CONSTITUTION

of the

COUNTRY LIBERAL PARTY of the
NORTHERN TERRITORY
FOREWORD

The Country Liberal Party is an independent conservative political Party formed in 1974 in the Northern Territory of Australia. It is the smallest political party to have ever governed in Australia and is also the most successful having the longest term in office of present administrations in Australia.

The Country Liberal Party exists to serve the people of the Northern Territory of Australia.

This is the Constitution of the Country Liberal Party of the Northern Territory. The Constitution is the body of rules by which the Country Liberal Party is governed.

The Constitution may only be altered or amended by Annual Conference or at a Special Conference called for that purpose.

The Section and Clause headings and Table of Contents have been inserted for convenience only. They are not part of the Constitution and are not to be used in its interpretation or construction.

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COUNTRY LIBERAL PARTY of the NORTHERN TERRITORY

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SECTION 1 - THE PARTY

1.1 NAME

1.1.1 The name of the Party shall be the “Country Liberal Party of the Northern Territory”.

1.2 DEFINITIONS

1.2.1 ‘Alternate Branch delegate’ means a member elected by a Branch to represent it at Central Council, or Annual, Special or Regional Conferences in place of a Branch delegate who, for some reason, is not able to attend.

1.2.2 ‘Annual Conference’ is the peak body of the Party, being an annual meeting of the Party held in accordance with Section 4 of the Constitution.

1.2.3 ‘Auditor’ is an accredited member of the accounting profession who either volunteers their services or who is paid to audit the accounting records of the Branches or the Party as a whole.

1.2.4 ‘Branch’ means a Branch of the Party, established and conducted in accordance with Section 3 of the Constitution.

1.2.5 ‘Branch delegate’ means a member elected by a Branch at its Annual general meeting to represent it at Central Council or Annual, Special or Regional Conferences.

1.2.6 ‘Branch executive committee’ means those members of a Branch elected as office bearers of a Branch in accordance with Section 3.2.

1.2.7 ‘Casting vote’ is a vote additional to a deliberative vote exercised by the President or Chairperson of a meeting where the counted votes are exactly equal for and against a motion.

1.2.8 ‘Central Council’ means a meeting of the Party, convened and conducted in accordance with Section 7.

1.2.9 ‘Central Councillor’ means a member of Central Council, being a person specified in Clause 7.2.1.
1.2.10 ‘Central register’ means the list of members of the Party not affiliated with any Branch, approved for membership in accordance with Clause 2.3.5.

1.2.11 ‘Country Liberal Women’ means the voluntary association of women members of the Party convened and conducted in accordance with Section 10.

1.2.12 ‘Country Liberal Women’s Convenor’ means the leader of Country Liberal Women elected in accordance with Section 10.

1.2.13 ‘Conference delegate’ means a person entitled to participate in and vote at Annual and Special Conferences.

1.2.14 ‘Deputy Leader’ means the deputy leader of the Parliamentary Wing of the Party in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly.

1.2.15 ‘Federal Member’ means a Party member elected to the House of Representatives or the Australian Senate.

1.2.16 ‘Finance Committee’ means that Standing Committee of Central Council established and conducted in accordance with Section 8.3.

1.2.17 ‘Honorary Life Member’ is a person of good character who having rendered outstanding service to the Party is accorded that title by Annual Conference.

1.2.18 ‘Leader’ means the leader of the Parliamentary Wing of the Party in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly.

1.2.19 ‘Life Member’ means a person who has paid a membership fee as determined by Central Council entitling that person to membership of the Party for life without further payment.

1.2.20 ‘Management Committee’ means that Standing Committee of Central Council established and conducted in accordance with Section 8.2.

1.2.21 ‘Member’ means a person (including a member under suspension) who has paid a current membership fee to the Party, subscribes to the Philosophy and Platform and Constitution of the Party, and whose application for membership has been approved by:

   a) a Branch of the Party; or
   b) Central Council

1.2.22 ‘Newly constituted Branch’ means a Branch whose formation has been accepted by Central Council, but has yet to be ratified by Annual Conference.

1.2.23 ‘Northern Territory’ means the Northern Territory of Australia plus such other territories as may from time to time be joined to the Northern Territory for electoral purposes under the Commonwealth Electoral Act (for example, Indian Ocean Territories).

1.2.24 ‘Notice’ means formal advice issued to members or Branches in writing, sent by normal mail or, when the member or Branch has so agreed, by electronic mail.

1.2.25 ‘Panel advisers’ means those members elected in accordance with Clause 4.10 to assist with preselection.
1.2.26 ‘Parliamentary Wing’ means those members of the Party who have been elected to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly.

1.2.27 ‘Party’ means that organisation of members of the Country Liberal Party who subscribe to the Philosophy and Platform and this Constitution.

1.2.28 ‘Philosophy and Platform’ means the philosophic foundation on which the Party stands, as determined from time to time by Annual or Special Conference.

1.2.29 ‘Policy’ is the means by which the Philosophy and Platform is achieved, as determined from time to time by Central Council.

1.2.30 ‘Preselection observers’ means a panel of members monitoring the preselection process in accordance with Clause 11.1.2.

1.2.31 ‘Preselection panel’ means a panel of members assembled for the purposes of preselecting candidates in accordance with Section 11.

1.2.32 ‘President’ means the President of the Party.

1.2.33 ‘Proxy’ means the authority given by a Branch for one Branch delegate or alternate Branch delegate to act for another.

1.2.34 ‘Quorum’ means the minimum number of eligible participants required to be present for a meeting to be valid. The number may be expressed as a percentage of the total number of participants eligible to attend the meeting and can include members participating in the meeting by telephone or other electronic medium.

1.2.35 ‘Regional Conference’ is a meeting of Branch delegates and others within a region as defined by Central Council, convened and conducted in accordance with Section 6 of this Constitution.

1.2.36 ‘Register of members’ means the list of members maintained by the Territory Director, including the details listed in Section 2.1.1.

1.2.37 ‘Special Conference’ is a meeting of Annual Conference delegates convened and conducted in accordance with Section 5 of this Constitution.

1.2.38 ‘Territory Director’ means the Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat, managing the correspondence and administration of the Party.

1.2.39 ‘Trustee’ means a member elected to this position in accordance with Clause 4.10(e) to discharge the duties outlined in Clauses 1.5.1(n) and 8.3.3.

1.2.38 ‘Women’s Committee’ means the leadership group of Country Liberal Women elected by Branches in accordance with Clause 3.2.17.

1.2.40 ‘Young Country Liberals’ means the members of Branches and young Country Liberal Party Branches as defined by Section 3.7
1.3 LEGAL BASIS OF THE PARTY

1.3.1 The Country Liberal Party is a not for profit, unincorporated association of members who subscribe to the Party’s Philosophy and Platform and binds every member, to the same extent as if every member had signed and sealed this Constitution and agreed to be bound by it.

1.3.2 The Laws of the Northern Territory of Australia and the Commonwealth of Australia shall govern the Party.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

1.4.1 The objectives of the Party shall be to:

a) foster membership, establish Branches of the Party in the Northern Territory and to co-ordinate Branch activities;
b) work towards the election of members of the Party to Government;
c) satisfy, through political action, the interests and needs of all the people of the Northern Territory;
d) develop and practice policies which will lead to the economic, social and political development of the Northern Territory;
e) support and promote the Philosophy and Platform and policies of the Party;
f) work toward the achievement of Statehood in the Northern Territory; and
g) work co-operatively with The Nationals and the Liberal Party of Australia.

1.5 POWERS OF THE PARTY

1.5.1 Under and by virtue of the Constitution the Party shall have the power to:

a) establish a Branch of the Party in any place in the Northern Territory;
b) provide, maintain and manage and carry on headquarters, clubs, social centres and places of meeting or recreation or instruction within the Northern Territory as may be required and to furnish, equip and provide supplies to them;
c) purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any real and personal estate which may be deemed necessary or convenient for any of the purposes of the Party;
d) construct, maintain, and alter any houses, buildings or works necessary or convenient for the purpose of the Party;
e) take such steps by personal or written appeals, public meetings or otherwise, as may from time to time be deemed expedient for the purposes of procuring contributions to the funds of the Party in the shape of donations, annual subscriptions or otherwise;
f) invest any moneys of the Party not immediately required for any of its objects, in such a manner as may from time to time be determined;
g) enter into any arrangement for amalgamation, joint working or co-operation with any Party, association, society, or body of persons whether incorporated or not, carrying on work or having objects similar to the works and objects of the Party and to assist and support by pecuniary contributions or otherwise the operations of any such Party, association, society or body, and to take over
upon any terms all or any of the property, undertakings and liabilities of any such Party, association, society or body;

h) produce, publish and distribute gratuitously or otherwise such books, newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals and other literature as may seem calculated to promote the objects of the Party;

i) receive and accept donations, subscriptions and endowments of money or of any form or property;

j) borrow money with or without security for the purpose of carrying out and exercising any of the objects or powers of the Party;

k) improve, manage, develop, sell, exchange, lease, mortgage or otherwise deal with or turn to account (but subject to any such consent or approval as may by Law be required) all or any of the property of the Party;

l) engage and dismiss all paid officers and servants of the Party and fix their remuneration and terms of employment;

m) grant and pay such pensions, salaries, gratuities or other sums, in recognition of service, to any person as may from time to time be approved by the Management Committee;

n) appoint a Trustee or Trustees, personal or corporate, to receive and hold any property on behalf of the Party and to allow any such property to remain outstanding in such Trustee or Trustees;

o) do all such acts and things as are or may be incidental or conducive to the attainment or furtherance of any of the objects or the exercise of any of the powers of the Party;

p) empower any two (2) of the following namely the President, two Vice Presidents, Treasurer, or delegated staff to operate in accordance with the Law all aspects of the Party’s financial requirements; and

q) empower Management Committee to negotiate Terms and Conditions and to appoint a person to act in that position.

