE COUNCIL.** A structure created by Central Council to operate in areas where Electorate Councils do not exist (Section 6).

1.3.6 **BRANCH.** A group of Members of the Party, including Associate Members, formed in accordance with this Constitution (Section 4).

1.3.7 **ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE.** The Conference of the National Party of Australia - NSW, convened by Central Council once every calendar year, at which all Party Members of at least six (6) months standing, other than Associate Members, are entitled to participate and vote (Section 9).

1.3.8 **GENERAL CONFERENCE.** A Conference of the National Party of Australia – NSW, not being the Annual General Conference, convened by Central Council, at which all Party Members of at least six (6) months standing, other than Associate Members, are entitled to participate and vote (Section 9).

1.3.9 **REGIONAL CONFERENCE.** A conference of Members who are enrolled to vote in New South Wales or Commonwealth elections, within a geographic area designated by Central Council (Section 9).

1.3.10 **STATE CHAIRMAN.** The Chairman of the National Party of Australia – NSW, elected by Central Council.

1.3.11 **FEDERAL LEADER.** The Leader of the Federal Parliamentary National Party.

1.3.12 **STATE LEADER.** The Leader of the New South Wales Parliamentary National Party.

1.3.13 **STATE DIRECTOR**. The State Director of the National Party of Australia – NSW appointed by Central Council.

1.3.14 **TREASURER.** The Treasurer of the National Party of Australia – NSW elected by Central Council.

1.3.15 **TRUSTEES.** The Trustees of the National Party of Australia – NSW elected by Central Council.

1.3.16 **DELEGATES.** Individuals elected from one part of the organisation to represent that part to another part of the organisation (Section 3).

1.3.17 **MEMBER.** A person, over the age of 18 years, who has applied for membership of the Party and been accepted as a Member (Section 2).

1.3.18 **ASSOCIATE MEMBER.** A person who pays less than the annual membership subscription, other than a Pensioner or Self-funded Retiree Member, or Member of the Young National Party of Australia – NSW, aged between 18 and 30.

1.3.19 **MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.** The register of Members of the National Party of Australia – NSW maintained by the Party's Head Office.

1.3.20 **YOUNG NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA - NSW.** The organisation formed in accordance with the Young National Party of Australia – NSW Constitution, as approved by Central Council, and commonly known as the Young Nationals.

1.3.21 **FEDERAL COUNCIL.** The Federal organisation of the National Party of Australia with which the Central Council is affiliated and upon which it has representation.

1.3.22 **NSW NATIONALS WOMEN'S COUNCIL.** The organisation formed in accordance with the NSW Nationals Women's Council Constitution and Rules, as approved by Central Council, and commonly known as the Women's Council.

BALLOTS AND VOTING RIGHTS

1.4.1 Voting for all and any elected positions in the Party, including preselections, shall be conducted by secret ballot, using the full preferential voting system.

1.4.2 Members of at least six (6) months standing shall be entitled to vote as individuals free from direction from any part of the organisation at any elections of the Party, including preselections, except at Branch meetings where voting entitlements shall be as per Rules 2.1.2 – 2.1.5 and 4.2.5 and 4.2.6.

1.4.3 There shall be no vote by proxy at any meeting of any part of the organisation.

ELECTRONIC CONFERENCING AND QUORUMS

1.5.1 All Inaugural Meetings and Annual Meetings of Branches, including eBranches, and Electorate Councils, as well as preselection meetings, shall be physical meetings which meet quorums as per Rules 4.5.5 and 5.1.2, except that, in the case of an Electorate Council in control of a geographically large area, meetings, including Inaugural Meetings, Annual General Meetings and preselection meetings, may be conducted by electronic conferencing. (See also Rule 5.6.1 (b)).

1.5.2 Electronic conference meetings of Branches, eBranches and Electorate Councils may be convened at other times with quorums being the same as for physical meetings.

1.5.3 There shall be no electronic conference or non-physical meetings of Central Council. Central Council may, in exceptional circumstances, waive this requirement. The Central Executive may waive this requirement on behalf of Central Council. Votes on matters requiring urgent resolution may, on the determination of the Chairman, be conducted by electronic means.

1.5.4 Electronic conference meetings of Central Executive may be convened as necessary on the determination of the Chairman, with a quorum as per Rule 8.1.2.

1.5.5 Meetings of committees formed by any part of the Party may be convened by electronic means according to meeting guidelines set down by the relevant part of the Party.

1.5.6 Meeting procedures for Zone Councils shall be as determined by Central Council (Section 6).

1.5.7 Annual General Conference and General Conferences shall be physical meetings of Members with a quorum as per Rule 9.1.8. (See also Rule 7.4.1(ac)).

1.5.8 Regional Conferences shall be physical meetings of Members conducted under procedures determined by Central Council as per Rules 9.2.1 – 9.2.7. (See also Rule 7.4.1(ac)).

2. Members

GENERAL

2.1.1 Each Member of the Party shall:
(a) pay the membership subscription applicable to his/her category of membership
(b) be over the age of 18 years, except that junior Members of the Young National Party of Australia – NSW shall be aged between 16 and 18 years
(c) subscribe to this Constitution and the beliefs and ideals of the Party
(d) not be a member of any other political party
(e) be named in the Membership Register of The Party.

2.1.2 Associate Members are Members with rights limited to Branch activities, including the right to vote and hold Party office in a Branch, other than that of Branch Chairman or delegate. Associate Members may attend Electorate Council meetings and Party Conferences as observers.

2.1.3 An application from a person or nominee to become a Member of the Party shall be formalised by the applicant providing the name, address and proposed membership category of the person or nominee on the prescribed Party form and paying, or authorising payment of the applicable membership subscription to an authorised Party officer. The Party Membership Register shall record the date of application.

2.1.4 Branch enrolment of a prospective Member or Associate Member shall be formalised by the State Director who shall allocate the person making application to their local or their nominated Branch and informing that Branch. The enrolment and election shall be effective thirty (30) days from the date of application unless within three (3) calendar months the Branch refuses the enrolment. A new Member's right to vote at an Electorate Council meeting or to be elected as an Electorate Council office-bearer shall apply after six (6) calendar months from the date of the new Member's membership application.

2.1.5 After satisfying the application and enrolment requirements and being allocated to a Branch, the Member may attend and vote at all meetings of the Branch and receive such publications as Central Council may from time to time determine.

LAPSED MEMBERS

2.2.1 A Member whose membership has lapsed by up to six (6) months may rejoin the Party with full membership entitlements being reinstated from the date of expiry of membership. Such reinstatement shall be effective upon receipt of subscription payment details being received at and verified by Head office.

2.2.2 A Member whose membership has lapsed by more than six (6) months may rejoin the Party as per Rules 2.1.3 - 2.1.5 of this Constitution.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

MEMBER

2.3.1 A person who pays the annual membership subscription.

2.3.2 A person who pays the annual membership subscription as a five (5) year advance payment shall not be required to make additional payments over the five (5) years in the event of intervening increases in the annual subscription.

LIFE MEMBER

2.4.1 On the recommendation of Central Council, Annual General Conference may confer Life membership upon a Member who has given outstanding service to the Party.

2.4.2 Life membership may only be conferred on a person of excellent character who has a minimum of seven (7) years' Party membership.

2.4.3 A Life Member:
(a) shall not be required to pay a membership subscription
(b) may attend, participate and vote at Annual General Conference and other General Conferences
(c) may attend and participate in discussion at any Branch, Electorate Council, Zone Council, or Central Council meeting or Regional Conference but not vote unless entitled to do so
(d) may resign by notifying the State Director in writing
(e) will forfeit Life membership on becoming a member of another political party, except if that other political party is an Affiliated or Associated Party of the National Party of Australia Federal Council..

GOLD MEMBER

2.5.1 A Gold Member:
(a) shall be a person who pays at least fifteen (15) times the annual membership subscription
(b) is entitled to membership for life without paying an additional membership subscription.

SPONSOR MEMBER

2.6.1 A person who pays a subscription at least double the annual membership subscription shall be a Sponsor Member.

NOMINATED MEMBER

2.7.1 An entity, including a company, organisation, firm, partnership, estate or trust paying at least the annual membership subscription per nominee, and nominating a person, or persons to represent it, shall have that subscription accepted and those persons shall be Nominated Members, but no entity may nominate more than four (4) such nominees.

YOUNG NATIONAL PARTY MEMBERS

2.8.1 A Member of the Young National Party of Australia – NSW under the age of 30 shall pay an annual membership subscription of no more than one third of the annual membership subscription of the National Party of Australia – NSW, rounded upward to the nearest dollar, and shall, without paying any additional subscription, be a Member of both the Party and the Young National Party.

2.8.2 Members of the Young National Party of Australia – NSW aged between 30 and 35 shall pay the annual membership subscription of the National Party of Australia – NSW to maintain their delegate and voting entitlement status within the National Party of Australia – NSW.

2.8.3 Members of the Young National Party of Australia – NSW aged between 16 and 18 shall have no delegate or voting entitlements and shall hold no office-bearer positions within the National Party of Australia – NSW.

COUPLE MEMBER

2.9.1 A person who is part of a couple with a Member paying at least the annual subscription may, on application, become a Couple Member and pay an annual subscription as determined by the Annual Meeting of Central Council.

CONCESSION MEMBER

2.10.1 A person who is:
(a) a self-funded retiree or in receipt of a social security or service pension, or
(b) an Australian Defence Force veteran, or
(c) a student
may pay at least one-third of the annual membership subscription rounded upward to the nearest dollar and shall be a Concession Member. Such concessional membership shall be subject to verification to Central Council of the person's status as a pensioner, Australian Defence Force veteran or student.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

2.11.1 A person, other than a Pensioner/Self–funded Retiree Member, or a Member of the Young National Party of Australia – NSW aged between 18 and 30, who pays less than the annual membership subscription shall be an Associate Member. The minimum subscription for a new Associate Member shall be determined by Central Council as per Rule 10.2.2.

2.11.2 An Associate Member shall hold Branch voting and office-holding entitlements as per Rule 2.1.2.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL

2.12.1 All women members of the National Party of Australia - NSW unless excluded under the provisions of the NSW Nationals Women's Council Constitution and Rules.

3. Delegates

GENERAL

3.1.1 The Membership Register held by Head Office shall be the definitive list for confirming individual membership status and entitlement to attend and vote at Annual General Conference, General Conferences, Regional Conferences, Zone Councils and meetings of Federal and State Electorate Councils.

3.1.2 Representation from or on bodies not otherwise provided for in this Constitution shall be determined by Central Council as per Rule 7.4.1(c).

BRANCH DELEGATES

3.2.1 All Party Members of at least six (6) months standing, other than Associate Members, shall be entitled to attend and vote at Annual General Conference and General Conferences.

3.2.2 All Members of at least six (6) months standing, other than Associate Members, shall be entitled to attend and vote at Regional Conferences and Electorate Council meetings provided they reside within the designated area of a Regional Conference or are enrolled to vote at Federal or State parliamentary elections in the area governed by a Federal or State Electorate Council.

YOUNG NATIONAL PARTY DELEGATES

3.3.1 Members of the Young National Party of Australia – NSW may attend and vote at the Annual General Conference and General Conferences, as per Rules 2.8.1 – 2.8.3 and 3.2.1, and Regional Conferences and Federal and State Electorate Councils as per Rules 2.8.1 – 2.8.3 and 3.2.2.

3.3.2 The Young National Party of Australia – NSW State Council delegation to Central Council shall be its State Chairman and four (4) other delegates.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL DELEGATES

3.4.1 Members of the NSW Nationals Women's Council may attend and vote at the Annual General Conference and General Conferences, as per Rule 3.2.1, and Regional Conferences and Federal and State Electorate Councils, as per Rule 3.2.2.

3.4.2 The NSW Nationals Women's Council Delegation to Central Council shall be its Chairman and four (4) other delegates.

ELECTORATE COUNCIL DELEGATES

3.5.1 The Chairmen of Electorate Councils shall be delegates to Central Council. Federal Electorate Councils shall have a second delegate to Central Council.

CENTRAL COUNCIL DELEGATES

3.6.1 The State Chairman, or the State Chairman's nominee from Central Council, may attend any Electorate Council meeting and, if invited by the meeting, may become its Chairman but shall not be eligible to exercise any Chairman voting rights.

3.6.2 All delegates to Central Council may:
(a) attend and vote at Annual General Conference, General Conferences and Regional Conferences
(b) attend any Electorate Council or Branch meeting but shall not vote unless that right is vested in some other delegate status held by the Councillor.

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATES

3.7.1 The Federal and State Leaders, together with two (2) other delegates from each of the House of Representatives and the Legislative Assembly, shall be delegates to Central Council, as well as all Members of the Legislative Council and all Party Senators from New South Wales.

