

Liberal Party of Australia
Victorian Division

CONSTITUTION

As amended by the 172 State Council, 27 July 2024



Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	10
1.1	Name	10
1.2	Duty of a Member	10
1.3	Object of Party	10
2.	Definitions and Interpretation	10
2.1	Defined Terms	10
2.2	Notice	11
2.3	Residence	12
2.4	Requirement of Membership	12
2.5	Casting Vote	12
3.	Membership and Engagement	13
3.1	Eligibility	13
3.2	(Clause 3.2 deleted 10 August 1991)	13
3.3	Party Membership	13
3.4	Application for Membership	13
3.4A	Becoming a Party Member	13
3.5	Application Lodged with Electorate Conference	13
3.5A	State Director must inform Electorate Conferences	14
3.5B	Electorate Conference may inform State Director	14
3.5C	Administrative Committee must consult	15
3.5D	Confirmation of Membership if no objection	15
3.5E	State Director must advise applicant or Member	15
3.5F	State Director must advise Administrative Committee, Electorate Conferences, and State Assembly	15
3.5G	Electorate Conference Chairman must advise Electorate Conference	15
3.6	(Clause 3.6 deleted 12 October 2008)	15
3.7	Application for Membership At Large	15
3.8	(Clause 3.8 deleted 12 October 2008)	16
3.9	Determination of Membership Fees	16
3.10	Renewal Notices	16
3.11	Payment of Membership Fees	16
3.12	Grace Period	16
3.12A	Vacation of Office	16
3.13	Joining on or After 1 November	16
3.14	Portability	17
3.15	Resignations	17
3.16	Resignation of Member At Large	17
3.17	Application to Join or Transfer to Another Electorate Conference	17
3.18	Deemed Resignation of Transferring Member	17
3.19	State Director to Notify Previous Electorate Conferences	18
3.20	(Clause 3.20 deleted 12 October 2008)	18
3.21	Metropolitan or Country	18
3.21A	Safeguarding Integrity of Electorate Conferences	18
3.21B	Prohibition Against Paying Membership Fees of Others	18
3.22	Life Membership	19
3.23	Redistributions	19
3.24	(Clause 3.24 inserted 3-4 April 2004 and deleted 12 October 2008)	20
3A.	Branch Membership	20
3A.1	Application to Join Branch lodged with Branch	20
3A.2	Application to join Branch lodged with State Director	20
3A.3	Applicants and Members can attend Branch Meetings	21
3A.4	Resignation from a Branch	21
3A.5	Branch Membership dependent on Party Membership	21
4.	Expulsion or Suspension	21
4.1	Grounds and Procedures	21
4.2	(Clause 4.2 deleted 12 October 2008)	22
4.3	No Renewal	22

4.4	Effect on Continuous Membership.....	22
4.5	Member opposing an Endorsed Candidate.....	22
4.6	No Readmission without approval	22
4.7	Interaction With Division 3.....	22
5.	Membership of other parties or organisations	23
5.1	Ineligibility and Cessation of Membership.....	23
5.1A	Membership of another Political Party.....	23
5.2	Disclosure.....	23
5.3	Nonmember opposing Endorsed Candidate	23
6.	Branches	23
6.1	Formation.....	23
6.2	(Clause 6.2 deleted 12 October 2008)	24
6.3	Rules.....	24
6.4	(Clause 6.4 deleted 12 October 2008)	24
6.5	(Clause 6.5 deleted 12 October 2008)	24
6.6	Amalgamation.....	24
6.7	Disbandment	24
6.8	Defunct Branches declaration by Administrative Committee	24
6.9	(Clause 6.9 deleted 12 October 2008)	24
6.10	Suspension or dissolution of a Branch.....	24
6.11	Right of Appeal.....	24
6.12	(Clause 6.12 deleted 12 October 2008).....	24
6.13	Property of a Branch.....	25
6.14	(Clause 6.14 deleted 12 October 2008).....	25
7.	Branch Meetings	25
7.1	Annual Meeting.....	25
7.2	Annual Return	25
7.3	Failure to Hold	25
7.4	Notice	25
7.5	Calling of Meeting.....	25
7.6	Quorum	26
7.7	Ballots and Voting.....	26
7.8	Chairman.....	26
8.	Branch Elections and Entitlements	26
8.1	Branch Office Bearers and Committee Members.....	26
8.2	(Clause 8.2 deleted 12 October 2008)	26
8.3	(Clause 8.3 deleted 12 October 2008)	26
8.4	(Clause 8.4 deleted 12 October 2008)	26
8.5	Casual Vacancy	26
8.6	Inaugural Meetings.....	27
8.7	Period of Office.....	27
8.8	(Clause 8.8 deleted 12 October 2008)	27
8.9	(Clause 8.9 deleted 12 October 2008)	27
9.	Young Liberal Movement	27
9.1	Composition.....	27
9.2	Branches.....	27
9.3	Movement Council	27
9.4	Movement Executive	28
9.5	Movement Council Meetings	28
9.6	Membership Fees.....	28
9.7	Branch Committee.....	28
9.8	(Clause 9.8 deleted 12 October 2008)	28
9.9	Defunct Branches declaration by Movement Council.....	28
9.10	Defunct Branches.....	28
9.11	Bylaws.....	29
9.12	Annual Meeting and Annual Return	29
9.13	Transitional.....	29

10.	Women's Sections	29
10.1	Formation.....	29
10.2	Aims.....	29
10.3	Membership.....	29
10.4	Elections.....	29
10.5	Liberal Women's Council (Victoria).....	30
10.6	Rules of the Women's Sections.....	30
11.	State Council	30
11.1	Membership.....	30
11.2	Annual Elections.....	30
11.2A	Election of State Assembly Delegates.....	31
11.2B	Scrutineers.....	31
11.3	Treasurer.....	31
11.4	Power of State Council.....	31
11.4A	Policy Motions.....	31
11.5	Proxies.....	31
11.6	Convening.....	31
11.7	Standing Orders.....	32
11.8	Notice.....	32
11.9	Quorum.....	32
11.10	Special Meeting.....	32
11.11	Agenda Committee.....	32
11.12	Powers and functions of Agenda Committee.....	32
11.13	Eligibility for Election.....	32
11.14	Eligibility for Election as a Metropolitan or Country Representative.....	32
11.15	Permanent Membership.....	33
11.16	Nomination and investigation of Candidates.....	33
11.17	Public statements, written material and confidentiality.....	33
11.18	Preselection Delegates.....	34
12.	State Parliamentary Party	34
12.1	Membership.....	34
12.2	Leadership and Officers.....	35
12.3	State Party Platform.....	35
12.4	Policy decisions of State Council.....	35
12.5	Suspension of Membership.....	35
12A.	Local Government	35
12A.1	local government council.....	35
12A.2	Duty of Members.....	35
12A.3	Leadership.....	35
12A.4	Rules for the Local Government Council.....	35
12A.5	Local Government Endorsement Committee.....	35
12A.6	Role of Committee.....	35
13.	Administrative Committee	35
13.1	Membership.....	35
13.2	Casual Vacancy - State President.....	36
13.3	Casual Vacancies - Other Positions.....	36
13.4	Responsibilities.....	36
13.5	Quorum.....	36
13.6	Notice.....	36
13.7	Report.....	36
13.8	Chairman.....	36
14.	State Assembly	36
14.1	Membership.....	36
14.2	Term.....	37
14.3	Casual Vacancies.....	37
14.4	Functions and Responsibilities.....	37
14.5	Elections.....	37

14.6	Notice of Meetings	38
14.7	Frequency of Meetings	38
14.8	Quorum	38
14.9	Chairman.....	38
14.10	Report	38
14.11	Candidates.....	38
14.12	Motions.....	38
14.13	Proxies	38
15.	Standing Committees of Administrative Committee	39
15.1	Committees	39
15.2	Federal Seats	39
15.3	State Seats.....	39
15.4	State Campaign Strategy	39
15.5	Rural and Regional	39
15.6	Membership and Branch Development	40
15.7	Constitutional.....	40
15.8	Media & Communications.....	40
15.9	Training.....	40
15.10	Senate Campaign.....	40
15.11	(Deleted)	40
15.11A	Communities Engagement	40
15.12	Motions.....	40
15.13	Notification.....	41
16.	State Campaign Conference	41
16.1	Membership	41
16.2	Chairman.....	41
16.3	Responsibility.....	41
16.4	Meetings	41
17.	Party Officers.....	41
17.1	State Director and Administrative Staff.....	41
17.2	Executive Officer Women's Sections	41
18.	Financial Affairs	42
18.1	State Finance Committee	42
18.2	Duties.....	42
18.3	Rules.....	42
18.4	Trustees Appointment.....	42
18.5	Trustees Period of Office.....	42
18.6	(Deleted)	42
18.7	(Deleted)	42
18.8	Income and Property	42
18.9	Remuneration	42
18.10	Indemnity of Party Office Bearers.....	42
19.	Electorate Conferences and Regional Electorate Councils	43
19.1	Composition	43
19.2	Responsibilities.....	43
19.3	(Clause 19.3 deleted 12 October 2008)	43
19.4	Resolutions	43
19.5	Inaugural Meeting.....	43
19.5A	Redistribution.....	44
19.6	Annual Meeting.....	44
19.6A	Annual Return	44
19.7	No Annual Meeting.....	44
19.8	Convening of Meetings.....	45
19.9	Notice of Meetings.....	45
19.10	Casual Nonreceipt of Notice	45
19.11	Proxies for Regional Electorate Council Meetings.....	45
19.12	Quorum	45

19.12A	Conduct of meetings by telephone or videoconference.....	45
19.13	Election of Office Bearers and Delegates	46
19.13AA	Calculating Number of Delegates	46
19.13A	Tenure of Office Bearers and Delegates.....	46
19.13B	No Dual Delegateships	47
19.14	Casual Vacancies	47
19.15	Nomination of Delegates	47
19.16	Elections and Voting	47
19.17	Executive Committees of Electorate Conferences and Regional Electorate Councils	48
19.18	Election Budget	48
19.19	Audited Election Accounts.....	48
19.20	Byelections	49
19.21	Entitlement to State Council and State Assembly	49
20.	Area Conferences	49
20.1	Composition.....	49
20.2	Attendance and Voting	49
20.3	Guidelines.....	49
20.4	Motions and Resolutions	49
21.	Preselection of Candidates.....	49
21.1	Contested Electorates.....	49
21.2	Noncontested Electorates	50
21.3	Advertisement.....	50
21.3A	Timing of Preselections in Liberal Held Seats	50
21.4	Applications	50
21.5	Eligibility for Endorsement Membership.....	50
21.6	Conflict of Interests	50
21.7	Consultants and Prohibited Material	51
21.8	Investigations of Applicants.....	51
21.9	(Clause 21.9 deleted 16 August 1992)	51
21.10	(Clause 21.10 deleted 9 April 2016).....	51
21.11	Copies.....	51
21.12	Public statements, written material, identity of Delegates	51
22.	(Division 22 deleted 12 November 1988)	51
23.	Conventions	51
23.1	Convening	51
23.2	Composition.....	52
23.2AA	One Convention in a Preselection Round.....	52
23.2A	Composition – Legislative Council	52
23.2B	MPs and Candidates not to be Delegates	52
23.3	Delegates from State Council.....	53
23.3A	Application for other seats by defeated Sitting Member.....	53
23.4	Eligibility of Members.....	54
23.4A	Election of Convention Delegates for a Region	55
23.4B	Delegate and Candidate	55
23.5	(Clause 23.5 deleted 12 October 2008).....	55
23.6	(Clause 23.6 deleted 12 October 2008).....	55
23.7	(Clause 23.7 deleted 12 October 2008)	55
23.8	(Clause 23.8 deleted 12 October 2008).....	55
23.9	Proxies for President or Vicepresidents	56
23.10	Notice of Appointment	56
23.11	(Clause 23.11 deleted 23 May 2009)	56
23.11A	Timeline for Preselections for Electorates.....	56
23.12	Copies of Applications	56
23.12A	Advice of Delegate Details to Candidates	56
23.13	Relatives and Employees not to attend Conventions as Preselectors.....	56
23.13A	Staff Members not to be Preselectors.....	57
23.14	Meeting with Applicants.....	57

23.15	Administration.....	57
24.	Convention Procedure	57
24.1	Chairman.....	57
24.2	Locking of Doors.....	57
24.3	Addresses By Candidates.....	57
24.4	Vote to Proceed.....	58
24.5	Selection of Candidate.....	58
24.6	Free Vote.....	58
24.7	Tied Ballot Chairman's Casting Vote.....	58
24.8	Responsibility.....	58
24.9	Returning Officer.....	58
24.10	Scrutineers.....	58
24.11	Legislative Council Preselections – Machinery Provisions.....	59
25.	Endorsement	59
25.1	Submission of Particulars.....	59
25.2	Decision by Administrative Committee.....	59
25.3	Reopening of Applications.....	59
25.4	Reconsideration of Candidate.....	59
25.5	Cancellation of Endorsement.....	59
25.6	Further Conventions.....	60
25.7	Applications for Endorsement Reopened.....	60
25.8	No Candidate.....	60
26.	Senate	60
26.1	Eligibility.....	60
26.2	Procedure.....	60
26.3	Composition.....	60
26.3AA	Registration a Pre-Requisite to Attendance.....	61
26.3A	Elections by Federal Electorate Conferences.....	61
26.3B	(Clause 26.3B deleted 27 July 2024).....	61
26.4	Notice.....	61
26.5	Copies.....	62
26.6	Chairman.....	62
26.7	Deliberative and Casting Vote.....	62
26.8	Conflict of Interest.....	62
26.9	Number, Time, Questions.....	62
26.10	Vote to Proceed.....	62
26.11	Exhaustive Secret Ballot.....	62
26.12	Free Vote.....	62
26.13	Tied Ballot Chairman's Casting Vote.....	62
26.14	Casual Vacancy.....	63
26.15	Order on the Ballot Paper.....	63
27.	Machinery Provisions	63
27.1	Amendment.....	63
27.2	Interpretation.....	63
27.3	Disputes.....	63
27.4	Redistribution.....	63
27.5	Limitation of replacement of Delegates.....	63
27.6	Complaints regarding conduct during Preselections.....	63
27.7	Standing Orders for meetings.....	64
28.	Winding Up	64
28.1	Transfer of Property.....	64
28.2	Determination of Appropriate Body.....	64
28.3	Resolution to Dissolve Party.....	64
29.	(Division 29 deleted 15 November 1987)	64

30.	Transitional Provisions for changes made on 12 October 2008	64
30.1	Commencement	65
30.2	Continuity of Status	66
30.3	(Clause 30.3 deleted 12 October 2008).....	66
30.4	Continuity of Office	66
30.5	2015 Senate Preselection – Special Provision	66
31.	Transitional Provision for 2023-24 Membership Renewals	66
31.1	Grace Period for 2023-24.....	66
INDEX	67

Constitution of the Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division)

As adopted by State Council on 26 July 1987 together with amendments made on 26 July 1987, 15 November 1987, 26 March 1988, 9-10 July 1988, 12 November 1988, 22-23 July 1989, 12 August 1990, 10 August 1991, 17 November 1991, 16 August 1992, 24-25 July 1993, 27 March 1994, 16-17 July 1994, 18-19 March 1995, 11-12 May 1996, 5-6 April 1997, 4-5 April 1998, 27-28 March 1999, 13-14 November 1999, 25 March 2000, 31 March-1 April 2001, 16 March 2002, 29-30 March 2003, 2 August 2003, 3-4 April 2004, 24 July 2004, 2-3 April 2005, 8 April 2006, 28 April 2007, 12 April 2008, 12 October 2008, 23 May 2009, 7 November 2009, 28 May 2011, 15 October 2011, 25 May 2013, 12 April 2014, 28 March 2015, 9 April 2016, 1-2 April 2017, 28 April 2018, 5 December 2021, 28 August 2022, 23 September 2023 and 27 July 2024.

The Clause headings, table of contents, index and annotations have been inserted by the Constitutional Committee for convenience only. They are not part of the Constitution and are not to be used in its interpretation or construction.

1. Introduction

1.1 NAME

The name of the Party shall be “THE LIBERAL PARTY of AUSTRALIA (Victorian Division)” which is hereinafter referred to as “the Party”.

1.2 DUTY OF A MEMBER

It shall be the duty of all Members to uphold this Constitution and the Platform of the Party and to work for the election to Parliament of endorsed candidates who shall receive the united support of the Party.

1.3 OBJECT OF PARTY

The object of the Party is:

- (a) to win and hold government; and
- (b) to enhance the freedom, prosperity and security of every Australian.

(Clause 1.3 inserted 9 July 1988)

2. Definitions and Interpretation

2.1 DEFINED TERMS

In this Constitution:

Branch shall, save where the context otherwise requires, include a Young Liberal Branch;

Branch Member means a member of the Party who is a member of a particular branch;

Business Day means a day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in the Melbourne metropolitan area;

Convention means a preselection convention;

Division means a State or Territory Division of the Liberal Party of Australia;

Electorate does not include the Senate or a Region;

Financial Year means the 12 months ended on 30 June;

Member means a financial member of a Federal Electorate Conference and State Electorate Conference or Member at Large, and in Division 4 includes a person referred to in paragraph 3.12(b);

Member At Large means a member of the Party who is not a member of a Federal Electorate Conference and State Electorate Conference;

Membership Year means 1 March to the last day of February;

Political Party means an organisation promoting the election to Parliament of a candidate or candidates whom it has endorsed and which is registered under the Commonwealth Electoral Act;

Preselector - means a Member who is entitled to attend and vote at a Convention;

Proportional representation - means, for elections to delegateships or offices where more than one position is vacant, a Hare-Clark system of quota-preferential, single transferable elections as prescribed by the Administrative Committee;

Proscribed Organisation means an organisation of any type whatsoever which State Assembly has declared to be opposed to the best interests of the Party;

Reasonable Notice means notice of meeting given in reasonable time to allow for the proper consideration of the business of the meeting;

Region - means an electoral region of the Legislative Council of Victoria;

Secretary includes Acting Secretary;

Senior Branch means a branch other than a Young Liberal Branch; and

Young Liberal Branch means a branch of the Young Liberal Movement.

(Clause 2.1 amended 26 July 1987 and further amended 17 July 1994, 29-30 March 2003, 12 Oct 2008)

2.2 NOTICE

The following provisions shall apply in respect of notice, documents and payments required to be given delivered or made under this Constitution:

- (a) Subject to sub-clauses (aa) and (ab) of this clause, notice:
- (i) if posted by prepaid post addressed to the State Director at the address for the time being of the Secretariat of the Party or delivered personally to the State Director or to some person nominated by the State Director to receive notice (in the case of notice required to be given to the Liberal Party, the Administrative Committee or any State Officer of the Party);
 - (ii) if either:
 - (A) posted by pre-paid post addressed to the Member of the Party at the Member's address as shown in records of the Party and also sent to the Member's email address if available in the records of the Party; or
 - (B) delivered to the Member personally (in the case of notice to be given to a Member);
 - (iii) if sent by electronic mail to a Member of the Party in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (h) hereof, in which case the notice shall be deemed to have been given:
 - (aa) if notice is sent before 8.00am on a Business Day, on that day;
 - (bb) in all other cases, on the next Business Day after the notice is sent.
- (aa) For the purposes of clause 7.4, notice of a Branch Meeting shall be deemed sufficient if on or before the day which is 14 days prior to the date of the meeting:
- (i) if notice is given by prepaid post, it is posted;
 - (ii) if notice is given by electronic mail, the electronic mail item is sent;
 - (iii) if notice is delivered to the address of the member, it is so delivered; or
 - (iv) if notice is given by personal notice in such manner as the Branch Committee may direct, it is so given.
- (ab) For the purposes of clause 19.9, notice of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council Meeting, or special notice of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council Annual Meeting, shall be deemed sufficient if on or before the day which is 14 days prior to the date of the meeting:
- (i) if notice is given by prepaid post, it is posted and also sent to the Member's email address if available in the records of the Party;
 - (ii) if notice given by electronic mail, the electronic mail item is sent; or
 - (iii) if notice is delivered personally to a Member, it is so delivered.

