

SHOOTERS, FISHERS AND FARMERS PARTY

(QUEENSLAND)

CONSTITUTION

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1.NAME

The name of the Party shall be the SHOOTERS, FISHERS and FARMERS PARTY (QLD)(hereinafter referred to as the “Party”).

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Party are:

- a) To select and endorse candidates for elections and by-elections in Queensland for the Legislative Assembly and/or Local Government.
- b) To promote and advocate the best interests of the Party and Party policies.
- c) To promote generally, the best interests of shooters, hunters, fishers, fourwheel drivers, farmers and all outdoor recreational pursuits.
- d) That every member of the Party, including Members of Parliament, vote and act in the best interests of the Party and in accordance with the best interests of the shooting, hunting, fishing, outdoor recreational and farming community broadly.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a) The Party shall consist of ordinary members, honorary members and life members. Applications for ordinary memberships shall be automatically approved unless explicitly rejected by the State Committee or the applicant has been convicted of a disqualifying electoral offence in the 10 years prior to their application to become a member.
- b) Membership is available only to individuals who are members in their own right and not as representatives of any other organisation or group.
- c) All applications for ordinary membership shall be on the application form as prescribed by the State Executive and shall be accompanied by the payment of an annual membership fee.
- d) Honorary members and honorary life members shall be proposed by three (3) Party members and elected at the State Conference by a 75% majority.
- e) All members shall be issued with a membership certificate in a form as prescribed from time to time.
- f) The State Executive has the power to allocate a member to a suitable branch.
- g) The State Executive shall determine the various categories and classes of membership from time to time.
- h) A Member may not be a member of another political Party.
- i) A person is prohibited from becoming a member of the Party if that person has been convicted of a disqualifying electoral offence within ten (10) years before the person applies to become a member.

j) No member who is convicted of a disqualifying electoral offence may continue to be a member. Their membership will be deemed to have immediately ceased upon conviction.

4. MEMBERSHIP FEES

a) The membership fee for each ordinary membership and for each other class of membership (if any) is the amount decided by the State Executive for time to time at a General Meeting and is payable annually, upon a new membership or renewal.

5. RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

a) A member may at any time by notice in writing to the Secretary resign his/her membership of the Party but shall continue to be liable for any unpaid membership fees and other unpaid monies which are due and unpaid at the date of resignation.

b) Members with fees in arrears are still determined to retain their membership until they advise the party in writing that they wish to resign their membership, or their membership is terminated by State Executive.

6. REJECTION AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

a) A person is prohibited from continuing as a member of the Party, if the person is convicted of a disqualifying offence.

b) The State Executive may consider an application for membership at the next committee meeting held after it receives the application for membership; and membership fee for the application.

c) The State Executive may decide at the meeting whether to accept or reject the application.

d) The Secretary must, as soon as practicable after the State Executive decides to reject an application, give the applicant a written notice of the decision.

e) The State Executive may penalise any member found in breach of any Party rule, or of bringing the Party or the shooting or fishing movement generally into disrepute.

f) For the purposes of subclause (e), the expression “bringing the Party or the shooting or fishing movement generally into disrepute” means, but not limited to, the publishing of any written or oral article, notice or statement by any means.

g) For the purposes of subclause (e), any member falsely representing their natural person by any manner that creates a false identify and undertakes actions referred in subclause (f) shall be subject to subclause (e)

h) For the purposes of subclause (e), the expression “publishing” means, but not limited to, the production or dissemination of information referred to under subclause (f) by any means.

i) Any member found in breach of subclause (a) shall be called to appear before the State Executive to answer the breach, and if the breach is proven, the State Executive may suspend, reprimand or expel the offending member.

j) Any breach which may warrant the suspension, reprimand or expulsion of a member must be lodged with the Secretary in writing, signed by any member, detailing the circumstances which give rise to the breach.

k) The Secretary must inform the member allegedly in breach, who may submit, in writing, an explanation, or resign from the Party. Such explanation shall be tabled at the State Executive meeting at which the breach is heard.

l) Any member suspended, reprimanded or expelled from the Party shall be notified in writing by the Secretary within twenty-one (21) days of such action.

m) Any member suspended, reprimanded or expelled has the right to appeal against such action, within twenty-one (21) days, to an Appeals Committee consisting of five members appointed by the State Executive.

n) The decision of an Appeals Committee is final.

7. REGISTER OF MEMBERS

The Secretary shall keep a register of members containing their names and addresses and may delegate this responsibility to the Treasurer or another State Committee member.

8. OFFICE BEARERS

(a) Chairman

(i) There shall be one Chairman.

(ii) The Chairman shall be the Senior Executive Officer of the Party.