3.7.2 The Federal and State Leaders, the Leader of the Party in the Legislative Council and the senior Party Senator from New South Wales shall be delegates to Central Executive.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

3.8.1 All Members enrolled to vote at parliamentary elections within the boundaries designated by Central Council for a Regional Conference, together with the Members of Central Council and others determined by Central Council, shall be entitled to participate and vote at that Regional Conference.

4. Branches

AFFILIATION

4.1.1 Subject to prior Central Council approval affiliation of Branches shall be effected by notifying the State Director and the Secretaries of the Federal and State Electorate Councils controlling the area in which the Branch is formed of the Branch Inaugural Meeting, the list of names and addresses of officers elected, and the number of Members in the Branch.

4.1.2 Subject to prior Central Council approval, a Branch may designate itself an eBranch or a Women's or other Special Purpose Branch. The conduct of an eBranch shall be subject to Guidelines determined by Central Council.

COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

4.2.1 A Branch shall comprise not less than ten (10) Members and/or Associate Members.

4.2.2 Branches may enrol any person as a Member or Associate Member of the Party subject to the Rules in Section 2.

4.2.3 No person may be a Member or Associate Member of more than one (1) Branch at any given time, with the exception of Members of the Metropolitan Branch who may also belong to one (1) other Branch.

4.2.4 A Member of one (1) Branch may change membership to another Branch for the balance of the subscription year without additional payment, but shall be subject to all the acceptance requirements of that other Branch.

4.2.5 Members or Associate Members may attend, but not vote at, any other Branch meeting providing they satisfy the Branch Chairman that they are Party Members.

4.2.6 An Associate Member may vote on all matters before his/her Branch and may hold any office in that Branch other than that of Branch Chairman.

4.2.7 A Branch may censure, suspend or expel a Member or Associate Member from the Party for improper conduct. Due notice of the meeting at which the censure, suspension or expulsion will be determined must be given to the Member or Associate Member. That Member or Associate Member shall have the right to be heard. The motion for censure, suspension or expulsion must be carried by two-thirds of those present voting in its favour. Any Member or Associate Member censured, suspended or expelled may appeal to the Central Council. The appeal shall be in writing and Central Council may permit the appellant to be called and be heard in defence. The decision by Central Council on the appeal shall be binding and final.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

4.3.1 At its Inaugural Meeting and at every Annual Meeting a Branch shall elect from its own Members:

(a) a Chairman
(b) two (2) Vice-Chairmen
(c) a Secretary
(d) a Treasurer
(e) a Membership Development Officer
(f) a committee of not less than five (5) Members and/or Associate Members, including all elected Branch office-bearers, to carry on the routine work of the Branch

MEETINGS

4.4.1 The Branch shall follow meeting guidelines prescribed by Central Council.

4.4.2 The Branch shall hold an Annual Meeting and such other meetings as it may determine.

4.4.3 Five (5) Members and/or Associate Members of a Branch, writing to the Branch Chairman, Secretary or committee, may request a meeting to be called. On receipt of the written request the office-bearers, giving reasonable notice, shall convene a Branch meeting within fourteen (14) days.

4.4.4 The Branch Chairman shall have the right to take the chair at all meetings of the Branch and the committees formed by the Branch. If the Branch Chairman is absent or waives this right one of the Branch Vice-Chairmen shall exercise the right. If the Branch Chairman and Vice-Chairmen are absent or waive this right a Chairman shall be elected by the meeting.

4.4.5 At Branch meetings a quorum shall be formed with not less than five (5) Members and/or Associate Members, and at committee meetings with not less than three (3) Members and/or Associate Members, being present.

4.4.6 On all matters before the Branch the Chairman of the meeting shall have a deliberative as well as a casting vote.

4.4.7 The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Branch and its committees.

4.4.8 At each meeting the enrolment of new Members or Associate Members shall be reported to the Branch. The Branch may reject the enrolment of any person within three (3) months of the date of application for membership.

4.4.9 It shall be the responsibility of each Branch to ensure accurate records of its membership status are at all times provided to Head Office.

4.4.10 Any resolution recorded in the minutes may be rescinded by special motion, at least seven (7) days notice of which shall be given, and this shall be dealt with at the next general meeting or at a special meeting convened for that purpose.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

4.5.1 The Annual Meeting shall be held not later than 31st July in each calendar year. The Branch Secretary shall give to all Branch Members and Associate Members at least seven (7) days notice of the Annual Meeting.

4.5.2 Whenever practicable all Annual Meetings of Branches are to be completed before Annual Meetings of Electorate Councils.

4.5.3 The business at each Annual Meeting shall include:
(a) confirmation of the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting
(b) reports from the Chairman, delegates and committees
(c) Treasurer's audited statement of income and expenditure
(d) election of office-bearers

POWERS AND DUTIES

4.6.1 A Branch shall have power, subject in all the matters to the direction of Central Council, to:

(a) enrol or refuse to enrol Members or Associate Members
(b) nominate to the Electorate Council one (1) person for endorsement as a parliamentary candidate for the electorates in which the Branch is situated, providing the Branch satisfies the conditions for the nomination and endorsement of candidates in this Constitution (Section 12)
(c) nominate to Central Council one (1) person for selection as a candidate for the New South Wales Legislative Council and for the Senate (Section 12)
(d) raise finance for campaign funds
(e) organise and do all things to promote the interests of the Party
(f) further public knowledge on social and political issues
(g) initiate and support all worthwhile projects of local or national importance and promptly bring them to the notice of Party Members of Parliament
(h) initiate resolutions on the policies, the beliefs and ideals, or, subject to these Rules, the Constitution of the Party, or on any political, social or domestic matter, for reference to Annual General Conference, General or Regional Conferences, Central Council, Electorate Councils, or Party Members of Parliament
(i) establish from within its own Members such committees as the Branch may from time to time determine.

4.6.2 The Branch shall keep books and records as directed by Central Council and as required by statute.

4.6.3 A Branch shall have a record of Members and Associate Members and shall, on demand, notify its Federal and State Electorate Councils and Central Council of the number of Members in the Branch and provide any other reasonable information that may be required by those Councils.

4.6.4 The Secretary shall take charge of all documents, books, papers and records and attend to correspondence. All money received shall be handed to the Treasurer for banking.

4.6.5 Any questions affecting the interpretation of the Constitution and Rules shall be referred to Central Council for determination. Central Council's determination shall be binding and final.

4.6.6 Any dispute affecting the Branch may be referred to the Electorate Council or direct to Central Council.

FINANCE

4.7.1 Each Branch shall keep a record of its receipts and expenditure in the manner prescribed by Central Council, and as required by statute

5. Electorate Councils

AFFILIATION

5.1.1 Subject to prior Central Council approval, affiliation of Electorate Councils shall be effected by notifying the State Director and the Secretaries of the Branches in the electorates in which the Electorate Council is formed of the Electorate Council Inaugural Meeting, the list of names and addresses of officers elected, and the number of Members in the Electorate Council.

COMPOSITION

5.2.1 An Electorate Council shall comprise:

(a) All Party Members who are enrolled to vote at parliamentary elections within the electorate
(b) The Party Members of Parliament for the electorate
(c) Party Members of the Senate or New South Wales Legislative Council who are enrolled to vote at parliamentary elections within the electorate
d) Party Members on the Australian Capital Territory electoral roll who are members of a Branch in a district or division adjacent to the Australian Capital Territory and who are elected to the Electorate Council by Central Council.

5.2.2 At any meeting of an Electorate Council a quorum shall be formed with not less than seven (7) Members present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5.3.1 At its Inaugural Meeting, and at every Annual Meeting, the Electorate Council shall elect from its members of at least six (6) months' standing:

(a) a Chairman who shall be the Council's delegate to Central Council
(b) two (2) Vice-Chairmen
(c) a Secretary
(d) a Treasurer
(e) two (2) Trustees
(f) a Membership Development Officer
(g) Members of the Electorate Council Executive, including the Membership Development Officer, if it has been agreed to constitute an Executive
(h) for Federal Electorate Councils only, a delegate who shall be the Council's second delegate to Central Council
(i) for Federal Electorate Councils only, at least one of the officers elected as Chairman or the Council's second delegate to Central Council shall be a woman delegate
(j) for State Electorate Councils only, a substitute delegate to Central Council when the Chairman of the Electorate Council is unable to attend.
(k) Two (2) women delegates to the NSW Nationals Women's Council, one of whom shall be aged forty-five (45) years or under.

EXECUTIVE

5.4.1 An Electorate Council Executive, if constituted, shall comprise:
(a) the Chairman
(b) the two (2) Vice-Chairmen, Secretary, Treasurer and two (2) Trustees
(c) Members of at least six (6) months' standing elected by and from the Electorate Council

5.4.2 The Electorate Council shall determine by resolutions:
(a) the number of Members comprising its full Executive
(b) the quorum required for its Executive meetings.

5.4.3 The Council Chairman shall convene all meetings of the Council Executive.

5.4.4 The Electorate Council Executive shall:
(a) carry out the routine organisation of the Party in the electorate in between Electorate Council meetings
(b) attend to matters and duties delegated to it by the Electorate Council.

ELECTORATE COUNCIL MEETINGS

5.5.1 The Council shall follow meeting guidelines prescribed by Central Council.

5.5.2 The Electorate Council shall hold an Annual Meeting and such other meetings as it may determine.

5.5.3 Any four (4) Branches of an Electorate Council may, by written request to the Chairman, Secretary or Executive of an Electorate Council, require that an Electorate Council meeting be called. On receipt of the written request, the Council office-bearers shall convene an Electorate Council meeting within fourteen (14) days.

5.5.4 The Council Chairman shall have the right to take the chair at all meetings of the Council and committees formed by the Council. If the Council Chairman is absent or waives this right, one of the Council Vice-Chairmen shall exercise this right. If the Council Chairman and Vice-Chairmen are absent, or waive this right, a Chairman shall be elected by the meeting. Subject to these rights, the State Chairman or the State Chairman's nominee from Central Council, if in attendance and invited by the meeting, may become its Chairman but shall not be eligible to exercise any Chairman's voting rights.

5.5.5 On all matters before Council the Chairman of the meeting shall have a deliberative as well as a casting vote, subject to Rule 5.5.4.

5.5.6 When an Electorate Council meets for the purpose of preselecting a candidate for parliamentary election, the business of preselection shall take precedence over all other business before the Council, unless it is necessary to first constitute or reconstitute the Electorate Council as a result of a change in electoral boundaries.

5.5.7 The Annual Meeting shall be held not later than 31 July in each calendar year. The Council Secretary shall give to all Branches and Council Members at least fourteen (14) days notice of the Annual Meeting. In exceptional circumstances Central Council may waive this rule.

POWERS AND DUTIES

5.6.1 An Electorate Council shall have power, subject in all matters to the direction of Central Council, within its Federal or State jurisdiction to:

(a) control within its area all matters in connection with elections and referenda and subject to the authorisation of Central Council, open its pre-selection process to electors who are enrolled to vote at Federal or State parliamentary elections in the area governed by that Electorate Council, provided its members resolve so to do and that such pre-selection process is conducted according to Central Council direction

(b) in the case of an Electorate Council in control of a geographically large area, conduct meetings including Inaugural Meetings, Annual General Meetings and preselection meetings, by electronic conferencing. (See also Rule 1.5.1). Central Council shall prescribe any geographically large area applicable to this Rule

(c) call for nominations of prospective candidates from Branches and to preselect or refuse to preselect candidates for its electorate in accordance with this Constitution

(d) nominate to Central Council persons for selection as candidates for the New South Wales Legislative Council and for the Senate

(e) delegate to any Branch within its area any of its powers, except the power to preselect candidates

(f) raise and control finances within its area

(g) set a quota for campaign funds for each Branch within its area and ensure compliance with all statutory obligations in relation to all such funds

(h) consider resolutions submitted to it by Branches

(i) initiate resolutions on the policies, the beliefs and ideals, or, subject to these Rules, the Constitution of the Party, or on any political, social or domestic matters for consideration by Annual General Conference, General and Regional Conferences, Central Council or Party Members of Parliament

(j) establish from within its own Members such committees as the Electorate Council may from time to time determine.

5.6.2 The Electorate Council shall keep books and records as directed by Central Council and as required by statute.

5.6.3 The Electorate Council shall provide any reasonable information to, and be subject to any reasonable direction from, Central Council.

5.6.4 Any question affecting the interpretation of the Constitution and Rules shall be referred to Central Council for determination. Central Council's determination shall be binding and final.

FINANCE

5.7.1 The Electorate Council shall at each Annual Meeting present an audited balance sheet.

5.7.2 Subject to any statute to the contrary, an Electorate Council shall not be liable for expenditure incurred without its or its Executive's authority. Any candidate, committee or person incurring expense without Council's authority shall be liable for that expenditure.

6. Zone Councils

6.1.1 The formation, composition and area of organisation of a Zone Council shall be as determined by Central Council.

6.1.2 Representation on and from, the operation of, the powers and duties of, and all other matters affecting a Zone Council, shall be determined by Central Council, but shall not exceed the limits provided for Electorate Councils in this Constitution.