[Example: If a meeting is to be held on Tuesday 15th, the day which is 14 days prior to the meeting is Tuesday 1st.]

- (b) If it is demonstrated to the State Director's satisfaction that any notice, document or payment required to be given, delivered or made to the State Director was in fact posted to the State Director prior to the day on which such notice, document or payment was required to be received, then the State Director shall accept the same as satisfactory compliance with such requirement.
- (c) Neither of subclauses (a) and (b) hereof shall apply to applications for endorsement and such applications and payment of the prescribed fee must be received by the State Director within the period fixed for their submission.
- (d) The powers of the Administrative Committee or State Director to fix any times for the doing of any act or delivery of any notice or document under this Constitution shall be deemed to include a power to fix or delimit any time on any such day for this purpose.
- (ee) A notice of any meeting that is required to be in writing must set out:
 - (i) the date of the meeting;
 - (ii) the time that the meeting is scheduled to commence;
 - (iii) the venue of the meeting;
 - (iv) the business to be transacted at the meeting; and

- (v) if the business to be transacted at the meeting includes an election:
 - (A) a list of each position for which there is to be an election; and
 - (B) if nominations are to be submitted before the commencement of the meeting, the deadline by which nominations are to be received, and details of how nominations are to be submitted.
- (e) Notice (except where the Constitution otherwise permits in the case of Branch meetings) shall be in writing.
- (f)
 - (i) "Notice" includes any written document required to be given or posted.
 - (ii) "Special Notice" means notice of a meeting which contains details of matters to be considered thereat and which is given in reasonable time to allow the proper consideration of those matters.
- (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a) to (f) above any notice, document or payment delivered personally or by facsimile transmission to the State Director, or to any person nominated by the State Director to receive notice, which notice, document or payment is delivered other than at the address for the time being of the Secretariat of the Party between 9.00am and 5.00pm on a Business Day, shall be taken to have been delivered at 9.00am on the next Business Day.
- (h) The giving of any notice required by this Constitution, including any notice required to be given in writing, shall be sufficiently given by electronic mail if and only if the following conditions are satisfied:
 - (i) the Member to whom notice is to be given has specified an electronic mail address for the purpose of receiving notices of that type, or Party notices generally, and the notice is sent to that electronic mail address;
 - (ii) the giving of such notice does not result in the disclosure of the Member's electronic mail address to other recipients of the notice (unless the Member has consented to such disclosure); and
 - (iii) the notice can be read by the Member without the need for the Member to open any attachment to an electronic mail message.

(Clause 2.2(g) inserted 17 November 1991, Clause 2.2 amended 29-30 March 2003, Clause 2.2(a)(ii) amended 1-2 April 2017, Clause 2.2(a) amended, (aa) and (ab) Inserted, 15 June 2019, Clause 2.2 (ee) inserted 27 July 2024)

2.3 RESIDENCE

- (a) For the purposes of this Constitution, if a person is entitled to be enrolled on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll then the place of residence at which they are entitled to be enrolled shall be deemed to be that person's residence.
- (b) Each of the following persons must certify on their application or nomination that the residential address they provide is their place of residence:
 - (i) every applicant to become a Member of the Party,
 - (ii) every Member who nominates for an election within the Party where their eligibility to nominate is dependent on their residence, and
 - (iii) every applicant for endorsement for a Commonwealth or State election.
- (c) If any issue arises as to the residence of an applicant or Member, the State Director may require the person to provide evidence of their residence and after considering all relevant evidence may determine the person's place of residence.

(Clause 2.3 deleted and replaced 23 July 1989, amended 17 November 1991, 12 October 2008, 15 June 2019)

2.4 REQUIREMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

No elected position within the Party may be held by a person who is not a Member of the Party, and if a person ceases to be a Member of the Party that person shall thereupon cease to hold any elected position which he or she held.

(Clause 2.4 inserted 10 July 1988)

2.5 CASTING VOTE

Where the Chairman of a meeting held under this Constitution has a casting vote in an election that casting vote may be validly exercised by the Chairman:

- (a) exercising his or her deliberate choice in casting that vote; or
- (b) selecting the successful candidate by ballot or lot.

(Clause 2.5 inserted 17 November 1991)

3. Membership and Engagement

3.1 ELIGIBILITY

- (a) Subject to this Constitution, any person who has attained the age of 16 years shall be eligible to apply:
- (i) for membership of the Party as a member of a Federal Electorate Conference and State Electorate Conference; or
 - (ii) for membership of the Party as a Member at Large; or
 - (iii) to become a registered supporter of the Party on such terms and conditions as the Administrative Committee may from time to time determine.
- (b) The Administrative Committee may establish different categories of registered supporter.

(Clause 3.1 amended 12 October 2008)

3.2 (CLAUSE 3.2 DELETED 10 AUGUST 1991)

3.3 PARTY MEMBERSHIP

Subject to this Constitution, a Member:

- (a) must not be a member of more than one Federal Electorate Conference;
- (b) must not be a member of more than one State Electorate Conference;
- (c) must not be a member of a Federal Electorate Conference and State Electorate Conference that do not share common territory;
- (d) may be a member of more than one branch.

(Clause 3.3 deleted and replaced 12 October 2008)

3.4 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

An application for membership of the Party:

- (a) shall be signed, or submitted on-line, by the applicant;
- (b) shall be accompanied by the prescribed membership fee;
- (c) shall be in the form prescribed by the Administrative Committee;
- (d) shall specify whether the applicant is applying to be a Member at Large or a member of nominated Electorate Conferences;
- (e) if the applicant is applying to be a member of nominated Electorate Conferences, shall be lodged with a member of the Executive Committee of either or both of the nominated Electorate Conferences or with the State Director;
- (f) if the applicant is applying to be a Member at Large, shall be lodged with the State Director; and
- (g) shall specify whether, in addition to the matters above, the applicant is applying for membership of a nominated Branch.

(Clause 3.4 amended 12 October 2008)

3.4A BECOMING A PARTY MEMBER

- (a) Subject to Clauses 3.5 to 3.5E below, an applicant who nominates a Federal Electorate Conference and State Electorate Conference becomes a Member of the Party when:
- (i) the State Director receives the applicant's application for Party membership; and
 - (ii) when the State Director receives the prescribed membership fee; and if they occur on different dates, the later of those dates.
- (b) A Member referred to in subclause (a):
- (i) is not entitled to vote or hold office in the Party until his or her membership of the Party is confirmed and he or she receives advice to that effect from the State Director;
 - (ii) will cease to be a Member if his or her membership is cancelled on account of action taken under Clauses 3.5A(c), 3.5B or 3.5C.

(Clause 3.4A inserted 12 October 2008)

3.5 APPLICATION LODGED WITH ELECTORATE CONFERENCE

Where a person applies to be a member of a nominated Electorate Conference and lodges the application with a member of the Executive Committee of that Electorate Conference, the Executive Committee of that Electorate Conference:

- (a) shall forward a copy of the application and membership fee, if paid at that time, to the State Director promptly and in any event within seven (7) days of receiving the application; and

- (b) may within 45 days of receiving the application from the applicant notify the State Director of any grounds which the Executive Committee believes render the applicant ineligible or unsuitable to be a Member of the Party.

(Clause 3.5 deleted and replaced 12 October 2008, clause 3.5(b) amended 28 April 2018)

3.5A STATE DIRECTOR MUST INFORM ELECTORATE CONFERENCES

- (a) If the State Director receives an application:
- (i) from an Electorate Conference under Clause 3.5, the State Director must forward a copy of that application to the corresponding Federal or State Electorate Conference that the applicant has nominated, as the case may be;
 - (ii) from an Electorate Conference under Clause 3.5 and the applicant does not nominate the corresponding Federal or State Electorate Conference, the State Director must forward a copy of the application to the corresponding Federal or State Electorate Conference closest in proximity to the applicant's residence (as determined by the State Director) and the applicant is deemed to have nominated that Electorate Conference;
 - (iii) directly from an applicant who has nominated a Federal Electorate Conference and State Electorate Conference, the State Director must forward a copy of that application to both of the nominated Electorate Conferences;
 - (iv) directly from an applicant who has nominated an Electorate Conference but not a corresponding Federal or State Electorate Conference, the State Director must forward a copy of the application to the corresponding Federal or State Electorate Conference closest in proximity to the applicant's residence (as determined by the State Director) and the applicant is deemed to have nominated that Electorate Conference;
 - (v) directly from an applicant who has not nominated any Electorate Conferences, the State Director must forward a copy of the application to the Electorate Conferences within which the applicant resides and the applicant is deemed to have nominated those Electorate Conferences.
- (b) If the State Director forwards a copy of an application to an Electorate Conference under this Clause 3.5A, the Executive Committee of the Electorate Conference may within 45 days of receiving the application from the State Director notify the State Director of any grounds which the Executive Committee believes render the applicant ineligible or unsuitable to be a Member of the Party.
- (c) Despite Clause 3.4A, the State Director may within 45 days of receiving an applicant's application reject the application or cancel that Member's membership, as the case may be, if he or she determines that there are grounds which render such applicant or Member ineligible or unsuitable to be a Member of the Party provided that:
- (i) the State Director must promptly, and in any event within seven days, notify the Electorate Conferences that the Member or applicant, as the case may be, has nominated of his or her determination; and
 - (ii) if the Executive Committee of each Electorate Conference under subclause (i) notifies the State Director within 21 days that it objects to the State Director's determination, the State Director must prepare a report for the Administrative Committee.

(Clause 3.5A inserted 12 October 2008, clause 3.5A(b) and 3.5A(c) amended 28 April 2018).

3.5B ELECTORATE CONFERENCE MAY INFORM STATE DIRECTOR

- (a) If the Executive Committees of both of the relevant Federal Electorate Conference and State Electorate Conference notify the State Director within the applicable period under either Clause 3.5 or 3.5A above of grounds which they believe render the applicant or Member ineligible or unsuitable to be a Member of the Party, then the matter will be referred to the Administrative Committee, following which:
- (i) the Administrative Committee may, within 60 days of the referral, by a resolution carried by three quarters of the members of the Administrative Committee, resolve that the applicant or Member is eligible or suitable to be a Member of the Party, whereupon the Member's membership shall be taken to be confirmed from the date of the resolution; or
 - (ii) unless a resolution is carried in accordance with subclause (i) above, the Member's membership will be taken to be cancelled.
- (b) If either the Federal Electorate Conference or State Electorate Conference notifies the State Director within the applicable period under either Clause 3.5 or 3.5A above of grounds which it believes render the applicant or Member ineligible or unsuitable to be a Member of the Party, the State Director must investigate those grounds and report his or her findings to the Administrative Committee, to each affected Electorate Conference and to any Branch which the applicant or Member has nominated.

(Clause 3.5B inserted 12 October 2008, amended 23 September 2023)

3.5C ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MUST CONSULT

If the Administrative Committee receives a report from the State Director under:

- (a) Clause 3.5B, it must, after consulting with and considering any submissions received from the Executive Committee of each affected Electorate Conference and any Branch which the applicant or Member has nominated, determine as soon as it is reasonably practicable to do so whether the grounds render the applicant or Member ineligible or unsuitable to be a Member of the Party and:
 - (i) if so, the Member's membership will be taken to be cancelled; or
 - (ii) if not, the Member's membership will be taken to be confirmed; from the date of such determination.
- (b) Subclause 3.5A(c), it must, after consulting with and considering any submissions received from the Executive Committee of each affected Electorate Conference which the applicant has nominated, determine as soon as it is reasonably practicable to do so whether to affirm the State Director's determination. If the Administrative Committee overturns the State Director's determination, then the Member's membership will be taken to be confirmed from the date of the Administrative Committee's determination.

(Clause 3.5C inserted 12 October 2008)

3.5D CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP IF NO OBJECTION

Subject to subclause 3.5A(c), the membership of a Member who nominates a Federal Electorate Conference and State Electorate Conference is confirmed if neither Electorate Conference notifies the State Director within the applicable period under Clause 3.5 or 3.5A of grounds which it believes render the Member ineligible or unsuitable to be a Member of the Party.

(Clause 3.5D inserted 12 October 2008)

3.5E STATE DIRECTOR MUST ADVISE APPLICANT OR MEMBER

If an applicant's application is rejected, or a Member's membership is confirmed or cancelled, the State Director must:

- (i) promptly advise the applicant or Member; and
- (ii) if the application is rejected or the membership is cancelled, refund any membership fee paid by that person.

(Clause 3.5E inserted 12 October 2008)

3.5F STATE DIRECTOR MUST ADVISE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, ELECTORATE CONFERENCES, AND STATE ASSEMBLY

- (a) Further, if an applicant's application is rejected, or a Member's membership is cancelled, the State Director must inform the Administrative Committee, and the respective Electorate Conferences, of the applicant's or Member's name, of the Electorate Conferences that the applicant had applied to join or that the Member had joined, and of the reason why the application was rejected or cancelled.
- (b) The State Director must report annually to State Assembly the total number of applications for membership rejected totalled by each Electorate Conference that the applicant was trying to join, and make this report at the last meeting of State Assembly immediately prior to the Annual Meeting of State Council. In addition, State Assembly may request this report at any time.

(Clause 3.5F inserted 1-2 April 2017)

3.5G ELECTORATE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN MUST ADVISE ELECTORATE CONFERENCE

At the Annual Meeting of an Electorate Conference the Chairman of the Electorate Conference must disclose the number of new member applications rejected or cancelled by applicants trying to join that Electorate Conference since the previous Annual Meeting. These numbers must include how many have been excluded by the State Director, and how many have been excluded on the decision of, or on advice from, the Electorate Conference.

(Clause 3.5G inserted 1-2 April 2017)

3.6 (CLAUSE 3.6 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

3.7 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AT LARGE

Where a person applies to be a Member at Large:

- (a) the State Director shall submit the application to the next meeting of the Administrative Committee, which shall approve, reject or defer the application;

- (b) if the application is approved the person shall thereupon become a member of the Party and the State Director shall promptly advise the person accordingly and the date thereof;
- (c) if the application is rejected the State Director shall promptly advise the person accordingly and return the prescribed membership fee;
- (d) if the application is deferred it may be approved or rejected by a subsequent meeting of the Administrative Committee; and
- (e) if the Administrative Committee has not approved or rejected the application within three months of lodgement:
 - (i) the application shall be deemed to have been approved;
 - (ii) the person shall thereupon become a Member of the Party; and
 - (iii) the State Director shall promptly advise the person accordingly.

3.8 (CLAUSE 3.8 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

3.9 DETERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees shall be determined by the Annual Meeting of State Council for the following year after considering the recommendation of the Treasurer.

(Clause renumbered to 3.9 26 July 1987)

3.10 RENEWAL NOTICES

Prior to the end of the Membership Year the State Director shall send out to all Members membership renewal notices in the form prescribed by the Administrative Committee.

(Clause renumbered to 3.10 26 July 1987 and amended 17 July 1994)

3.11 PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees shall be payable by March 1 in any manner approved by the Administrative Committee.

(Clause renumbered to 3.11 26 July 1987)

3.12 GRACE PERIOD

Membership shall be deemed to be renewed from the date of receipt by the State Director of the appropriate membership fee provided that:

- (a) a person shall be deemed to be a Member for three months following the end of the Membership Year for which that person has paid his or her membership fee;
- (b) thereafter, until payment of the membership fee for the current Membership Year that person shall be ineligible to take part in or vote upon any proceedings whatsoever of the Party and shall not be entitled to be counted in the calculation of his or her Electorate Conference's entitlement to be represented at a Convention for the selection of candidates for the Legislative Council or be counted in the determination of the number of delegates to which that Electorate Conference is entitled for such Convention;
- (c) save as aforesaid upon payment of a membership fee during the following nine months that person shall be deemed to have been a Member from the beginning of that Membership Year except for the purposes of:
 - (i) calculating the number of delegates which that person's Electorate Conference is entitled to send to a Convention for the selection of candidates for the Legislative Council; and
 - (ii) calculating that person's period of continuous membership in determining whether that person is eligible to attend a Convention as a Preselector;
- (d) if at the end of that Membership Year, such person has failed to pay the membership fee he or she shall cease to be a Member but shall be eligible to reapply for membership.

(Clause renumbered to 3.12 26 July 1987 and amended 17 July 1994, 8 April 2006, 12 October 2008)

3.12A VACATION OF OFFICE

If a person who holds any elected, appointed or ex-officio office or delegateship in the Party is ineligible to take part in Party proceedings pursuant to Clause 3.12 (b) for a period of twenty-one (21) consecutive days, that person shall forthwith cease to hold that office or delegateship (as the case may be).

(Clause 3.12A inserted 12 May, 1996 and amended 2 April 2005)

3.13 JOINING ON OR AFTER 1 NOVEMBER

A person who joins the Party on or after 1 November shall pay a full membership fee which shall entitle such person to be a Member for the remainder of the current Membership Year and for the whole of the next Membership Year.

(Clause renumbered 3.13, amended 26 July 1987 and further amended 17 July 1994)

3.14 PORTABILITY

A continuous period of membership of any other Division which immediately precedes membership of the Victorian Division shall be included in any calculation of any requisite period of membership under this Constitution.

(Clause renumbered to 3.14 26 July 1987)

3.15 RESIGNATIONS

- (a) A Member may resign his or her membership of the Party by giving notice to the Secretary of the Federal Electorate Conference or State Electorate Conference of which he or she is a member or to the State Director and the resignation shall be effective upon receipt of the notice.
- (b) If notice of resignation is given to the Secretary of an Electorate Conference he or she shall within seven days notify the State Director of the resignation.
- (c) If notice of resignation is given to the State Director he or she shall within seven days notify the Secretaries of each of the Federal Electorate Conference and State Electorate Conference of the resigning Member.

(Clause renumbered to 3.15, 26 July 1987 and amended 12 October 2008)

3.16 RESIGNATION OF MEMBER AT LARGE

A Member at Large may resign by giving notice to the State Director and the resignation shall be effective upon receipt of the notice.

(Former Clause 3.16 deleted, present Clause renumbered to 3.16, 26 July 1987)

3.17 APPLICATION TO JOIN OR TRANSFER TO ANOTHER ELECTORATE CONFERENCE

- (a) If a Member wishes to transfer to another Federal Electorate Conference and/or State Electorate Conference, or if a Member at Large wishes to join a Federal Electorate Conference and State Electorate Conference, the Member must lodge with the State Director on a form prescribed by the Administrative Committee an application to transfer to, or to join, as the case may be, the Federal Electorate Conference and/or State Electorate Conference.
- (b) Where the State Director receives an application under subclause (a) above:
 - (i) he or she shall notify the Electorate Conferences which the Member wishes to transfer to or join as soon as practicable and in any event within seven (7) days; and
 - (ii) the Member shall become a member of those Electorate Conferences:
 - (1) if the Member resides within the Electorate Conference, as at the date on which the State Director receives the application; or
 - (2) if the Member does not reside in the Electorate Conference, then at the date that the Electorate Conference's Executive Committee approves the application with a majority vote.
- (c) A Member may not transfer his or her membership of a Federal Electorate Conference and/or State Electorate Conference more than once in any 12-month period unless the Member resides in the Federal and/or State Electorate Conference to which he or she wishes to transfer.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Constitution, a Member is not eligible to vote or nominate for any position in any Annual Meeting of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council that the Member transfers to or joins, as the case may be, under this Clause 3.17, unless the State Director receives that Member's application under sub clause (a) prior to the earlier of:
 - (i) notice of that Annual Meeting being given in accordance with clause 19.9; and
 - (ii) 1st February prior to that Annual Meeting (or, if the Administrative Committee makes a determination under Clause 19.6(a), on or by the first date determined by the Administrative Committee for an Annual Meeting to be held for that Electorate Conference)

(Clause 3.17 deleted and replaced 12 October 2008, amended 25 May 2013, 1-2 April 2017 and 28 April 2018, Clause 3.17(b)(ii) amended 15 June 2019, Clause 3.17(d) deleted and replaced 15 June 2019), Clause 3.17(d) amended 5 December 2021.