(iii) He/she shall preside at all State Executive meetings, State Committee meetings, and the State Conference of the Party.

(iv) He/she shall be a member "ex officio" of all regular and special committees.

(v) He/she shall have a casting vote on all motions before any meeting.

(b) Vice-Chairman

(i) There shall be one Vice-Chairman.

(ii) He/she shall perform the duties of the Chairman during his/her absence or at his/her request.

(iii) He/she shall be a member "ex officio" of all regular and special committees.

(c) Secretary

- (i) There shall be one Secretary.
- (ii) He/she shall keep a record of the proceedings of all State Executive meetings, State Executive meetings and the State Conference of the Party.
- (iii) He/she shall be responsible for correspondence in connection with the SFF.
- (iv) He/she shall be a member “ex officio” of all regular and special committees.
- (v) In accordance with rule 7, the Secretary shall keep a register of members containing the full names and address of all members.
- (vi) He/she shall be the person who holds office and has the responsibility for carrying out of the administration and obligations of the Party in accordance with relevant Queensland Electoral Law.
- (vii) There may be one assistant Secretary as appointed by the State Executive.
- (viii) He/she must ensure the safe custody of books, documents, instruments of title and securities of the Party.

(d) Treasurer

- (i) There shall be one Treasurer. He/she shall be the Treasurer of the the Party.
- (ii) He/she shall be responsible for the care of the Party finances.
- (iii) He/she shall be responsible for the collection of all monies due to the Party and shall maintain a register of all assets belonging to, or on loan to, the Party.
- (iv) He/she shall forthwith pay all monies collected into a bank approved by the State Executive.
- (v) He/ she shall record in books of account the receipt and expenditure of all monies connected with the Party.
- (vi) He/she shall produce each year to the auditor of the Party the books of account.
- (vii) He/she shall at the State Conference present a duly audited balance sheet and a profit and loss account covering the financial year immediately preceding the State Conference.
- (viii) He/she shall present a trading statement and balance to each meeting of the Executive.
- (ix) He/she shall be a member “ex officio” of all regular and special committees.

(e) If a vacancy happens in any of the office bearer positions, the members of the State Executive must ensure the vacancy is appointed and elected within two (2) months after the vacancy happens.

9. STATE EXECUTIVE

a) The State Executive shall consist of:

(i) The office bearers; and

(ii) Six (6) ordinary members unless decided otherwise by majority vote of a General Meeting of the Party.

b) Four (4) members of the State Executive shall, Chairman (or Vice-Chairman acting in the absence of the chairman) shall form a quorum.

c) The State Executive shall hold office for a term expiring at the second (2th) annual general meeting held subsequent to their appointment.

d) Subsequent to the second annual general meeting not more one Member appointed by the State Executive shall retire in any year.

e) The State Executive shall appoint a Public Officer at each annual general meeting to file such returns and notices as required by law.

f) A member may resign from the State Executive by notice in writing delivered to the Secretary.

g) The resignation becomes effective upon receipt by the Secretary.

h) A person filling a casual vacancy holds office for the balance of the term of the office vacated. Should a vacancy arise on the interim State Executive the person filling the vacancy will remain in office until the second annual general meeting of the Party.

i) Withdrawal of monies from the Party bank accounts shall be authorised only by the State Executive and each withdrawal approved by two members of the State Executive.

j) All matters before the State Executive shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote except where this Constitution provides otherwise.

k) One member of the State Executive shall function as the Party's Registered Officer for the purpose of the electoral laws and in particular shall nominate the Party's endorsed candidates to the Electoral Commissioner.

l) The State Executive shall have the authority to:

(i) Control of the day to day administration and finances of the Party.

(ii) Engage, control and dismiss servants of the Party.

(iii) Administer all administrative powers and functions as may be necessary for properly carrying out the objects of the Party in accordance with this Constitution.

(iv) Formulate and approve policies and objectives according to the express wishes of the members of the Party and community. the needs of the

(v) Undertake activities to improve the public image of shooters, fishers, hunters, farmers and four wheel drivers.

(vi) Endorse candidates for elections approved at a General Meeting.

(vii) Form Advisory of Standing Committees as may be required from time to time.

(viii) Sitting members representing the Party in the Queensland Parliament or Local Government of Queensland, shall be, ex officio, members of the State Executive.

10. MEETINGS OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE

a) Meetings shall be held at such times and places as decided by the State Executive:

(i) At least once every three (3) calendar months; or

(ii) Within thirty (30) days of the receipt by the Secretary of a requisition by a majority of branches.

(iii) Such meetings may be held by telephonic, audio-visual, or other electronic means, as deemed necessary.