6.1.3 The rules governing Zone Councils shall be determined by Central Council and may vary from one Zone Council to another.

7. Central Council

COMPOSITION

7.1.1 The Central Council shall comprise:

(a) the Chairman and one (1) other delegate from each Federal Electorate Council
(b) the Chairman from each State Electorate Council and the Metropolitan Branch. If unable to attend any meeting of Central Council that Chairman's place shall be filled by an elected substitute delegate
(c) the Leader and two (2) other delegates, or their substitutes, appointed by and from the respective Party Members of the House of Representatives and the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, as well as all Party Members from the New South Wales Legislative Council and New South Wales Party Senators
(d) the Chairman, or the retiring Chairman, and the Immediate Past Chairman of the Party
(e) a Treasurer and not more than six (6) Trustees, who need not be delegates
(f) not more than ten (10) other Members of the Party who have special qualifications or knowledge of which Council wishes to avail itself and two (2) of whom must reside in the Western Division of New South Wales
(g) the State Chairman and four (4) others of the Young National Party of Australia – NSW elected in accordance with Young Nationals' rules
(h) such delegates or observers from Zone Councils as Central Council may determine
(i) elected Members of Central Executive who have lost delegate status during their term of office. Without other accreditation such Councillors shall not be eligible for re-election to the Central Executive.
(j) The Chairman of the NSW Nationals Women's Council and four (4) others of the NSW Nationals Women's Council elected in accordance with the Women's Council Constitution and Rules.

7.1.2 Delegates from an Electorate Council existing in areas where electoral boundaries have been redistributed shall continue to serve on Central Council until the reconstitution of the Electorate Councils for those areas is completed.

7.1.3 At any meeting of Central Council a quorum shall be formed with not less than twenty (20) Central Councillors present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCILLORS

7.2.1 The Central Council at each Annual Meeting shall elect:

(a) the Chairman of the Party from amongst the Members of Central Council. The retiring Chairman requires no other accreditation and remains a Member of Central Council and is eligible for re-election. No Chairman shall hold office for more than five (5) consecutive years
(b) a Senior Vice-Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from amongst the Members of Central Council, other than Members who are Members of the Federal Parliamentary National Party or the New South Wales Parliamentary National Party. The Senior Vice-Chairman shall act as Chairman of the Party during absences of the Chairman
(c) the Treasurer
(d) Trustees, to maintain a total number not greater than six (6). Trustees shall hold office for a period of three (3) years, normally retiring and being elected annually in pairs in a sequence which maintains continuity of office
(e) delegates to the National Party of Australia Federal Council as defined in the Constitution of the National Party of Australia
(f) The Central Executive from amongst the Members of Central Council.

7.2.2 Councillors to be elected by Central Council under Rule 7.1.1(f) shall be decided by a ballot prior to the Annual Meeting of the Council under arrangements made by the Council. The ballot shall be declared at the Annual Meeting.

7.2.3 The most recently retired Chairman shall automatically hold the office of Immediate Past Chairman.

7.2.4 The retiring pair of Trustees and all others elected in accordance with these rules shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

7.2.5 Provided due notice has been given, casual vacancies for positions on or from the Central Executive and Central Council may be filled at any meeting of Central Council.

MEETINGS

7.3.1 Central Council shall hold an Annual Meeting in each calendar year and such other meetings as it may determine.

POWERS AND DUTIES

7.4.1 Central Council shall have power to:

(a) do all things necessary to give effect to the objectives, the beliefs and ideals and policies of the Party, subject to this Constitution
(b) elect Members to positions in accordance with this Constitution
(c) decide and authorise the representation from or on organisations not otherwise provided for in this Constitution
(d) appoint committees from amongst its own Members and other Members of the Party and other persons to carry out specific duties
(e) form Zone Councils, subject to this Constitution
(f) instruct the Central Executive in the duties required of it, and delegate power to, or withdraw power from, the Central Executive
(g) direct the Party and instruct Electorate Councils, Zone Councils and Branches in the duties required of them and delegate power to, or withdraw power from, these parts of the organisation
(h) appoint a State Director of the Party who shall be a paid official
(i) appoint or dismiss all or any paid officials or employees of the Party
(j) accept or refuse to accept any person as a Member or Associate Member of the Party and cancel the Party membership of any person, subject to this Constitution
(k) terminate the office of any Trustee or Member of the Central Executive or Central Council, if in its opinion, such action is for the welfare of the Party
(l) instruct any part of the Party organisation to accept any person, or where in its opinion a person is not suitable, to refuse or cancel the acceptance, nomination or election of any person:
    (i) as a Member or Associate Member of the Party
    (ii) to any office within the Party
    (iii) as a candidate
    (iv) as an employee of the Party.
(m) decide all matters affecting the nomination, preselection and endorsement of candidates for election to the Commonwealth or New South Wales Parliaments, or any other representative body and authorise an Electorate Council, which by way of a resolution of its members has requested Central Council so to do, to open its pre-selection process to electors who are enrolled to vote in parliamentary elections in that electorate, subject to Central Council direction
(n) endorse or refuse to endorse any candidate for the New South Wales Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council or any New South Wales candidate for the House of Representatives or Senate or any other representative body
(o) exercise final authority in all matters relating to campaigns for Commonwealth or State elections or referenda within New South Wales
(p) give support to a candidate of another party where no candidate is endorsed by this Party
(q) act as a sole agent to confer with and make electoral agreements with other parties, organisations or persons. No Member of the Party or Party Parliamentary Member shall enter into alliance with any political party without the consent of Central Council

(r) determine the disbursement of membership subscriptions and determine the annual membership subscription for Members. This subscription is the base from which all membership subscriptions are automatically indexed
(s) control and supervise the canvassing, collection and disbursement of the finances of the Party. Central Council may itself canvass for funds, or may appoint a committee to do so, and shall be entitled to accept funds providing it has satisfied itself that no conditions are attached to their receipt or use which in any way directs or limits the freedom of the Party, its Parliamentary Members or others in the formulation and implementation of Party policy or in the discharge of its, or their, duties
(t) negotiate an Agreement with Electorate Council Trustees
(u) indemnify Party Members and servants of the Party in accordance with Rules 11.5.1 and 11.5.2
(v) convene the Annual General Conference and, at any time, a General or Regional Conference of the Party
(w) forward, or authorise its committees to forward, motions for consideration by the Annual General Conference and General and Regional Conferences
(x) publish and make media presentations on behalf of the Party
(y) give effect to any alteration in this Constitution and make, amend, enforce or rescind regulations relating to Party organisation, subject to this Constitution
(z) interpret its own rules and this Constitution and such interpretation shall be binding and final
(aa) approve or refuse to approve the Young National Party of Australia - NSW Constitution
(ab) approve of refuse to approve the NSW Nationals Women's Council Constitution and Rules
(ac) in exceptional circumstances, waive Rules that require a physical meeting of a Branch, eBranch, Electorate Council, Annual General Conference, General Conference, Regional Conference, Central Council
(ad) determine all matters in dispute or likely to cause dispute within the Party and such determination shall be binding and final
(ae) do all other things necessary, subject to this Constitution, to:
    (i) maintain, protect and develop the organisation
    (ii) assert the maintenance of a free society
    (iii) respond to the beliefs and ideals of the Party
    (iv) research, formulate and promote Party policies
    (v) service the political needs of the Party and the community
    (vi) secure election of candidates to Parliament.

7.4.2 Where Central Council receives a complaint that a Member's or Associate Member's general behaviour, public utterances, or writings, have been such as to bring or attempt to bring discredit or undue embarrassment to the Party, its Parliamentary Members or its officers, Central Council, at its discretion, may call upon that Member or Associate Member to show cause why membership should not be cancelled. After due consideration, during which the person may be heard in defence, Central Council may cancel forthwith the membership, or dismiss the complaint or deal with the Member or Associate Member in any other way.

7.4.3 A Party Member without Party endorsement who nominates for parliamentary election against an endorsed Party candidate shall have Party membership automatically cancelled.

7.4.4 Any Member of Central Council may attend and, subject to holding delegate status, take part in any meeting of the Party other than Central Executive meetings.

8. Central Executive

COMPOSITION

8.1.1 The Central Executive shall comprise:

(a) the Chairman, the Immediate Past Chairman, the two (2) Vice-Chairmen and the Treasurer
(b) the Federal and State Parliamentary Leaders. A Leader temporarily unable to act may appoint a substitute from the respective Parliamentary Party
(c) the Leader of the Party in the Legislative Council and the senior Party Senator from New South Wales
(d) the State Chairman of the Young National Party of Australia – NSW
(e) at least eight (8) other Members, other than parliamentary delegates, elected by and from Central Council, the number to be determined by Central Council.
(f) the Chairman of the NSW Nationals Women's Council

8.1.2 At any meeting of Central Executive a quorum shall be formed with not less than seven (7) Members present.

POWERS AND DUTIES

8.2.1 The Central Executive shall have power to:

(a) supervise the activities of the Party in the intervals between Central Council meetings
(b) exercise powers delegated to it by Central Council
(c) decide urgent matters requiring routine determination by Central Council under this Constitution where time does not permit Central Council to make the necessary decisions itself.
(d) in exceptional circumstances, waive Rule 1.5.3 on behalf of Central Council.

8.2.2 The decisions of the Central Executive shall take effect immediately and shall be valid and remain in force unless determined otherwise by Central Council.

9. Conferences

ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL CONFERENCES

9.1.1 An Annual General Conference shall be held once every calendar year at a place and date determined by Central Council. General Conferences may be called at any time by Central Council.

9.1.2 All Members of at least six (6) months standing, other than Associate Members, shall be entitled to participate in and vote at Annual and General Conferences.

9.1.3 All Federal and State Parliamentary Party Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at Annual and General Conferences.

9.1.4 The Membership Register held by Head Office shall be the definitive list for confirming individual membership status and entitlement to attend and vote at Annual and General Conferences.

9.1.5 Motions for Annual General Conference from Branches and Councils, and with its authority, any committee of Central Council and the Young National Party of Australia – NSW, must be submitted to the State Director. The Central Council shall set a closing date for receipt of motions and an Agenda shall be prepared and circulated to all Branches and Councils at least twenty eight (28) days before the date of the Conference. The same shall apply for General Conferences, unless otherwise determined by Central Council.

9.1.6 Annual General Conference and General Conferences shall set the policy of the Party which it expects its Parliamentary Members to follow. It shall not attempt to bind its Parliamentary Members to specific legislative measures.

9.1.7 Annual General Conference shall have power, subject to this Constitution, to alter the Constitution and confer Life membership.

9.1.8 A quorum for Annual General Conference shall be formed with not less than fifty (50) Members present. The same shall apply for General Conferences, unless otherwise determined by Central Council.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

9.2.1 Central Council may convene Regional Conferences at such times and places as it considers to be in the interests of the Party.

9.2.2 A Regional Conference shall abide by any direction made by Central Council for the holding of the Conference.

9.2.3 All Members of at least six (6) months standing, other than Associate Members, who are enrolled as voters for parliamentary elections within the boundaries designated by Central Council for a Regional Conference, shall be entitled to attend and vote at that Regional Conference.

9.2.4 All Federal and State Parliamentary Party Members may attend Regional Conferences but only those who are enrolled as voters for parliamentary elections within the boundaries designated by Central Council for a Regional Conference, shall be entitled to vote at that Regional Conference.

9.2.5 The Membership Register held by Head Office shall be the definitive list for confirming individual membership status and entitlement to attend and vote at Regional Conferences.

9.2.6 A Regional Conference may deal with motions affecting the Party's development, the beliefs and ideals and policy within the designated region, and any other matters of national, state or regional importance. Matters for discussion shall be submitted to the State Director at least twenty eight (28) days before the Conference, unless Central Council determines otherwise.

9.2.7 The resolutions of Regional Conferences shall be submitted to Central Council.

10. General Finance

GENERAL

10.1.1 The finances of the Party, and campaign funds, shall at all times be under the direct control of the organisation and this shall be taken to be the Central Council except where this Constitution or the Central Council delegates this control to another part of the organisation.

10.1.2 Any part of the organisation shall only accept funds given in accordance with the acceptance criteria allowed in the Rules governing Central Council's Powers and Duties.

10.1.3 Any part of the organisation shall only accept and be responsible for expenditure which it has duly authorised.

10.1.4 The financial year for Branches, Electorate Councils and Central Council shall end on 30 June each year.

10.1.5 An office-bearer of any part of the organisation may authorise payments to individuals for services rendered or for hire of accommodation or equipment provided that:
(a) the payments and hirings are authorised in writing by the relevant part of the organisation
(b) any payments for services or hirings are not of a continuing nature
(c) necessary insurance arrangements for property, personal accident and liability, and public risk have been put in place by the relevant part of the organisation.