3.18 DEEMED RESIGNATION OF TRANSFERRING MEMBER

A Member transferring to another Federal Electorate Conference or State Electorate Conference shall be deemed to have resigned from the Member's previous Federal Electorate Conference or State Electorate Conference as the case may be as at the time the Member becomes a member of that other Federal Electorate Conference or State Electorate Conference.

(Clause renumbered to 3.18, 26 July 1987 and amended 12 October 2008)

3.19 STATE DIRECTOR TO NOTIFY PREVIOUS ELECTORATE CONFERENCES

Upon receiving an application to transfer to another Federal Electorate Conference or State Electorate Conference the State Director shall promptly notify the Member's previous Federal Electorate Conference or State Electorate Conference as the case may be of the transfer and resignation from the previous Federal Electorate Conference or State Electorate Conference.

(Clause renumbered to 3.19, 26 July 1987 and amended 12 October 2008)

3.20 (CLAUSE 3.20 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

3.21 METROPOLITAN OR COUNTRY

The Administrative Committee shall categorise each Electorate Conference and Region as either:

- (a) a metropolitan Electorate Conference or Region; or
- (b) a country Electorate Conference or Region;

and where a Member is a member of a Federal Electorate Conference and State Electorate Conference one of which is metropolitan and the other of which is country, the categorisation of the State Electorate Conference will apply to the Member for the purposes of this Constitution.

(Clause 3.21 deleted and replaced 12 October 2008)

3.21A SAFEGUARDING INTEGRITY OF ELECTORATE CONFERENCES

- (a) If the membership of any Federal Electorate Conference or State Electorate Conference increases in any one-month period by 5% or more, calculated from the previous month, the State Director shall notify the Administrative Committee which may request the State Director to investigate the increase in membership, including by requesting a report from the Executive Committee of the affected Electorate Conference.
- (b) Where the Administrative Committee has requested the State Director to investigate the increase in membership of an Electorate Conference under subclause (a), the Administrative Committee may by resolution carried by two-thirds majority of those members of the Administrative Committee present and voting:
 - (i) suspend the rights of Members of the Electorate Conference who have joined in the preceding 30-day period;
 - (ii) suspend the processing of membership applications relating to the Electorate Conference that have been lodged in the preceding 30-day period or which may be lodged in the subsequent 30-day period;pending the completion of the investigation.
- (c) Following consideration of a report of the State Director on his or her investigation, the Administrative Committee may:
 - (i) determine that the increase in membership is not contrary to the interests of the Party;
 - (ii) by resolution carried by two-thirds majority of those members of the Administrative Committee present and voting, determine that the increase in membership is gravely detrimental to the interests of the Party and make the following determinations:
 - A where Members joined the Electorate Conference by transferring into the Electorate Conference under Clause 3.17 in the one-month period referred to in subclause (a) above, that such transfers be reversed;
 - B where Members otherwise joined the Electorate Conference in the one-month period referred to in subclause (a) above, that they become Members at Large;
 - C that membership applications submitted in the one-month period referred to in subclause (a) above and/or in the following one-month period, be processed but with a view to the applicants becoming Members at Large.

(Clause 3.21A inserted 12 October 2008)

3.21B PROHIBITION AGAINST PAYING MEMBERSHIP FEES OF OTHERS

A person must not:

- (a) request or accept payment of his or her Party membership fee whether in money or in kind by or from another person (second person) unless the second person is a:
 - (i) member of that person's household or immediate family, including the person's spouse, de-facto spouse, brother, sister, son, daughter, father or mother; or
 - (ii) corporation or business which that person controls or owns;
- (b) pay or offer to pay the Party membership fee for another person (second person) unless the second person is a member of that person's household or immediate family, including the person's spouse, de-facto spouse, brother, sister, son, daughter, father or mother.

(Clause 3.21B inserted 12 October 2008)

3.22 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Administrative Committee may confer life membership of the Party upon any person who has served the party as a Member over an exceptional period. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, a life member shall remain a Member for all purposes of this Constitution for life or until resigning his or her membership, without the need to renew his or her membership or to pay any membership fee.

(Clause 3.22 inserted 29–30 March 2003)

3.23 REDISTRIBUTIONS

- (a) Where a redistribution or redivision of State or Federal Electorate boundaries is to take place, the State Director will provide each Affected Member of an Electorate Conference with an opportunity to elect to remain a member of the Electorate Conference of which he or she is currently a member, unless paragraph (b) applies.
- (b) Where an Electorate is to be abolished (including renaming) as a result of a redistribution or redivision of State or Federal Electorate boundaries:
 - (i) if the relevant Electorate Conference has not been declared to continue in existence under clause 19.5A(b), then the State Director will provide each Affected Member of the relevant Electorate Conference with an opportunity to elect to become a member of any Electorate Conference for an Electorate covering any part of the geographical territory of the abolished Electorate; and
 - (ii) if the relevant Electorate Conference has been declared to continue in existence under clause 19.5A(b), then the Affected Members shall continue as members of the relevant Electorate Conference under its new name, save that any Affected Member residing in the abolished Electorate whose place of residence will no longer be in the renamed Electorate following the redistribution or redivision will be provided with an opportunity to make an election under paragraph (a).
- (c) In the event of an Affected Member failing to notify the State Director of his or her election under clauses 3.23(a) or 3.23(b):
 - (i) in the case of clause 3.23(a) or 3.23(b)(i), within such time as is provided by the State Director, or
 - (ii) in the case of clause 3.23(a), within a period of 6 months following the redistribution taking effect. the Affected Member shall become a member of the Electorate Conference for the Electorate in which the member resides.
- (d) Any changes of membership of an Electorate Conference shall take effect upon the later of the date of the Affected Member notifying the State Director of his or her election under clauses 3.23(a) or 3.23(b) (where applicable) or the changeover date determined under clause 19.5A.
- (e) If the operation of this clause would result in non-compliance with clause 3.3(c) for any member, then the State Director will provide that member with an opportunity to elect whether to transfer from his or her current:
 - (i) Federal Electorate Conference to a Federal Electorate Conference that shares territory with that member's current State Electorate Conference; or
 - (ii) State Electorate Conference to a State Electorate Conference that shares territory with that member's current Federal Electorate Conference, and will, in the absence of any such election within such time as is provided by the State Director or unless the Administrative Committee grants dispensation, be deemed, from a date to be fixed by the Administrative Committee, to be a member of the Federal Electorate Conference and State Electorate Conference in which the member resides, and to have become a member of the corresponding Federal or State Electorate Conference and if more than one, that which is closest in proximity to the Member's residence (as determined by the State Director). The Administrative Committee may grant dispensation from the requirement that a member's Federal and State Electorate Conference share common territory where the circumstance arises as a result of the operation of this clause and the Administrative Committee is satisfied that the member retains a sufficient connection between the new and current Electorate Conference.
- (f) A change to a member's Electorate Conference by operation of this clause is not a transfer for the purposes of clauses 3.17(a) or (b).
- (g) For the purposes of this clause, an Affected Member of an Electorate Conference is:
 - (i) any member of the Electorate Conference who resides within the relevant Electorate and whose place of residence will, as result of the redistribution or redivision, be within a different Electorate; and
 - (ii) in the case where the relevant Electorate is to be abolished, every member of the Electorate Conference.

(Clause 3.23 deleted and replaced 12 October 2008, 25 May 2013; amended 12 April 2014, 28 August 2022)

3.24 (CLAUSE 3.24 INSERTED 3-4 APRIL 2004 AND DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

3A. Branch Membership

(Division 3A renamed 23 May 2009)

3A.1 APPLICATION TO JOIN BRANCH LODGED WITH BRANCH

If an applicant or Member on a form prescribed by the Administrative Committee applies to join a Branch and lodges that application with a member of the Committee of a branch:

- (a) if the application for membership of the Branch was received from an applicant who is not yet a Member, the Branch Secretary shall forward a copy of the application and membership fee, if paid at that time, to the State Director promptly and in any event within seven (7) days of receiving the application;
- (b) the application for membership of the Branch shall be considered by the next Committee or Branch general meeting and shall be approved, rejected or deferred;
- (c) if the application for membership of the Branch is approved:
 - (i) the Branch Secretary shall promptly record on the application form the date and fact of approval and forward the completed application form to the State Director;
 - (ii) upon receipt by the State Director of the completed application form the person shall become a member of the Branch with effect from the date the application was approved; and
 - (iii) the State Director shall promptly advise the person and the Branch that the person has become a member of the Branch and the date thereof.
- (d) if the application for membership of the Branch is rejected the Branch Secretary shall promptly record on the application form the date and fact of rejection and forward the completed application form to the State Director;
- (e) if the application is deferred it may be approved or rejected by a subsequent Committee meeting or Branch general meeting; and
- (f) if the application is not approved or rejected within three (3) months of being lodged it shall be deemed to be accepted and the applicant or Member shall be deemed to be a member of the Branch from the date of lodgement.

3A.2 APPLICATION TO JOIN BRANCH LODGED WITH STATE DIRECTOR

If an applicant or Member on a form prescribed by the Administrative Committee lodges that application with the State Director:

- (a) the State Director, in addition to any steps he or she is required to take under Division 3 above, shall promptly forward a copy of the application form to the Branch;
- (b) application shall be considered by the next Committee meeting or Branch general meeting (whichever first occurs) and shall be approved, rejected or deferred;
- (c) if the application is approved:
 - (i) the Branch Secretary shall promptly record on the copy application form the date and fact of approval and forward the completed copy application form to the State Director;
 - (ii) upon receipt by the State Director of the completed copy application form the Member shall become a member of the Branch with effect from the date the application was approved; and
 - (iii) the State Director shall promptly advise the Member and the Branch that the Member has become a member of the Branch and the date thereof;
- (d) if the application is rejected the Branch Secretary shall record on the copy application form the date and fact of rejection and promptly return the completed copy application form to the State Director who shall promptly advise the Member;
- (e) if the application is deferred it may be approved or rejected by a subsequent Committee meeting or Branch general meeting; and
- (f) if the completed application form has not been returned to the State Director within three months of the State Director having forwarded the copy of the application form to the Branch:
 - (i) the application shall be deemed to have been approved;
 - (ii) the Member shall thereupon become a member of the Branch with effect from the date the application was received by the State Director unless the Administrative Committee has previously decided otherwise; and
 - (iii) the State Director shall promptly advise the Member and the Branch that the Member has become a member of that Branch.

3A.3 APPLICANTS AND MEMBERS CAN ATTEND BRANCH MEETINGS

An applicant or Member who applies to become a member of a Branch shall be entitled to attend meetings of that Branch pending the determination of the application unless the Branch otherwise resolves, but such person shall not be entitled to vote or hold office in that Branch until being advised by the State Director that he or she has been approved by that Branch.

3A.4 RESIGNATION FROM A BRANCH

- (a) A Member may resign his or her membership of a Branch by giving notice to the Secretary of the Branch of which he or she is a member or to the State Director and the resignation shall be effective upon receipt of the notice.
- (b) If notice of resignation is given to the Branch Secretary the Secretary shall within seven days notify the State Director of the resignation.
- (c) If notice of resignation is given to the State Director he or she shall within seven days notify the Branch Secretary of such resignation.

3A.5 BRANCH MEMBERSHIP DEPENDENT ON PARTY MEMBERSHIP

A Member ceases to be a member of a Branch when he or she ceases to be a Member of the Party.

(Division 3A inserted 12 October 2008)

4. Expulsion or Suspension

4.1 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 guilty of disloyalty to the Party, this Constitution or the Platform of the Party;
 - (ii) been guilty of conduct gravely detrimental to the best interests of the Party; or
 - (iii) included materially false or misleading information in his or her application form or failed to disclose a matter that would have rendered him or her ineligible to apply for Party membership; or
 - (iv) without having obtained the prior written permission of the Administrative Committee:
 - A supported any Australian based political party (or any 'independent' movement such as the Teals or other similar politically-based movement) not affiliated with the Liberal Party of Australia (or its Divisions), or
 - B supported a non-Liberal Party candidate in the same Electorate, Region or Senate as an endorsed Liberal candidate.
- (b) The Member's Branch, Federal Electorate Conference or State Electorate Conference, or the Administrative Committee, or the Federal Executive of the Liberal Party of Australia, may submit a motion to the State Assembly charging that the Member has:
 - (i) been guilty of disloyalty to the Party, this Constitution or the Platform of the Party;
 - (ii) been guilty of conduct gravely detrimental to the best interests of the Party; or
 - (iii) included materially false or misleading information in his or her application form or failed to disclose a matter that would have rendered him or her ineligible to apply for Party membership; or
 - (iv) without having obtained the prior written permission of the Administrative Committee:
 - A supported any Australian based political party (or any 'independent' movement such as the Teals or other similar politically-based movement) not affiliated with the Liberal Party of Australia (or its Divisions); or
 - B supported a non-Liberal Party candidate in the same Electorate, Region or Senate as an endorsed Liberal candidate.
- (ba) Whether or not the Administrative Committee submits a motion to the State Assembly as aforesaid, where the Administrative Committee is satisfied that any conduct or act described in subclause (a) has occurred it may, after the Member has been afforded the right to be heard, by resolution carried by a three-quarters majority of all the members of the Administrative Committee, suspend the Member for a period of up to six months and must thereupon report the suspension to the following meeting of State Assembly.
- (c) Where the Administrative Committee submits a motion to the State Assembly as aforesaid it may, by resolution carried by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Administrative Committee present and voting suspend that Member until the next meeting of the State Assembly.
- (d) No motion under subclause (b) above shall be determined by State Assembly unless not less than 21 days notice in writing has been given to the members of State Assembly and 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 State Assembly.
- (f)
 - (i) Motions under subclause (b) above shall be determined by a secret ballot and shall not be carried unless by a twothirds majority of the members of State Assembly present and voting thereon.
 - (ii) Upon State Assembly passing a motion under subclause (b) above that the Member engaged in any conduct or act described in subclause (a)(i) to (iv) then State Assembly shall determine by motion, which shall be voted upon by secret ballot and carried by twothirds majority of its members present and voting, what shall be the appropriate penalty by way of expulsion or suspension for up to 12 months.
- (g) A period of suspension may be terminated by resolution of the State Assembly by secret ballot carried by a twothirds majority of its members present and voting.
- (ga) If any conduct or act described in subclause (a)(i) to (iv) occurs within the 40-day period before a general election or by-election, the Administrative Committee may, by resolution carried by a two thirds majority of the members of the Administrative Committee present and voting, expel, or suspend for up to 12 months, the Member provided that the Member shall be entitled to appeal his or her expulsion/suspension at the first State Assembly after that general election or by-election which may confirm, vary or quash the expulsion/suspension.
- (gb) If a Member who is expelled/suspended under subclause (ga) above appeals the expulsion/suspension:
 - (i) notice of appeal shall be in writing and delivered to the State Director within 7 days of the expulsion/suspension;
 - (ii) the appeal shall be by way of rehearing and shall be final;
 - (iii) before any vote is taken by State Assembly the former Member appealing shall have the right to be heard;
 - (iv) voting on any resolution or determination in relation to an appeal shall, except for procedural motions, be by secret ballot.
- (h) Where the State Assembly takes any steps pursuant to this Clause it shall inform the next State Council accordingly.

(Clause 4.1 amended 23 July 1989, 6 April 1997, 12 October 2008 and 23 September 2023)

4.2 (CLAUSE 4.2 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

4.3 NO RENEWAL

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

4.4 EFFECT ON CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP

Where this Constitution requires membership for a continuous or minimum period such period shall not commence until after the expiration of any period of suspension.

4.5 MEMBER OPPOSING AN ENDORSED CANDIDATE

- (a) Any Member who nominates 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.
- (b) There shall be no appeal from such expulsion.

4.6 NO READMISSION WITHOUT APPROVAL

- (a) No person who has been expelled from membership of the Party shall be readmitted unless the State Assembly so determines by a twothirds majority of its members present and voting by secret ballot.
- (b) Before the determination of such application the Administrative 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 Electorate Conference of the Electorate in which such person stood as a candidate and shall report the findings of such investigations and consultation to the State Assembly.

(Clause 4.6 amended 12 October 2008)

4.7 INTERACTION WITH DIVISION 3

Nothing in this Division is intended to limit the operation of Clauses 3.5 to 3.5E.

(Clause 4.7 inserted 12 October 2008)

5. Membership of other parties or organisations

5.1 INELIGIBILITY AND CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- (a) A person who is a member of a Proscribed Organisation shall be ineligible to apply for membership of the Party and any purported acceptance of an application for membership by such person is invalid.
- (b) When the State Assembly declares any organisation to be a Proscribed Organisation all Electorate Conferences shall be immediately notified thereof and at the expiration of 21 days from such declaration any Member of the Party who remains or thereafter becomes a Member of such Proscribed Organisation shall automatically cease to be a Member of the Party.

(Clause 5.1 amended 12 October 2008)

5.1A MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER POLITICAL PARTY

- (a) A person who is member of any Australian political party (whether or not a political party registered under any law) other than a Division of the Liberal Party of Australia (including a Division of the Young Liberal Movement) shall be ineligible to apply for membership of the Party and any purported acceptance of an application for membership by such person is invalid.
- (b) As soon as practicable after the insertion of this clause, the State Director shall notify all Members of the Party of this clause, and at the expiration of two months from the dispatch of such notification any Member of the Party who remains or thereafter becomes a member of such a political party shall automatically cease to be a Member of the Party.

(Clause 5.1A inserted 23 September 2023)

5.2 DISCLOSURE

Every person applying for membership shall disclose in such application whether he or she:

- (a) has ever been a member of any and which organisation which at the time of his or her application for membership is a Proscribed Organisation;
- (b) has ever been a member of any and which Political party;
- (c) has previously applied for and been refused membership of the Party;
- (d) has previously been expelled from membership of the Party; or
- (e) has ever nominated as a candidate in an election for an Electorate or for the Senate where the Party has had an endorsed candidate.

5.3 NONMEMBER OPPOSING ENDORSED CANDIDATE

Any person not being a Member of the Party, who nominates for any Electorate or for election to the Senate where the Party or another Division of the Liberal Party of Australia has an endorsed candidate shall not thereafter be eligible to apply for membership of the Party and any purported approval of an application by such a person shall be invalid unless the State Assembly resolves by a twothirds majority of its members present and voting by secret ballot to permit such person to apply for membership.

Prior to any motion to grant such permission being considered the State Assembly shall make such investigations as it deems appropriate and shall consult the Electorate Conference for the Electorate in which the applicant nominated as a candidate.

(Clause 5.3 inserted 26 July 1987, amended 23 July 1989, 12 August 1990, 12 October 2008)

6. Branches

6.1 FORMATION

- (a) Upon written application by 10 Party Members or an Electorate Conference on their behalf, a Branch may be formed by the Administrative Committee after thorough consultation with all other Branches and the Electorate Conferences affected by the proposed Branch.
- (b) The State Director shall call the inaugural meeting of a Branch formed under paragraph (a) within two months of its formation.
- (c) Upon the formation of a Branch, each Member who:
 - (i) applied for the formation of the Branch; or
 - (ii) indicated in writing a desire to be a Member of the Branch;shall be a Member of the Branch.

(Clause 6.1 amended 12 October 2008)

6.2 (CLAUSE 6.2 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

6.3 RULES

The Administrative Committee shall publish rules subject to the provisions of this Constitution governing the conduct and procedures to be followed by Senior Branches and Senior Branches shall comply with such rules.

6.4 (CLAUSE 6.4 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

6.5 (CLAUSE 6.5 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

6.6 AMALGAMATION

Branches shall be permitted to amalgamate with the prior consent of the Administrative Committee.

(Clause 6.6 amended 12 October 2008)

6.7 DISBANDMENT

No Branch shall disband unless a resolution to that effect is carried by a twothirds majority of the Members of the Branch present and voting at a special meeting called for that purpose. not less than 14 days notice of such meeting and its purpose shall be given to:

- (a) Branch Members; and
 - (b) the State Director;
- by prepaid post or certified mail.