11. STATE CONFERENCE

a) There must be one (1) State Conference per financial year.

b) The State Conference must be held in accordance with this Constitution at a time and place decided upon by the State Executive.

c) Notice of the State Conference must be given by the Secretary to each serving State Committee member and Branch no later than ninety (90) days prior to the State Conference.

d) All matters for decision, including any motions on notice, must be submitted to the Secretary no later than sixty (60) days

e) The Secretary must forward all such matters referred to under subclause

(d) to each serving State Committee member and Branch no later than thirty (30) days before the date of the State Conference.

f) The agenda for the State Conference shall be:

(i) Opening of meeting and roll call

(ii) Apologises

(iii) Admission of un-notified delegates

(iv) Minutes of previous State Conference and of any Extraordinary General Meetings verified by the meeting and signed by the Chairman

(v) Secretary's report

(vi) Treasurer's report

(vii) Chairman's report

(viii) Parliamentary Representative(s) Report(s)

(ix) Motions on notice

(x) General business, including fixing of membership fees and levies

(xi) Appointment of a Returning Officer

(xii) Election of members of the State Executive

g) At State Conference and special general meetings, each question, matter or resolution must be decided by a majority of votes of the members present except where a special resolution is required by this constitution.

h) Each member present and eligible to vote is entitled to 1 vote without proxy only and, if the votes are equal, the President has a casting vote as well as a primary vote.

i) A member is not entitled to vote at a general meeting if the member's annual subscription is in arrears at the date of the meeting.

j) The method of voting is to be decided by the State Executive.

12. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

a) The State Executive may at any time for any special purpose call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Party.

b) The Secretary must call an Extraordinary General Meeting within thirty (30) days of receiving a valid requisition.

c) A requisition for an Extraordinary General Meeting shall only be valid if:

(i) It is supported by a majority of branches, and

(ii) Each supporting Branch resolution has been confirmed by a secret ballot of Branch members, and

(iii) The requisition states by notice of motion(s) the business to be transacted.

13. BRANCHES

a) Member branches may, subject to the approval of the State Executive, be formed within the State.

- b) A Branch shall consist of a minimum of ten (10) members not being members of any other Branch.
- c) A Branch may be based on a region, electorate, or interest group endorsed by the State Executive.
- d) Branches shall hold meetings as determined by their Branch Management Committee.
- e) The Branch Management Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Branch.
- f) Meetings of the Branch shall be held in like manner to those set out in this Constitution and may seek advice from the State Executive.
- g) Each Branch may appoint one of its members as a delegate and others as alternative delegates or observers to vote accordingly at General Meetings of the Party. In the absence of such direction, the delegate may vote at his/her discretion.
- h) The alternate delegate shall, in the absence of the delegate, have the same rights as the delegate to vote on matters before General Meetings of the Party.
- i) Each Branch may open a bank account in consultation with the Party Treasurer. The Branch shall be accountable to the State Executive for the conduct of such accounts and shall send funds to the Party Treasurer if instructed to do so by the State Executive.

14. AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

The Party may maintain active and mutually beneficial contact with organisations having goals compatible with those of the Party, but this contact shall not require any financial benefit to the Party. Such organisations may, by invitation only, nominate observers to the State Conference or other General Meetings of the Party, but such observers may speak at said meetings by invitation only. These observers are not entitled to vote at the State Conference or other General Meetings of the Party.

15. GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE PARTY

- a) Four (4) voting members (being branch delegates and members of the State Executive) shall form a quorum for a General Meeting.
- b) In the event that a quorum is not present thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled time of any General Meeting, such a meeting shall be abandoned.
- c) A meeting shall be called within two (2) weeks of the abandoned meeting, to carry out the business laid down in the agenda of the abandoned meeting.
- d) The second meeting shall proceed with those members present at the scheduled starting time being considered to form a quorum.
- e) All notices shall be deemed to have been duly delivered on the day following the date of dispatch.

f) All matters before a General Meeting shall (unless other specified in this Constitution) be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote, except in the case of a tie in which the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

g) A branch unrepresented by a delegate at a General Meeting may submit a proxy provided that:

(i) The proxy is in writing and signed off by an office-bearer of the Branch;

(ii) The proxy is submitted to either the Secretary or Chairman not less than one hour prior to the scheduled commencement of the meeting;

(iii) A Branch may give a proxy to the Secretary or Chairman of the General Meeting or to any delegate attending the General Meeting and may direct its proxy how to vote on matters or leave it to the proxy's discretion.

h) At any General Meeting a vote may only be cast by:

(i) A Branch via its delegate (of his/her alternate), appointed in accordance with this Constitution, or

(ii) A Branch via proxy, or

(iii) A member of the State Executive.