10.1.6 No Member of the organisation shall receive payment or assume that payment might be received for services rendered, or for the hire of any accommodation or equipment, unless the requirements of Rule 10.1.5 have been met.

10.1.7 Any part of the organisation having reason to consider paying any person for services rendered, or for the hire of any accommodation or equipment on a continuing basis, must have this payment processed by the State Director and approved by Central Council.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

10.2.1 All annual membership subscriptions shall be paid to Central Council.

10.2.2 The annual membership subscription and the annual Associate Member subscription shall be determined by Central Council at an Annual Meeting and shall remain in effect until altered at a subsequent Annual Meeting. No change in the annual membership subscription shall be made without Central Council giving three (3) months notice of a proposal to make a change.

10.2.3 The disbursement of all annual membership subscriptions shall be determined by Central Council at an Annual Meeting and shall remain in effect until altered at a subsequent Annual Meeting. No change in the disbursement of annual membership subscriptions shall be made without Central Council giving three (3) calendar months notice of a proposal to make a change.

10.2.4 Changes shall be promulgated to Members via the Party journal or by such other methods that Central Council may determine.

10.2.5 The Party shall pay each year to the State Council of the Young National Party of Australia – NSW a sum equal to one-third of each membership subscription paid by Young Nationals aged between 30 and 35.

11. General Assertions

ALTERATION OF PARTY CONSTITUTION, NAME OR INDEPENDENCE

11.1.1 The Annual General Conference shall have the sole power to alter this Constitution. Notice of the motion for such alteration or alterations shall be in the hands of the State Director at least three (3) calendar months before the Conference, to enable such motions to be in the hands of the Branches at least twenty-eight (28) days before Conference.

11.1.2 The Constitution shall remain unless each motion to alter it is resolved by at least two-thirds of those Members present and voting agreeing to the alteration at any single Annual General Conference, or by at least a simple majority of those Members present and voting agreeing to the alteration at each of two consecutive Annual General Conferences.

11.1.3 No motion at any Branch or Council meeting affecting the name of the Party or the amalgamation of the Party with any other party shall be taken by the Branch or Council Chairman, unless due notice is given and circulated in writing to Members of the Branch or Council. Such notice shall be given at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the meeting. No Chairman of an Annual General Conference shall accept a motion affecting the name of the Party or an amalgamation of the Party unless the motion complies fully with this Rule.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

11.2.1 Where elections are required under this Constitution and more than the required number have nominated to fill any position, the persons to be elected shall be decided by full secret preferential ballot to a procedure approved by Central Council.

11.2.2 Provided due notice has been given, casual vacancies for positions on or from any part of the organisation may be filled at any meeting of that part.

ASSETS

11.3.1 The Assets of the Party shall be entrusted to the Trustees in accordance with this Constitution.

AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER FUNDS

11.4.1 Each Member hereby authorises and directs the Chairman to pay to the Treasurer on 30 September each year as a gift from that Member, any moneys received by the Chairman since the previous 1 October, unless that Member has revoked such authority by notice in writing to the Chairman, received by the Chairman between 30 June and 25 September of that year.

INDEMNITY

11.5.1 The State Chairman, Treasurer, Trustees, Members of Central Council, and any other officers or servants of Central Council or the National Party of Australia – NSW Head Office shall be indemnified by the Party, and it shall be the duty of Central Council out of the funds of the Party to pay all costs, losses and expenses which any Member of Central Council, or any officer or servant of the National Party of Australia - NSW, or Head Office, may incur or become liable to pay by reason of any contract entered into or act or thing done by any such Member or other officer or servant in the discharge of his/her duties authorised by Central Council.

11.5.2 Central Council may in its entire and absolute discretion pay out of the funds of the Party any costs, losses and expenses which any Member of Central Council or other officer or servant of the Party may incur or become liable to pay by reason of any contract entered in the discharge of his/her duties, notwithstanding that the act or thing done by any such Member or other officer or servant has not been duly authorised by Central Council.

12. Nomination and Endorsement of Candidates

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PRESELECTION NOMINATIONS

12.1.1 At an appropriate time before a parliamentary election, Federal and State Electorate Councils may call for nominations for prospective candidates for Party endorsement. Such nominations may be submitted by Branches of more than six (6) months standing located within the boundaries of the relevant Federal or State Electorate Council. Electorate Councils shall fix dates by which nominations shall be made. Unless otherwise determined by Central Council, the minimum period between the opening and closing of nominations shall be twenty-one (21) days and the preselection meeting shall take place not less than twenty-eight (28) days after the date of the close of nominations. Where a parliamentary election is imminent and an Electorate Council has yet to be constituted, Central Council may call for nominations in that electorate and set a timetable for preselection of a candidate.

12.1.2 Candidates seeking nomination for preselection shall require one and not more than one valid Branch nomination and Electorate Councils shall not accept additional Branch nominations for individual nominees.

12.1.3 Prospective candidates shall nominate on forms approved by Central Council (Appendix B).

12.1.4 Prospective candidates shall not be eligible for preselection or endorsement unless they have been Members of the Party for at least twelve (12) months immediately prior to submitting their name for nomination. Central Council may, in exceptional circumstances, waive this requirement.

12.1.5 Where the Secretary of an Electorate Council receives a nomination from a prospective candidate who has not been a Member of the Party for at least twelve (12) months, the Secretary shall immediately notify the State Director who shall submit the nomination to Central Council. If Central Council is of the opinion that exceptional circumstances justify the nomination it shall so rule and the nomination shall go forward to the Electorate Council for processing with all other nominations. If Central Council is of the opinion that no exceptional circumstances exist it shall so rule and the nomination shall lapse.

12.1.6 A person seeking nomination as a candidate but failing to receive nomination from any Branch may, within seven (7) days of the close of nominations, make an application to the Secretary of the Electorate Council or the State Director to be considered as a prospective candidate at the Electorate Council preselection meeting.
The request shall be granted if:
(a) there are less than four (4) active Branches in the electorate, or
(b) the prospective candidate has actively sought nomination from meetings of at least three (3) Branches, or
(c) in the opinion of the Electorate Council Executive, or where this has not been constituted, the Electorate Council Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, it would be in the interests of the Party and the electorate to do so.

12.1.7 The nomination form, signed by a prospective candidate and accepted and endorsed by the nominating Branch shall be submitted to a meeting of the relevant Electorate Council for consideration.

12.1.8 A nomination form signed by a prospective candidate and complying with Rule 12.1.5 shall be submitted to a meeting of the relevant Electorate Council for consideration.

12.1.9 Any nomination shall be invalid unless the prospective candidate undertakes to accept endorsement from no other political party and to stand as a National Party of Australia – NSW candidate should preselection be won and Party endorsement be given and otherwise complies fully with all the conditions set out on the Party's Nomination Form (Appendix B).

12.1.10 All people nominating for preselection as a candidate for the National Party of Australia – NSW for election to the Commonwealth or New South Parliaments shall pay a non-refundable nomination fee as determined by the Annual Meeting of Central Council. Central Council may waive this fee in special circumstances.

PRESELECTION MEETINGS

12.2.1 When an Electorate Council meets for the purpose of preselecting a candidate for parliamentary election, the business of preselection shall take precedence over all other business before the Council, except when, due to a sudden change in electoral boundaries, or for some other reason, an Electorate Council is required to be first constituted or reconstituted and its officers elected.

12.2.2 Members of an Electorate Council shall be free to use their own judgement in voting. Branches shall not instruct their Members how to vote.

12.2.3 An Electorate Council Chairman may invite the State Chairman, or the State Chairman's nominee from Central Council, to chair the proceedings at a meeting called to consider preselecting a candidate.

12.2.4 The Chairman of an Electorate Council preselection meeting shall announce, in alphabetical order, the names of the prospective candidates.

12.2.5 The meeting shall then satisfy itself, by inquiry, that each prospective candidate, taken one at a time, satisfies acceptable standards of:
(a) character
(b) sincerity
(c) general qualification
(d) ability, and
(e) may require that each prospective candidate address and be questioned by the meeting.
After each inquiry the Chairman shall put the name of the prospective candidate to the meeting to determine the suitability of the person to be a candidate. The procedure shall continue until all prospective candidates have been dealt with.

12.2.6 If a prospective candidate is found to be unsuitable by failing to meet an acceptable standard in one or more of the criteria in Rule 12.2.5, the Electorate Council shall not recommend that person's endorsement and shall report to Central Council the reasons for the failure of the person to satisfy the Electorate Council.

12.2.7 Where only one (1) prospective candidate is found to be suitable by the inquiry the Electorate Council shall vote to preselect or not preselect that prospective candidate and report the result of the ballot to Central Council.

12.2.8 Where more than one (1) prospective candidate is found to be suitable by the inquiry the Electorate Council shall:
(a) consider whether the endorsement of all prospective candidates will adversely affect the Party's prospects of success at the election
(b) determine the number of candidates to be preselected for endorsement
(c) determine by full secret preferential ballot and by the procedure approved by Central Council which of the prospective candidates shall be preselected for endorsement (Appendix C)
(d) report the result of this ballot and determination to Central Council.

THE ENDORSEMENT

12.3.1 Notwithstanding the preselection of any prospective candidate, Central Council may make further inquiries and shall either endorse or refuse to endorse any candidate.

12.3.2 Where Central Council does not endorse a prospective candidate preselected by an Electorate Council, the reasons shall be submitted to the Electorate Council.

SENATE AND NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

12.4.1 Nomination of Party candidates for the Senate or New South Wales Legislative Council shall be completed by Electorate Councils and Branches on the prescribed form and forwarded direct to the State Director (Appendix B).

12.4.2 Prospective candidates shall not be eligible for endorsement unless they have been Members of the Party for at least twelve (12) months immediately prior to submitting their name for nomination. Central Council may, in exceptional circumstances, waive this requirement.

12.4.3 The number of candidates to be endorsed shall not exceed the number to be elected at any election.

12.4.4 The final endorsement of a candidate or candidates, and the order in which the candidates are to be recommended to the electors and listed on the ballot paper for the parliamentary election, shall be made by the Central Council, whose decision shall be binding and final.

PARLIAMENTARY RESPONSIBILITY

12.5.1 The Federal Parliamentary National Party shall be responsible for the implementation of the policies of the Party in the Commonwealth sphere as far as is possible.

12.5.2 The State Parliamentary National Party shall be responsible for the implementation of the policies of the Party in the New South Wales sphere as far as is possible.

12.5.3 New South Wales Members of the Federal Parliamentary National Party and Members of the New South Wales Parliamentary National Party shall consider all relevant policy decisions of the Annual General Conference and of General Conferences.

12.5.4 If circumstances require the New South Wales Members of the Federal or State Parliamentary National Parties to act inconsistently with policy decisions made by the Annual General Conference or General Conferences, the Federal Leader or State Leader, as the case may be, shall advise the reasons for doing so to the Central Council and subsequent Annual or General Conferences.

Appendix A – RULES OF DEBATE AND STANDING ORDERS

RULES OF DEBATE

1. Debate shall proceed only by way of Members speaking for or against motions put one at a time to the Chairman of the meeting.

2. Any Member desiring to speak shall stand up and shall, on the Chairman's call, address the Chairman respectfully.

3. Whenever the Chairman rises during debate, the Member then speaking shall sit down.

4. A Chairman wishing to enter the debate on a substantive motion shall have an appropriate person occupy the Chair for the duration of that debate.

5. A motion for discussion shall be introduced to the meeting by the mover of the motion who shall state the motion and shall have the right to explain the motion before the Chairman calls for a seconding Member to support the motion. A motion that does not have the support of a seconder shall lapse without further discussion and the meeting shall move on to its next item of business.

6. Once having been moved and seconded, a motion belongs to the meeting and may only be withdrawn if there is no objection from any Member at the meeting.

7. The mover of an original motion shall not occupy more than three (3) nor any other speaker more than two (2) minutes. The meeting may by resolution, without debate, grant extension of time to any speaker.

8. Subject to the limits imposed by any formal motion, a Member who formally seconds a motion or amendment without making a speech may speak in support at a subsequent stage of the debate.

9. Each Member, except the person who moved the original motion, may speak only once to each new matter but may raise points of order and may, by leave, ask and answer questions and give explanations. Only those who have not spoken in a debate may introduce or second any new matter.

10. A Member who moved the original motion shall have a right of reply. This right to reply may be exercised only once and then only at the end of the debate on an amendment or immediately before an original or a substantive motion is put to the meeting, or it may be exercised after the formal motion 'That the question be now put' has been carried by the meeting.

11. The Chairman may order that a complex or composite motion be debated in the form of separate questions or suggest that it be considered in committee.

12. No speaker shall digress from the subject under discussion. Imputations of improper motives, and all personal reflections on Members and the use of offensive or unbecoming words, shall be deemed disorderly and after due warning the Chairman may rule that the speaker be no longer heard.

13. No Member shall interrupt another while speaking, except on a point of order, or to move the formal motion 'That the speaker be no longer heard'.