1.5.2 The Party is formed to carry out the objects above mentioned and not for the purposes of trading or securing pecuniary profit to the members from transactions thereof.

1.5.3. The income and property of the Party no matter how derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Party as set forth in this Constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to the members of the Party, provided always that nothing therein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration whether by way of salary or honoraria or otherwise in return for any service actually rendered to or on behalf of the Party, to any officers or servants of the Party or to any member thereof or other person.

1.6 PARTY AFFILIATION

1.6.1 Such kindred organisations and/or parties as Annual Conference or Special Conference shall determine, may be admitted to or removed from affiliation or association with the Party.

1.6.2 Central Council shall have power to co-operate as it considers in the best interests of the Party, with kindred organisations or with any Federal or State Parliamentary Party
provided that Central Council and all other Councils and Committees of the Party shall at all
times and under all circumstances preserve the entity and independence of the Party. At
no time shall the Party be merged into or become a part of any other Party or organisation,
unless such merger or integration is approved by an amendment pursuant to clause 1.8.1
of the Constitution.

1.7 ORGANISATION OF PARTY

1.7.1 The Party organizational structure shall comprise:

a) Annual Conference;
b) Special and Regional Conferences;
c) Central Council;
d) Management Committee and other Standing Committees as established by this
Constitution;
e) Other committees as required from time to time; and f) Branches.

1.8 ALTERATION AND INTERPRETATION OF CONSTITUTION

1.8.1 No alteration or amendment of the Constitution shall be made except in the
following manner:

a) A proposal for an amendment of alteration must be given in writing signed by
the mover and a seconder, and must be in the hands of the Territory Director or
other delegated person at least forty two (42) days before the date of Annual
Conference or before the date of notification of a Special Conference. The
Territory Director shall give notice of the proposals to Branches in accordance
with Clause 4.2 or 5.2 as appropriate.
b) Alteration or amendment to the Constitution may only be made at an Annual
Conference or at a Special Conference called for that purpose or by a plebiscite
of all financial members of the Party.
c) The proposed alteration or amendment shall be deemed to be carried only
when two thirds or more of those entitled to vote are in favour of the motion
provided that in the case of a plebiscite the alteration or amendment shall be
carried if two thirds or more of the votes cast are in favour of the motion. Voting
by plebiscite shall be by a method determined by Central Council.
d) A plebiscite may be called upon the written request of sixty (60)% of the
members or may be called by Central Council.
e) Voting at all meetings shall be by a show of hands, except where a division is
called, a ballot shall be taken and the Chairperson shall announce the result of
the ballot. Unless requested to do so, the Chairperson need not announce the
figures for, and against, in the ballot.
f) Conference delegates may exercise proxies and the Chairperson shall have a
deliberative vote only.
g) No amendment to the Constitution shall be moved at or considered by Annual
Conference or Special Conference unless Central Council, by a majority of at
least two thirds of the Central Councillors present at a meeting shall decide that
the proposed amendment or amendments shall be presented to Annual
Conference or Special Conference for consideration.
1.8.2 Where the Constitution requires any action a number of days before a meeting or event (for example, submissions to a meeting or conference) and that date falls on a weekend or public holiday the Constitution shall be satisfied by the action being taken by the close of business on the first working day after the weekend or public holiday.

1.8.3 The Management Committee shall be the authority for the interpretation of the Constitution, and any guidelines and regulations made thereunder. A decision of the Management Committee upon any question of interpretation or upon any matters affecting the Party not provided for by the Constitution or any guidelines and regulations thereunder shall be submitted to the next Annual Conference for ratification, and up to that date any decisions so taken shall be valid whether or not Annual Conference ratifies the decision.

1.9 INDEMNITY

1.9.1 The Trustees, officers of all Standing Committees and other officers for the time being of the Party acting in relation to any of the affairs of the Party and every one of them, and every one of their heirs, executors and administrators are indemnified and secured harmless out of the funds and the profits of the Party from and against all actions, costs, charges, losses, damages and expenses, which they or any of them, their/or their heirs, executors and administrators shall or may incur or sustain by or by reason of any act done, concurred in, or omitted in or about the execution of their duty or supposed duty in their respective offices, except such (if any) as they shall incur and sustain by or through their own wilful neglect or default respectively, and none of them shall be answerable for the acts or defaults of the other or others of them, or for joining in the receipts for the sake of conformity, or for any bankers or other persons with whom any moneys or effects belonging to the Party shall or may be lodged or deposited for safe custody or for the insufficiency or deficiency of any security upon which any moneys of or belonging to the Party shall be placed out or invested, or for any other loss, misfortune or damage which may happen in the execution of their respective offices or trusts or in relation thereto except that the same shall happen by or through their own wilful neglect or default respectively.

1.10 WINDING UP OF PARTY

1.10.1 If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Party there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members of the Party but shall be given or transferred to some company association society or other body having objects similar or in part similar to the objects of the Party and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Party under or by virtue of the Constitution such company association society or other body to be determined by Central Council at or before the time of dissolution and in default thereof by such Judge of the Supreme Court as may have or acquire jurisdiction in the matter.
SECTION 2 - MEMBERSHIP OF PARTY

2.1 REGISTER OF MEMBERS, CENTRAL REGISTER
2.1.1 The Territory Director shall maintain a register of members of the Party. The register of members shall record in respect to each member, their:

a) full name;

b) residential and, if different, postal addresses;

c) e-mail address;

d) telephone contact details;

e) date of acceptance as a member;

f) Branch affiliation, where applicable, including details of any transfers between Branches;

g) record of their acceptance or otherwise that notice may be transmitted to them by electronic means; and

h) the electorate in which they are entitled to vote.

2.1.2. The Territory Director shall, within the register of members maintain a central register of members who for reasons as approved by Management Committee are unable to participate in the activities of a Branch.

2.1.3. Members whose names have been included on the central register as members of the Party shall have the right to attend and participate in Annual, Special or Regional Conferences and at Central Council meetings as members of the Party but may not vote at any such meetings unless otherwise entitled.

2.2 ELIGIBILITY

2.2.1 Residents of the Northern Territory who subscribe to the Philosophy and Platform and Constitution of the Party shall be eligible for membership. Residents shall include a person who has previously been a resident of the Northern Territory and who was a member of the Party during that residency.

2.2.2. No member of any other political party within the Northern Territory shall be eligible to become or remain a member. A member may be a member of a political party outside the Northern Territory provided that party is affiliated or associated with this Party.

2.3 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

2.3.1. All applications for membership of the Party shall be made on the form prescribed by Central Council titled “Application for Membership” and be submitted with the appropriate membership fee for approval by:

a) a Branch of the Party; or

b) Central Council.

2.3.2 An application for Party membership affiliated with a Branch shall only be considered by the Branch executive committee provided that the Application for Membership form has been completed in the prescribed manner and the membership fee
has been paid. The Branch executive committee shall provisionally accept or reject the application subject to ratification at the next General Meeting of the Branch. Membership is effective from the date of acceptance of the application by the Branch.

2.3.3 Following acceptance of the application by the Branch, the Branch shall forward the new member’s application form to the Territory Director for inclusion of the member’s details in the register of members.

2.3.4 Branches shall include in a report to Central Council the names of new members joining since the previous Central Council. An application for membership of the Party previously approved by a Branch may be rejected by Central Council. If rejected by Central Council, the membership fee paid shall be returned to the applicant.

2.3.5 An application for membership of the Party by a person unable to participate in the normal activities of a Branch shall be considered by Central Council. The Application for Membership form, including details of the reasons for the applicant’s inability to participate in any Branch, must have been completed in the prescribed manner and the membership fee paid. Lodgement of the application shall be with the Territory Director. The Territory Director shall refer the application to the Management Committee for consideration of the reasons. The Management Committee shall provisionally accept or reject the application subject to ratification at the next Central Council. Membership is effective from the date of acceptance of the application by Central Council.

2.3.6 An application for membership of the Party for inclusion on the central register, provisionally approved by Management Committee may be rejected by Central Council. If rejected by Central Council, the membership fee paid shall be returned to the applicant.

2.4 MEMBERSHIP FEES

2.4.1 A schedule of membership fees shall be determined by Central Council.

2.4.2 Members who are financial members as at 30 June 2016
Membership fees shall become due and payable on the first day of July in each year.

Members who join the Country Liberal Party after 30 June 2016
Membership fees shall become due and payable on the first business day of the month following receipt of the application of membership”

2.4.3 The payment by any member of a sum set by Central Council from time to time as Life Membership, which shall not be redeemable, shall entitle the member to privileges of membership for the life of the member, unless the member is suspended or expelled in accordance with Section 2.8.

2.4.4 A member whose membership fee has not been received by the Party within sixty (60) days of the due date for payment ceases to be a member and must re-apply for membership.

2.4.5 No member whose fee is in arrears shall be allowed to retain office, vote, take part in discussions at Branch meetings or exercise the privileges of the membership of the
Party. Privileges include being an office bearer of the Party, representation at Annual, Special or Regional Conferences and at Central Council.

2.4.6. All membership fees shall be payable to the Party. Such percentage of the fees as is decided from time to time by Central Council shall be paid to each member's Branch. Central Council, may, at the request of a Branch authorise the Branch to conduct a membership drive for a period not exceeding six (6) months on the basis that the Branch shall be paid the first year's membership fees, provided that the new members have not been financial members in the previous five years.

2.4.7 Central Council may from time to time determine that there be different classes of membership that Members can purchase.

2.4.8 All Members shall be treated individually and equally under the Constitution irrespective of the class of membership purchased.