6.8 DEFUNCT BRANCHES DECLARATION BY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

The Administrative Committee may declare any Senior Branch which has had less than 10 members for more than 12 months to be defunct.

(Clause 6.8 amended 12 October 2008)

6.9 (CLAUSE 6.9 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

6.10 SUSPENSION OR DISSOLUTION OF A BRANCH

- (a) The Administrative Committee may by a twothirds majority of its members present and voting suspend for a specified period or dissolve any Branch which in its opinion has acted in a manner gravely detrimental to the best interests of the Party.
- (b) Such a resolution shall not be considered unless at least 21 days notice in writing has been given to the members of the Administrative Committee and to the members of such Branch.
- (c) A period of suspension may be terminated by the Administrative Committee by a twothirds majority of its members present and voting.
- (d) Where the Administrative Committee takes any steps pursuant to this Clause it shall inform the next State Council accordingly.

6.11 RIGHT OF APPEAL

- (a) Any Branch so suspended or dissolved shall have a right of appeal to the next State Council which may confirm, vary or quash the expulsion or period of suspension, but may not increase a period of suspension.
- (b) Notice of appeal shall be in writing and delivered to the State Director within seven days of the decision of the Administrative Committee being made.
- (c) The appeal shall be by way of a rehearing and shall be final.
- (d) Before any vote is taken by the State Council, the President and Secretary of the Branch appealing shall have the right to be heard; otherwise the procedure to be followed shall be determined by the State Council.
- (e) Any decision of the State Council to vary or quash the dissolution or period of suspension must be carried by twothirds majority of its members present and voting.
- (f) Voting on any resolution or determination under this Clause shall except for procedural motions be by secret ballot.

(Clause 6.11 amended 12 October 2008)

6.12 (CLAUSE 6.12 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

6.13 PROPERTY OF A BRANCH

Upon disbandment, suspension or dissolution of any Branch, or upon a declaration by the Administrative Committee that a Branch is defunct, all books, documents, moneys, funds, securities, records and any other property of the Branch in the possession or control of the Branch or any of its officers or Members shall become the property of the Party and shall be handed over to the State Director forthwith.

6.14 (CLAUSE 6.14 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

7. Branch Meetings

7.1 ANNUAL MEETING

- (a) Each Senior Branch shall hold an Annual Meeting between 1 February and 31 March (inclusive) in each year unless the Administrative Committee otherwise determines.
- (b) If a Branch conducts financial activities, including the operation of a bank account and the holding of cash or like assets, at each Annual Meeting of a Senior Branch the Treasurer shall present:
 - (i) an audited income and expenditure statement for the previous Financial Year and balance sheet as at the last day of the previous Financial Year; and
 - (ii) an (unaudited) income and expenditure statement for the period from the end of the previous Financial Year until the date of the Annual Meeting, for the consideration of the meeting.

(Clause 7.1 renumbered to Clause 7.1(a) and amended 17 July 1994, Clause 7.1(b) inserted 17 July 1994, amended 12 October 2008), Clause 7.1(a) amended 5 December 2021)

7.2 ANNUAL RETURN

Within three weeks of holding the Annual Meeting each Senior Branch shall forward to the State Director and to the Secretary of any Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council for each Electorate within the boundaries of which the Branch falls an annual return on a form approved or in a manner approved by the Administrative Committee containing particulars of the office bearers and any Committee members.

(Clause 7.2 renumbered and amended 23 July 1989, 12 August 1990 and 12 October 2008)

7.3 FAILURE TO HOLD

Where a Senior Branch fails to hold an Annual Meeting between 1 February and 31 March in any year the State Director shall call an Annual Meeting of the Branch as soon as practicable and may declare all offices vacant.

(Clause 7.3 amended 17 July 1994, 5 December 2021)

7.4 NOTICE

- (1) At least fourteen days notice of all Branch meetings shall be given to Branch Members by the Secretary:
 - (a) by notice sent by prepaid post to the address of each Member appearing in the Branch records; or
 - (aa) by electronic mail in accordance with the requirements of subclause 2.2(h); or
 - (b) by notice delivered to the address of each Member appearing in the Branch records; or
 - (c) by personal notice in such manner as the Branch Committee may direct;provided that casual nonreceipt by a member of such notice shall not affect the validity of a meeting.
- (2) (subclause 7.4(2) deleted 12 October 2008)
- (3) At least 24 hours advance notice of all Branch Committee meetings shall be given to each member of the Branch Committee by the President or the Secretary of the Branch.

(Clause 7.4 amended and renumbered 23 July 1989 and further amended 17 November 1991, 6 April 1997, 29-30 March 2003, 12 October 2008, 15 June 2019)

7.5 CALLING OF MEETING

- (a) A Branch meeting may be called by:
 - (i) the President;
 - (ii) the Committee; or
 - (iii) a general meeting.
- (b) Upon receipt of a written request signed by five Branch Members or the State Director, which request shall state the proposed business of the meeting, the Secretary shall call a Branch Meeting within 14 days. If the Secretary fails to call such a meeting or there is no properly appointed person holding the office of Secretary, then the State Director shall immediately convene a meeting by giving notice to all Branch Members.

- c) A Branch Committee meeting may be called by:
 - (i) the President;
 - (ii) the Secretary; or
 - (iii) a Vice President, if the Branch has a Vice-President.

(Clause 7.5 amended 26 July 1987, 28 March 1999 and 12 October 2008)

7.6 QUORUM

- (a) The quorum at the Annual Meeting of a Branch shall be seven Members.
- (b) The quorum at all other Branch general meetings shall be five Members.
- (c) The quorum at a meeting of the Branch Committee shall be four Members.
- (d) Branch meetings, but not a branch meeting at which any election is to be held, may be conducted by telephone or like teleconference facilities.

(Clause 7.6(d) inserted 12 October 2008)

7.7 BALLOTS AND VOTING

At all Branch meetings and at all Branch Committee meetings:

- (a) all elections shall be by exhaustive secret ballot;
- (b) no proxy votes shall be allowed; and
- (c) the Chairman shall have a deliberative and a casting vote, saving that where, during an election of office bearers and/or delegates, the Chairman is not a Branch Member, the Chairman shall have a casting vote only.

(Clause 7.7 amended 23 July 1989, Clause 7.7(c) amended 16 August 1992)

7.8 CHAIRMAN

- (a) Each election of office bearers at a Branch meeting (including an inaugural meeting and an Annual Meeting) shall be chaired by a member of the Party who may or may not be a member of the Branch provided that a person who is a candidate for a particular office shall not chair the election for that office.
- (b) At all other times a Branch meeting or a meeting of a Branch Committee shall be chaired by the President, or if the President is absent or unwilling to chair the meeting, by a Vice President, or if there are no Vice Presidents or they are absent or unwilling to chair the meeting, by a Branch Member elected by the meeting.

(Clause 7.8 amended 16 August 1992 and 12 October 2008)

8. Branch Elections and Entitlements

8.1 BRANCH OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- (a) Each Senior Branch shall at its Annual Meeting elect from amongst its nonparliamentary Members a Committee consisting of a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer (if the Branch wishes to conduct financial activities, including the operation of a bank account or the holding of cash or like assets), and such other office bearers and committee members as it deems desirable.
- (b) The Committee of a Senior Branch shall have equal representation between men and women as far as possible.

(Clause 8.1 amended 12 October 2008)

8.2 (CLAUSE 8.2 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

8.3 (CLAUSE 8.3 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

8.4 (CLAUSE 8.4 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

8.5 CASUAL VACANCY

- (a) If a casual vacancy occurs in a position elected by a Branch then the Branch at a general meeting may elect a man or woman as the case may be to fill such vacant position.
- (b) If, but only if, there is insufficient time available to fill such casual vacancy at a general meeting, then the Committee of the Branch may, by secret ballot elect a man or woman as the case may be to fill such vacant position until the next general meeting of the Branch.

- (c) The notice of a general meeting at which an election is to be held to fill a casual vacancy shall include notice of that election.
- (d) (paragraph (d) deleted 12 October 2008)
- (e) Where a casual vacancy occurs in the office of Branch President, the Vice President (of the same sex as the former President wherever possible), or if no Vice President, the Secretary, shall assume office until the casual vacancy is filled pursuant to this Clause.

(Clause 8.5 amended 23 July 1989, 10 August 1991, 17 November 1991, 24 July 2004, 2 April 2005 and 12 October 2008)

8.6 INAUGURAL MEETINGS

An inaugural meeting of a Branch shall conduct elections for those positions which would otherwise be filled at an Annual Meeting.

8.7 PERIOD OF OFFICE

- (a) Subject to paragraph (b) all persons elected by a Branch, whether at the Annual Meeting or at another general meeting, or by its Committee, shall take office upon conclusion of the election of Branch office bearers and Committee members at the meeting at which they are elected, and hold office until the conclusion of the election of Branch office bearers and Committee members at the next Annual Meeting.
- (b) If at any Branch meeting a motion of no confidence against any Branch office bearer or Committee member of which notice has been given in the notice of meeting is passed by a twothirds majority of the members present and voting, then that position shall immediately be vacated and an election to fill the position shall be held within 30 days.

(Clause 8.7 amended 9 July 1988, 23 July 1989, 16 August 1992, 12 May, 1996, 2 April 2005 and 12 Oct 2008).

(Clauses 8.2A (originally inserted 24 July 2004), 8.2B (originally inserted 8 April 2006), deleted 12 Oct 2008)

8.8 (CLAUSE 8.8 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

8.9 (CLAUSE 8.9 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

9. Young Liberal Movement

9.1 COMPOSITION

There shall be a Young Liberal Movement which shall consist of:

- (a) every member of a Federal and State Electorate Conference; and
- (b) every Member at Large;

who is less than 31 years of age and who has elected to become a member of the Movement in the manner prescribed by the Administrative Committee.

(Clause 9.1 amended 28 April 2007 and 12 October 2008)

9.2 BRANCHES

- (a) Branches of the Young Liberal Movement may be formed with the approval of the Movement Council in accordance with the Movement By-Laws.
- (b) Members of Young Liberal Branches shall be not less than 16 or more than 30 years of age.

(Clause 9.2 amended 6 April 1997, 28 April 2007, 12 Oct 2008)

9.3 MOVEMENT COUNCIL

For the purpose of conducting and coordinating the activities of the Young Liberal Movement there shall be a Movement Council which shall consist of:

- (a) every member of the Movement;
- (b) the four delegates elected by the State Assembly;
- (c) the two delegates of the Liberal Women's Council (Victoria);
- (d) a member of the State Parliamentary Party nominated by its Leader; and
- (e) a member of the Federal Parliamentary Party nominated by its Leader.

(Clause 9.3 amended 6 April 1997, 28 April 2007, 12 October 2008)

9.4 MOVEMENT EXECUTIVE

- (a) Movement Council shall elect annually from amongst its members:
 - (i) a President; and
 - (ii) such office bearers as are prescribed by the Movement ByLaws and the President and such office bearers, together with such further exofficio members as the Movement ByLaws may provide, shall constitute the Executive of the Movement.
- (b) A member of the Movement may only vote in an election for the President or another office bearer elected by Movement Council if he or she has been a member of the Movement for a continuous period of not less than six months at the date of the election.

(Clause 9.4 amended 12 November 1988. Clause 9.4(a) amended and Clause 9.4(b) inserted 28 April 2007)

9.5 MOVEMENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

- (a) Movement Council shall meet at least once every two months.
- (b) 20 members of the Movement Council shall constitute a quorum, unless the Movement By-Laws are subsequently amended to provide for a new quorum.
- (c) At least one Movement Council each year must be held at a location outside metropolitan Melbourne.

(Clause 9.5 replaced with 9.5(a)-(c) 28 April 2007)

9.6 MEMBERSHIP FEES

- (a) Movement Council shall prescribe the rate, structure and level of membership subscription fees for Members who wish to join the Young Liberal Movement.
- (b) Subject to paragraph (c), a person who joins the Young Liberal Movement between 1 March and 31 October in any year and pays the membership fee prescribed by Movement Council shall be a Member of the Young Liberal Movement for the remainder of the Membership Year and shall be deemed to be a Member of that Young Liberal Branch for three months following the end of that Membership Year.
- (c) A person who joins the Young Liberal Movement between 1 August and 31 October in any year and pays the "eighteen month" membership fee prescribed by Movement Council shall be a Member of the Young Liberal Movement for the remainder of the current Membership Year and for the whole of the next Membership Year and shall be deemed to be a Member of the Young Liberal Movement for three months following the end of the latter Membership Year.
- (d) A person who joins the Young Liberal Movement on or after 1 November in any year and pays the membership fee prescribed by Movement Council shall be a Member of the Young Liberal Movement for the remainder of the current Membership Year and for the whole of the next Membership Year and shall be deemed to be a Member of the Young Liberal Movement for three months following the end of the latter Membership Year.

(Clauses 9.6(b), (c) and (d) inserted 17 Nov 1991 and amended 17 July 1994. Clause 9.6 amended 12 Oct 2008)

9.7 BRANCH COMMITTEE

Each Young Liberal Branch shall at its inaugural meeting and at each Annual Meeting elect from amongst its nonparliamentary members, a committee consisting of:

- (a) a President;
- (b) a Secretary; and
- (c) such other office bearers as the Movement ByLaws require or permit.

(Clause 9.7(a) amended 6 April 1997, Clauses 9.7(a) and 9.7(b) amended 2 April 2005. Clauses 9.7(a)(i)-(iii) and 9.7(b) replaced with 9.7(a)-(c) 28 April 2007. Clause renamed 23 May 2009)

9.8 (CLAUSE 9.8 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

9.9 DEFUNCT BRANCHES DECLARATION BY MOVEMENT COUNCIL

The Movement Council may declare any Young Liberal Branch with less than 10 financial Members to be defunct.

9.10 DEFUNCT BRANCHES

- (a) Where a Young Liberal Branch has had less than 10 members for a continuous period of 12 months it shall thereupon become defunct unless the Movement Council determines to the contrary.
- (b) The Movement Executive shall present annually a report to the Administrative Committee of the determinations under this Clause.

9.11 BYLAWS

With the approval of the Administrative Committee the Movement Council may promulgate ByLaws for the guidance and coordination of the affairs of the Young Liberal Movement and Young Liberal Branches.

9.12 ANNUAL MEETING AND ANNUAL RETURN

- (1) Each Young Liberal Branch shall hold an Annual Meeting between 1 February and 31 March (inclusive) in each year and an annual return showing
 - (a) the names and addresses of office bearers elected at such meeting, and
 - (b) such other particulars as may be required by the Movement ByLawsshall within three weeks of holding the Annual Meeting be forwarded to the State Director and to the Secretary of each Electorate Conference for each Electorate within the boundaries of which the Young Liberal Branch falls.
- (2) Where a person is elected to fill a vacant position pursuant to Clause 8.5 within three weeks of the persons being so elected a Young Liberal Branch shall notify the State Director and the Secretary of each relevant Electorate Conference of particulars of the persons so elected.

(Clause 9.12 renumbered and Clause 9.12(2) inserted 23 July 1989, Clause 9.12(2) amended 12 August 1990. Clause 9.12(1A) inserted and Clause 9.12(1) amended 17 July 1994, Clause 9.12 (1) amended 12th May, 1996, Clause 9.12(1A) deleted 2 April 2005. Clause 9.12(2) amended 12 Oct 2008. Clause 9.12 amended 23 May 2009, Clause 9.12(1) amended 5 December 2021)

9.13 TRANSITIONAL

A Young Liberal Branch which existed and was not defunct on 28 April 2007 continues in existence despite the amendments to Division 9 made at State Council on that date.

(Clause 9.13 inserted 28 April 2007)

10. Women's Sections

10.1 FORMATION

Women's Sections may be formed with the approval of the Liberal Women's Council (Victoria).

(Clause 10.1 amended 28 April 2007)

10.2 AIMS

The aims of the Women's Sections are to further the aims of the Party and to pursue activities which are consistent with the aims of the Party.

10.3 MEMBERSHIP

Members of Women's Sections must be female members of the Party and each female Member of the Party may only be a member of one (1) Women's Section.

10.4 ELECTIONS

Each Women's Section shall at its inaugural meeting and at each Annual General Meeting elect or appoint the following office bearers from amongst its members by secret preferential ballot:

- (a) Chairman;
- (b) two (2) ViceChairmen;
- (c) a Secretary;
- (d) a Treasurer;
- (e) at least two (2) Committee Members;
- (f) the delegates elected or appointed to Liberal Women's Council (Victoria) as follows. Where the number of members of the Women's Section is:
 - (i) 15 or less, 3 elected delegates;
 - (ii) between 16 and 19, the Chairman and 3 elected delegates;
 - (iii) 20 or more, the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, 3 elected delegates for 20-29 members and a further elected delegate for every 10 members after that (i.e. 4 delegates for 30-39 and so forth);and
- (g) three (3) proxy delegates to Liberal Women's Council (Victoria).

(Clause 10.4 (f), (g) amended 28 April 2007. Clause 10.4 (f), (g) amended 9 April 2016)

10.5 LIBERAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL (VICTORIA)

- (a) There shall be a Liberal Women's Council (Victoria) consisting of:
- (i) the delegates or officers, or proxy delegates, elected or appointed by each Women's Section in accordance with clause 10.4;
 - (ii) the State President of the Party (if female) and the two (2) female VicePresidents of the Party;
 - (iii) one female delegate elected by and from the Young Liberal Movement Council;
 - (iv) the past chairmen of Liberal Women's Council (Victoria) and its predecessor bodies who remain Party Members; and
 - (v) those persons who have been delegates to the Central Council pursuant to sub-paragraph (i) for a total period of not less than fifteen years according to records held by the State Director.
- (b) The Liberal Women's Council (Victoria) shall be responsible for the proper conduct, management and coordination of the affairs of the Women's Sections.
- (c) The Liberal Women's Council (Victoria) shall meet at least quarterly.
- (d) At each Annual General Meeting of Liberal Women's Council (Victoria) an Executive Committee consisting of the following office bearers shall be elected by secret preferential ballot:
- (i) a Chairman;
 - (ii) two (2) ViceChairmen;
 - (iii) a Treasurer; and
 - (iv) seven (7) members.
- In addition, the Immediate Past Chairman of the Liberal Women's Council (Victoria) shall be a full voting member of the Executive Committee.

(Clause 10.5(a)(iv) amended and Clause 10.5(a)(v) inserted 8 April 2006. Clause 10.5 (a), 10.5 (a)(iv), 10.5 (b), 10.5 (c), 10.5 (d) amended 28 April 2007. Clause 10.5 (i) amended 9 April 2016)

10.6 RULES OF THE WOMEN'S SECTIONS

The Liberal Women's Council (Victoria) may, with the approval of the Administrative Committee, promulgate rules for the conduct of the affairs of the Women's Sections and amend those rules.

(Clause 10.6 amended 28 April 2007) (Division 10 deleted and new Division 10 substituted 27 March 1994)

11. State Council

11.1 MEMBERSHIP

There shall be a State Council which shall consist of the following members:

- (a) the State Council delegates elected by each Electorate Conference which is entitled to be represented at State Council;
- (b) all members of the State Parliamentary Party;
- (c) all Victorian members of the Federal Parliamentary Party;
- (d) the Treasurer;
- (e) the State President of the Young Liberal Movement;
- (f) the Chairman of the Liberal Women's Council (Victoria);
- (g) each past State President (for as long as such person remains a Member of the Party);
- (h) the State President;
- (i) each permanent member within the meaning of Clause 11.15 who is also a financial member of the Party;
- (j) all Victorian non-parliamentary members of the Federal Executive of the Liberal Party of Australia;
- (k) all members of the Administrative Committee.