14. Any Member may raise a point of order during the debate, and the Member then speaking shall sit down until the point of order has been decided. The Member rising to a point of order shall state concisely the point of order and the Chairman, without further discussion, shall give a ruling which shall be final unless a motion of dissent is carried by the meeting.

15. Any Member may move a motion of dissent from the Chairman's ruling and shall concisely state the reason. Only the mover and the Chairman may speak to the motion which shall then be put to the meeting by the Chairman.

16. At any time during the debate, after a person has finished speaking, any Member who has not participated in the debate may, without notice, move an amendment, a variation in Standing Orders, a motion for the meeting to go into committee or any usually accepted formal or procedural motion and that motion shall be considered and decided as an intervening separate question. The motions shall be seconded and, if formal, shall be put to the meeting without debate.

17. An amendment may be moved on any original, substantive or procedural motion that is not formal. The Chairman shall refuse to receive any amendment which is a direct negative or which does not preserve the substance of the original motion. The amendments shall be decided one (1) at a time. The debate on an amendment shall be restricted to that amendment or its effect on the substantive motion. After debate the Chairman shall put the amendment to the meeting and if carried it shall supersede and embody the original or earlier substantive motion to become the substantive motion being decided by the meeting. When an amendment has been decided further amendments may be moved which, if carried, shall in turn produce new substantive motions. These substantive motions may be further debated and then resolved.

18. A Member who has spoken to the original motion or an earlier amendment before the introduction of the amendment under consideration may speak to the amendment provided the speech is restricted to that amendment. The mover of the original motion is entitled to speak to any amendment but has no special status.

19. If a formal or procedural motion calling for the adjournment of the debate is resolved in the negative, the mover shall not be allowed to speak again on the question under debate. If the motion be resolved in the affirmative the mover shall have the right of resuming the debate at the ensuing meeting. No Member shall move the adjournment at the end of the Member's speech.

20. If the formal motion 'That the question be put' is moved and carried, any right of reply shall be given and the question shall then be put to the vote. A Chairman may refuse to put this formal motion if the debate on the question has been restrictive.

21. Three consecutive speakers in the affirmative or in the negative, or the mover of the original motion having exercised the right of reply in the consideration of the substantive motion, shall close the debate.

22. Unless the Party Constitution requires otherwise, a motion shall become a resolution of the meeting after a simple majority of those present and voting indicated by voice or, on the demand of any Member or the Chairman, a show of hands, that they are in favour of the motion. A tied vote shall be deemed negative unless the Chairman, with that right under the Party Constitution, decides the matter with a deliberate vote for or against the motion.

23. Any objection to the validity of any vote must be made and decided before proceeding to the next business.

24. A substantive motion that has become a resolution of the meeting may be rescinded only by a motion on notice decided at a subsequent meeting and only if the resolution has not been put into effect, except that, where it can be demonstrated that a resolution is in breach of the law or the Party Constitution and Rules, the meeting may, if there is no objection from any Member at the meeting, vote to declare the resolution null and void.

25. Debating procedures not covered by these rules shall be determined by Central Council. Until a determination is made the practice of the Commonwealth Parliament shall be followed.

STANDING ORDERS

1. The business program shall generally follow the printed Agenda for the meeting.

2. The rules of debate shall be as per above.

3. A meeting may, at any time, vote to vary its Standing Orders or discuss its business in committee.

4. On rising to debate, speakers shall give their name and membership status.

5. The mover of the original motion should be a Member from the Branch or Council which submitted the motion to the meeting.

6. Members wishing to change the order of consideration of motions, or wishing to bring forward a new motion, may express that wish from the floor of the meeting.

Appendix B

Nomination Form

THE NATIONALS for Regional NSW

1. Nomination for

- ☐ House of Representatives Electorate
- ☐ New South Wales Legislative Assembly Electorate
- ☐ Australian Senate
- ☐ NSW Legislative Council

2. Nominatee Details

SURNAME OTHER NAMES

ADDRESS POSTCODE

ELECTORAL ROLL ADDRESS POSTCODE

EMAIL

OCCUPATION DATE OF BIRTH

NATIONAL PARTY MEMBERSHIP: DATE JOINED BRANCH

3. Nominee's Declaration

(a) I am eligible to be nominated as a National Party candidate in accordance with the Party Constitution and to be elected to the New South Wales/Federal* Parliament.
**Delete whichever is inapplicable.*

(b) I have studied the Constitution of the National Party of Australia – NSW and agree to be bound thereby and in particular Section 12 - Nomination and Endorsement of Candidates. I accept nomination on the understanding that I shall not accept endorsement from any other political party, nor be allied with any other political party, organisations or persons, or stand as an independent candidate without the consent of Central Council.

(c) I shall strictly adhere to the Party organisation's direction as to the exchange of preferences and I understand that a candidate not adhering to this undertaking or to the Party's Constitution and Rules is liable to have endorsement by the Party withdrawn and to be repudiated as a National Party candidate.

(d) I shall, for the purposes of the Election Funding Act, immediately and irrevocably appoint as my Official Agent the same person who the Party appoints as its Party Agent and will give the Election Funding Authority such written notices as shall be required from time to time by that Party Agent.

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE WITNESS TO SIGNATURE DATE

4. Nomination Meeting

At a duly convened meeting it was resolved that the above named nominee be nominated for National Party preselection for the election indicated above.

NAME OF BRANCH/ELECTORATE COUNCIL DATE OF MEETING

MEETING CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE

5. Preselection Meeting

At a duly convened meeting it was resolved that the above named nominee be preselected as a National Party candidate.

ELECTORATE COUNCIL/CENTRAL COUNCIL DATE OF MEETING

MEETING CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE

6. Endorsement Meeting

At a meeting of the Central Council the above named candidate was endorsed as the National Party of Australia – NSW candidate.

DATE OF MEETING

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE STATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE

Appendix C

SECRET PREFERENTIAL BALLOT PROCEDURE

The full secret preferential ballot procedure shall be used at meetings held for the election of Party Officers. Unless Central Council determines otherwise the principles of this procedure shall apply to any Central Council postal ballot to elect special qualification Councillors. The election meeting's officers shall inform themselves of the appropriate, respective requirements of the Party Constitution by referring to the sections: Members-General, Delegates, Branch or Council-Composition, Election of Officers and Endorsement of Candidates.

In the case of a preselection meeting the full preferential results for the ballot shall be announced if the meeting so determines.

THE BALLOT PRELIMINARIES

1. A person seeking nomination for a position shall not officiate at the parts of the meeting where that position is in any way being decided.

2. The meeting Chairman shall have the appropriate person confirm the voting and nomination entitlements of each person seeking a part in the ballot and those persons shall be clearly indicated to the meeting. Each person entitled to vote shall be eligible to vote if present when the ballot papers are handed out. Returning Officers and scrutineers need not have voting entitlements but must be Party members.

3. When the meeting is ready, the meeting Chairman shall declare the holding of the ballot, the position being decided, the persons nominating and the type of ballot procedure. Unless Central Council determines otherwise, where more than one person is seeking to be elected to a position, this shall be done by a single ballot except that, if the Party has agreed to have a multiple endorsement of candidates for a parliamentary election, a preference shall be decided by having prospective candidates elected, one at a time, in a series of ballots.

4. The meeting Chairman shall have the meeting appoint a Returning Officer and, at the request of the Returning Officer or the meeting, Assistant Returning Officers. Each person seeking election or preselection may appoint one Scrutineer. The Returning Officer shall be responsible for the conduct of the ballot and may delegate duties to the Assistant Returning Officers and Scrutineers. The Returning Officers and Scrutineers shall respect the confidentiality of the ballot.

THE BALLOT

5. The Returning Officer shall:
   (a) determine by the drawing of lots the order of the names to be listed on the ballot paper
   (b) prepare and issue a ballot paper to each person entitled to vote
   (c) advise all persons voting:
      (i) the position for which the ballot is being held
      (ii) how many persons are to be elected by the ballot
      (iii) that the ballot is secret, except in the case of a preselection meeting if the meeting determines that the full preferential results be announced
      (iv) that the vote is to be completed by the voters indicating their complete order of preference for those nominating by placing alongside each name, from the most to the least preferred, the numbers from one

to the number of the persons nominating and using all intermediate integers

(v) that for a vote to be formal
– the names of the nominating persons must appear on the ballot paper clearly shown and in the order supplied by the Returning Officer
– the vote must be clearly shown by a sequence of numbers only, beginning with the number one and omitting no integers and repeating no integers until all names have a number alongside, except that the last number in the sequence need not be shown against the least preferred nominating person
– the voter's identity must not be shown on the ballot paper
– the voter's intention must be clear
– the voter must strictly adhere to the Returning Officer's directions to use any special ballot paper and to maintain the secrecy and closing time provisions of the ballot

(vi) that spoilt ballot papers may be replaced

(vii) the method by which the completed ballot papers are to be received by the Returning Officer

(viii) the time of closing of the ballot and at a meeting this will be when all votes are complete

(d) invite and answer questions on the conduct of the ballot. Relevant questions asked on other matters shall be referred to the meeting Chairman for redirection and answer by an appropriate competent person

(e) invite the entitled persons to vote

(f) collect the ballot papers when the voting is complete

(g) request the meeting Chairman to call for and put to the meeting a motion that at this stage the conduct of the ballot is correct. If the motion is not resolved in the affirmative the ballot shall be declared null and void, the matters disputing the correctness of the ballot shall be resolved by the meeting and the whole of this procedure shall begin again, except that where any Ballot Preliminary matter was not in dispute the meeting Chairman may rule that this matter stand.

COUNTING THE BALLOT

6. The Returning Officer shall have the sole right to determine the formality and the count of the ballot papers and this determination shall be binding and final.

7. The Returning Officer in private and in the presence of any Assistant Returning Officers and Scrutineers shall open all ballot papers and decide and separate the formal and informal ballot papers. An informal vote shall be one where the Returning Officer's direction for formality has not been met. A Scrutineer may raise objection and shall be heard by the Returning Officer.

8. The number of both formal and informal ballot papers shall be counted. If the total number exceeds the number of valid ballot papers issued the Returning Officer shall declare the ballot null and void and the ballot procedure shall begin again. If the total number is less than the number of valid ballot papers issued the Returning Officer shall seek the reason for the discrepancy and at the Returning Officer's sole discretion shall continue with the ballot with the ballot papers collected or shall declare the ballot null and void and the ballot procedure shall begin again.

9. Except where the ballot is a single one to decide a group of persons to be elected, the Returning Officer shall:

(a) sort the formal ballot papers into separate piles for each person and count the number of first preference votes given each nominating person. A nominating person with more than half the formal first preference votes shall have won the ballot and the count shall cease

(b) proceed, if no nominating person has more than half the first preference formal votes, to eliminate the nominating person with the least number of first preference formal votes and to distribute that person's ballot papers as single votes to the next preferred nominating person shown on the ballot paper. At this stage a nominating person with more than half the formal preference votes shall have won the ballot and the count shall cease. Otherwise the procedure shall continue, progressively eliminating the nominating persons with the remaining least number of formal votes and distributing their ballot papers as single votes to the designated next preferred persons remaining in the ballot and determining after each elimination and distribution whether any nominating person has won the ballot by receiving more than half the number of formal votes.

There shall be no wastage and after each distribution the vote total shall equal the number of formal ballot papers received.

Where several nominating persons have an equal least number of votes they may be eliminated in any order if the total of their votes alone, or together with the next person due for elimination, is less than the votes held by the single person beyond them next due for elimination since the order of elimination will not effect the final results.

Where several nominating persons have an equal least number of votes (lowest ranking nominating persons) and by proceeding with several alternatives it can be shown that the order of their elimination will produce different persons with more than half the number of formal votes, the lowest ranking nominating person to be eliminated is the lowest ranking nominating person with less votes than any of the other lowest ranking nominating persons at the last count at which one of those nominating persons had less votes than any of the others, but, if there has been no such count, the Returning Officer shall decide by lot which of them is to be excluded.

10. Where the ballot is a single one to decide a group of persons to be elected, the Returning Officer shall allocate positions by assessing preferences as notionally weighted votes by:
    (a) completing the numbering of all formal ballot papers where the least preferred nominating person was not numbered by the voter
    (b) separately totalling from all the formal ballot papers the numbers shown alongside each nominating person and listing all nominating persons in an order given by the progressive increase of the total against their names. Nominating persons with equal totals shall be placed in order of their success with first preference votes and, where this is inconclusive, their success with subsequent preference votes
    (c) accepting the nominating persons, one at a time in the order of the progressive increase of the total against their names, until all positions have been filled and these shall be the persons winning the ballot.

11. Where the ballot produces a tied vote after the elimination process, the Returning Officer shall report the tied nominating persons to the meeting Chairman who shall invite them to address the meeting for a period and an additional ballot between these persons shall be held to determine the ballot winner.