2.5 AFFILIATION AND TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

2.5.1 Any member may transfer affiliation from one Branch to another. All affiliation transfers between Branches shall be recorded on the form titled ‘Application for Transfer of Membership’ which, after endorsement by the releasing Branch, shall be submitted to the Territory Director by the receiving Branch.

2.5.2 Any member may transfer from the central register to be affiliated with any Branch. All such transfers shall be recorded on the form titled ‘Application for Transfer of Membership’ which shall be submitted to the Territory Director by the receiving Branch.

2.5.3 Any member may, upon acceptance by the Management Committee of their reason for no longer being able to participate in the activities of a Branch, transfer to the central register. All such transfers shall be recorded on the form titled ‘Application for Transfer of Membership’ which, after endorsement by the releasing Branch, shall be submitted to the Territory Director by the Management Committee.

2.5.4 No member shall be affiliated with more than one Branch.

2.6 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

2.6.1 Honorary Life Membership may be conferred on a member for the purpose of acknowledging outstanding service to the Party.

2.6.2 To be eligible for Honorary Life Membership, a member must have a minimum of seven (7) years membership, be of good character, and have rendered service of a high order to the Party.

2.6.3 Honorary Life Members may only be appointed by Annual Conference on the recommendation of Central Council.

2.6.4 Branches may submit the names of members proposed for Honorary Life Membership to Central Council.

2.6.5 An Honorary Life Member:

a) shall not be required to contribute an annual membership subscription;
b) may resign by notifying the President in writing;
c) will forfeit such membership if they become a member of another political party not affiliated with this Party;
d) shall have full membership rights, including voting and eligibility for any office, within the Party;
e) when acting in their capacity as an Honorary Life Member at Annual Conference, Honorary Life Members shall not be entitled to give their proxy to any other member.

2.6.6 An appropriate certificate or medallion shall be presented to each Honorary Life Member.

2.6.7 An Honorary Life Member may be suspended or expelled in accordance with Section 2.8.

2.7 PARTY AWARDS

2.7.1 For the purpose of acknowledging service to the Party, certain Party Awards may be conferred. The nomenclature and conditions of Party Awards shall be determined by Central Council.

2.8 SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

2.8.1 Grounds and Procedures:

a) Any member may be expelled, or suspended for up to 12 months, on the grounds that such person has:
   (i) been found guilty of disloyalty to the Party, the Constitution or the Philosophy and Platform of the Party;
   (ii) been found guilty of conduct gravely detrimental to the best interests of the Party;
   (iii) included materially false or misleading information in his or her membership application form or failed to disclose a matter that would have rendered him or her ineligible to apply for Party membership; or
   (iv) included materially false or misleading information in his or her application for preselection or failed to disclose a matter that would reasonably be considered to have rendered him or her unsuitable for preselection.

b) The Member’s Branch or the Management Committee may submit a motion to Central Council charging that the member has:
   (i) been guilty of disloyalty to the Party, this Constitution or the Philosophy and Platform of the Party;
   (ii) been guilty of conduct gravely detrimental to the best interests of the Party;
   (iii) included materially false or misleading information in his or her membership application form or failed to disclose a matter that would have rendered him or her ineligible to apply for Party membership; or
   (iv) included materially false or misleading information in his or her application for preselection or failed to disclose a matter that would reasonably be considered to have rendered him or her unsuitable for preselection.

c) When Management Committee submits a motion to Central Council as aforesaid it may, by resolution carried by a two-thirds majority of the members of
Management Committee present and voting suspend that member until the next meeting of Central Council.

d) No motion under Subclause (b) above shall be determined by Central Council unless at least thirty (30) days notice has been given to the member against whom such motion has been laid.

e) Before any vote on a proposed resolution under Subclause (b) or (c) above is taken the member shall have the right to be heard. Otherwise the procedures to be followed shall be determined by Central Council.

f) Motions under Subclause (b) above shall be determined by a secret ballot and shall not be carried unless by a two-thirds majority of the Central Councillors present and voting thereon.

g) Upon Central Council passing a motion under Subclause (b) above that the Member engaged in any conduct or act described in Subclauses (a)(i) to (iv) then Central Council shall determine by motion, which shall be voted upon by secret ballot and carried by two-thirds majority of Central Councillors present and voting, what shall be the appropriate penalty by way of expulsion or suspension for up to 12 months.

h) A period of suspension may be terminated by resolution of Central Council by secret ballot carried by a two-thirds majority of Central Councillors present and voting.

i) Central Council may, at its absolute discretion, direct the refund of all or any part of fees paid by any such person to the person it considers entitled to receive such refund.

k) If any conduct or act described in Subclauses (a)(i) to (iv) occurs within the 40-day period before a general election or by-election, the Management Committee may, by resolution carried by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Management Committee present and voting, expel the member provided that the member shall be entitled to appeal his or her expulsion at the first Central Council after that general election or by-election which may confirm, vary or quash the expulsion.

l) If a member who is expelled under Subclause (k) above appeals the expulsion:
   (i) the notice of appeal shall be in writing and delivered to the Territory Director within 7 days of the expulsion;
   (ii) the appeal shall be by way of re-hearing and shall be final;
   (iii) before any vote is taken by Central Council the former member appealing shall have the right to be heard; and
   (iv) voting on any resolution or determination in relation to an appeal shall, except for procedural motions, be by secret ballot, and shall not be carried unless by a two-thirds majority of the Central Councillors present and voting thereon.

m) When Central Council takes any steps pursuant to this Clause it shall inform the next Annual Conference accordingly.

2.8.2 A member shall automatically be disqualified from renewing his or her membership during a period of suspension.

2.8.3 Where the Constitution requires membership for a continuous or minimum period such period shall not commence until after the expiration of any period of suspension.
2.8.4 Any member who nominates through another Party or as an independent for any election for any Electorate or the Senate where the Party has an endorsed Candidate shall automatically be expelled from membership from the date the member lodges the nomination with the Returning Officer. There shall be no appeal from such expulsion.

2.8.5 No person who has been expelled from membership of the Party shall be re-admitted unless Central Council so determines by a two-thirds majority of Central Councillors present and voting by secret ballot.

2.8.6 Before the determination of an application under Clause 2.8.5 the Management Committee shall make such investigations as it deems appropriate and in the event that the person was expelled for nominating against an endorsed Candidate shall consult with the Branch having responsibility for the electorate in which such person stood as a candidate and shall report the findings of such investigations and consultation to Central Council.
SECTION 3 - BRANCHES

3.1 OBJECTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF BRANCHES

3.1.1 Each Branch shall concern itself with:

a) The advancement of the interests of the Party consistent with the Philosophy and Platform, objectives and policies of the Party; and
b) The progress of the electorates which are the responsibility of that Branch.

3.1.2. The proceedings of the Branch shall be recorded in the form of minutes and shall be confirmed at the following meeting and shall be signed by the Chairperson of that meeting. Copies of all confirmed Branch meeting minutes are to be sent to the Territory Director.

3.1.3. Branches shall forward to the Territory Director or other delegated person resolutions and matters for the consideration of Central Council or Annual or Special Conference not later than forty two (42) days prior to the date of Central Council or Annual or Special Conference. Central Council may at its discretion allow a shorter period of notice.

3.1.4 No Branch shall enter into legal proceedings on its own account without the consent of Central Council.

3.2 BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

3.2.1 The annual general meeting shall be held between the 1st and 31st day of October each year. The Secretary of the Branch shall provide not less than fourteen (14) days notice of the meeting to each member affiliated with the Branch.

3.2.2 Where there are exceptional circumstances and an annual general meeting of a Branch cannot be held in accordance with Section 3.2.1, then the Branch may apply to Central Council seeking some other later date that is as close as practicable to those outlined in Section 3.2.1.

3.2.3 A quorum at an annual general meeting shall be not less than ten (10) members affiliated with the Branch, or twenty (20) % of the membership affiliated with the Branch, whichever is the greater.

3.2.4 A member affiliated with the Branch who;

a) Has attended not less than twenty-five (25) percent of Branch meetings in the preceding twelve (12) months, or
b) Is a member affiliated with the Branch for less than twelve (12) months and has attended not less than fifty (50) percent of Branch meetings since affiliation.

May appoint in writing, as his or per proxy, any member affiliated with that Branch at an Annual General Meeting. No member may hold more than two (2) proxies.

3.2.5 The branch Chairperson, or in his or her absence, one of the Deputy Chairpersons, shall preside at an annual general meeting. In the absence of these officers, a temporary Chairperson shall be elected.
3.2.6. Business at each annual general meeting shall include:

a) Endorsement of minutes of last annual general meeting;
b) Reports by Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer;
c) Acceptance of Branch Financial Statement and Auditor’s Report;
d) Election of the Branch executive committee, being the office bearers set out in 3.2.8;
e) Election of Branch delegate(s) to Central Council in accordance with clause 3.2.10 and 3.2.11;
f) Election of Branch delegates to Annual Conference in accordance with clause 3.2.12;
g) Election of alternate Branch delegates in accordance with clause 3.2.13 to 3.2.16;
h) Election of Youth Committee members in accordance with 3.2.17;
i) Election of Women’s Committee members in accordance with 3.2.19;
j) Appointment of Auditor;
k) Approval of Branch rules; and
l) Any other business which may lawfully be raised.

3.2.7 Voting for election of the positions listed in Clause 3.2.6 shall be by:

a) a secret ballot of members attending that meeting:
b) if only two (2) candidates nominate, voting is to be first past the post; and
   c) if more than two (2) candidates nominate, voting is to be by full preferential system.