(iv) A delegate who is also a member of the State Executive has two votes at a General Meeting of the Party.

(v) The secretary must ensure full and accurate minutes of all questions, matters, resolutions and other proceedings of each General Meeting are entered into a minute book.

16. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

Candidates will be selected by the State Executive in accordance with any applicable electoral legislation and upon consultation with the local Branch Party membership. The State Executive may choose to select a candidate through a pre-selection process involving the local Branch Party membership. A selection ballot conducted by the Party must accord with the following principles:

a) Only Queensland members of the Party who are electors may vote,

b) Only Queensland members of the Party who are eligible to vote in the ballot under the Party's constitution may vote,

c) Each Queensland member has only 1 vote,

d) Voting must be done by secret ballot,

e) A Queensland member must not be improperly influenced in voting,

f) A Queensland member's ballot paper must be counted if the Queensland member's intention is clear,

- g) Queensland members' votes must be accurately counted,
- h) Each person who is seeking selection may be present personally, or may be represented by another person, at the ballot and for the scrutiny, and counting, of votes Electoral Committees
- i) An Electoral Committee, consisting of the State Executive and twenty Queensland Division Members enrolled in the electorate in which preselection is sought, is to be established for each electorate in which preselection of a candidate is sought.
- j) The twenty Queensland Members from the electorate will be elected by the Queensland Members of that electorate.
- k) The State Executive decides the method of voting to elect the twenty Queensland Members to each Electoral Committee.
- l) An Electoral Committee determines which nominations for preselection are accepted based upon considerations contained within the By-Laws of the Party.

17. FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the Party shall end on the 30 June each year, at which date the accounts of the Party shall be rendered in accordance with relevant electoral laws.

18. AUDITORS

The books and financial accounts of the Party shall be subject to an annual audit by an auditor appointed by the State Executive in accordance with any relevant electoral laws.

19. VARIATION OF THIS CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended by motion at any State Conference or Extraordinary General Meeting, on a 75% majority of those present and entitled to vote, or by a decision of at least 90% of the members of both the Federal and State Executives provided that twenty-eight (28) days' notice of the intention to move the resolution has been given to the Queensland Secretary.

20. DISSOLUTION

- a) If at any General Meeting a motion for the dissolution of the Party is passed by a majority, an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called not less than four (4) weeks or more than six (6) weeks later to reconsider the motion.
- b) The quorum for this meeting shall be a majority of the branch delegates.
- c) In the event that a quorum is not present thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled commencing time the motion shall be lost.
- d) If the motion is put to the meeting, it shall require a 75% majority of those present and entitled to vote to pass.

e) The State Executive shall proceed to distribute all assets to the Federal Branch of the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities by the Party. In the event that the Federal Branch does not accept the assets and surplus funds it must be given to another entity having similar objectives to the party.

21. COMMON SEAL

a) The State Executive must ensure the Party has a common seal, kept securely by the State Executive and used only under the authority of the State Executive.

b) Each instrument to which the seal is attached must be signed by a member of the State Executive and countersigned by the Secretary.

22. FINANCES

The income and property of the Party must be used solely in promoting the Party's objects and exercising the Party's powers and management.

23. MODEL RULES

The provision at section 47(1) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 does not apply. The Party excludes the model rules entirely.

24. MATTERS NOT COVERED IN THIS CONSTITUTION

Where any subject, dispute or matter is not covered by this Constitution is brought before the Party, the State Executive shall have the power to action the matter and its decision shall be binding, but subject to revision by the General Meeting on proper notice of motion. On resolution of the State Executive, the Federal Party shall be requested to provide at an EGM of the State Branch, to act as arbitration and controller of the State Branch until such time as any conflicts in the State Branch are resolved.

25. BY-LAWS OF THE SHOOTERS, FISHERS AND FARMERS PARTY (QUEENSLAND)

1. The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (Queensland) does not recognise organisations, companies or other groups as part of its voting membership. Membership is available to individuals, who cannot be recognised as representing any external group.

2. Parliamentary selection process:

a) That where a sitting member intends to seek re-election to the Local Government or State Parliament, that member will be given the Number One place on the Party ticket for the ensuing election.

b) Candidates must be nominated by at least two financial members.

- c) The cut-off date will be set at least three (3) months before the election of candidates to allow branches to be informed of the candidates; such notice to be provided to branches not less than two (2) months before the date of the election.
- d) No nominations will be accepted after the cut-off date.
- e) Branches may vote by proxy during this process in accordance with this Constitution.
- f) All ballot papers are to be collected by the returning officer in a locked ballot box.