THE BALLOT DECLARATION

12. The Returning Officer shall give the ballot result sheet, signed by the Returning Officers and Scrutineers, to the meeting Chairman. If a person has refused to sign the result sheet the reason for the refusal shall be reported to the meeting, which may take action, but the lack of the signature will not invalidate the ballot result.

13. The meeting Chairman shall announce the name(s) of the winning nominating person(s) and declare them elected to the position(s) being balloted. Ballot details and the placing of the persons nominating shall not be announced, except that in the case of a preselection meeting the meeting may determine that the full preferential results of the ballot be announced.

14. The Returning Officer shall immediately destroy all ballot papers.

15. Further ballots for other positions shall then proceed.

Young National Party of Australia – NSW Constitution and Rules

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1. The Organisation

1.1 The name of the organisation shall be the Young National Party of Australia – NSW, hereafter referred to as The Young Nationals.

1.2 The organisation of The Young Nationals shall comprise:
(a) Members
(b) Branches
(c) State Council
(d) State Executive
(e) Annual General Conference

1.3 The Young Nationals is, through its State Council, at all times responsible to the Central Council of the National Party of Australia – NSW for its Constitution and Rules and its management.

2. Objectives

2.1 The Objectives of The Young Nationals shall be:
(a) to encourage young people to actively participate in the Australian political process through The Young Nationals
(b) to promote a just, democratic and secure society in which freedom of speech, worship and association is guaranteed and in which individual enterprise may flourish
(c) to promote membership and encourage leadership
(d) to respond to the developing beliefs and ideals held by The Young Nationals and to summarise these from time to time in a preamble to this Constitution
(e) to develop policies which embody these objectives.

3. Definitions

3.1 **YOUNG NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA – NSW.** The organisation of The Young Nationals within the State of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, and commonly known as The Young Nationals.

3.2 **BRANCH.** A Branch shall comprise not less than ten (10) Members. Subject to approval by the State Council, a Branch may designate itself as a Young Nationals eBranch. eBranches shall be subject to Guidelines determined by the State Council.

3.3 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.** The Annual General Meeting of State Council at which all eligible Members are entitled to vote and seek election to office-bearer positions.

3.4 **STATE COUNCIL.** The governing body of The Young Nationals comprising all Members eligible to vote according to Rule 4.1.4.

3.5 **ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE.** The Annual General Conference of The Young Nationals at which all Members eligible to vote according to Rule 4.1.4 are entitled to vote and deliberate.

3.6 **STATE EXECUTIVE.** The committee of State Council which, under powers delegated to it by State Council, supervises The Young Nationals activities in the intervals between meetings of State Council.

3.7 **STATE CHAIRMAN.** The Chairman of The Young Nationals elected annually by the Annual General Meeting of State Council.

3.8 **STATE SECRETARY.** The Secretary of The Young Nationals elected annually by the Annual General Meeting of State Council.

3.9 **STATE TREASURER.** The Treasurer of The Young Nationals elected annually by the Annual General Meeting of State Council.

3.10 **DELEGATE.** All Members of at least six (6) months standing, except that Members of at least six (6) months standing who are under the age of 18 years shall be entitled to be delegates only to the Branch in which they are a Member.

3.11 **MEMBER.** A person over the age of 16 years and under the age of 35 years who is enrolled as a Member of the National Party of Australia – NSW.

3.12 **MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.** The register of Members of the Young National Party of Australia – NSW and the National Party of Australia – NSW maintained by the National Party of Australia – NSW Head Office.

3.13 **NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA – NSW.** The organisation of the National Party of Australia – NSW within the State of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, which is managed by its Central Council and which is affiliated with the National Party of Australia.

3.14 **CENTRAL COUNCIL.** The governing body of the National Party of Australia – NSW to which The Young Nationals is at all times responsible for its Constitution and Rules and its management and upon which The Young Nationals has representation.

3.15 **YOUNG NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA.** The Federal organisation of the Young National Party which is affiliated with the National Party of Australia and with which The Young Nationals is affiliated and upon which it has representation.

3.16 **YOUNG NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA FEDERAL COUNCIL.** The governing body of the Young National Party of Australia, upon which The Young Nationals has representation.

3.17 **FEDERAL CONFERENCE OF THE YOUNG NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA.** The general Federal Conference of the Young National Party of Australia upon which The Young Nationals has representation.

3.18 **NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA.** The Federal organisation of the National Party of Australia, with which the National Party of Australia – NSW is affiliated.

3.19 **NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA FEDERAL COUNCIL.** The governing body of the National Party of Australia upon which The Young Nationals has representation.

3.20 **NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA FEDERAL CONFERENCE.** The Federal Conference of the National Party of Australia, convened by the Federal Council, and upon which The Young Nationals has representation.

4. Members

4.1.1 Unless specifically exempted in this Constitution, every person within The Young Nationals shall:
(a) be over the age of 16 years and under the age of 35 years
(b) subscribe to this Constitution and the Platform of The Young Nationals
(c) be a Member within a category of the membership specified in this Constitution
(d) not be a member of any other political party unless that party is the National Party of Australia - NSW
(e) not hold or seek voting rights, status or office exercising powers and duties within The Young Nationals unless a current membership subscription has been paid.

4.1.2 A Member of The Young Nationals under the age of 30 shall pay an annual membership subscription of no more than one-third of the annual membership subscription of the National Party of Australia – NSW, rounded upward to the nearest dollar, and shall, without paying any additional subscription, be a Member of both The Young Nationals and the National Party of Australia – NSW. This category may also include, at no additional cost, the Member's spouse, upon application to the State Director of the National Party of Australia – NSW.

4.1.3 Members of The Young Nationals aged between 30 and 35 shall pay the annual membership subscription of the National Party of Australia – NSW to maintain their delegate and voting entitlement status within the Young National Party of Australia – NSW.

4.1.4 Members aged between 18 and 35 shall have delegate and voting entitlements, and the right to hold elected positions in The Young Nationals and in the National Party of Australia – NSW, subject to this Constitution and the Constitution of the National Party of Australia – NSW.

4.1.5 Members aged between 16 and 18 shall have no delegate or voting entitlements, or right to hold elected positions, in the National Party of Australia – NSW, and shall have limited entitlements within The Young Nationals subject to this Constitution.

4.1.6 An application from a person to become a Member of The Young Nationals shall be formalised by the applicant providing the name, address and proposed membership category of the person or nominee on the prescribed form and paying, or authorising payment of, a membership subscription to an authorised Young Nationals or National Party of Australia – NSW officer.

4.1.7 Enrolment of a prospective Member shall be formalised by the State Director of the National Party of Australia – NSW. The enrolment shall be effective thirty (30) days from the date of application unless within three (3) calendar months The Young Nationals refuses the enrolment. Attendance and voting rights of new Members at Electorate Council meetings shall apply after six (6) calendar months of the date of the new Member's membership application.

4.1.8 State Council shall have the right to cancel the membership of Members of The Young Nationals and shall at all times report the reasons for and the details of such cancellations to Central Council.

4.2 LIFE MEMBER

4.2.1 State Council, may confer Life membership upon a Member or previous Member who:
(a) has given acknowledged outstanding service to The Young Nationals and
(b) is of excellent character and has a minimum of seven (7) years' membership of The Young Nationals.

4.2.2 A Life Member:

(a) shall not be required to pay a membership subscription
(b) if under the age of 35, may attend and participate in any activity or meeting of The Young Nationals
(c) if over the age of 35, may attend and participate in any activity or meeting of The Young Nationals but may not vote or seek election to any office of The Young Nationals
(d) may resign by notifying the State Secretary in writing
(e) shall forfeit that membership on becoming a member of another political party, unless that party is the National Party of Australia – NSW.

4.3 LAPSED MEMBER

4.3.1 A Member whose membership has lapsed by up to six (6) months may rejoin The Young Nationals with full membership entitlements being reinstated from the date of expiry of membership. Such reinstatement shall be effective upon receipt of subscription payment details being received at and verified by the National Party of Australia – NSW by Head Office.

4.3.2 A Member whose membership has lapsed by more than six (6) months may rejoin The Young Nationals as per Rules 4.1.6 and 4.1.7 of this Constitution.

5. Delegates and Voting Procedures

5.1 The Membership Register held by the National Party of Australia – NSW Head Office shall be the definitive list for confirming individual membership status and entitlement to attend and vote at meetings, Councils and Conferences of the Young National Party of Australia – NSW and the National Party of Australia – NSW subject to this Constitution and the Constitution of the National Party of Australia – NSW.

5.2 At all meetings of all component parts of The Young Nationals, excluding meetings of the State Executive, all Members over the age of 18 are delegates and shall be entitled to a deliberative vote. At Young Nationals Branch meetings, but not other component parts of The Young Nationals, Branch Members aged between 16 and 18 are delegates and shall be entitled to a deliberative vote. All Members shall vote as individuals, free from direction from any component part of The Young Nationals.

5.3 Members aged between 16 and 18 may attend meetings, Councils and Conferences of The Young Nationals and participate in deliberations, but shall have no voting rights, other than at meetings of the Young Nationals Branch in which they are a Member.

5.4 At all meetings of all component parts of The Young Nationals, the meeting Chairman shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote. No other delegates or office-bearers other than the meeting Chairman shall have the right to a casting vote at any meeting of The Young Nationals.

5.5 There shall be no proxy voting entitlements at any meeting of any component part of The Young Nationals.

5.6 All Members and Life Members aged between 18 and 35 years shall be entitled to attend and have a deliberative vote at meetings of a Branch of which they are a member, State Council and Annual General Conference.

5.7 All Members shall vote at Councils and Conferences of affiliated organisations as individuals free from direction from any component part of The Young Nationals.

5.8 It shall be the responsibility of Members to satisfy the Councils and Conferences of affiliated organisations that their status is correct.

6. Branches

6.1 A Branch shall hold an Annual General Meeting and may hold general meetings.

6.2 All Annual General Meetings shall be physical meetings, including those of an eBranch.

6.3 Each Annual General Meeting shall elect from its membership:
(a) Branch Chairman
(b) Branch Secretary
(c) Two (2) Vice-Chairmen
(d) Branch Treasurer
(e) and such other officers as it deems necessary
(f) a Committee of not less than five members to carry on the routine work of the Branch between meetings, of which the Branch Chairman shall be Chairman.

6.4 Branch Chairmen shall, at every meeting introduce new Members, provided persons so enrolled will not be entitled to vote until thirty (30) days from the date of membership application.

6.5 All Members aged 16 to 18 years may attend the Annual General Meeting and other Branch meetings and participate in their deliberations, but may not vote or seek election to office-bearer positions.

6.6 Seven days' notice shall be given to all Members for Annual Meetings, Ordinary Meetings and Special Meetings.

6.7 The Annual Meeting will be held not later than the date specified in the Constitution and Rules of the National Party of Australia – NSW by which a Branch of that Party must hold its Annual Meeting.

7. State Council

7.1 STATE COUNCIL – MEETINGS

7.1.1 State Council shall hold an Annual General Meeting and may hold general meetings.

7.2 STATE COUNCIL – COMPOSITION

7.2.1 All Life Members under the age of 35 and all Members over the age of 18 shall be eligible to attend meetings of State Council, vote on its deliberations and seek election to office-bearer positions.

7.2.2 Life Members over the age of 35 may attend meetings of State Council, but may not vote or seek election to any position.

7.2.3 All Members aged 16 to 18 years may attend meetings of State Council and participate in its deliberations, but may not vote or seek election to office-bearer positions.

7.2.4 A quorum for a State Council meeting shall be formed with not less than twenty (20) Members present.

7.3 ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS – STATE EXECUTIVE & DELEGATES

7.3.1 Each Annual General Meeting of State Council shall elect from within its number a State Executive of up to fourteen (14) delegates, including:
(a) the State Chairman
(b) two (2) Vice-Chairmen
(c) the State Secretary
(d) the State Treasurer
(e) Such other officers as it deems necessary.

7.3.2 Each Annual General Meeting shall elect delegates and alternate delegates to:
(a) The Central Council of the National Party of Australia – NSW as prescribed in the Constitution of the National Party of Australia – NSW
(b) The Federal Council of the National Party of Australia as prescribed in the Constitution of the National Party of Australia
(c) The Federal Conference of the National Party of Australia as prescribed by the Constitution of the National Party of Australia
(d) The Federal Council of the Young National Party of Australia as prescribed by the Constitution of the Young National Party of Australia
(e) The Federal Conference of the Young National Party of Australia as prescribed by the Constitution of the Young National Party of Australia

7.3.3 Each Member of State Executive shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

7.3.4 Provided due notice has been given, casual vacancies for positions on or from State Council may be filled at any meeting of State Council.

7.4 STATE COUNCIL – POWERS AND DUTIES

7.4.1 The State Council Annual General Meeting shall elect officers and delegates as per Sections 5 and 7 of this Constitution.