3.2.8 The Branch executive committee shall consist of:

a) a Chairperson;
b) two Deputy Chairpersons;
c) a Secretary/Treasurer OR a Secretary and a Treasurer; and
   d) other executive members (the number to be determined at the annual general meeting).

3.2.9 In the event of a casual vacancy in any elected Branch position, the Branch shall elect a replacement at a Branch meeting.

3.2.10 Persons elected to Branch executive committee positions can be removed from office by resolution carried by a two-thirds majority of a Branch meeting, provided the notice for that meeting:

a) Is given strictly in accordance with the requirements of Clause 3.3.3,
   b) contains notice of the motion/s that a particular Branch executive committee position or positions be declared vacant, and
   c) contains notice that if the motion/s is/are carried by the required majority, an immediate election will be held to fill the vacated position/s.

3.2.11 In addition to the Branch Chairperson who is ex officio a Central Councillor, a Branch, provided it is not a newly constituted Branch (for which see (e) below) shall elect Branch delegates to Central Council as follows:
a) One Branch delegate; and
b) If the Branch chairperson declines the position of Central Councillor, a Branch delegate to replace the chairperson; and
c) When a Branch has responsibility for more than one electorate, two additional Branch delegates for each additional electorate; and
d) When a Branch has at least ten (10) affiliated members who are aged under thirty (30) years as at the 30th of June in any year, that Branch shall, at its next annual general meeting, elect an additional Branch delegate, such Branch delegate to be aged under thirty (30) years as at the 30th June in the year of that Branch delegate’s election.
e) Newly constituted Branches are not entitled to elect additional Branch delegates as provided for in subclauses (a), (c) and (d) of this clause.

3.2.12 Branches shall not be entitled to additional Branch delegates when Branch delegates are elected by Annual Conference as office bearers of the Party.

3.2.13 A Branch shall elect Branch delegates to Annual Conference as follows:

a) Two (2) Branch delegates provided that the Branch is not a newly constituted Branch (for which see (c) below), and has met at least twice in the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the day on which Annual Conference commences and one of such meetings has been duly constituted as an annual general meeting.
b) When the number of members affiliated with a Branch, other than a newly constituted Branch (for which see (c) below) exceeds forty (40) members, one (1) additional Branch delegate.
c) Newly constituted Branches are not entitled to elect additional Branch delegates to Annual Conference.

3.2.14 When a Branch delegate is not able to attend Central Council or an Annual, Special or Regional Conference, the Branch may elect another affiliated member as an alternate Branch delegate to replace an absent Branch delegate.

3.2.15 An alternate Branch delegate elected to replace a Branch delegate elected under clause 3.2.10(d) must be aged under thirty (30) years as at the 30th June in the year of that alternate Branch delegate’s election.

3.2.16 A Branch may elect any number of alternate Branch delegates

3.2.17 A Branch shall nominate any alternate Branch delegates for a particular meeting or conference on the form and in the manner prescribed.

3.2.18 A Branch having at least ten (10) affiliated members aged under thirty (30) years at 30th June preceding the Branch annual general meeting may elect one member of the Youth Committee. A Branch may elect an additional member of the Youth Committee for each ten affiliated members aged under thirty (30) years at 30th June preceding the Branch annual general meeting in excess of the original ten. A Branch may choose to elect fewer Youth Committee members than its maximum entitlement.

3.2.19 A Branch having affiliated women members may elect one member of the Women’s Committee. A Branch may choose not to elect a Women’s Committee member.
3.3 BRANCH MEETINGS

3.3.1 Branch meetings shall be held as and when determined by the Branch.

3.3.2 A special meeting of a Branch shall be called within fourteen (14) days of a request in writing by any five (5) members affiliated with the Branch to the Chairperson or Secretary or in their absence to another Branch executive committee member. In the absence of these office bearers, the request should be made to the President.

3.3.3 Not less than fourteen (14) days notice of any meeting shall be given to all members affiliated with the Branch.

3.3.4 A quorum at a Branch meeting shall be not less than five (5) affiliated members or fifteen (15)% of the affiliated members of the Branch, whichever is the greater.

3.3.5 A member affiliated with the Branch may appoint in writing, as his or her proxy any other member affiliated with that Branch to vote at any Branch meeting. No member may hold more than two (2) proxies.

3.3.6 The Chairperson or, in his or her absence, one of the Deputy Chairpersons, shall preside at a Branch meeting. In the absence of these officers, a temporary Chairperson shall be elected.

3.3.7 The President or a Vice-President, delegated by the President, shall be, ex-officio, a member of all Branches during the time when he or she attends any such Branch.

3.4 BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3.4.1 Branch executive committee meetings shall be held as and when determined by the committee. The Branch secretary shall give at least seven (7) days notice of a Branch executive committee meeting.

3.4.2 A quorum at a Branch executive committee meeting shall be a majority of its members.

3.4.3 The Branch Chairperson, or in his or her absence, one of the Deputy Chairpersons, shall preside at a Branch executive committee meeting. In the absence of these officers, a temporary Chairperson shall be elected.

3.4.4 Proxies shall not be used at Branch executive committee meetings.

3.4.5 Any action taken by the Branch executive committee shall be first approved by resolution and duly confirmed at the next meeting of the Branch.

3.5 BRANCH FUNDS

3.5.1 The accounts of each Branch shall be kept separately and submitted to Central Council as follows:

   a) an audited financial statement of the year’s transactions, as soon as practicable after the 30th June in each year; and
   b) an unaudited half yearly financial statement, as soon as practicable after the 31st December in each year.
3.5.2. Branch accounts shall be audited by an Auditor, to be appointed annually.

3.5.3 Branch funds shall be banked and may be operated upon only by the resolution of the Branch executive committee. All Branch accounts shall be operated upon by the Branch Treasurer and any one of:
   a) The Chairperson;
   b) The Deputy Chairpersons; or
   c) The Secretary.

3.6 FORMATION OF NEW BRANCHES

3.6.1 Branches of not less than ten (10) members seeking responsibility for one or more identified electorates may be established after acceptance by Central Council of a recommendation by the appropriate nominating body that the Branch be formed. The appropriate nominating body is:
   a) the Branch executive committee of an existing Branch already responsible for the electorate or electorates for which responsibility is sought;
   b) Management Committee, where no existing Branch covers the electorate or electorates being sought; or
   c) A joint recommendation from multiple nominating bodies is required when responsibility is being sought for multiple electorates not already the responsibility of a single body.

3.6.2 Persons seeking to form a Branch of the Party shall provide the following for the nominating body:
   a) A petition, requesting nomination to Central Council for approval of the formation of the Branch, clearly identifying the electorate or electorates for which responsibility will be sought, together with the names and signatures of at least ten (10) persons supporting the nomination, who are either already members of the Party or who have completed application forms for membership of the Party;
   b) Evidence that as a minimum the persons so named have held a previously advertised public meeting indicating their intention to form a Branch of the Party;
   c) Minutes of a meeting held specifically for the purpose of proposing the formation of a Branch of the Party within that electorate, at which an interim committee consisting of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and at least two (2) additional members were elected;
   d) The establishment of a Branch must receive the approval of Central Council and such approval if granted must be submitted to the next Annual Conference for ratification.

3.6.3 The newly constituted Branch exists from when approval is given by Central Council to the recommendation from the nominating body that the Branch be formed.

3.6.4 Upon ratification by Annual Conference of the approval by Central Council, the Branch ceases to be a newly constituted Branch.
3.6.5 The Chairperson of the interim committee of the newly constituted Branch shall be, ex officio, a Central Councillor from the first Central Council following approval by Central Council to form the Branch.

3.6.6 Additional Branch delegates to Central Council, and Annual Conference shall be elected as set out in subsection 3.2 at the first Branch annual general meeting occurring after ratification by Annual Conference of the formation of the Branch.

3.6.7 Electorate responsibility shall not pass with either approval by Central Council or ratification by Annual Conference of the formation of the Branch, but shall be subject to a separate decision by Central Council at any time of its choosing.

3.6.8 A newly constituted Branch shall undertake the normal activities and obligations of a Branch as set out in Section 3.1.

3.7 YOUNG COUNTRY LIBERALS BRANCHES

3.7.1 All members of the Party aged under thirty (30) years as at the 30th June shall, for the following twelve (12) months, be called Young Country Liberals and be entitled to fully participate in the Party and activities of the Young Country Liberals.

3.7.2 The Young Country Liberals shall form their own Branches and these Branches will operate according to Administrative By-Laws made by the Young Country Liberals.

3.7.3 The Administrative By-Laws referred to above shall be subject to the approval of Central Council and shall not be altered or amended without the consent of Central Council.

3.7.4 The adoption of the Administrative By-Laws will not affect the rights of the Young Country Liberals who wish to be members of Branches established under Section 3 of this Constitution.

3.7.5 A report from each of the Young Country Liberals Branches is to be presented to each Central Council.

3.7.6 Representation of the Young Country Liberals Branches at Annual Conferences and Central Council meetings will be as determined in the Administrative By-Laws.

3.8 WINDING UP OF A BRANCH

3.8.1 Upon the termination of any Branch, all books, documents, money, funds, securities and other property belonging to it shall be handed over to Central Council forthwith. In the event of the Branch being reformed, the foregoing shall, if practicable, be returned to the Branch without delay.
SECTION 4 – ANNUAL CONFERENCE

4.1 Annual Conference shall be held each year between the 1st and 30th day of September, and shall coincide with a meeting of Central Council at a place and time to be determined by Central Council. Where an exigency exists and it is not practical for Annual Conference to be held within the prescribed time, Central Council shall set a time and date for Annual Conference to be held.

4.2 The Territory Director shall issue notice of Annual Conference at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed for that conference. The notice shall be issued to all Branches and include an agenda and details of all motions submitted for consideration by the conference.