(Clause 11.1 amended 17 November 1991, 6 April 1997, 5 April 1998, 28 April 2007, 12 October 2008, Clause 11.1(k) inserted 15 June 2019)

11.2 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

State Council shall elect at an Annual Meeting by preferential ballot in the case of subclauses (a), (b) and (d) below and Proportional representation in the case of subclauses (c) below from amongst the non-parliamentary Members of the Party:

- (a) a State President;
- (b) four VicePresidents of whom there shall be one male and one female representing metropolitan Electorate Conferences and one male and one female representing country Electorate Conferences;
- (c) eight members of the Administrative Committee of whom there shall be two males and two females representing metropolitan Electorate Conferences and two males and two females representing country Electorate Conferences;

- (d) four members of the State Council Agenda Committee of whom there shall be one male and one female representing metropolitan Electorate Conferences and one male and one female representing country Electorate Conferences.

(Clause 11.2 amended 5 April 1998, 2 April 2005, 12 October 2008, 23 May 2009, 15 June 2019)

11.2A ELECTION OF STATE ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

State Council shall elect at an Annual Meeting by Proportional representation from amongst non-parliamentary Members of the Party 60 members of the State Assembly of whom there shall be 15 males and 15 females from metropolitan Electorate Conferences and 15 males and 15 females from country Electorate Conferences provided that if, after 14 places have been filled in any State Assembly category no member of the Young Liberal Movement has been elected, the last place shall (if possible) be filled by the member of the Young Liberal Movement polling the highest number of votes in that category (taking into account the distribution of preferences).

(Clause 11.2A inserted 2 April 2005 and amended 28 April 2005, 12 October 2008, 23 May 2009)

11.2B SCRUTINEERS

A candidate for an election under clause 11.2 or 11.2A may appoint a Member as his or her scrutineer by notifying the State Director in writing prior to the commencement of voting for that election. a candidate cannot be a scrutineer in any ballot for which he or she is running as a candidate.

(Clause 11.2B inserted 12 October 2008, and amended 1-2 April 2017)

11.3 TREASURER

State Council shall elect at its Annual Meeting from amongst the Members of the Party a Treasurer who shall present a report on the state of the Party's financial affairs to each Annual Meeting of State Council and shall make a recommendation as to the amount, structure and composition of membership fees for the next Membership Year.

(Clause 11.3 amended 17 July 1994)

11.4 POWER OF STATE COUNCIL

- (a) State Council shall be the governing body of the Party and shall determine the Platform of the Party but shall not have control over the internal affairs of the State Parliamentary Party.
- (b) Policy decisions of State Council shall not be binding upon the State or Federal Parliamentary Parties, but shall be dealt with as follows:
 - (i) policy decisions relating to State matters shall be forwarded to the State Parliamentary Party as recommendations of the State Council, and
 - (ii) policy decisions relating to Federal matters shall be forwarded to the Federal Council as resolutions from the Victorian Division.

11.4A POLICY MOTIONS

A Member who does not fall within subclauses 11.1(a) to (j) may nonetheless:

- (a) attend State Council; and
- (b) speak and vote on policy motions at State Council.

(Clause 11.4A inserted 12 October 2008, amended 23 May 2009)

11.5 PROXIES

- (a) If any State Council member elected by an Electorate Conference is unable to attend all or any part of a meeting of State Council, such member may by letter addressed to the State Director appoint a member of the same Electorate Conference, to act as a proxy member with full voting rights.
- (b) If a State Council member elected by an Electorate Conference fails to appoint a proxy, the Chairman or failing whom the Secretary of that Electorate Conference may do so in a like manner.

(Clause 11.5 amended 10 July 1988, 6 April 1997, 5 April 1998, 12 October 2008, 23 May 2009)

11.6 CONVENING

- (a) Subject to this Constitution all meetings of State Council shall be convened by the Administrative Committee.
- (b) The Administrative Committee shall convene the Annual Meeting of State Council for May or June in every year unless the Administrative Committee determines that there is a compelling reason to hold the Annual Meeting in another month.

- (c) The Administrative Committee shall convene at least one other meeting of State Council in each calendar year where possible.

(Clause 11.6(b) amended 17 July 1994 and (c) added 16 March 2002, Clause 11.6(b) amended 5 December 2021)

11.7 STANDING ORDERS

All meetings of State Council shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders to regulate its conduct and procedures of business as prescribed by the Administrative Committee.

11.8 NOTICE

At least 14 days notice of meetings, together with the proposed agenda, shall be given to all members of State Council unless the Administrative Committee on account of urgent necessity shall otherwise determine.

11.9 QUORUM

100 members of State Council shall constitute a quorum.

11.10 SPECIAL MEETING

- (a) The Administrative Committee shall on a written requisition signed by not less than 50 members of State Council forthwith convene a meeting of State Council.
- (b) Such requisition:
- (i) shall state the objects of the meeting; and
 - (ii) may consist of more than one document in like form.
- (c) Such requisition shall be lodged with the State Director for immediate presentation to the Administrative Committee.
- (d) If the Administrative Committee does not cause the meeting to be held within 28 days of the date of the requisition being lodged the signatories may direct the State Director to convene a meeting which shall not be held more than two months from the date of lodgement of such requisition.
- (e) Any such meeting shall be convened as early as possible in the same manner as a meeting of State Council.

(Clause 11.10(d) amended 26 July 1987)

11.11 AGENDA COMMITTEE

There shall be a State Council Agenda Committee which shall consist of:

- (a) the Chairman elected by the State Assembly;
- (b) the four members elected from and by the State Assembly;
- (c) the four members elected from and by the State Council of whom there shall be one male and one female representing metropolitan Electorate Conferences and one male and one female representing country Electorate Conferences;
- (d) the Chairman of the Liberal Women's Council (Victoria) or her nominee;
- (e) the State President of the Young Liberal Movement or nominee; and
- (f) one metropolitan and one country representative of Area Conferences elected annually by a meeting of Area Conference Chairman.

(Clause 11.11 amended 28 April 2007 and 12 October 2008)

11.12 POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF AGENDA COMMITTEE

The State Council Agenda Committee shall have such powers and functions as may be prescribed from time to time in the Standing Orders of State Council.

11.13 ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTION

No person shall be eligible to nominate for election, or be elected, by State Council to any of the positions described in Clauses 11.2 or 11.2A above, unless at the closing of such nominations and at the time of the relevant State Council that person is a financial Member of the Party.

(Clause 11.13 inserted 12 August 1999 and amended 17 July 1994, then deleted and replaced 19 March 1995, then amended 5 April 1998, 2 April 2005, 12 October 2008)

11.14 ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTION AS A METROPOLITAN OR COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

- (a) No person shall be eligible to nominate for election by State Council to the position of:
- (i) Vice President representing metropolitan Electorate Conferences;
 - (ii) member of the Administrative Committee representing metropolitan Electorate Conferences;
 - (iii) member of the State Council Agenda Committee representing metropolitan Electorate Conferences;

- (iv) member of the State Assembly representing metropolitan Electorate Conferences; unless either that person's place of residence is within a metropolitan State Electorate, or that person is a member of a metropolitan State Electorate Conference or both.
- (b) No person shall be eligible to nominate for election by State Council to the position of:
 - (i) VicePresident representing country Electorate Conferences;
 - (ii) member of the Administrative Committee representing country Electorate Conferences;
 - (iii) member of the State Council Agenda Committee representing country Electorate Conferences;
 - (iv) member of the State Assembly representing country Electorate Conferences;unless that person's place of residence is within a country State Electorate and that person is also a member of a country State Electorate Conference.

(Clause 11.14 deleted and new Clause 11.14 substituted 1 Apr 2001, and then amended 12 Oct 2008, 23 May 2009)

11.15 PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP

For the purpose of Clause 11.1 "permanent member" means a person who was accepted by State Council on 17 November 1991 as a life member of State Council in recognition of that person having been a member of State Council for a continuous period of at least 30 years.

(Clause 11.15 inserted 17 November 1991)

11.16 NOMINATION AND INVESTIGATION OF CANDIDATES

- (a) Nominations for the positions specified in Clauses 11.2, 11.2A and 11.3 shall be submitted not later than the closing date for nominations specified by the Administrative Committee on the form specified for that purpose from time to time by the Administrative Committee and the particulars of each candidate submitted on that form shall be distributed to the members of State Council with the proposed agenda for each Annual Meeting.
- (b) A candidate for the position of State President or other member of the Administrative Committee must be nominated by 10 members of State Council.
- (c) No candidate for election to a position specified in Clauses 11.2, 11.2A and 11.3 shall retain the services of any professional consultant or circularise delegates with any material intended to promote his or her candidacy.
- (d) The State Director shall have the power to investigate the biographical details and qualifications of each candidate for election to a position specified in Clauses 11.2(a) to (c) inclusive, Clause 11.2A and Clause 11.3 and the results of any such investigation shall be reported to State Council by the State Director.

(Clause 11.16 inserted 17 July 1994, amended 12 October 2008, Clause 11.16(b) amended 15 June 2019.)

11.17 PUBLIC STATEMENTS, WRITTEN MATERIAL AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- (a) No Member or Party Officer shall make or cause to be made any public statement regarding any election to be conducted at State Council unless expressly permitted by the Constitution to do so.
- (b) A Member or Party Officer may make or cause to be made an official statement on behalf of the Party regarding an election to be conducted at State Council if expressly authorised by the Administrative Committee to do so.
- (c) A candidate for election to a position specified in Clauses 11.2, 11.2A and 11.3 may announce publicly the fact of his or her candidature and may provide biographical details contained in his or her nomination for that position.
- (d) No Member of the Party shall circulate or cause to be circulated any material of any sort whatsoever which:
 - (i) may;
 - (ii) could; or
 - (iii) is designed to;influence any member of State Council as to how to cast his or her vote in an election conducted at State Council.
- (e) The State Director must provide the contact details of delegates to State Council kept by the Secretariat of the Party to any candidate for an election referred to in Clauses 11.2, 11.2A and 11.3 who requests such a list and the candidate whether he or she receives the list from the State Director or otherwise:
 - (i) may only use that list for the purposes of his or her election at State Council and for no other purpose; and
 - (ii) must not circulate, publish or disclose that list.
- (f) A member of State Council can apply in writing to the State Director to be excluded from the list to be provided to candidates under subclause (e) above.

(Clause 11.17 inserted 17 July 1994, amended 25 March 2000 and 12 Oct 2008)

11.18 PRESELECTION DELEGATES

For Conventions called for the preselection of candidates:

- (a) Members of State Council eligible for selection as delegates to a Convention shall be those Members of the State Council by virtue of sub-clause 11.1(a), (d), (e), (f), (g), (i), (j), (k) except for the President and Vice-Presidents or any Member of Parliament.
- (b) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (a), to be eligible to be selected as a delegate to a Convention as a member of State Council a Member must:
 - (i) in the case of a Convention for an Electorate, not be a Party Member who is entitled to attend the Convention whether because his or her enrolment address is located in the Electorate or he or she is otherwise entitled to attend the Convention;
 - (ii) as at the date of first calling for applications for endorsement, have been a member of the Party for:
 - A. in the case of a member of the Party who became a member after 12 October 2008, the preceding 2 years;
 - B. in the case of a member of the Party as at 12 October 2008, the preceding 12 months;
 - (iii) not, on two occasions in the same Round of Preselections (as defined in subclause 23.2B(b)), have declined or failed to attend a Convention as a delegate from State Council when selected under this Clause to so attend.
- (c) From the names of all eligible members of the State Council the State Director as soon as practicable after the fixing of the date for a Convention shall by separate ballot randomly select from amongst the eligible male and from amongst the eligible female members the names of all such male and female members and shall list such names in the order in which they were balloted.
- (d) The order in which the names of such State Council members were drawn in such a random ballot shall be kept by the State Director, with the full list available to be viewed by scrutineers (nominated by any applicant for endorsement at the relevant Convention) and when it becomes clear at any stage that a certain number of State Council delegates, or additional delegates, will be required for the Convention, the State Director shall, as soon as practicable, take an equal number of names from such list of male members and from such list of female members in the order in which they were first randomly selected, so that when such names are added together they shall equal the number of delegates required, with the final determination of the delegates required to fill the number of State Council delegates to such a Convention to be made on the date set by the Administrative Committee under Clause 22.11A.
- (e) Where a person so selected is unable or ineligible to attend a Convention, the State Director shall select from such male list of delegates and from such female list of delegates, the names of such additional members as are required to fill a vacancy caused by a delegate being unable or ineligible to attend such a Convention and such a vacancy shall be filled in the order in which such male and such female names were randomly selected during the composition of such lists.
- (f) The delegates of State Council so selected in accordance with this clause shall be delegates to the Convention as provided by subclauses 23.2(d), 23.2A(e) and 26.3(f).
- (g) The State Director shall notify delegates of State Council who are selected in accordance with this Clause. Such notification may, in addition to any other method of giving notice authorised by this Constitution, be given by telephone or by message left at the delegate's telephone number. a delegate who intends to take up appointment as a delegate to the Convention shall inform the State Director of that intention:
 - (i) Within five (5) Business Days of being notified, if notification of the delegate's selection occurs more than 14 days prior to the Convention; or
 - (ii) within 48 hours of being notified, if notification of the delegate's selection occurs 14 days or less prior to the Convention;otherwise that delegate shall be taken to be unable to attend the Convention and shall be replaced in accordance with subclause (e) above.

(Clause 11.18 inserted 25 March 2000, amended 1 April 2001, 24 July 2004, 8 April 2006, 12 October 2008, 23 May 2009, and 1-2 April 2017, 15 June 2019. Clause 11.18 (a), (c) and (d) amended 15 June 2019)

(Clause 11.19 inserted 24 July 2004 and deleted 12 October 2008)

12. State Parliamentary Party

12.1 MEMBERSHIP

The State Parliamentary Party shall consist of those Members elected to the State Parliament in either House as endorsed candidates, and such other Members of the Party who have been elected to the State Parliament as the State Parliamentary Party shall determine.

12.2 LEADERSHIP AND OFFICERS

The State Parliamentary Party shall appoint a Leader, Deputy Leader and other officers and shall govern its affairs according to its own rules.

12.3 STATE PARTY PLATFORM

The State Parliamentary Party shall be responsible for the implementation of the State Party Platform.

12.4 POLICY DECISIONS OF STATE COUNCIL

The State Parliamentary Party shall consider policy decisions of the State Council forwarded to it and shall communicate its decisions and reasons to the Administrative Committee within a reasonable time.

12.5 SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Constitution the Parliamentary Party may, in accordance with its rules, suspend or terminate a Member's membership of the State Parliamentary Party.

12A. Local Government

12A.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

The Victorian Liberal Local Government Council (also known as the Local Government Council) shall consist of those Members elected to Local Councils in Victoria including City Councils, Shire Councils, Rural City Councils, and Borough Councils.

12A.2 DUTY OF MEMBERS

It shall be the duty of all members of the Local Government Council to strive for good governance in Local Government, to enhance community wellbeing and prosperity in Victoria, and to not bring the Local Government Council or the Party into disrepute.

12A.3 LEADERSHIP

The Executive Committee, office bearers and all other committee members of the Local Government Council shall be elected or appointed in accordance with its own rules and terms.

12A.4 RULES FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

The Local Government Council may, with the approval of the Administrative Committee, promulgate and amend rules for the conduct of the affairs of the Local Government Council.

12A.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE

The Administrative Committee shall establish a Local Government Endorsement Committee consisting of such Members of the Party as the Administrative Committee determines from time to time and operating in accordance with standing orders determined by the Administrative Committee.

12A.6 ROLE OF COMMITTEE

The role of the Local Government Endorsement Committee is to manage the process of developing processes and strategies whereby the Party may endorse candidates for the 2024 Local Government elections and to prepare and propose relevant constitutional amendments for consideration at the 2024 Annual Meeting of State Council.

(Division 12A inserted 15 June 2019, heading amended and clauses 12A.5 and 12A.6 inserted 23 September 2023)

13. Administrative Committee

13.1 MEMBERSHIP

There shall be an Administrative Committee which shall consist of:

- (a) the State President;
- (b) the four Vice Presidents;
- (c) the Treasurer;
- (d) the immediate past President if still a Party Member;
- (e) [Not used]
- (f) the Chairman of the Liberal Women's Council (Victoria) or nominee;
- (g) the State President of the Young Liberal Movement or nominee;

- (h) the eight persons elected by State Council;
- (i) the Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Party or nominee, and
- (j) the Leader of the State Parliamentary Party or nominee.

(Clauses 13.1 (f) and (g) amended 8 April 2006. Clause 13.1 (f) amended 28 April 2007. Clause 13.1(e) deleted 28 May 2011)

13.2 CASUAL VACANCY - STATE PRESIDENT

If a casual vacancy occurs in the office of State President the State Assembly shall elect by preferential ballot from among the current non-parliamentary Members of the Party an Acting President who shall hold office until the next meeting of State Council, which shall elect by preferential ballot from among the current non-parliamentary Members of the Party a State President who shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting of State Council.

(Clause 13.2 amended 12 October 2008, 15 June 2019)

13.3 CASUAL VACANCIES - OTHER POSITIONS

In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the position of a Vice President, the Treasurer or any member of the Administrative Committee elected by State Council, the State Assembly shall elect a replacement from amongst the current non-parliamentary Members of the Party in the relevant category, if any (or, in the case of the position of Treasurer, from amongst the Members of the Party), and the replacement shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting of State Council.

(Clause 13.3 amended 15 June 2019)

13.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

Subject to the direction of State Council, the Administrative Committee shall conduct the business and affairs of the Party other than policy formulation in conformity with the spirit of the policy and Platform of the Party and shall have such other powers and functions as may be conferred upon it from time to time by State Council.

13.5 QUORUM

10 members of the Administrative Committee shall constitute a quorum.

13.6 NOTICE

Seven days notice shall be given of meetings of the Administrative Committee except in cases of urgent necessity, in which case the quorum shall be 12 members.

13.7 REPORT

The Administrative Committee shall present a report of its activities to each State Council and such report shall be circulated to all Branches, Electorate Conferences and Regional Electorate Councils.

(Clause 13.7 amended 23 May 2009)

13.8 CHAIRMAN

The State President or else a Vice President appointed by the State President shall chair each meeting of the Administrative Committee.

14. State Assembly

14.1 MEMBERSHIP

There shall be a State Assembly which shall consist of:

- (a) the members of the Administrative Committee;
- (b) the Deputy Leader of the State Parliamentary Party or nominee;
- (c) two members of the Legislative Assembly and two members of the Legislative Council elected by and from the State Parliamentary Party;
- (d) all Victorian Senators who are members of the Federal Parliamentary Party;
- (e) one Victorian Federal Member of Parliament elected by and from the Federal Parliamentary Party;
- (f) the male and female delegates elected by each Federal Electorate Conference;
- (g) the 60 persons elected by the State Council; and
- (h) all Victorian nonparliamentary members of the Federal Executive of the Liberal Party of Australia.

In addition, each Chairman of each Electorate Conference and Regional Electorate Council who is not a member of State Assembly shall be entitled to attend each meeting of State Assembly with the right to speak and ask questions but not to vote.

Notwithstanding subclause 14.1(a), a person appointed as a nominee under subclause 13.1(f) or (g) does not become a member of State Assembly by virtue of that appointment.

(Clause 14.1 amended 25 July 1993, 28 April 2007, 12 October 2008)

14.2 TERM

Members elected to State Assembly shall take up their positions (and their predecessors shall cease to hold office):

- (a) in the case of all elected members other than Federal Electorate Conference delegates under clause 14.1(f), from the first meeting of State Assembly held after the Annual Meeting of State Council; and
- (b) in the case of Federal Electorate Conference delegates to State Assembly under clause 14.1(f), in accordance with clause 19.13A(b).

(Clause 14.2 amended 12 October 2008, 25 May 2013)

14.3 CASUAL VACANCIES

- (a) In the event of any casual vacancy occurring in any of the State Assembly positions elected by State Council, the State Assembly shall elect a replacement delegate from among the current nonparliamentary members of State Council in the relevant category of membership.
- (b) In the event of any casual vacancy occurring in any of the State Assembly positions elected by Parliamentary members, the appropriate Parliamentary Party shall elect a replacement delegate.