7.4.2 State Council shall have the power to:

(a) do all things necessary to give effect to the objectives, platform and policies of The Young Nationals, subject to this Constitution
(b) elect members to positions according to this Constitution
(c) decide and authorise the representation from or on organisations not otherwise provided for in this Constitution
(d) appoint committees from among its own Members and other Members of The Young Nationals and other persons to carry out specified duties
(e) instruct the State Executive in the duties required of it and delegate power to or withdraw power from State Executive
(f) appoint or dismiss all or any paid officials or employees of The Young Nationals
(g) accept, refuse to accept, or cancel the acceptance, nomination or election, of any person as a Member of The Young Nationals or to any office or delegate status within The Young Nationals
(h) report to the Central Council of the National Party of Australia – NSW the reasons for and details of any membership cancellations
(i) terminate the office of any Member of State Council, State Executive or committee by a resolution carried by two-thirds of those present and voting if, in its opinion, such action is necessary for the welfare of The Young Nationals
(j) give support to any candidate for Parliamentary election endorsed by the National Party of Australia – NSW
(k) control and supervise the canvassing, collection and disbursement of the finances of The Young Nationals
(l) be entitled to accept funds providing it has satisfied itself that no conditions are attached to their receipt or use which in any way directs or limits the freedom of The Young Nationals or the National Party of Australia – NSW and its Parliamentary Members or others in the formulation of The Young Nationals policy or in the discharge of its, or their, duties
(m) publish and make media representations on behalf of The Young Nationals
(n) in periods between the Annual General Conference, determine the general policy of The Young Nationals
(o) give effect to any alteration to this Constitution
(p) make, amend, enforce or rescind regulations relating to The Young Nationals, subject to this Constitution
(q) interpret its own regulations and this Constitution and such interpretation shall be binding and final unless altered by the Annual General Conference
(r) determine all matters in dispute or likely to cause dispute within The Young Nationals and such determination shall be binding and final, unless determined otherwise by State Council
(s) approve the affiliation of Branches, including eBranches
(t) issue Guidelines for the operations of Branches, including eBranches
(u) confer Life Membership, subject to this Constitution.

8. State Executive

8.1 STATE EXECUTIVE – POWERS AND DUTIES

8.1.1 State Executive shall have the power to:
(a) supervise the activities of The Young Nationals in the intervals between State Council meetings
(b) exercise powers delegated to it by the State Council
(c) decide urgent matters requiring routine determination by State Council under this Constitution where time does not permit State Council to make the necessary decisions itself

8.1.2 The State Executive shall hold at least one (1) meeting in each quarter of the year at dates and venues of its choosing, or by electronic means.

8.1.3 A quorum for ordinary meetings of State Executive shall be formed with not less than half of the total number of State Executive members being present

8.1.4 The decisions of State Executive shall take effect immediately and shall be valid and remain in force unless determined otherwise by State Council

9. Annual General Conference

9.1 An Annual General Conference shall be held once every calendar year at a place and date determined by the State Executive.

9.2 ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE – COMPOSITION

9.2.1 All Life Members under the age of 35 and all Members over the age of 18 shall be eligible to attend the Annual General Conference and vote on its deliberations.

9.2.2 Life Members over the age of 35 may attend the Annual General Conference but may not vote or seek election to any position.

9.2.3 All Members aged 16 to 18 years may attend the Annual General Conference and participate in its deliberations, but may not vote.

9.2.4 A quorum for the Annual General Conference shall be formed with not less than twenty (20) Members.

9.2.5 Non-members may attend as observers unless the Annual General Conference decides otherwise.

9.3 ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE – POWERS AND DUTIES

9.3.1 The Annual General Conference shall determine the general policy of The Young Nationals. The Young Nationals shall be able to promote this policy as it deems necessary, subject to this Constitution.

9.3.2 Motions for the Annual General Conference shall be submitted in writing to the State Secretary.

9.3.3 State Executive shall fix a closing date for the receipt of motions so that an agenda may be prepared and circulated to members at least seven (7) days prior to the convening of the Annual General Conference.

9.3.4 Urgency motions may be submitted to the Chairman during the Annual General Conference.

9.3.5 The Annual General Conference shall have the power to alter this Constitution.

10. Electronic Conferencing

10.1 All inaugural Meetings and Annual Meetings of Branches and eBranches shall be physical meetings which meet quorums in accordance with this Constitution.

10.2 Electronic conference meetings of Branches and eBranches (other than the inaugural meeting and Annual General Meetings) and State Executive may be convened with quorums being the same as for physical meetings.

10.3 There shall be no electronic conference or non-physical meetings of State Council, although votes on matters requiring urgent resolution may, on the determination of the Chairman, be conducted by electronic means.

10.4 Electronic conference meetings of State Executive may be convened as necessary on the determination of the Chairman.

10.5 Meetings of committees formed by any part of The Young Nationals may be convened by electronic means according to meeting Guidelines set down by State Council.

10.6 Annual General Conference shall be physical meetings of Members.

11. General Finance

11.1 The finances of The Young Nationals, and campaign funds, are at all times under the direct control of State Council, except where this Constitution or where State Council delegates this control to another component part of The Young Nationals.

11.2 Any part of The Young Nationals shall only accept funds in accordance with the acceptance criteria allowed in the Rules governing State Council's Powers and Duties.

11.3 Any part of The Young Nationals shall only be responsible for expenditure which it has duly authorised in writing.

11.4 The State Treasurer shall present an audited statement of The Young Nationals finances, including income and expenditure, to each Annual General Meeting of State Council.

12. Alteration of the Constitution

12.1 The Annual General Conference of The Young Nationals shall have the sole power to alter this Constitution. Changes to the Constitution are subject to approval by the Central Council of the National Party of Australia – NSW.

12.2 The Constitution may be altered, rescinded or added to by a resolution of the Annual General Conference, which is passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the Members present and voting agreeing to the alteration at any single Annual General Conference, or by at least a simple majority of those Members present and voting agreeing to the alteration at each of two consecutive Annual General Conferences, for which at least twenty-one (21) days written notice has been given to members of State Council specifying the intention to propose a motion to alter or rescind the Constitution.

13. Prohibition of Candidates for Parliamentary Election

13.1 The Young Nationals shall have no power to endorse any candidates for election to Parliamentary office.

National Party of Australia – NSW Nationals Women's Council Constitution and Rules

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1. The Organisation

1.1. The name of the organisation shall be the National Party of Australia – NSW Women's Council, hereafter referred to as NSW Nationals Women's Council.

1.2. The organisation of NSW Nationals Women's Council shall comprise:
(a) Members
(b) NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive
(c) NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference

1.3. NSW Nationals Women's Council is, through its NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive, at all times responsible to the Central Council of the National Party of Australia – NSW for its Constitution and Rules and its management.

Objectives

1.4. The Objectives of NSW Nationals Women's Council shall be to:

1.4.1. encourage women to actively participate in the Australian political process through the NSW Nationals Women's Council

1.4.2. foster greater involvement of women across regional New South Wales in the National Party of Australia – NSW through the development of comprehensive mentoring and support programs

1.4.3. develop policies of relevance to regional women and families for consideration by the relevant Councils and Conferences of the National Party of Australia - NSW

1.4.4. promote a just, democratic and secure society in which freedom of speech, worship and association is guaranteed and in which individual enterprise may flourish

1.4.5. promote membership and encourage leadership

1.4.6. respond to the developing beliefs and ideals held by the NSW Nationals Women's Council and to summarise these from time to time in a preamble to this Constitution

1.4.7. develop policies which embody these objectives.

2. Definitions

2.1. **NSW NATIONALS WOMEN'S COUNCIL.** The organisation of NSW Nationals Women's Council shall include all women Members of the Party residing within the State of New South Wales, and, with the consent of the Central Council, all Members of the Party residing within the Australian Capital Territory, and any other State or Territory within the Commonwealth of Australia wherein there is no political organisation affiliated with the Federal Council of the National Party of Australia.

2.2. **MEMBERS.** A woman over the age of sixteen (16) years who is enrolled as a Member of the National Party of Australia – NSW eligible to vote according to Rules 4.1 and 4.2.

2.3. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.** The Annual General Meeting of NSW Nationals Women's Council at which all eligible Members are entitled to vote and seek election to office-bearer positions.

2.4. **NSW NATIONALS WOMEN'S COUNCIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE.** The Annual General Conference of NSW Nationals Women's Council at which all Members eligible to vote according to Rules 4.1 and 4.2 are entitled to vote and deliberate.

2.5. **WOMEN'S COUNCIL EXECUTIVE.** The committee of NSW Nationals Women's Council which, under powers delegated to it by NSW Nationals Women's Council, supervises NSW Nationals Women's Council activities in the intervals between meetings of NSW Nationals Women's Council.

2.6. **STATE DIRECTOR.** The State Director of the National Party of Australia – NSW appointed by Central Council.

2.7. **WOMEN'S COUNCIL CHAIR.** The Chair of NSW Nationals Women's Council elected annually by the Annual General Meeting of NSW Nationals Women's Council.

2.8. **WOMEN'S COUNCIL SECRETARY.** The Secretary of NSW Nationals Women's Council elected annually by the Annual General Meeting of NSW Nationals Women's Council.

2.9. **WOMEN'S COUNCIL TREASURER.** The Treasurer of NSW Nationals Women's Council elected annually by the Annual General Meeting of NSW Nationals Women's Council.

2.10. **DELEGATE.** All women Members of at least six (6) months standing, excluding those Members who are under the age of eighteen (18) years.

2.11. **MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.** The register of Members of the NSW Nationals Women's Council and the National Party of Australia – NSW maintained by the National Party of Australia – NSW Secretariat.

2.12. **NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA – NSW.** The organisation of the National Party of Australia – NSW within the State of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, which is managed by its Central Council and which is affiliated with the National Party of Australia.

2.13. **CENTRAL COUNCIL.** The governing body of the National Party of Australia – NSW to which NSW Nationals Women's Council is at all times responsible for its Constitution and Rules and its management and upon which NSW Nationals Women's Council has representation.

2.14. **NATIONALS WOMEN'S FEDERAL COUNCIL.** The Federal organisation of the NSW Nationals Women's Council which is affiliated with the National Party of Australia and with which NSW Nationals Women's Council is affiliated and upon which it has representation.

2.15. **NATIONALS WOMEN'S FEDERAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE.** The governing body of the Nationals Women's Federal Council, upon which NSW Nationals Women's Council has representation.

2.16. **FEDERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONALS WOMEN'S FEDERAL COUNCIL.** The general Federal Conference of the Nationals Women's Federal Council upon which NSW Nationals Women's Council has representation.

2.17. **NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA**. The Federal organisation of the National Party of Australia, with which the National Party of Australia – NSW is affiliated.

2.18. **YOUNG NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA – NSW.** The organisation formed in accordance with the Young National Party of Australia – NSW constitution, commonly known as the NSW Young Nationals.

2.19. **NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA FEDERAL COUNCIL.** The governing body of the National Party of Australia upon which NSW Nationals Women's Council has representation.

2.20. **NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA FEDERAL CONFERENCE.** The Federal Conference of the National Party of Australia, convened by the Federal Council, and upon which The NSW Nationals Women's Council has representation.

3. NSW Nationals Women's Council Composition

3.1. The NSW Nationals Women's Council shall comprise all women members of the National Party of Australia – NSW, unless exempted under this Constitution:

3.1.1. Two (2) women delegates (Women's Council delegates) elected annually by and from each State and Federal Electorate Council of the National Party of Australia – NSW, one of whom shall be aged forty- five (45) years or under

3.1.2. All current and former women National Party members of the New South Wales or Australian Parliaments who are members of the National Party of Australia – NSW.

3.1.3. Non-members may attend as observers by written registration unless the NSW Nationals Women's Council decides otherwise.

3.2. Unless specifically exempted in this Constitution, every person within NSW Nationals Women's Council shall:

(a) be a Member over the age of sixteen (16) years
(b) subscribe to this Constitution and the Platform of NSW Nationals Women's Council
(c) be a Member within a category of the membership specified in this Constitution
(d) not be a member of any other political party unless that party is the National Party of Australia – NSW
(e) not hold or seek voting rights, status or office exercising powers and duties within NSW Nationals Women's Council unless a current membership subscription has been paid.

3.3. Members aged between sixteen (16) and under eighteen (18) years of age shall have no delegate or voting entitlements, or right to hold elected positions, in the National Party of Australia – NSW, and shall have limited entitlements within NSW Nationals Women's Council subject to this Constitution and Rules.

3.4. Enrolment of a prospective Member shall be formalised by the National Party of Australia – NSW State Director. The enrolment shall be effective thirty (30) days from the date of application unless within three (3) calendar months the National Party of Australia - NSW refuses the enrolment. Attendance and voting rights of new Members at NSW Nationals Women's Council meetings shall apply after six (6) calendar months of the date of the new Member's membership application.