4.3 A quorum for Annual Conference shall be two thirds of the number of Conference delegates eligible under clauses 4.4.(a) and (c).

4.4 Conference delegates entitled to participate in and vote at Annual Conference shall be as follows:

   a) Central Councillors;
   b) Honorary Life Members; and
   c) Branch delegates elected at a Branch annual general meeting in accordance with Clause 3.2.12.

4.5 Any member may attend Annual Conference, but only Conference delegates as listed in Clause 4.4 may vote.

4.6 Where a Branch is not able to be fully represented at Annual Conference the attending Branch delegates may hold and exercise proxies for absent Branch delegates provided that:

   a) Such proxies were authorised in writing by the Branch empowered to appoint the Branch delegates;
   b) No Branch delegate may hold more than two (2) proxies;
   c) Proxies shall be submitted on the form and in the manner prescribed; and
   d) Proxies can only be held by members affiliated with the Branch authorising the proxy.

4.7 The absence of representation from a Branch shall not invalidate the proceedings of Annual Conference.

4.8 The President, or in his or her absence, one of the Vice Presidents, shall preside at Annual Conference.

4.9 Annual Conference may determine:

   a) Alterations or amendments to the Constitution,
   b) The general Philosophy and Platform of the Party and details thereof.
   c) Such business as Central Council or the Management Committee may submit,
d) Business and resolutions from Branches as may be submitted to the Territory Director or other delegated person at least forty two (42) days prior to the date fixed by Central Council for Annual Conference, and

e) Such other business as the conference may decide.

4.10 Conference delegates shall elect for the ensuing twelve (12) months the following Party office bearers, who shall remain Central Councillors while holding office irrespective of subsequent Branch elections:

a) A President of the Party;
b) Two (2) Vice Presidents;
c) A General Secretary;
d) A Treasurer;
e) A Deputy Treasurer;
f) Three (3) Trustees, and
g) Three (3) Special Central Councillors.

4.11 Voting for positions listed in clause 4.10 shall be by exhaustive preferential ballot.

4.12 In addition to the Party office bearers elected under Clause 4.10, Annual Conference will elect not more than twenty (20) members with not less than 5 years of continuous membership as panel advisors to assist any preselection panel in accordance with Clause 11.1.1 and as required by Management Committee. Members of Management Committee shall not be eligible for election as panel advisors. Voting for panel advisors shall be as determined by Annual Conference.

4.13 In the event of a casual vacancy in the office of President, Central Council shall elect one of the Vice Presidents to fill the position until the next following Annual Conference. In the event of a casual vacancy in any of the other offices elected by Annual Conference, that vacancy shall be filled by election at Central Council.

4.14 A statement of receipts and expenditure, a balance sheet of the Party and an Auditor’s Statement shall be prepared and presented to Annual Conference each year.

4.15 Annual Conference shall appoint an Auditor annually.
SECTION 5 – SPECIAL CONFERENCES

5.1 A Special Conference of delegates shall be called upon the written request to the Territory Director of not less than sixty (60) % of Branches, or may be called by Central Council. The written request from Branches, or the motion passed by Central Council requiring the convening of a Special Conference, shall detail the matter or matters to be determined by the Special Conference.

5.2 The Management Committee shall, within fourteen (14) days of the Territory Director advising receipt of a written request from Branches, or the passing of the motion by Central Council, determine the date for a Special Conference.

5.3 The Territory Director shall issue notice of a Special Conference at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed for that conference. The notice shall be issued to all Branches and include an agenda and details of the matter or matters to be determined by the Special Conference.

5.4 Conference delegates entitled to participate in and vote at any Special Conference shall be follows:

   a) Central Councillors;
   b) Honorary Life Members; and
   c) Branch delegates elected at a Branch annual general meeting in accordance with Clause 3.2.12.

5.5 Any member may attend a Special Conference, but only Conference delegates may vote.

5.6 A quorum for a Special Conference shall be two thirds of the number of Conference delegates provided for in clauses 5.4 (a) and (c).

5.7 Where a Branch is not able to be fully represented at a Special Conference the attending Conference delegates may hold and exercise proxies for absent Conference delegates under the same conditions that apply to Annual Conference as set out at Clause 4.6.

5.8 The absence of representation from a Branch shall not invalidate the proceedings of a Special Conference.

5.9 The President, or in his or her absence, one of the Vice Presidents, shall preside at Special Conference.

5.10. A Special Conference may determine:

   a) Alterations or amendments to the Constitution,
   b) The general Philosophy and Platform of the Party and details thereof,
   c) Such business as Annual Conference, Central Council or the Management Committee may submit,
   d) Business and resolutions from Branches as may be submitted to the Territory Director or other delegated person at least forty two (42) days prior to the date fixed by Central Council for Annual Conference, and
e) Such other business as the conference may decide.

SECTION 6 – REGIONAL CONFERENCES

6.1 Central Council may convene Regional Conferences of the Party at such times and places as it considers desirable. Before calling such Regional Conference, Central Council shall determine the extent of the geographic area to which it shall relate, the Branches that may attend, and the matters to be discussed. At least forty two (42) days notice of a Regional Conference shall be given. The notice shall include the proposed business of the Regional Conference.

6.2 Conference delegates entitled to participate in and vote at any Regional Conference shall include:

   a) The Central Councillors of the attending Branches; and
   b) Such other Central Councillors as determined by Central Council

6.3 A quorum for a Regional Conference shall be a majority of the Conference delegates provided for in Clause 6.2.

6.4 Any member may attend a Regional Conference, but only Conference delegates as provided for in Clause 6.2 may vote.

6.5 Where a Branch is not able to be fully represented at a Regional Conference the attending Branch delegates may hold and exercise proxies for absent Branch delegates under the same conditions that apply to Annual Conference as set out at Clause 4.6.

6.6 The absence of representation from a Branch shall not invalidate the proceedings of a Regional Conference.

6.7 Central Council shall appoint the Chairperson of a Regional Conference.

6.8 A Regional Conference may deal with matters affecting that region and policies as they apply to that region. Resolutions from the Regional Conference shall be submitted to Central Council.

6.9 Expenses for the conduct of Regional Conferences shall be the responsibility of the respective Branches located within the region.
SECTION 7 – CENTRAL COUNCIL

7.1 OBJECTS, POWERS AND OBLIGATIONS OF CENTRAL COUNCIL

7.1.1 Central Council shall, in all matters, subject to specific directions herein contained and to decisions of Annual and/or Special Conferences, exercise full control over the affairs of the Party and subject as aforesaid, its decisions on all matters shall be final and binding on all persons and sections of the Party concerned.

7.1.2 Central Council shall:

a) appoint, on the recommendation of the Management Committee, such officers as considered necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the Party;
b) direct and supervise organisational and public relations work;
c) have charge of all matters whatsoever relating to Federal and Territory elections and referenda;
d) control and supervise collection and disbursement of funds subject to the Constitution;
e) decide all questions affecting the welfare of the Party;
f) have power to co-operate as it considers in the best interests of the Party, subject to Section 1.6;
g) exercise full control, in all matters relating to the Party as a whole, over all Branches, committees and members of the Party;
h) have power to decide all matters not expressly vested in Branches; and
i) hear and determine disputes not resolved at Branch level.

7.1.3 Central Council may delegate any matter to a committee and make an interim appointment until the date of the next annual election to any vacancy arising on any committee elected by it.

7.1.4 Central Council may from time to time determine Standing Orders and Rules of Debate.

7.1.5 The proceedings of Central Council shall be recorded in the form of minutes and shall be considered at the following meeting and, when agreed, shall be signed by the Chairperson of that meeting.

7.2 MEMBERSHIP OF CENTRAL COUNCIL

7.2.1. Members of Central Council (Central Councillors) shall include:

a) The office bearers elected by Annual Conference in accordance with Clause 4.10;
b) The immediate past President, until the next following Annual Conference after the conference at which the replacement President was elected;
c) Federal Members, subject to a maximum number which may be set by Annual Conference;
d) The Leader and Deputy Leader;
e) The Chairperson of each Branch, or their replacement elected under the provisions of subclause 3.2.9(b);
f) Branch delegates elected at a Branch annual general meeting in accordance with Section 3.2; and
g) The Country Liberal Women’s Convenor elected in accordance with Section 10.

7.2.2 When a Branch delegate is not able to attend Central Council, the Branch may nominate an alternate Branch delegate to replace an absent Branch delegate provided that:

   a) Alternate Branch delegates must be members of the Branch authorising the replacement Branch delegate;
   b) Nominations of alternate Branch delegates shall be submitted on the form and in the manner prescribed; and
   c) When a person who is elected as a Branch delegate to Central Council pursuant to subclause 3.2.10(d) is unable to attend Central Council, an alternate Branch delegate may only be elected from similarly qualified persons.

7.2.3 Any Central Councillor who is absent without leave from three (3) consecutive meetings shall be liable to have his or her position vacated by resolution of Central Council. Any such vacancy shall be filled as required thereafter by Central Council. Any decision of Central Council in such matters shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

7.2.4 Central Council may co-opt members from outside Central Council to assist it in the affairs and representation of Central Council, provided that no more than thirty (30) per cent of any Central Council shall be co-opted members. No co-opted member who is not otherwise entitled shall have any voting rights as a member of Central Council.

7.3 MEETINGS OF CENTRAL COUNCIL

7.3.1 Central Council shall meet at such date, time and place as decided by the President, or in his or her absence, by a Vice-President.

7.3.2 Central Council shall meet at least three times in each calendar year. One meeting shall be held in the South and one in the North of the Northern Territory.

7.3.3 One Central Council meeting shall be held in conjunction with each Annual Conference.

7.3.4 A meeting of Central Council shall be called within twenty one (21) days of a request in writing by sixty (60) per cent of Central Councillors to the Territory Director.