(Clause 14.3 amended 12 October 2008)

14.4 FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The State Assembly subject to this Constitution and any direction of State Council:

- (a) shall be responsible for questions of relations between the Liberal Party and other Political Parties;
- (b) (paragraph (b) deleted 12 October 2008)
- (c) shall be responsible for questions of readmission, expulsion or suspension of Members;
- (d) may establish such Standing Committees and other Policy Committees as it sees fit; and
- (e) may regulate its own procedures and affairs and may make Standing Orders for that purpose which may be subject to such limitations on their amendment or suspension as State Assembly decides.

(Clause 14.4 amended 12 August 1990, 12 October 2008)

14.5 ELECTIONS

The State Assembly shall elect annually by preferential ballot in the case of subclauses (ab), (d) and (e) below and Proportional representation in the case of subclauses (a), (f), (g), (h) and (i) below:

- (a) from amongst its nonParliamentary members three men and three women who shall be delegates to the Federal Council of the Liberal Party of Australia in addition to the State President, the four Vice-Presidents, the Chairman of the Liberal Women's Council (Victoria) and the State President of the Young Liberal Movement. If, after two male or two female places have been filled:
 - (i) no member from a country Electorate Conference has been elected in that category, if possible the third position shall be filled by the member of a country Electorate Conference polling the highest number of votes in that category (taking into account the distribution of preferences); or
 - (ii) no member from a metropolitan Electorate Conference has been elected in that category, if possible the third position shall be filled by the member of a metropolitan Electorate Conference polling the highest number of votes in that category (taking into account the distribution of preferences);
- (ab) from amongst its nonParliamentary members one delegate to the Federal Rural Committee;
- (b)
- (c)
- (d) from amongst its nonparliamentary members, four delegates to the Joint Standing Committee on State Policy of whom there shall be:
 - (i) one male from metropolitan Electorate Conferences;
 - (ii) one female from metropolitan Electorate Conferences;
 - (iii) one male from country Electorate Conferences; and
 - (iv) one female from country Electorate Conferences;

- (e) a Chairman of the State Council Agenda Committee;
- (f) from amongst its nonparliamentary members, four members of the State Council Agenda Committee;
- (g) four delegates to the Young Liberal Movement Council none of whom shall be members of the Young Liberal Movement;
- (h) eight members of a Steering Committee comprising nine members, the Chairman of which shall be appointed by the State President from amongst the members of State Assembly;
- (i) the four members of the Senate Campaign Committee.

(Clause 14.5 amended 25 July 1989, 17 November 1991, 17 July 1994, 6 April 1997, 28 April 2007, 12 October 2008, 23 May 2009)

14.6 NOTICE OF MEETINGS

At least seven days notice of meeting shall be given to all State Assembly members and endorsed Senate candidates.

(Clause 14.6 amended 12 October 2008)

14.7 FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

State Assembly shall meet at least every two months.

(Clause 14.7 amended 12 October 2008)

14.8 QUORUM

A quorum of State Assembly shall be 50 members of whom at least 20 shall be members of country Electorate Conferences.

(Clause 14.8 amended 12 October 2008)

14.9 CHAIRMAN

The State President or else a Vice President appointed by the State President shall chair each meeting of the State Assembly.

(Clause 14.9 amended 12 October 2008)

14.10 REPORT

State Assembly shall present a report to the Annual Meeting of State Council and such report shall include details of its activities.

(Clause 14.10 amended 12 October 2008)

14.11 CANDIDATES

Endorsed Senate candidates may attend and speak at meetings of the State Assembly.

(Clause 14.11 amended 12 October 2008)

14.12 MOTIONS

State Assembly and each of its Policy Committees may submit motions for inclusion in the State Council agenda.

(Clause 14.12 amended 12 October 2008)

14.13 PROXIES

- (a) If a delegate elected by a Federal Electorate Conference, or the Chairman of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council, is unable to attend all or part of a meeting of State Assembly, that person may by letter addressed to the State Director appoint another member of the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council to act as his or her proxy (with full voting rights in the case of a proxy for a delegate elected by a Federal Electorate Conference).
- (b) To avoid uncertainty, this Clause 14.13 does not entitle a delegate to State Assembly to appoint a proxy in the case of a Convention for the Senate.

(Clause 14.13 inserted 12 October 2008) (Title of Division 14 amended 12 October 2008)

15. Standing Committees of Administrative Committee

15.1 COMMITTEES

There shall be the following Standing Committees of Administrative Committee:

- (a) Federal Seats;
- (b) State Seats;
- (c) State Campaign Strategy;
- (d) Rural and Regional;
- (e) Membership and Branch Development;
- (f) Constitutional;
- (g) Media and Communications;
- (h) Training;
- (i) Senate Campaign;
- (j) (Subclause 15.1 (e) deleted 28 April 2018)
- (k) Communities Engagement Committee.

(Clause 15.1 amended 17 November 1991, 6 April 1997, 5 April 1998, 1 April 2001, 3-4 April 2004, 8 April 2006, 12 October 2008, 28 April 2018)

15.2 FEDERAL SEATS

The Federal Seats Committee shall consist of:

- (a) seven members appointed annually by the Administrative Committee;
- (b) a Chairman appointed by the State President; and
- (c) three members appointed by and from the Federal Parliamentary Party.

(Clause 15.2 amended 3-4 April 2004, 28 May 2011)

15.3 STATE SEATS

The State Seats Committee shall consist of:

- (a) seven members appointed annually by the Administrative Committee;
- (b) a Chairman appointed by the State President; and
- (c) three members appointed by and from the State Parliamentary Party.

(Clause 15.3 amended 3-4 April 2004, 28 May 2011)

15.4 STATE CAMPAIGN STRATEGY

The State Campaign Strategy Committee shall consist of:

- (a) the State President who shall act as Chairman;
- (b) the Leader of the State Parliamentary Party;
- (c) the State Director;
- (d) the Chairman of the State Seats Committee;
- (e) two members appointed annually by the State President; and
- (f) one member of the State Parliamentary Party appointed by the Leader of the State Parliamentary Party.

(Clause 15.4 inserted 3-4 April 2004)

15.5 RURAL AND REGIONAL

(a) The Rural and Regional Committee shall consist of:

- (i) the State President;
- (ii) the two Vice Presidents representing country Electorate Conferences;
- (iii) all four Administrative Committee members representing country Electorate Conferences;
- (iv) four members of country Electorate Conferences appointed annually by the Administrative Committee;
- (v) one member appointed by and from the Federal Parliamentary Party; and
- (vi) one member appointed by and from the State Parliamentary Party.

(b) The Chairman shall be appointed by the State President from amongst the members of the Administrative Committee representing country Electorate Conferences.

(Clause 15.5 inserted 3-4 April 2004, amended 12 October 2008)

15.6 MEMBERSHIP AND BRANCH DEVELOPMENT

The Membership and Branch Development Committee shall consist of:

- (a) eight members appointed annually by the Administrative Committee;
- (b) a Chairman appointed by the State President;
- (c) one member appointed by and from the Federal Parliamentary Party; and
- (d) one member appointed by and from the State Parliamentary Party.

(Clause 15.4 renumbered to 15.6 3-4 April 2004, amended 8 April 2006, 28 May 2011)

15.7 CONSTITUTIONAL

The Constitutional Committee shall consist of:

- (a) up to eight members appointed annually by the Administrative Committee;
- (b) a Chairman appointed by the State President;
- (c) one member appointed by and from the Federal Parliamentary Party; and
- (d) one member appointed by and from the State Parliamentary Party.

(Clause 15.5 renumbered to 15.7 3-4 April 2004)

15.8 MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

The Media & Communications Committee shall consist of:

- (a) eight members appointed annually by the Administrative Committee;
- (b) a Chairman appointed by the State President;
- (c) one member appointed by and from the Federal Parliamentary Party; and
- (d) one member appointed by and from the State Parliamentary Party.

(Clause 15.6 renumbered to 15.8 3-4 April 2004, amended 28 May 2011)

15.9 TRAINING

(a) The Training Committee shall consist of:

- (i) eight members appointed annually by the Administrative Committee; and
- (ii) a Chairman appointed by the State President.

(b) The Administrative Committee may appoint one or more subcommittees of the Training Committee, each of which shall be chaired by a member of the Training Committee, for the purpose of conducting particular training programs or events.

(Clause 15.7 deleted and new Clause 15.7 substituted 1 April 2001, Clause 15.7 renumbered to 15.9 3-4 April 2004, amended 28 May 2011)

15.10 SENATE CAMPAIGN

The Senate Campaign Committee shall consist of:

- (a) A Chairman appointed by the State President;
- (b) Four members elected annually by the State Assembly;
- (c) All Victorian Senators.

(Clause 15.8 inserted 6 April 1997, Clause 15.8 renumbered to 15.10 3-4 April 2004 and amended 12 Oct 2008)

15.11 (DELETED)

(Clause 15.11 deleted on 28 April 2018)

15.11A COMMUNITIES ENGAGEMENT

The Communities Engagement Committee shall consist of:

- (a) a chairman appointed by the State President; and
- (b) eight members appointed annually by the Administrative Committee.

(Clause 15.11A inserted 12 October 2008, amended 28 May 2011)

15.12 MOTIONS

Each Standing Committee may submit motions for inclusion in the State Council agenda.

(Renumbered 6 April 1997 and 3-4 April 2004)

15.13 NOTIFICATION

The Administrative Committee shall notify Electorate Conferences of the membership of each Standing Committee.

(Renumbered 6 April 1997 and 3-4 April 2004. Clause 15.13 amended 12 October 2008)

16. State Campaign Conference

16.1 MEMBERSHIP

There shall be a State Campaign Conference consisting of:

- (a) the State President;
- (b) the State Director;
- (c) all members of the State Parliamentary Party;
- (d) all endorsed candidates for the next State Election;
- (e) all Chairmen of State Electorate Conferences and Regional Electorate Councils;
- (f) no more than one other person per Electorate Conference and Regional Electorate Council nominated by each State Electorate Conference and Regional Electorate Council Chairman as the 'Campaign Chairman';
- (g) the Chairman of the State Seats Committee;
- (h) other members as determined by the State President.

(Clause 16.1 (formerly Clause 16A.1) amended 12 October 2008)

16.2 CHAIRMAN

All meetings shall be chaired by the State President or nominee.

16.3 RESPONSIBILITY

The State Campaign Conference shall be a forum devoted to State campaign preparations, training and communication between Party members, members of the State Parliamentary Party, candidates and the employed staff and officials of the Party.

16.4 MEETINGS

- (a) Meetings shall be called by the State President or the State Director.
- (b) 14 days notice of meetings shall be provided to all members, save that the State President or Director may waive the notice period on account of urgent necessity.
- (c) Casual non-receipt of notice by any member shall not invalidate the meeting.
- (d) Meetings of the State Campaign Conference may be convened in separate parts, based on the regional association of electorates, at the discretion of the Administrative Committee.

(Initial Division 16 (Joint Standing Committee on State Policy) was deleted on 3-4 April 2004. The above was initially inserted as Division 16A on 3-4 April 2004, and renumbered and amended on 12 October 2008)

17. Party Officers

17.1 STATE DIRECTOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

The Administrative Committee may engage upon such terms as it thinks fit:

- (a) a State Director; and
- (b) such other administrative staff as it considers necessary.

17.2 EXECUTIVE OFFICER WOMEN'S SECTIONS

- (a) The Administrative Committee shall appoint an Executive Officer of the Women's Sections whose duties shall include matters pertaining to the administration of the Women's Sections.
- (b) Prior to the appointment of such Executive Officer the Administrative Committee shall consult with the Chairman of the Liberal Women's Council (Victoria).

(Clause 17.2 (b) amended 28 April 2007)

18. Financial Affairs

18.1 STATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

There shall be a State Finance Committee which shall consist of:

- (a) From current Party members although not from the current members of the Administrative Committee, a Chairman appointed by the Administrative Committee;
- (b) The President and immediate past State President if still a Party member;
- (c) the Treasurer;
- (d) not less than five members appointed by the Administrative Committee each for a period of three years and who shall each be eligible for reappointment; and
- (e) (Deleted).

(Clause 18.1(a) amended 28 April 2018, clause 18.1(e) deleted on 28 April 2018)

18.2 DUTIES

Subject to the direction of State Council and the Administrative Committee, the State Finance Committee shall deal with the income and expenditure of the Party.

(Clause 18.2 amended 15 June 2019)

18.3 RULES

Subject to the direction of the Administrative Committee the State Finance Committee may promulgate rules to give effect to the decisions of State Council and the Administrative Committee relating to the financial affairs of the Party.

18.4 TRUSTEES APPOINTMENT

The Administrative Committee shall appoint three members of the State Finance Committee to be Trustees who shall hold the income and property of the Party on trust for its Members.

18.5 TRUSTEES PERIOD OF OFFICE

The Trustees shall hold office until resignation or removal by resolution of the Administrative Committee which shall have the power to fill any vacancy.

18.6 (DELETED)

(Clause 18.6 deleted on 28 April 2018)

18.7 (DELETED)

(Clause 18.6 deleted on 28 April 2018)

18.8 INCOME AND PROPERTY

All income and property of the Party shall be applied towards the objects of the Party and no portion shall be paid in any manner by way of dividends, bonus or otherwise by way of profit or benefits to the Members of the Party.

18.9 REMUNERATION

Nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration whether by way of salary or honoraria or otherwise for any service actually rendered to or for the Party, to any officers or servants of the Party or to any Member or other person.

18.10 INDEMNITY OF PARTY OFFICE BEARERS

The Party shall indemnify all persons who are or have been members of the Administrative Committee or the State Finance Committee, or who represent the Party as a delegate to a Committee of the Federal Liberal Party of Australia, or officers of the Party referred to in Clause 17 against any liability incurred by them in the bona fide execution of their duties, or arising from the positions or offices they hold, except liability to the Party itself or to a body corporate affiliated with the Party.

Such indemnity shall not apply where the liability arises out of conduct on the part of such person which involves a lack of good faith. It shall not be necessary for the person claiming the indemnity to have paid or discharged the liability incurred.

(Clause 18.10 inserted 6 April 1997)

19. Electorate Conferences and Regional Electorate Councils

19.1 COMPOSITION

- (a) There shall be an Electorate Conference in each Federal and State Electorate which shall consist of:
- (i) All members of that Electorate Conference;
 - (ii) The Member(s) of Parliament for the Electorate of the Electorate Conference or, where an alternate candidate to that Member has been endorsed, that endorsed candidate.
- (b) The following, except where they fall within paragraph (a) above, shall be entitled to attend and speak at any meeting of the Electorate Conference, but shall not be entitled to vote on any matter considered by the Electorate Conference:
- (i) All Members of Parliament and endorsed candidates the boundaries of whose Electorates fall wholly or partly within the Electorate boundaries of the Electorate Conference;
 - (ii) In the case of a Federal Electorate Conference, the Chairman of each State Electorate Conference the boundaries of which fall wholly or partly within the boundaries of that Federal Electorate Conference; and
 - (iii) In the case of a State Electorate Conference, the Chairman of each Federal Electorate Conference the boundaries of which fall wholly or partly within the boundaries of that State Electorate Conference.
- (c) (Subclause 19.1(c) deleted 12 October 2008)
- (d) There shall be a Regional Electorate Council for each Region which shall consist of one male and one female delegate elected by each State Electorate Conference in that Region at the Conference's Annual Meeting, the office bearers of the Council elected under clause 19.13(a) or 19.14 and the Liberal member(s) of Parliament and endorsed Liberal candidates for the Region.
- (e) The following, except where they fall within paragraph (d) above, shall be entitled to attend and speak at any meeting of the Regional Electorate Council, but shall not be entitled to vote on any matter considered by the Council:
- (i) All Members of Parliament and endorsed candidates the boundaries of whose Electorates fall wholly or partly within the Region's boundaries; and
 - (ii) The Chairman of each Electorate Conference the boundaries of which fall wholly or partly within the boundaries of that Region.

(Clause 19.1 replaced 29-30 March 2003 and amended 12 October 2008, 23 May 2009)

19.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

Electorate Conferences and Regional Electorate Councils shall within their own Electorates:

- (a) facilitate the general activities of Branches and Women's Sections;
- (b) conduct the election campaigns of the endorsed candidate for that Electorate and coordinate the campaign activities of Branches;
- (c) assist in the formation of new Branches;
- (d) raise funds; and
- (e) consider policy matters.

(Clause 19.2 amended 12 October 2008)

19.3 (CLAUSE 19.3 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

19.4 RESOLUTIONS

Each Electorate Conference and Regional Electorate Council shall be entitled to submit resolutions on any matter to State Council, Administrative Committee, State Assembly and/or the relevant Area Conference.

(Clause 19.4 amended 12 October 2008)

19.5 INAUGURAL MEETING

The State Director or his or her nominee shall convene the inaugural meeting of each Electorate Conference and Regional Electorate Council and shall hand over the meeting to the Chairman immediately the Chairman is elected.

(Clause 19.5 amended 12 October 2008)

19.5A REDISTRIBUTION

Where a redistribution or redivision of Electorate or Region boundaries takes place:

- (a) the Administrative Committee shall determine a changeover date on and from which Electorate Conferences and Regional Electorate Councils for Electorates or Regions on the former boundaries shall cease to exist (unless reconstituted pursuant to paragraph (d) (ii) below), and Electorate Conferences and Regional Electorate Councils for Electorates and Regions on the new boundaries shall come into existence;
- (b) if it is satisfied that an Electorate or Region on the former boundaries is substantially continued as an Electorate or Region on the new boundaries (whether or not bearing the same name), the Administrative Committee may declare that the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council for the former Electorate or Region shall continue in existence without the need for an inaugural meeting;
- (c) except in the case of an Electorate or Region which is the subject of a declaration pursuant to paragraph (b) above, the State Director or his or her nominee shall convene an inaugural meeting of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council for each Electorate or Region on the new boundaries;
- (d) where a by-election takes place after the changeover date but which is to be contested on the former boundaries, the Administrative Committee may:
 - (i) direct that the by-election campaign shall be conducted by an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council constituted on the new boundaries which substantially overlaps the relevant former Electorate or Region (whether or not such Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council was the subject of a direction pursuant to paragraph (b) above); or
 - (ii) reconstitute an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council on the former boundaries for the duration of the by-election campaign on such terms as it thinks appropriate – but in either case shall retain the power conferred by Clause 19.20 to decide that the State Director shall be responsible for the conduct of the campaign.

(Clause 19.5A inserted 29-30 March 2003 and amended 12 October 2008, 25 May 2013)

19.6 ANNUAL MEETING

- (a) Each Federal Electorate Conference and State Electorate Conference shall hold an Annual Meeting in the months of February or March and each Regional Electorate Conference shall hold an Annual Meeting in the months of March or April each year or in such other month or months as the Administrative Committee may determine.
- (b) At each Annual Meeting of an Electorate Conference and Regional Electorate Council the Treasurer shall present:
 - (i) An audited income and expenditure statement for the previous Financial Year and balance sheet as at the last day of the previous Financial Year; and
 - (ii) An (unaudited) income and expenditure statement for the period from the end of the previous Financial Year until the date of the Annual Meeting, for the consideration of the meeting.

(Clause 19.6 amended 17 July 1994, 2 April 2005, 12 October 2008, Clause 19.6(a) amended 5 December 2021)

19.6A ANNUAL RETURN

Within three weeks of holding the Annual Meeting each Electorate Conference and Regional Electorate Council shall forward to the State Director an annual return on a form or in a manner approved by the Administrative Committee containing:

- (a) particulars of the office bearers;
- (b) such other information as may be required;
- (c) in the case of a Federal Electorate Conference:
 - (i) particulars of State Assembly delegates;
 - (ii) particulars of State Council delegates; and
- (d) in the case of a State Electorate Conference, particulars of State Council delegates.

(Clause 19.6A inserted 13 November 1999, and amended 12 October 2008)

19.7 NO ANNUAL MEETING

If a period of fifteen (15) months or more has elapsed since the last Annual Meeting of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council the State Director shall forthwith convene the Annual Meeting of that Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council unless the Administrative Committee otherwise determines.