3.5. NSW Nationals Women's Council shall have the right to cancel the membership of Members of NSW Nationals Women's Council and shall at all times report the reasons for and the details of such cancellations to Central Council.

3.6. LIFE MEMBER

3.6.1. NSW Nationals Women's Council, may confer Life membership upon a Member or previous Member who:

(a) has given acknowledged outstanding service to NSW Nationals Women's Council, and
(b) is of excellent character and has a minimum of seven (7) years' membership of NSW Nationals Women's Council.

3.6.2. A Life Member:

(a) may attend and participate in any activity or meeting of NSW Nationals Women's Council
(b) may resign by notifying the Women's Council Secretary in writing
(c) shall forfeit that membership on becoming a member of another political party other than the National Party of Australia – NSW or any successor.

3.7. LAPSED MEMBER

3.7.1. A Member whose membership of the National Party of Australia - NSW has lapsed by up to six (6) months may rejoin NSW Nationals Women's Council with full membership entitlements being reinstated from the date of expiry of membership. Such reinstatement shall be effective upon receipt of subscription payment details being received at and verified by the National Party of Australia – NSW Secretariat.

3.7.2. A Member whose membership has lapsed by more than six (6) months may rejoin NSW Nationals Women's Council as per Rule 3.4 of this Constitution.

4. Delegates and Voting Procedures

4.1. The Membership Register held by the National Party of Australia – NSW Secretariat shall be the definitive list for confirming individual membership status and entitlement to attend and vote at meetings, Councils and Conferences of NSW Nationals Women's Council and the National Party of Australia – NSW subject to this Constitution and the Constitution of the National Party of Australia – NSW.

4.2. At all meetings of all component parts of NSW Nationals Women's Council, excluding meetings of the NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive, all Members over the age of 18 are delegates and shall be entitled to a deliberative vote.

4.3. Members aged between sixteen (16) and under eighteen (18) years of age may attend meetings, Councils and Conferences of NSW Nationals Women's Council and participate in deliberations only.

4.4. At all meetings of NSW Nationals Women's Council, the meeting Chair only shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.

4.5. There shall be no proxy voting entitlements at any meeting of NSW Nationals Women's Council.

4.6. Members and Life Members over the age of eighteen (18) years shall be entitled to attend and have a deliberative vote at meetings of a Branch of which they are a member, the NSW Nationals Women's Council and the NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference.

4.7. Members shall vote at Councils and Conferences of affiliated organisations as individuals free from direction from any component of the National Party of Australia - NSW.

4.8. It shall be the responsibility of Members to satisfy the Councils and Conferences of affiliated organisations that their status is correct.

5. Meetings

5.1. NSW NATIONALS WOMEN'S COUNCIL MEETING

5.1.1. NSW Nationals Women's Council shall hold an Annual General Meeting and may hold general meetings as it may determine.

5.1.2. The quorum for a NSW Nationals Women's Council meeting shall be not less than twenty (20) Members present.

5.2. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5.2.1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 31 December in each calendar year. The Women's Council Secretary shall give to all Members at least seven (7) days' notice of the Annual General Meeting.

5.2.2. Subject to clause 3.3, all Members of at least six (6) months standing shall be entitled to participate and vote at the Annual General Meeting pursuant to clauses 4.1 and 4.2.

6. Election of Office-Bearers – Women's Council Executive

6.1. Each Annual General Meeting of NSW Nationals Women's Council shall elect from within its number a NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive of up to fourteen (14) delegates, including:
(a) the Women's Council Chair;
(b) two (2) Women's Council Vice-Chairs;
(c) the Women's Council Secretary;
(d) the Women's Council Treasurer;
(e) the immediate past Chair for the twelve (12) months following her succession; and
(f) not more than six (6) other Members elected by and from the Membership of NSW Nationals Women's Council.

6.2. The quorum for ordinary meetings of NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive shall be not less than half of the total number of NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive members being present.

6.3. Each Annual General Meeting shall elect delegates and alternate delegates to:

6.3.1. The NSW Nationals Women's Council shall elect four (4) delegates to the Central Council of the National Party of Australia – NSW from the elected members of the Women's Council Executive.

6.3.2. The Federal Council of the National Party of Australia as prescribed in the Constitution of the National Party of Australia.

6.3.3. The Federal Conference of the National Party of Australia as prescribed by the Constitution of the National Party of Australia.

6.3.4. The Federal Council of the Nationals Women's Federal Council National Party of Australia as prescribed by the Constitution of the Federal Women's Council National Party of Australia.

6.3.5. The Federal Conference of the Federal Women's Council National Party of Australia as prescribed by the Constitution of the Federal Women's Council National Party of Australia

6.4. Each Member of NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting unless a written resignation is given to the Chair, upon 7 days' notice, or if a Member's membership is withdrawn or cancelled according to clause 7.2(g) and (i) below].

6.5. Provided due notice has been given, casual vacancies for positions on or from NSW Nationals Women's Council may be filled at any meeting of NSW Nationals Women's Council and shall be reported to the Central Council of the National Party of Australia – NSW, via the National Party of Australia – NSW State Director within seven (7) days.

6.6. The NSW Nationals Women's Council delegation to Central Council shall be the Women's Council Chair and four (4) other delegates.

6.7. The Chair of the NSW Nationals Women's Council shall be the delegate to the Central Executive of the National Party of Australia – NSW pursuant to Rule 6.3.1 and 6.6.

6.8. No Chair of the NSW Nationals Women's Council shall hold office for more than five (5) consecutive years.

6.9. The results of all elections and appointments within and to NSW Nationals Women's Council shall be reported in writing within seven (7) days to the Central Council of the National Party of Australia – NSW, via the National Party of Australia – NSW State Director.

7. NSW Nationals Women's Council Powers and Duties

7.1. The NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual General Meeting shall elect officers and delegates as per Rules 6.1 and 6.3 of this Constitution.

7.2. NSW Nationals Women's Council shall have power to:

(a) do all things necessary to give effect to the objectives, platform and policies of NSW Nationals Women's Council, subject to this Constitution;
(b) elect members to positions according to this Constitution;
(c) decide and authorise the representation from or on organisations not otherwise provided for in this Constitution;
(d) appoint committees from among its own Members and other Members of NSW Nationals Women's Council and other persons to carry out specified duties;
(e) instruct the NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive in the duties required of it and delegate power to or withdraw power from NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive, subject to this Constitution;
(f) appoint or dismiss all or any paid official, contractor or employee of NSW Nationals Women's Council;
(g) accept, refuse to accept, or cancel the acceptance, nomination or election of, any person as a Member of NSW Nationals Women's Council or to any office or delegate status within NSW Nationals Women's Council;
(h) report to the Central Council or its Committees of the National Party of Australia – NSW the reasons for and details of any membership cancellations;
(i) terminate the office of any Member of NSW Nationals Women's Council, NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive or committee by a resolution carried by two-thirds of those present and voting if, in its opinion, such action is necessary for example, for the welfare of NSW Nationals Women's Council or to support the beliefs and ideals of the National Party of Australia – NSW;
(j) give support to any candidate for parliamentary election endorsed by the National Party of Australia – NSW;
(k) control and supervise the canvassing, collection and disbursement of the finances of NSW Nationals Women's Council;
(l) be entitled to accept funds providing it has satisfied itself that no conditions are attached to their receipt or use which in any way directs or limits the freedom of NSW Nationals Women's Council or the National Party of Australia – NSW and its Parliamentary Members or others in the formulation of NSW Nationals Women's Council policy or in the discharge of its, or their, duties;
(m) publish and make media representations on behalf of NSW Nationals Women's Council subject to Central Council Rules;
(n) in periods between the Annual General Conference, determine the general policy of NSW Nationals Women's Council;
(o) give effect to any alteration to this Constitution according to this Constitution;
(p) make, amend, enforce or rescind regulations relating to NSW Nationals Women's Council, subject to this Constitution;
(q) interpret its own regulations and this Constitution and such interpretation shall be binding and final unless altered according to this Constitution;
(r) determine all matters in dispute or likely to cause dispute in NSW Nationals Women's Council and such determination shall be binding and final, unless determined otherwise by NSW Nationals Women's Council according to this Constitution;
(s) confer Life Membership, subject to this Constitution; and
(t) decide to terminate or wind-up NSW Nationals Women's Council, by a resolution carried by two-thirds of those present and voting.

8. NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive

8.1. POWERS AND DUTIES

8.1.1. NSW Nationals Women's Council shall have power to:

(a) supervise the activities of NSW Nationals Women's Council in the intervals between NSW Nationals Women's Council meetings;
(b) exercise powers delegated to it by the NSW Nationals Women's Council; and
(c) decide urgent matters requiring routine determination by NSW Nationals Women's Council under this Constitution where time does not permit NSW Nationals Women's Council to do so.

8.1.2. The NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive shall hold at least one (1) meeting in each quarter of the year at dates and venues of its choosing, or by electronic means, provided that at least two (2) of its meetings are physical meetings.

8.1.3. Seven (7) days' notice shall be given to all Members for Executive Meetings.

8.1.4. A quorum for ordinary meetings of NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive shall be formed with not less than half of the total number of NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive members being present.

8.1.5. The decisions of NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive shall take effect immediately and shall be valid and remain in force unless determined otherwise by NSW Nationals Women's Council.

9. NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference

9.1. A NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference shall be held in each calendar year at a place and date determined by the NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive.

9.2. COMPOSITION

9.2.1. All members referred to in Rule 2.10 are delegates and eligible to be delegates to the NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference.

9.2.2. A quorum for the NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference shall be formed with not less than twenty (20) Members.

9.2.3. Non-members may attend as observers unless the NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference decides otherwise.

9.3. POWERS AND DUTIES

9.3.1. The NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference shall determine the general policy of NSW Nationals Women's Council. The NSW Nationals Women's Council shall be able to promote this policy as it deems necessary, subject to this Constitution.

9.3.2. Motions for the NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference shall be submitted in writing to the Women's Council Secretary.

9.3.3. NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive shall fix a closing date for the receipt of motions so that an agenda may be prepared and circulated to members at least seven (7) days prior to the convening of the NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference.

9.3.4. Urgency motions may be submitted to the Women's Council Chair during the NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference.

10. Electronic Conferencing

10.1. There shall be no electronic conference or non-physical meetings of NSW Nationals Women's Council. NSW Nationals Women's Council may, in exceptional circumstances, waive this requirement. The Central Executive may waive this requirement on behalf of NSW Nationals Women's Council. Votes on matters requiring urgent resolution may, on the determination of the Women's Council Executive, be conducted by electronic means.

10.2. Electronic conference meetings of NSW Nationals Women's Council Executive may be convened as necessary on the determination of the Women's Council Chair, with a quorum as per Rule 6.2.

10.3. Meetings of committees formed by any part of the Party may be convened by electronic means according to National Party of Australia - NSW meeting guidelines set down by the relevant part of the Party.

10.4. NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference shall be a physical meeting of Members with a quorum as per Rule 5.1.2.

11. General Finance

11.1. The finances of NSW Nationals Women's Council, and campaign funds, are at all times under the direct control of Women's Council Executive.

11.2. Any part of NSW Nationals Women's Council shall only be responsible for expenditure which it has duly authorised in writing.

11.3. The Women's Council Treasurer shall present a statement of NSW Nationals Women's Council finances, including income and expenditure, to each Annual General Meeting of NSW Nationals Women's Council.

12. Alteration of the Constitution

12.1. The NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference of NSW Nationals Women's Council shall have sole power to alter this Constitution. However, changes to the Constitution are subject to approval by the Central Council of the National Party of Australia – NSW.

12.2. The Constitution may be altered, rescinded or added to by a resolution of the NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference, which is passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the Members present and voting agreeing to the alteration at any single NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conference, or by at least a simple majority of those Members present and voting agreeing to the alteration at each of two (2) consecutive NSW Nationals Women's Council Annual Conferences, for which at least twenty-one (21) days written notice has been given to members of NSW Nationals Women's Council specifying the intention to propose a motion to alter or rescind the Constitution.

13. Prohibition of Candidates for Parliamentary Election

13.1. NSW Nationals Women's Council shall have no power to endorse any candidates for election to Parliamentary office.

14. Winding Up

14.1. Upon the termination of the NSW Nationals Women's Council, all books, documents, money, bank statements, digital keys, funds, and other property belonging to it shall be handed over by Women's Council Chair or Women's Council Secretary to the Central Council of the National Party of Australia - NSW without delay.

14.2. The outgoing Women's Council Executive shall do all things to assist the National Party of Australia - NSW in any winding up of the NSW Nationals Women's Council.

14.3. If the NSW Nationals Women's Council is re-formed within twelve months, according to this Constitution, the foregoing shall be returned to the NSW Nationals Women's Council by the Central Council of the National Party of Australia - NSW without delay.

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THE NATIONALS for Regional NSW

Constitution and Rules

Revised June 2025