7.3.5 Other than in response to the requirement for an urgent meeting of Central Council called in accordance with Clause 7.3.4, the Territory Director shall give at least thirty (30) days notice of a Central Council meeting to Central Councillors. The notice shall include an agenda and details of all motions submitted for consideration by Central Council.

7.3.6 A quorum for Central Council shall be a majority of Central Councillors as provided for in Clause 7.2.1.

7.3.7 Where a Branch is not able to be fully represented at a Central Council the attending Branch delegates may hold and exercise proxies for absent Branch delegates provided that:

   a) Such proxies are authorised in writing before the meeting by the Branch that elected the absent Central Councillors;
b) No Branch delegate may hold more than two (2) proxies;
c) Proxies shall be submitted on the form and in the manner prescribed;
d) Proxies can only be held by members of the Branch authorising the proxy;

When a Central Councillor, elected pursuant to subclause 3.2.10(d) is unable to attend Central Council, a proxy can only be held by a similarly qualified person.

7.3.8 The President, or in his or her absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside at meetings of Central Council.

7.3.9 At the meeting of Central Council held in conjunction with Annual Conference, Central Council shall, by exhaustive preferential ballot, elect four (4) Central Councillors to be members of the Management Committee as provided in Section 8.2.4.(f). The Central Councillors so elected shall only remain members of the Management Committee while they remain Central Councillors. Membership of the Management Committee ceases immediately upon ceasing to be a Central Councillor, with the casual vacancy being filled by election at the next following Central Council.
SECTION 8 – COMMITTEES OF CENTRAL COUNCIL

8.1 COMMITTEES GENERALLY

8.1.1 Central Council (or Annual or Special Conferences) may each year appoint such Standing or Special Purpose Committees as they deem fit and such Committees shall carry out the duties imposed upon them from time to time by the Constitution, Annual or Special Conferences or Central Council.

8.1.2 Unless otherwise provided in the Constitution:

a) Such committees shall report back to the body that appointed them except where the appointing body has decided that the report be made elsewhere,

b) Committee members shall be drawn from Central Councillors,

c) The Chairperson of any such Standing Committee shall be a Central Councillor appointed by the body appointing the Committee.

d) The Chairperson of a Special Purpose Committee shall be elected by that Committee,

e) A quorum at the meeting of any such Committee shall be a majority of its members,

f) Members may be co-opted to such Committees subject to clause 8.1.5. of this Constitution,

g) The President or a Vice-President, delegated by the President, shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees during the time when he or she attends any such committee.

8.1.3 Any casual vacancy in any Committee appointed by Central Council or Annual or Special Conference shall be filled by resolution of the majority of Central Councillors.

8.1.4 Any member of a Standing or Special Purpose Committee who is absent without leave from three (3) consecutive meetings shall be liable to have his or her position vacated by resolution of the body concerned. Any such vacancy shall be filled as required thereafter by Central Council. Any decision of Central Council in such matters shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

8.1.5. Any Committee formed under the Constitution may co-opt members outside that Committee to assist it in the affairs and representation of such Committee. No more than thirty (30) per cent of any Committee shall be co-opted members. No co-opted member who is not otherwise entitled shall have any voting rights as a member of any Committee.

8.2 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

8.2.1 The Management Committee shall be maintained as a Standing Committee of Central Council.

8.2.2 The Management Committee shall, subject to this Constitution, exercise the powers of Central Council and shall have power to manage all the affairs of the Party. It shall not have power to alter the Constitution or the Philosophy and Platform and policy of the Party. In particular it may:

a) summon special meetings of Central Council when deemed necessary;
b) appoint a Committee consisting of the President and six members of Central Council as an Appeals Committee to hear and determine appeals other than appeals in relation to preselection, as herein provided;

c) appoint a Committee consisting of the President and six members of Central Council, provided none are deemed unqualified under the terms of Clause 11.1.1.(o), as an Appeals Committee to hear and determine appeals in relation to preselection. Should the President be deemed unqualified under the terms of Clause 11.1.1.(o), the Management Committee shall appoint a qualified Vice President to the Committee. Other than the President, or qualified Vice President if the President is unqualified, no member of the Management Committee shall be eligible to be appointed to the Appeal Committee; and

d) undertake, or form sub-committees to undertake the work of preparing and updating proposed amendments to the Constitution, Philosophy and Platform and policies of the Party for presentation to Central Council and, if required, to Annual or Special Conference.

8.2.3 When, as it deems necessary, Management Committee exercises the powers vested in Central Council, all such actions shall be submitted to the next meeting of Central Council for ratification and up to that date any action so taken shall be valid whether or not Central Council ratifies the actions.

8.2.4 The Management Committee of the Party shall consist of:

a) the President;
b) two Vice-Presidents;
c) the Leader and Deputy Leader;
d) the Treasurer;
e) the Deputy Treasurer;
f) four (4) Central Councillors, elected by Central Council in accordance with Clause 7.3.9;
g) The Chairperson of the Youth Committee;
h) those Federal Members who are Central Councillors;
i) the Country Liberal Women’s Convenor, and
j) the Territory Director as an ex-officio nonvoting member,
k) The President of the Young Country Liberals.

8.2.5 Management Committee shall meet at least four (4) times a year.

8.2.6 The President, or in his or her absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside at meetings of the Management Committee.

8.2.7 Proxies shall not be used at Management Committee meetings.

8.3 FINANCE COMMITTEE

8.3.1 The Finance Committee shall be maintained as a Standing Committee of Central Council.

8.3.2 The Finance Committee shall undertake and direct the raising of funds and attend to the financial business of the Party.
8.3.3 The property and assets of the Party shall be vested in the Trustees on behalf of the Party and the Trustees shall at all times deal with the same in accordance with the directions or resolutions of the Finance Committee or failing a direction or resolution of the Finance Committee then in accordance with the direction or resolution of Central Council or the Management Committee.

8.3.4 The Finance Committee shall consist of:

   a) the President and Vice Presidents;
   b) the Treasurer;
   c) the Deputy Treasurer
   d) the Trustees; and
   e) the Territory Director, as an ex-officio member with no voting rights.

8.3.5 The Finance Committee shall meet at least four (4) times a year.

8.3.6 The President, or in his or her absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside at meetings of the Finance Committee.

8.3.7 Proxies shall not be used at Finance Committee meetings.
SECTION 9 – YOUNG COUNTRY LIBERALS

9.1 OBJECTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF YOUNG COUNTRY LIBERALS

9.1.1 Any Country Liberal Member aged under thirty (30) years of age at the 30th of June shall for the ensuing 12 months shall be eligible to be a Young Country Liberal.

9.1.2 The Young Country Liberals shall concern itself with:
   a) The advancement of the interests of the Party consistent with the Philosophy and Party Platform, Objectives and Policies of the Party; and
   b) The advancement of youth within the Party and in the Northern Territory

9.1.3 The proceedings of the Young Country Liberals Executive and YCL Committees shall be recorded in the form of minutes and shall be confirmed at the following meeting and shall be signed by the presiding officer of that meeting. Copies of all confirmed meeting minutes are to be sent to the Territory Director.

9.1.4 The Young Country Liberals shall submit motions to Central Council or Annual or Special Conference in a manner and timeframe consistent with the obligations of party branches as set out in 3.1.3

9.1.5 The Young Country Liberals shall not enter into legal proceedings on its own account without the consent of Central Council.

9.2 YOUNG COUNTRY LIBERALS ANNUAL CONVENTION

9.2.1 The Young County Liberals Annual Convention shall be held prior to or in conjunction with Annual Conference.

9.2.2 Where there are exceptional circumstances and an Annual Convention cannot be held in accordance with Section 9.2.1, then the Young Country Liberals may apply to Central Council seeking some other later date that is as close as practicable to those outlined in Section 9.2.1.

9.2.3 The Secretary of the Young Country Liberals shall provide not less than forty-two (42) days’ notice of the meeting to each youth member.

9.2.4 A quorum at an Annual Convention shall be not less than fifteen (15) Youth members, or twenty (20) percent of youth membership, whichever is the greater.

9.2.5 A youth member may appoint in writing, as his or her proxy any youth member to vote at an Annual Convention. No youth member may hold more than two (2) proxies. Notice of proxies shall be submitted in writing not later than fourteen (14) days before Annual Convention to the Secretary.

9.2.6 The Young Country Liberals President, or in his or her absence, one of the Vice Presidents, shall preside at a Convention. In the absence of these officers, a temporary Chairperson shall be elected.

9.2.7 Business at each Annual Convention shall include, but not be limited to:
   a) Endorsement of minutes of the immediate prior Annual Convention and Special Convention if applicable;
   b) Reports by President, Vice President North, Vice President South, Secretary and Treasurer;
c) Acceptance of Young Country Liberals Financial Statement and Auditor’s Report;

d) Election of the Young Country Liberals executive committee, being the office bearers set out in 9.2.8;

e) Appointment of Auditor;

f) Appointment of Young Country Liberals Patron; and

g) Any other business which may lawfully be raised.

9.2.7 Voting for election of the positions on the Young Country Liberals Executive as set out in 9.4.1 shall be by:

a) A secret ballot of youth members (including proxies) attending that meeting;

b) if only two (2) candidates nominate, voting is to be first past the post; and

c) if more than two (2) candidates nominate, voting is to be by exhausted preferential ballot.