(Clause 19.7 amended 12 October 2008)

19.8 CONVENING OF MEETINGS

A meeting of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council may be convened:

- (a) by a resolution of the previous meeting;
- (b) upon written request of:
 - (i) in the case of an Electorate Conference, the lesser of twenty (20) Members of the Electorate Conference or twenty per cent (20%) of the members of the Electorate Conference; or
 - (ii) in the case of a Regional Electorate Council, the lesser of five (5) members of the Electorate Council or twenty per cent (20%) of the members of the Electorate Council; or
- (c) by direction of the Chairman of the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council, and unless approval to hold a lesser number of meetings of an Electorate Conference is obtained from the Administrative Committee, at least three (3) meetings between successive Annual Meetings shall be convened whereas in the case of a Regional Electorate Council, at least two (2) meetings shall be held between successive Annual Meetings; or
- (d) if there is no Chairman, by the State Director, in consultation with the female Vice Chairman and male Vice Chairman wherever possible.

(Clause 19.8 amended 5 April 1998, 24 July 2004, 12 October 2008, Clause 19(d) inserted 23 September 2023)

19.9 NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- (a) Subject to clause 23.4A(c), at least fourteen days written notice of all Electorate Conference and Regional Electorate Council Meetings shall be given to the members of the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council as the case may be and, if an election is to be held to fill a casual vacancy at the meeting, the notice shall include notice of that election.
- (b) In the case of the Annual Meetings of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council, at least fourteen days special notice of the meeting shall be given to:
 - (i) the State Director;
 - (ii) the members of the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council as the case may be.

(Clause 19.9 amended 5 April 1998, 13 November 1999, 12 October 2008, 23 May 2009, 15 June 2019)

19.10 CASUAL NONRECEIPT OF NOTICE

Casual nonreceipt by a person to whom notice of a meeting of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council must be given shall not affect the validity of that meeting.

(Clause 19.10 amended 12 October 2008)

19.11 PROXIES FOR REGIONAL ELECTORATE COUNCIL MEETINGS

- (a) If a delegate to a Regional Electorate Council is unable to attend all or any part of a meeting of the Electorate Council, that delegate may by letter addressed to the Chairman of the Electorate Council appoint a member of the same State Electorate Conference to act as his or her proxy delegate with full voting rights.
- (b) If a delegate fails to appoint a proxy under clause 19(a), the Chairman, or failing him or her, the Secretary, of the State Electorate Conference, may do so in the same manner.
- (c) No delegate may be represented at any meeting by a proxy under this clause if the delegate is present at the meeting.

(Clause 19.11 inserted 23 May 2009)

19.12 QUORUM

The quorum for each meeting of:

- (a) a Federal Electorate Conference shall be the lesser of 15 Members, or 15% of the Members, of the Electorate Conference;
- (b) a State Electorate Conference shall be the lesser of 10 Members, or 15% of the Members, of the Electorate Conference;
- (c) a Regional Electorate Council shall be the lesser of 12 Members, or 20% of the Members, of the Electorate Council.

(Clause 19.12 amended 12 October 2008, 23 May 2009, 15 October 2011, 9 April 2016)

19.12A CONDUCT OF MEETINGS BY TELEPHONE OR VIDEOCONFERENCE

Electorate Conference and Regional Electorate Council meetings may be conducted by, or include members present by, telephone or videoconference or like facilities, subject to compliance with any procedures prescribed by the Administrative Committee for the conduct of meetings in that manner.

(Clause 19.12A (Guaranteed State Council Representation) inserted 5 April 1998 and deleted 12 October 2008; reinserted in current form 15 October 2011)

19.13 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND DELEGATES

- (1) Each Electorate Conference and Regional Electorate Council shall at its inaugural meeting and at each Annual Meeting elect:
 - (a) from amongst the non-parliamentary members of the Electorate Conference or the members of the State Electorate Conferences for the State Electorates within the Region (as the case may be):
 - (i) a Chairman;
 - (ii) a female Vice Chairman;
 - (iii) a male Vice Chairman;
 - (iv) a Secretary;
 - (v) a Treasurer;
 - (vi) such other office bearers as the meeting considers necessary; and
 - (vii) such other Executive Committee general members as the meeting considers necessary; and
 - (b) in the case of an Electorate Conference, from amongst the non-parliamentary members of the Electorate Conference:
 - (i) a Membership and Branch Development Officer who is an office bearer and shall present a written annual report to the State Director and to the Annual Meeting of the Electorate Conference;
 - (ii) one male and one female delegate to State Council for the first 20 members of that Electorate Conference and one additional male and one additional female delegate for each 40 members after that (rounded, in the case of any odd number, up to the nearest even number to achieve gender equality); and
 - (c) in the case of Federal Electorate Conferences, from amongst the non-parliamentary members of the Electorate Conference, one male and female delegate to State Assembly.
- (2) Within seven days after the declaration of the result of any election of delegates to State Assembly or State Council by an Electorate Conference, the State Director shall send by electronic mail a list of the delegates so elected to each member of the Electorate Conference whose email address is held in the records of the Party.

(Clause 19.13 amended 5 April 1998, 8 April 2006, 12 October 2008, 23 May 2009, and 1-2 April 2017, Clause 19.13 renumbered 19.13(1) and Clause 19.13(2) inserted 15 June 2019)

19.13AA CALCULATING NUMBER OF DELEGATES

The number of eligible members of an Electorate Conference for the purpose of Clause 19.13 shall be the number of persons who are disclosed by the records held by the State Director as members of the Electorate Conference as at August 31 immediately prior to the Annual Meeting of the Electorate Conference.

(Clause 19.13AA inserted 12 October 2008)

19.13A TENURE OF OFFICE BEARERS AND DELEGATES

- (a) Office bearers and committee members elected by an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council pursuant to Clause 19.13, take office upon the conclusion of the election of office bearers and committee members at the meeting at which they are elected, and hold office until the conclusion of the election of office bearers and committee members at the next Annual Meeting.
- (b) Delegates elected by an Electorate Conference pursuant to Clause 19.13:
 - (i) take office upon the conclusion of the election of delegates at the meeting at which they are elected, or on 1 May of the year in which the Annual Meeting at which they were elected was required to be held by clause 19.6 (whichever is later); and
 - (ii) hold office until 1 May of the year in which the next election of delegates is required at an Annual Meeting held under Clause 19.6 or if, by determination of the Administrative Committee pursuant to subclause 19.6(a) the next such Annual Meeting is held after 31 March, until the end of the period determined by the Administrative Committee or until the conclusion of the election of delegates at the next Annual Meeting (whichever is earlier).

(Clause 19.13A initially inserted 6 April 1997 and amended 13 November 1999. Deleted and replaced 12 October 2008. Clause 19.13A(b)(ii) amended 15 June 2019, Clause 19.13A(b) deleted and replaced 5 December 2021)

19.13B NO DUAL DELEGATESHIPS

- (a) If a Member is elected as a delegate to State Council in respect of the same year from both their Federal Electorate Conference and their State Electorate Conference, the Member must resign from one of those positions within two weeks of being declared elected to the second of those positions.
- (b) If a Member fails to resign from a position as required by paragraph (a), the Member is thereupon deemed to have resigned from the second position to which they were declared elected.
- (c) Where a Member so resigns or is deemed to have resigned from a position, there shall be a countback of the ballot papers for the election at which the Member was elected, at which the quota of votes that elected that Member together with the votes held by the previously unsuccessful candidates shall be counted by preferential ballot in order to elect a replacement.

(Clause 19.13B inserted 15 June 2019)

19.14 CASUAL VACANCIES

An Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council shall elect a replacement to fill a casual vacancy in any position elected by the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council.

(Clause 19.14 amended 12 May 1996 and 12 October 2008)

19.15 NOMINATION OF DELEGATES

- (a) Nominations for election as
 - (i) the delegate of a Federal Electorate Conference to State Assembly, or
 - (ii) the delegate of a Federal Electorate Conference or State Electorate Conference to State Council, or
 - (iii) the delegate of a State Electorate Conference to a Regional Electorate Council shall close at 5.00pm on the day two Business Days prior to the day of the meeting at which the election is to be held.
- (b) Nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary of the relevant Conference on the form specified for that purpose from time to time by the Administrative Committee.
- (c) Each candidate for election to State Assembly shall have the right to address the meeting at which the election is held and answer questions from persons present at the meeting for such period as the meeting shall determine (which shall not be less than 2 minutes).¹
- (d) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all delegate positions, the persons who were nominated shall be declared elected, nominations for the remaining positions shall be taken from the floor of the meeting and any necessary election shall be held to fill those remaining positions.

(Clause 19.15 amended 17 July 1994, 12 October 2008, replaced 15 June 2019)

(Clause 19.15A inserted 28 March 1999 and deleted 12 October 2008)

19.16 ELECTIONS AND VOTING

- (a) At all meetings of each Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council:
 - (i) each election of office bearers and/or delegates as the case may be shall be conducted by a returning officer who shall be a member of the Party appointed prior to the meeting by the Executive Committee or in the absence of such resolution appointed by the meeting, and who may exercise all the powers of a meeting chairman while conducting the elections;
 - (ii) all elections shall be by preferential ballot save that for elections for multi-member positions in the case of Electorate Conferences, the system shall be Proportional representation;
 - (iii) all elections are by secret ballot;
 - (iv) except during elections, the person chairing the meeting shall have a deliberative and a casting vote;
 - (v) where a casting vote is required in an election, that casting vote shall be exercised by the person who held office as Chairman at the start of the meeting or, if that person is not present, by whichever of the Vice-Chairmen at the start of the meeting has the longer period of continuous membership of the Party as shown in the Party's records and is present and, if no such person is present, the casting vote shall be determined by the returning officer conducting a random draw.
- (b) At all other times, the Chairman shall chair meetings of each Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council, or if the Chairman is absent or unwilling to chair the meeting, by a Vice Chairman, or if the Vice Chairmen are absent or unwilling to chair the meeting, by a member of the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council elected by the meeting.
- (ba) a Member is not eligible to nominate for or vote in an election at an Annual Meeting of a Federal Electorate Conference if that Member has previously nominated for or voted in an election at an Annual Meeting of another Federal Electorate Conference held to elect office-bearers or delegates in respect of the same year.

- (bb) a Member is not eligible to nominate for or vote in an election at an Annual Meeting of a State Electorate Conference if that Member has previously nominated for or voted in an election at an Annual Meeting of another State Electorate Conference held to elect office-bearers or delegates in respect of the same year.
- (c) Subject to clause 19.15, the Administrative Committee may prescribe procedures for fixing the closing time for nominations for any elections to be conducted at meetings of Electorate Conferences and Regional Electorate Councils and related matters.

(Clause 19.16 amended 12 October 2008, and 23 May 2009. Clause 19.16(a) replaced 15 June 2019, Clause 19.16(ba) and (bb) inserted 15 June 2019)

19.17 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF ELECTORATE CONFERENCES AND REGIONAL ELECTORATE COUNCILS

- (a) The Executive Committee of each Electorate Conference and Regional Electorate Council shall consist of:
 - (i) the office bearers of that Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council;
 - (i-a) the general members of the Executive Committee elected under Clause 19.13(a)(vii);
 - (ii) the Member or Members of Parliament or endorsed candidate or candidates (if any) for the Electorate; and
 - in addition, in the case of a Federal Electorate Conference:
 - (iii) the State Assembly delegates elected by that Electorate Conference;
 - (iv) the Chairman of each State Electorate Conference the boundaries of which fall wholly or partly within the boundaries of that Federal Electorate; and
 - in addition, in the case of a State Electorate Conference:
 - (v) the Chairman of each Federal Electorate Conference the boundaries of which fall wholly or partly within the boundaries of that State Electorate.
 - (b) The Executive Committee of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council shall have the power to coopt additional members of that Executive Committee who are members of that Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council, as the case may be.
 - (c) The Executive Committee of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council shall meet with such frequency and at such intervals as the Executive Committee considers appropriate.
 - (d) The quorum for each meeting of the Executive Committee of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council shall be one half of the members of that Executive Committee or seven, whichever is the lesser.
 - (e) At least seven (7) days written notice of each meeting of the Executive Committee of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council shall be given to each member of the Executive Committee unless the meeting is to deal with urgent business in which case not less than fortyeight (48) hours notice in writing or by telephone shall be given.
 - (f) No meeting of the Executive Committee will be constitutional unless all members are given notice. Evidence of such notice must be produced if requested by the State Director.
 - (h) No decisions at a meeting of the Executive Committee will have any standing in this Constitution unless the meeting itself was constitutionally valid.
 - (i) Minutes (including members present, and any decisions made) of an Executive Committee meeting must be circulated to all Executive Committee members before the following Executive Committee meeting. The minutes must also be made available for the State Director (or a person the State Director nominates) to inspect.
 - (j) A treasurer's report, showing opening balance, all transactions since previous meeting, and a closing balance, must be available for inspection by any Executive Committee member at all Executive Committee meetings.

(Clause 19.17 amended 17 July 1994, 5 April 1998, 13 November 1999, 24 July 2004, 8 April 2006, 12 October 2008, 23 May 2009, and 1-2 April 2017)

19.18 ELECTION BUDGET

Prior to an election campaign each Electorate Conference and Regional Electorate Council shall prepare a budget of proposed income and expenditure for that campaign which shall be submitted to its Area Finance Committee for approval.

(Clause 19.18 amended 12 October 2008)

19.19 AUDITED ELECTION ACCOUNTS

Upon completion of an election campaign each Electorate Conference and Regional Electorate Council shall prepare a set of final accounts of the income and expenditure of that campaign which shall be submitted to:

- (a) its Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council, as the case may be, and its Area Finance Committee within three (3) months after the date of the election; and
- (b) the accounts referred to in paragraph (a) become part of the audited accounts for the financial year in which the election is held.

(Clause 19.19 amended 29-30 March 2003, 12 October 2008)

19.20 BYELECTIONS

In any byelection the Administrative Committee may decide that the State Director shall be responsible for the conduct of the campaign and thereupon the Electorate Conference of the Electorate for which the byelection is to be held shall be subject to the order and direction of the State Director.

(Clause 19.20 amended 12 October 2008, 23 May 2009)

19.21 ENTITLEMENT TO STATE COUNCIL AND STATE ASSEMBLY

No Electorate Conference shall be entitled to be represented at:

- (a) a meeting of State Council; or
- (b) in the case of a Federal Electorate Conference, a meeting of State Assembly or a Convention for the selecting of a Senate candidate;
- (c) in the case of a State Electorate Conference, a meeting of the Regional Electorate Council; unless seven days prior to that meeting the State Director holds records showing that the Electorate Conference has at least 20 Members.

(Clause 19.21 inserted 12 October 2008) (Division 19 deleted and replaced 25 July 1993, and then amended as indicated above)

20. Area Conferences

20.1 COMPOSITION

There shall be Area Conferences which shall consist of Branches within a Federal Electorate, State Electorate or group of Electorates as determined by the Administrative Committee.

(Clause 20.1 amended 12 October 2008)

20.2 ATTENDANCE AND VOTING

Any Member within such Electorates shall be entitled to attend and vote at any such Area Conference.

(Clause 20.2 amended 12 October 2008)

20.3 GUIDELINES

Area Conferences shall be conducted in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the Administrative Committee.

20.4 MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Area Conferences may consider motions from Branches and shall decide whether any resolution should be forwarded to State Council, State Assembly, or the State and/or Federal Parliamentary Parties, or dealt with in any other manner.

(Clause 20.4 amended 12 October 2008)

21. Preselection of Candidates

21.1 CONTESTED ELECTORATES

- (a) Subject to any direction by State Council, the Administrative Committee shall decide which Electorates shall be contested in any election and shall ensure that all necessary action is taken for the preselection of candidates.
- (b) Subject to any direction by State Council, the Administrative Committee shall decide which Regions, and which positions in those Regions, are to be contested in an election and shall ensure that all necessary action is taken for the preselection of candidates.
- (c) Where there is one or more sitting Liberal members for a Region:
 - (i) the Administrative Committee must first call for applications for endorsement for such number of positions on the Party's ticket for that Region as there are sitting Liberal members; and

- (ii) the Administrative Committee must call for such applications for endorsement for those positions concurrently if there are two or more sitting Liberal members.

(Clause 21.1 amended 12 October 2008)

21.2 NONCONTESTED ELECTORATES

- (a) In the event that the Administrative Committee decides that an Electorate or Region shall not be contested the relevant Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council may give notice of not less than 14 days to the State President that it desires to debate the matter further at a meeting of the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council. In that event the State President or nominee shall attend the meeting to discuss the matter.
- (b) If after discussing the matter the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council resolves that the Electorate or Region be contested, the Administrative Committee shall give effect to such decision unless the State Council otherwise directs.

(Clause 21.2 amended 12 October 2008)

21.3 ADVERTISEMENT

The State Director shall as and when directed by the Administrative Committee publish a notice calling for applications for endorsement. Subject to clause 21.3A, the Administrative Committee shall have the power to fix a closing date for the receipt of applications and for the date of a Convention and shall have the power to direct that an Electorate or Region be readvertised or that any closing date be deferred. When the Administrative Committee sets the date of a Convention it shall also fix the timetable for the steps referred to in Clause 23.11A. The Administrative Committee shall ensure that the Chairman of the relevant Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council, and all applicants for endorsement in that Electorate or Region, are advised of all actions taken in respect of any powers exercised under this clause.

(Clause 21.3 amended 29-30 March 2003, 12 October 2008, 23 May 2009, 9 April 2016, 15 June 2019)

21.3A TIMING OF PRESELECTIONS IN LIBERAL HELD SEATS

The Administrative Committee must exercise its powers under 21.3 in such a way that preselection conventions are convened and completed:

- (a) in the case of all Victorian seats in the House of Representatives held by a Member of the Party, not later than eighteen months after the date of the previous Federal Election; and
- (b) in the case of all seats in the House of Assembly held by a Member of the Party, not later than one year before the date on which by law the next State Election is ordinarily due to be held.

(Clause 21.3A inserted 15 June 2019)

21.4 APPLICATIONS

- (a) Applications for endorsement shall be submitted to the State Director in the form prescribed by the Administrative Committee which shall be in the form of a Statutory Declaration, together with the fee prescribed by the Administrative Committee.
- (b) A sitting member of the Legislative Council who applies for endorsement for the Region of which he or she is a member, may specify in his or her application form the position or positions on the Party's ticket for which he or she is seeking endorsement and may withdraw his or her nomination for one or more of those positions at any time.

(Clause 21.4 amended 2 August 2003, 2 October 2008)

21.5 ELIGIBILITY FOR ENDORSEMENT MEMBERSHIP

To be eligible for endorsement the applicant must have been a Member of the Party or any other Division thereof for the whole of the 12 months immediately preceding the close of applications unless the Administrative Committee decides by a threequarters majority of those present and voting that there are exceptional circumstances for abridging the time limit.

21.6 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

A person who has lodged an application for endorsement for an Electorate or Region, whether or not that person subsequently withdraws the application, shall not be present at any part of a meeting of the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council if any matters relating to the preselection are being considered at any stage of the meeting.

(Clause 21.6 amended 12 November 1988, 12 October 2008, amended 27 July 2024)

21.7 CONSULTANTS AND PROHIBITED MATERIAL

No applicant for endorsement shall:

- (a) retain the services of any professional consultant; or
- (b) circularise Preselectors with any material intended to promote his or her candidacy; unless expressly permitted by any rules determined by State Council.

(Clause 21.7 amended 12 October 2008)

21.8 INVESTIGATIONS OF APPLICANTS

- (a) As soon as practicable after the close of applications the Executive Committee of the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council shall and the Administrative Committee may investigate the biographical details and qualifications of all applicants.
- (ab) At any stage of this process, the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council may request the assistance of the Administrative Committee which, if requested, shall be provided by the Administrative Committee.
- (b) The results of such investigations shall be reported to the Convention by the Chairman.
- (c) The Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council may refer to the Administrative Committee for investigation and report any matter relating to the biographical details and qualifications of an applicant and the result shall be reported to the Convention by the Chairman.