9.3 YOUNG COUNTRY LIBERALS SPECIAL CONVENTION

9.3.1 A Young Country Liberals Special Convention may be called for the purpose of removing an elected member of the Young Country Liberals Executive Committee

9.3.2 To call a Special Convention, a petition signed by sixty-six (66) percent of youth membership shall be presented to the Young Country Liberals Executive Committee

9.3.3 Special Conventions shall be carried out in strict accordance to section 9.2.3, 9.2.4, 9.2.5 and 9.2.6.

9.3.4 Business of Special Convention shall be the business outlined in the petition only.

9.4 YOUNG COUNTRY LIBERALS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

9.4.1 The Young Country Liberals Executive Committee shall consist of :

a) A President

b) A Vice President North;

c) A Vice President South;

d) A Secretary;

e) A Treasurer

f) Two youth members from Convention; and

g) The Immediate Past President (non-voting member)

9.4.2 The term of an executive will coincide with that of the incoming Management committee at the Annual Conference in conjunction with, or immediately following Young Country Liberals Convention.

9.4.3 Persons elected to Young Country Liberals Executive committee positions can be removed from office by the presentation of a petition signed by sixty-six (66) percent of youth membership to the Young Country Liberals Executive requesting a Special Convention be called for the purpose of removing an executive member/s.

9.4.4 In the event of a casual vacancy in any elected position, a Special Convention for the purpose of filling the vacancy shall be called.
9.4.5 Young Country Liberals Executive Committee meetings shall be held as and when determined by the committee. The Young Country Liberals Secretary shall give at least seven (7) days’ notice of an executive commit meeting.

9.4.6 A quorum at an Executive Committee meeting shall be a majority of its members.

9.4.7 The Young Country Liberals President, or in his or her absence, one of the Vice Presidents, shall preside at an Executive Committee Meeting. In the absence of these officers, a temporary Chairperson shall be elected.

9.4.8 Proxies shall not be used at Young Country Liberals Executive Committee Meetings.

9.4.9 Any action taken by the executive shall be ratified by the next Young Country Liberals Annual Convention.

9.5 YOUNG COUNTRY LIBERALS FUNDS

9.5.1 The accounts of the Young Country Liberals shall be kept separately and submitted to Central Council as follows:
   a) an audited financial statement of the year’s transactions, as soon as practicable after the 30th June in each year; and
   b) an unaudited half yearly financial statement, as soon as practicable after the 31st December in each year.

9.5.2 Young Country Liberals accounts shall be audited by an Auditor, to be appointed annually.

9.5.3 Young Country Liberals funds shall be banked and may be operated upon only by the resolution of the Executive Committee. All Young Country Liberals accounts shall be operated upon by the Treasurer and any one of:
   a) The President;
   b) The Vice Presidents; or
   c) The Secretary

9.6 YOUNG COUNTRY LIBERALS COMMITTEES

9.6.1 Young Country Liberals Convention may each year appoint such Standing or Special Purpose Committees as they deem fit and such Committees shall carry out the duties imposed upon them from time to time by the Constitution or Young Country Liberals Convention.

9.6.2 Unless otherwise provided in the Constitution:
   a) Such committees shall report back to the body that appointed them except where the appointing body has decided that the report be made elsewhere;
   b) Committee members shall be drawn from youth members in a manner decided by Convention;
   c) The Chairperson of any such Standing Committee shall be appointed by the body appointing the Committee or in a manner decided by Convention;
   d) The Chairperson of a Special Purpose Committee shall be elected by that Committee;
e) A quorum at the meeting of any such Committee shall be a majority of its members;
f) Members may be co-opted to such Committees subject to clause 9.6.4 of this Constitution;
g) The President or a Vice-President, delegated by the President, shall be ex-officio, a member of all Committees during the time when he or she attends any such Committee.

9.6.3 Any casual vacancy in any Committee appointed by Convention shall be filled in a manner decided by Convention.

9.6.4 Any Committee formed under Section 9 of the Constitution may co-opt Young Country Liberals members outside that Committee to assist it in the affairs and representation of such Committee. No more than thirty (30) percent of any Committee shall be co-opted members. No co-opted member who is not otherwise entitled shall have any voting rights as a member of any Committee.

9.7 YOUNG COUNTRY LIBERALS PATRON

9.7.1 A Young Country Liberals Patron shall be appointed at Annual Convention and shall remain Patron until the next Annual Convention.

9.7.2 The Young Country Liberals Patron shall concern his/herself with:
   a) The advancement of the interests of the Party consistent with the Philosophy and Platform, Objectives and Policies of the Party; and
   b) The advancement of youth within the Party and in the Northern Territory.

SECTION 10 – COUNTRY LIBERAL WOMEN

10.1 All women members of the Party shall be entitled to participate in the activities of the Country Liberal Women.

10.2 A Women’s Committee, elected by Branches in accordance with Clause 3.2.19 shall manage the activities of the Country Liberal Women.
10.3 The annual general meeting of the Women’s Committee shall be conducted between the 1st and 31st day of November each year.

10.4 The Women’s Committee shall otherwise meet as and when determined by the committee.

10.5 The annual general meeting the Women’s Committee shall:

   a) elect a member of the committee to be the Country Liberal Women’s Convenor;
   b) elect such other office bearers as it deems appropriate; and
   c) conduct such other business as it deems appropriate.

10.6 The Country Liberal Women’s Convenor takes office from the commencement of the meeting of Central Council held in conjunction with and immediately prior to the next Annual Conference.

10.7 The Country Liberal Women’s Convenor shall be a Central Councillor and a member of the Management Committee.

10.8 A casual vacancy in the office of Country Liberal Women’s Convenor shall be filled by election at the Women’s Committee.
SECTION 11 – PRESELECTION

11.1 NORTHERN TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES

11.1.1 When candidates are required for a Northern Territory election, such candidates shall be sought and preselected for every electorate in accordance with the following rules:

With a view to affording the widest possible choice of candidates, Central Council shall:

(i) Call for expressions of interest or nominations by public advertisement;
(ii) Invite Branches or individuals to submit names; or
(iii) Take such other steps as may be desired to bring the name of any possible applicant before Branches and Central Council.

a) Nominations shall be accepted only from persons who are members of the Party.

b) An applicant for preselection shall complete and sign the form titled "Application for Pre-Selection - Legislative Assembly" prior to the advertised closing date.

c) The timing and scheduling of all actions will rest with Central Council.

d) Unless prohibited by law, Central Council may decide that there shall be more than one (1) Country Liberal candidate for election in any Territory electorate.

e) Central Council will determine the Branch or Branches responsible for preselection in each electorate.

f) The term “Branch” is defined for the purposes of Section 11.1.1. to mean a Branch:

(i) whose formation in accordance with Section 3.6 was approved by Central Council at least twelve months prior to the closing date for applications for preselection; and

(ii) having at least ten (10) members affiliated with the Branch for the preceding twelve (12) months who have attended a minimum of fifty per cent (50%) of Branch meetings in the preceding twelve (12) months.

h) Where a Branch, previously assigned electorate responsibility for a particular electorate is unable to satisfy the criteria, Central Council will assume responsibility for preselection. Central Council may delegate all or part of that responsibility to:

(i) Another Branch or Branches that conform with the eligibility criteria at (g); or

(ii) The Management Committee.

j) All nominations for preselection shall be submitted, with recommendations by the Branch or Branches concerned, to Central Council for endorsement.

k) When Central Council convenes as a preselection panel or to consider recommendations for preselection pursuant to clause 11.1.1 no Central Councillor shall hold a proxy for any other Central Councillor.

l) Where Central Council resolves not to endorse a Branch recommendation, after consultation with Branch delegates, debate will be pursued to conclusion at that Central Council meeting addressing which of the following options is to be followed:

(i) Recommendation by the preselecting Branch or Branches of another applicant from those already properly nominated; or

(ii) re-advertisement by Central Council, with Branch preselection procedures commencing afresh; or

(iii) Direct appointment of any applicant by Central Council. (iv) The first opportunity to move the motion giving effect to any of these options will rest with the preselecting Branch with the second option being available once only.

m) In every electorate all applicants shall be interviewed by the preselection panel.
n) A preselection panel shall consist of at least ten (10) qualified members identified at a general meeting of the preselecting Branch or Branches, the Branch Secretary or Secretaries having given notice to all qualified members of the meeting. The term “qualified members” means the following:
   (i) people who have been members affiliated with the preselecting Branch or Branches for more than two years prior to the closing date for applications for preselection; or
   (ii) people who have been members affiliated with the preselecting Branch or Branches for less than two years, but who have attended at least 50% of the Branch meetings in the twelve months prior to the closing date for applications for preselection; or
   (iii) People who have been members of the Party for more than two years prior to the closing date for applications for preselection, and who, according to the membership records, have resided for at least twelve months in the electorate for which preselection is being undertaken.

All qualified members shall be entitled to participate in the preselection panel.

o) Any person, being one or more of the following, shall be deemed an unqualified member and shall be excluded from nomination to a preselection panel and shall not be present during any preselection proceedings (unless as the preselection applicant):
   (i) Any applicant for preselection for any electorate;
   (ii) Any endorsed candidate for any electorate;
   (iii) Family members, relatives, or defacto partners of any applicant for preselection, or endorsed candidate;
   (iv) Persons employed by any applicant for preselection or endorsed candidate;
   (v) Parliamentarians (whether Territory or Federal); and
   (vi) Relatives or persons employed in the offices of parliamentarians (whether Territory or Federal).

p) When Central Council determines that a Branch or Branches will convene a preselection panel in accordance with clause n) of this section, Management Committee will also select three (3) members from the Panel Advisors to be full members of the preselection panel for that electorate.

q) No member of a preselection panel shall hold a proxy for any other person.

r) Any Branch or member may be invited to participate on a preselection panel on such terms and conditions as may be set by the preselecting Branch, provided any member so invited has been a member of the Party for not less than two (2) years and is not a member deemed unqualified under the provisions of Clause 11.1.1.(o).

s) Where only one application is received for any given electorate, the preselecting Branch shall nevertheless require the applicant to appear before a preselection panel.

t) Panel Advisors appointed by Management Committee for each and any Branch Preselection Panel will provide Management Committee a report on the processes of the Preselection Panel, including inter alia that all such processes were conducted by the Preselection Panel in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, and in accordance with the Preselection Guidelines and with best practice in these matters.
11.1.2 Central Council (or if specifically delegated, Management Committee) may establish a team of preselection observers to assist Branches. To be eligible for appointment as a Preselection Observer, a person must:

a) Have been a member of the Party for at least two (2) years; and  
b) Must not be a person deemed unqualified under Clause 11.1.1.(o).

11.1.3 No more than three (3) preselection observers shall be assigned to any preselection panel.

11.1.4 When assigned, preselection observers shall attend and observe throughout, but shall not participate or vote in the preselection proceedings.

11.1.5 Preselection observers shall submit a report on the conduct of the preselection to the Territory Director before Central Council meets to consider the recommendations of the preselection panel.

11.1.6 Where, by reason of a sudden dissolution of Parliament, or any other exigency, it is not practicable for a preselection panel to meet, Management Committee may in its absolute discretion after consultation with the Branch concerned, choose and endorse a candidate. For the purposes of this clause, the Management Committee shall not include persons disqualified under Clause 11.1.1.(o), but may invite participation by Branch Chairpersons not disqualified under Clause 11.1.1.(o).

11.1.7 Preselection processes, both within the Branches and at relevant meetings of Central Council, will be in accordance with guidelines set down by Central Council from time to time. Such guidelines will be published and available to all parties concerned with preselection.

11.1.8 Any applicant may file a "Notice of Appeal" against the conduct of any preselection proceedings on the grounds of unfair treatment or grave irregularity. Such appeals shall be managed as follows:

a) The Notice of Appeal shall be submitted on the form titled "Notice of Appeal";

b) The Notice of Appeal shall be filed with the Territory Director within forty eight (48) hours of the endorsement of a candidate by Central Council;

c) Within three (3) days of the filing of the Notice of Appeal the aggrieved applicant (appellant) shall lodge a written statement with the Territory Director, particularising the grounds of appeal;

d) The statement shall be accompanied by a fee of one hundred dollars ($100.00);

e) Upon receipt of the written statement, the Territory Director shall immediately advise the President, and the President shall without delay convene the Management Committee to appoint an Appeals Committee in accordance with clause 8.2.2(c) of this Constitution;

f) The Appeals Committee will, with regard to natural justice, consider and resolve the appeal within ten (10) working days of receipt of the statement referred to in clause 11.1.5.(c);

g) The Appeals Committee may:
   (i) Confirm the validity of the conduct and outcome of the preselection process; or
(ii) Refer the matter back to the preselecting body concerned to re-conduct the preselection in such manner as the Appeals Committee may decide provided that should a Branch preselection panel or Central Council not be able to meet before the nomination day, Management Committee, after consultation with the Appeals Committee shall select the candidate. For the purposes of this clause, the Management Committee shall not include Members of Parliament, but may invite participation by Branch Chairpersons.

h) Notice of the decision of the Appeals Committee shall be forwarded by receipted means to the appellant on the first business day after the matter has been determined.

j) The appellant shall have no further right of appeal in relation to a preselection made under Clause 11.1.8(g)(ii).

k) The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding.

11.2 SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CANDIDATES

11.2.1 When candidates are required for a Senate or House of Representatives election, such candidates shall be sought and preselected in accordance with the following rules:

a) Nominations or expressions of interest shall be called for by Central Council by public advertisement for any one or more electorates as determined by Central Council.

b) An applicant for selection shall complete and sign the form titled “Application for Pre-Selection - Senate/House of Representatives” prior to the closing date for preselection.

c) The selection shall be made by Central Council.

d) The selection shall be made in such manner as Central Council may decide.

e) No Central Councillor when it convenes as a preselection panel shall hold a proxy for any other person.

f) All applicants for preselection shall be members of the Party.

11.2.2 Any person being one or more of the following shall be deemed an unqualified member, shall be excluded from the preselection process and shall not be present during preselection proceedings (unless as the preselection applicant):

a) any applicant for preselection for any electorate;

b) any endorsed candidate for any electorate;

c) family members, relatives, or defacto partners of any applicant for preselection or endorsed candidate;

d) persons employed by any applicant for preselection or endorsed candidate;

f) Relatives or persons employed in the offices of parliamentarians (whether Territory or Federal).
STANDING ORDERS AND RULES OF DEBATE

DEFINITION
“Members” referred to in these Standing Orders means those members of or delegates to Central Council and Annual Conference who are entitled to vote at meetings of Central Council or Annual Conference.

ORDER OF BUSINESS
1. Debate shall proceed by way of membership speaking for or against motions put one at a time to the Chairman of the meeting.
2. Subject to any direction from the Chairman the agenda as accepted by the meeting at its commencement shall be proceeded with in the order in which it is set.

SPEAKING GENERALLY
3. Each member shall have the right to speak:
   a) Once on any motion before the chair; and
   b) Once on any amendment.
4. Any member desiring to speak shall signify his or her desire to do so in such manner as determined by the Chairman. He or she will announce his or her name and capacity in which he or she attends the meeting and address the Chairman respectfully.
5. Whenever the Chairman raises his/her hand during the debate the member then speaking shall cease to do so.
6. No member shall use offensive or unbecoming words.
7. No speaker shall digress from the subject under discussion and imputations of improper motives and all personal reflections on members shall be deemed disorderly.
8. No member shall interrupt another while speaking except on a point of order.
9. A member who formally seconds a motion or amendment without making a speech may speak in support at a subsequent stage of debate.
10. A member who has moved a substantive motion shall be allowed 3 minutes to introduce the motion and at the conclusion of the discussion, even though his or her original motion has been amended, a further 2 minutes for reply to wind up debate. There shall be no right of reply attached to the moving of an amendment.
11. Each other speaker to a motion may speak for 3 minutes.

NOTICES OF MOTION
12. The right to move a motion of which notice has been given shall in the first instance be that of the Party body which submitted. If no representative of the Party body is present when the motion is called, the Chairman may at his or her discretion either permit some other member present to move it or defer discussion of the motion until all other business has been dealt with.
13. Upon a substantive motion being called, the Chairman may ask the meeting whether there is any opposition to it. If there is none, the motion may at the discretion of the Chairman be put without debate. If there is opposition, the mover shall exercise his or her right of speech, a speaker against the motion will be called, thereupon the seconder of the motion will be called, or if the mover declines, some other speaker in favour of the motion will be called and the debate will proceed until:
a) There is no speaker wishing to speak in favour of the motion, or against it when such a speaker is called for in order of debate;
b) Debate on the question has proceeded for 20 minutes;
c) It is resolved that the question be put; or
d) It is resolved that the debate be adjourned.

14. An amendment may be put on an original motion. The Chairman shall put the amendment to the meeting first and; if carried, it shall be declared to embody the decision of the meeting, superseding the motion. When the amendment has been decided, a further amendment may be moved, which if carried, shall in turn, supersede the motion as amended.

15. The Chairman shall refuse to accept any amendment which is a direct negative or which does not preserve the substance of the original motion.

16. The mover of any motion other than a procedural motion or a motion appearing in the agenda as adopted by the meeting and of any amendment shall provide a copy of the same in writing to the Chairman prior to rising to speak to the same.

17. A member may move that the debate of a motion be adjourned. If the question is resolved in the negative the mover shall not be allowed to speak again in the question under debate. If the motion is resolved in the affirmative, the debate shall cease and resume at the time specified in the motion and the mover shall have the right of resuming the debate. No member shall move the adjournment after speaking on the motion.

18. At any time during the debate, any member who has not spoken to the motion or any amendment thereto moved may, without notice, move that the question be put, and such motion, being duly seconded, shall be put without debate. If the motion that the question be put is carried in relation to a substantive motion the mover of the original motion, if he has not already spoken to the amendment, may speak to the amendment and the amendment shall then be put without debate, and if it is lost the debate shall proceed.

19. The meeting may, by resolution, grant an extension of time to any speaker, or for the discussion of any, motion or amendment.

20. Upon a member raising a point of order, the member then speaking shall sit down until it has been decided. The member rising to order shall state concisely the point of order and the Chairman shall give a ruling. The Chairman may requested any person present to make submission on the point of order prior to giving a ruling.

21. It shall be competent for any member to move a motion of dissent from the Chairman’s ruling. The mover of the motion of dissent shall have 3 minutes to state the point. The Chairman shall have 3 minutes to reply and the question will be put forthwith.

DETERMINATION OF MOTION

22. The Chairman may at his or her discretion declare a motion carried or lost. Should the Chairman’s declaration be disputed by more than 10 of the members present, or should the Chairman so require, a count of votes for and against the motion shall be
taken provided that a request by such members shall be made immediately after the Chairman shall have made the declaration.

23. In the event of a count of votes being required in accordance with Standing Order 22, the Chairman may appoint 2 or more tellers to count the votes for and against the motion then before the chair and report the result to the Chairman. Should 50% of the members then in attendance request a ballot, a secret ballot shall be taken. The Chairman may appoint 2 or more tellers to count the ballot papers and report the result.

MATTERS NOT COVERED BY STANDING ORDER

24. The Chairman shall determine all matters not covered by these Standing Orders. The Chairman’s determination shall be final. The Chairman may use Parliamentary Standing orders and practice as a guide.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

25. A member may at any time move that these Standing orders or any of them be suspended. The member proposing any such motion shall have a 3 minutes to state the reasons why such a motion should be considered, whereupon the motion of suspension shall be put forthwith.