(Clause 21.8 amended 12 November 1988, 23 July 1989, 25 July 1993, 2 August 2003, 12 October 2008, and 1-2 April 2017)

21.9 (CLAUSE 21.9 DELETED 16 AUGUST 1992)

21.10 (CLAUSE 21.10 DELETED 9 APRIL 2016)

21.11 COPIES

Following the close of applications for endorsement for an Electorate all applicants shall be provided with a copy of the applications for endorsement.

21.12 PUBLIC STATEMENTS, WRITTEN MATERIAL, IDENTITY OF DELEGATES

- (a) No Member or Party Officer shall make or cause to be made any public statement regarding a preselection or endorsement unless expressly permitted by the Constitution or any rules determined by State Council.
- (b) A Member or Party Officer may make or cause to be made an official statement on behalf of the Party regarding a preselection or endorsement if expressly authorised by the Administrative Committee to do so.
- (c) An applicant for endorsement may announce publicly the fact of his or her application for such endorsement and may provide biographical details contained in his or her application for endorsement.
- (d) No Member of the Party shall circulate or cause to be circulated any material of any sort whatsoever which –
 - (i) may;
 - (ii) could; or
 - (iii) is designed to;influence any Preselector to a Convention as to how that Preselector should cast his or her vote at such Convention unless expressly permitted by the Constitution or any rules determined by State Council.

(Clause 21.12 inserted 23 July 1989 and amended 17 November 1991, 25 March 2000, 12 October 2008)

22. (Division 22 deleted 12 November 1988)

23. Conventions

23.1 CONVENING

- (a) Subject to Clause 21.10 and subclauses (b) and (c) below, as soon as practicable after the close of applications for endorsement, the Administrative Committee shall convene a Convention.
- (b) In the case of Electorates where the Electorate Conference consists of less than 40 eligible Members on the date of first calling for applications for endorsement or where less than 40 Members of the Electorate Conference register to attend the Convention, the Administrative Committee may, after consultation with the relevant Electorate Conference, determine the process for preselecting a candidate.

- (c) In the case of a Region where the total number of eligible Members of each State Electorate Conference within that Region who would be entitled to attend a Convention if one were held for that State Electorate is less than 200, the Administrative Committee may, after consultation with the Regional Electorate Council, determine the process for preselecting a candidate.

(Clause 23.1 amended 24 July 2004, 12 October 2008)

23.2 COMPOSITION

Other than a Convention called for the purposes of preselecting candidates for the Legislative Council or the Senate, the Convention shall comprise:

- (a) (i) in the case of a Federal Electorate, the Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Party, or nominee from amongst the Victorian Federal Members of Parliament; or
(ii) in the case of a State Electorate, the Leader of the State Parliamentary Party or nominee from amongst the State Parliamentary Party;
- (b) the State President;
- (c) (i) in the case of a metropolitan Electorate, the two metropolitan Vice Presidents; or
(ii) in the case of a country Electorate, the two country Vice Presidents;
- (d) the number of delegates determined in accordance with Clause 23.3 selected by a random ballot from the members of the State Council as provided by Clause 11.18;
- (e) the eligible Members of the Electorate Conference who register to attend the Convention in a manner prescribed by the Administrative Committee.

(Clause 23.2 amended 25 March 2000, 24 July 2004, 12 October 2008)

23.2AA ONE CONVENTION IN A PRESELECTION ROUND

A Member referred to in subclause 23.2(e) is not eligible under that subclause to attend a Convention to preselect a candidate for the House of Representatives or Legislative Assembly if he or she has attended a preselection under that subclause in the same Round of Preselections (as defined in subclause 23.2B(b)) for the House of Representatives or the Legislative Assembly, as the case may be.

(Clause 23.2AA inserted 12 October 2008)

23.2A COMPOSITION – LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

In the case of a Convention called for the purpose of preselecting candidates for the Legislative Council, or filling a casual vacancy amongst preselected candidates for the Legislative Council, or selecting a party nominee to fill a casual vacancy amongst sitting members of the Legislative Council, the Convention shall comprise:

- (a) the Leader of the State Parliamentary Party or nominee from amongst the State Parliamentary Party;
- (b) the State President;
- (c) the four Vice Presidents;
- (e) 50 State Council delegates comprising 25 males and 25 females selected by random ballot of State Council delegates from:
- (i) metropolitan Electorate Conferences in the case of a metropolitan Region; or
(ii) country Electorate Conferences in the case of a country Region;
- as provided by Clause 11.18 which shall apply as far as practicable;
- (f) one male and one female delegate for the first 20 Members, and then one additional male and one additional female delegate for each 40 Members thereafter, to be elected by each State Electorate Conference by Proportional representation and calculated as at the date of first calling for applications for endorsement (rounded, in the case of any odd number, up to the nearest even number to achieve gender equality).

If the number of State Council delegates to be selected pursuant to subclause 23.2A(e) above exceeds the number of Preselectors referred to in subclause 23.2A(f), the number of State Council delegates to be selected shall be reduced to that number.

(Clause 23.2A inserted 24 July 2004 and amended 12 October 2008)

23.2B MPs AND CANDIDATES NOT TO BE DELEGATES

- (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of Division 23 a person other than:
- (i) the Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Party, or nominee from amongst the Victorian Federal Members of Parliament; or
(ii) the Leader of the State Parliamentary Party or nominee from amongst the State Parliamentary Party;

shall not be eligible to be a delegate to a Convention in any capacity whatsoever if that person is a member of either Federal or State Parliament, or has applied for endorsement as a candidate in the Round of Preselections of which the Convention forms a part and notwithstanding that such application has been subsequently withdrawn.

- (b) For the purposes of this Clause 23.2B “Round of Preselections” means the preselections held to preselect candidates for a State or Federal Election which round shall commence and conclude on the dates specified by the Administrative Committee and which:
- (i) in the case of a Round of Preselections to select candidates for Federal Parliament, specifically excludes any preselection to select a candidate for a Federal byelection or a State election or byelection; and
 - (ii) in the case of a Round of Preselections to select candidates for State Parliament, specifically excludes any preselection to select a candidate for a State byelection or a Federal election or byelection.

(Inserted 17 November 1991, renumbered as 23.2B 24 July 2004, amended 12 October 2008, 15 October 2011)

23.3 DELEGATES FROM STATE COUNCIL

The number of State Council delegates to be selected in the case of preselections for the House of Representatives and Legislative Assembly shall be such number as results in the total number of persons entitled to attend the Convention by virtue of paragraphs 23.2(a), (b), (c) and (d) being as nearly as practicable the percentage of the total number of persons entitled to attend the Convention (rounded to the nearest even number) as determined in accordance with the table below:

Table: Delegates from State Council for House of Representatives and Legislative Assembly

House of Representatives		Legislative Assembly	
Number of eligible local Members who register to attend a convention	Percentage of total convention drawn from State Council	Number of eligible local Members who register to attend a convention	Percentage of total convention drawn from State Council
<40	No plebiscite	<40	No plebiscite
40-150	40%	40-90	40%
151-250	30%	91-140	30%
251-350	20%	141-190	20%
>350	10%	>190	10%

(Clause 23.3 amended 16 August 1992, 25 March 2000, 24 July 2004, 12 October 2008)

23.3A APPLICATION FOR OTHER SEATS BY DEFEATED SITTING MEMBER

- (a) This Clause applies where:
- (i) a sitting member for an electorate applies for endorsement for that electorate but is unsuccessful upon the vote of the Convention; and
 - (ii) there are other electorates in the same Parliament where:
 - A applications for endorsement have been called;
 - B no sitting member is an applicant (disregarding any sitting member who has applied under this Clause); and
 - C no candidate has been chosen at a Convention.
- (b) Where this Clause applies, the unsuccessful sitting member may lodge an application for endorsement for any such other electorate notwithstanding that the closing date for applications has passed, provided the application is lodged:
- (i) within seven (7) days of the close of the Convention at which the sitting member was unsuccessful; and
 - (ii) not later than two hours prior to the scheduled commencement time of the Convention for such other electorate.
- (c) For the purposes of this Clause, the term “sitting member” includes a member representing an electorate which, on the boundaries existing prior to a redistribution, takes in any part of the electorate concerned.

(Clause 23.3A inserted 12 August 1990; then deleted and replaced 17 Nov 1991 and amended 12 Oct 2008)

23.4 ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS

- (a) The following are eligible Members of an Electorate Conference for the purposes of this Division 23 and Division 26:
- (i) (General position) a Member is an eligible Member of the Electorate Conference if he or she:
 - A if 18 years or older, is a resident of and is enrolled on the Electoral Roll for that Electorate as at the date of first calling for nominations and remains a resident and so enrolled on the date of the Convention;
 - B as at the date of first calling for nominations, has been a member of the Party for a continuous period of at least:
 - (i) if he or she joined the Party after 12 October 2008, 2 years; or
 - (ii) otherwise, 12 months; and
 - C has been a Member of the Electorate Conference for at least three (3) months as at the date of first calling for nominations.
 - (ii) (Grandfathered Membership) a Member who was a member of a Branch in the Electorate on 12 October 2008, is an eligible Member if he or she:
 - A has at no time since become a Member of another Federal Electorate Conference or State Electorate Conference, as the case may be;
 - B has been a member of the Party for a continuous period of least 12 months as at the date of first calling for nominations;
 - C if joined the party after 1 July 2007, has at some point since then been a resident of that Electorate and enrolled on the Electoral Roll for that Electorate.
 - (iii) (Grandfathered Membership - Split Branches) a Member who was a member of a Branch which was within more than one Electorate on 12 October 2008, is an eligible Member if he or she:
 - A chose within three months of that date to become a member of the State Electorate Conference for which the preselection is being held;
 - B has at no time since become a Member of another State Electorate Conference;
 - C has been a member of the Party for a continuous period of least 12 months as at the date of first calling for nominations;
 - D if joined the party after 1 July 2007, has at some point since then been a resident of that Electorate and enrolled on the Electoral Roll for the Electorate Conference for which the preselection is being held.
 - (iv) (Grandfathered Membership - Redistribution) a Member who:
 - A was a financial member of an Electorate Conference for a continuous period of not less than two years prior to that redistribution taking effect which alters the boundaries of the Electorate; and
 - B was enrolled to vote, and resided, at an address within the boundaries of the Electorate for a continuous period of not less than two years prior to that redistribution taking effect, but whose address is no longer in the Electorate by reason of the redistribution; and
 - C Within a period of 6 months following the redistribution taking effect elects to remain a member of the Electorate Conference – shall continue to be an eligible member of that Electorate Conference for the purposes of this Division 23 and Division 25 until either:
 - (aa) the member ceases to be a member of the Electorate Conference; or
 - (bb) the member ceases to be a financial member of the Party.
- (ab) For the purposes of paragraph (a), where there is a change of membership of an Electorate Conference under clause 3.23 as a result of a redistribution or redivision:
- (i) the change does not constitute the Member becoming a member of another Electorate Conference;
 - (ii) the Member shall be regarded as having been a member of the Electorate Conference from the date the Member became a member of the previous Electorate Conference before the redistribution or redivision; and
 - (iii) references to a Branch in the Electorate in paragraphs (a)(ii) and (iii) shall include a Branch in any previous Electorate before such redistribution or redivision that covers any part of the geographical territory of the Electorate.
- (b) To be eligible to be elected as a delegate of a State Electorate Conference under subclause 23.2A(f), a person must have been, as at the date of first calling for applications for endorsement and remain as at the date of his or her election, an eligible Member in respect of that State Electorate Conference such that he or she would be eligible to attend a Convention if one were held for that State Electorate.
- (c) To be eligible to attend a Convention for a Region as a Preselector an eligible Member must remain a member of the Electorate Conference which elected him or her for a continuous period from the date of first calling for applications for endorsement until the date of the Convention.

- (d) Notwithstanding anything in this Clause 23.4, no Member 18 years of age or older shall be eligible to attend a Convention as a Preselector unless that Member is enrolled on the Commonwealth of Australia Electoral Roll and eligible to vote in Commonwealth Elections.

(Clause 23.4 deleted and replaced 12 October 2008, and then amended 23 May 2009, 25 May 2013, 28 April 2018, 28 August 2022, 23 September 2023).

23.4A ELECTION OF CONVENTION DELEGATES FOR A REGION

- (a) Upon a State Electorate Conference being advised by the State Director of the number of delegates to a Convention called for the purpose of preselecting candidates for the Legislative Council to which it is entitled under subclause 23.2A(f), the Electorate Conference shall at a general meeting elect such number of delegates from amongst its eligible Members not being parliamentary Members.
- (b) A State Electorate Conference may elect additional delegates from amongst its eligible Members not being parliamentary Members, if it thinks fit.
- (c) If a delegate elected by a State Electorate Conference pursuant to paragraphs (a) or (b) above:
- (i) resigns his or her delegateship by written notice to the Electorate Conference Chair or Secretary; or
 - (ii) is ineligible to attend the Convention to which he or she has been elected to attend; and
 - (iii) as a result, the Electorate Conference has less than the number of delegates to the Convention to which it is entitled;
- then a meeting of the State Electorate Conference may be called on not less than 48 hours notice for the purpose only of electing persons from amongst its eligible Members not being parliamentary Members to fill the casual vacancies as delegates to that Convention. Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause 19.9 notice of that Electorate Conference meeting may be given by telephone either to a Member personally or by message left at the most recent telephone number for that Member shown in the records of the Electorate Conference.
- (d) Particulars of the Convention delegates and their order of election, and particulars of persons elected to fill vacant positions as convention delegates, shall be notified to the State Director not less than seven days prior to the scheduled commencement of the Convention and if such particulars are not so notified the delegates concerned shall not be permitted to attend the Convention.
- (e) Where a casual vacancy occurs in a Convention delegate's position and a State Electorate Conference does not fill that position in sufficient time for the Convention, the State Electorate Conference shall notify the State Director not less than seven days before the scheduled commencement of the Convention and if such notification is not given the number of State Electorate Conference delegates in excess of the State Electorate Conference entitlement shall be determined and eliminated as if the casual vacancy had not occurred.
- (f) Where a State Electorate Conference elects additional delegates, not more than seven days prior to the scheduled commencement of the Convention the State Director shall, after taking into account any unfilled casual vacancies notified under subclause (c) above, eliminate the excess delegates in the reverse order of their election.
- (g) The delegates elected by a State Electorate Conference pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) shall also be the Electorate Conference's delegates if the Convention to which they are elected is reheld within a period of six (6) calendar months.
- (h) In any election of delegates pursuant to subclauses (a), (b), or (c) of this Clause 23.4A, to be eligible to vote in such an election a person must have been an eligible Member in respect of that State Electorate Conference and members of either Federal or State Parliament, candidates, relatives of candidates and employees of candidates (as described in Clause 23.13), and staff members of candidates (as described in Clause 23.13A), shall not be eligible to vote or nominate delegates for such an election.

(Clause 23.4A inserted 12 October 2008, amended 15 October 2011, amended 27 July 2024)

23.4B DELEGATE AND CANDIDATE

If a delegate to a Convention for a Region lodges an application for endorsement in respect of that Convention such person shall immediately cease to be a delegate to the Convention and the State Electorate Conference shall elect a man or woman as the case may be to fill the vacancy.

(Clause 23.4B inserted 12 October 2008)

23.5 (CLAUSE 23.5 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

23.6 (CLAUSE 23.6 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

23.7 (CLAUSE 23.7 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

23.8 (CLAUSE 23.8 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

23.9 PROXIES FOR PRESIDENT OR VICEPRESIDENTS

Each of the State President and relevant VicePresidents may appoint a proxy to attend the Convention on his or her behalf from amongst the nonParliamentary members of the State Council.

(Clause 23.9 amended 25 March 2000)

(Clause 23.9A (Proxies for Chairman and Vice Chairmen) inserted 25 March 2000 and deleted 12 October 2008)

23.10 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

The appointment of a proxy under Clause 23.9 shall be by notice in writing to the State Director at least seven days prior to the holding of the Convention.

(Clause 23.10 amended 2 August 2003, 12 October 2008)

23.11 (CLAUSE 23.11 DELETED 23 MAY 2009)

23.11A TIMELINE FOR PRESELECTIONS FOR ELECTORATES

After the date of a Convention has been fixed for an Electorate under Clause 21.3, the State Director must ensure that the following steps are taken in relation to that preselection and that, as far as practicable, it is conducted in accordance with the timetable fixed under that Clause:

- (a) List of Members of the Electorate Conference eligible to participate in the Convention provided to applicants for endorsement;
- (b) Eligible Members of the Electorate Conference are invited to register to attend Convention;
- (c) Closing date for eligible Members to register to attend Convention;
- (d) Determination of State Council component;
- (e) Details of all Members attending the Convention provided to applicants for endorsement under Clause 23.12A;
- (f) Details of applicants for endorsement are forwarded to all Members attending the Convention under Clause 23.12;
- (g) Convention.

(Clause 23.11A inserted 12 October 2008, Clause 23.11A(d) amended 15 June 2019)

23.12 COPIES OF APPLICATIONS

All Convention Preselectors shall be provided with a copy of the applications for endorsement of all candidates to be considered by the Convention.

(Clause 23.12 amended 12 October 2008)

23.12A ADVICE OF DELEGATE DETAILS TO CANDIDATES

The State Director shall provide the Chairman of the Electorate Conference and all applicants for endorsement at that Convention, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of Preselectors.

(Clause 23.12A inserted 17 November 1991, replaced 8 April 2006 and amended 12 October 2008)

23.13 RELATIVES AND EMPLOYEES NOT TO ATTEND CONVENTIONS AS PRESELECTORS

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution (including Division 23), a person who:

- (a) is the spouse, defacto spouse, brother, sister, son, daughter, father or mother of an applicant for endorsement; or
- (b) is or was within the period of six months prior to the date on which applications for endorsement were first called an employee of a business controlled by an applicant for endorsement;
shall not:
- (c) be eligible to be a Preselector at a Convention at which the application for endorsement of that applicant is to be considered; and/or
- (d) attend any meeting of the Administrative Committee, State Assembly, an Electorate Conference, Regional Electorate Council or the Executive Committee of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council, while matters relating to the application for endorsement of that applicant are being considered.

(Clause 23.13 deleted and replaced 17 July 1994, amended 12 October 2008 and 1-2 April 2017)

23.13A STAFF MEMBERS NOT TO BE PRESELECTORS

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution (including Division 23), a person who, in the case of a member of Parliament who is an applicant for endorsement, is or was within the period of six months prior to the date on which applications for endorsement were first called, a paid member of the staff of that member of Parliament or any other member of the same Parliament, shall not:

- (a) be eligible to be a Preselector at a Convention at which the application for endorsement of that applicant is to be considered; and/or
- (b) attend any meeting of the Administrative Committee, State Assembly, an Electorate Conference, Regional Electorate Council, or the Executive Committee of an Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council while matters relating to the application for endorsement of that applicant are being considered.

(Clause 23.13A inserted 17 July 1994, amended 12 October 2008 and 1-2 April 2017)

23.14 MEETING WITH APPLICANTS

- (a) That immediately prior to the formal part of a Convention, the State Director shall convene a meeting of all Preselectors so that they hold an informal meeting with applicants and their spouses or Authorised Support Persons.
- (b) Such informal meeting shall be in the nature of a round table discussion and shall be regarded as part of the Convention so that any Preselector who does not attend such informal meeting shall not be entitled to participate in the balance of the Convention whatsoever.
- (c) The commencement of such informal meeting shall be deemed to be the formal commencement of the convention and the Chairman shall require the doors to be locked and thereafter no Preselector shall be permitted to enter such Convention.
- (d) Each applicant and his or her spouse or Authorised Support Person, if any, shall be invited to attend the Convention in time to take part in such informal meeting. If an applicant does not attend such informal meeting then he or she shall be automatically excluded as an applicant.
- (e) For the purposes of this clause 23.14, an "Authorised Support Person" is a friend or family member of the applicant who has been approved by the State Director to attend the convention prior to the commencement of the convention.

(Clause 23.14 deleted and replaced 23 July 1989 and amended 12 October 2008 and 27 July 2024. Clause 23.14 (e) inserted 27 July 2024)

23.15 ADMINISTRATION

The State Director shall be responsible for the administration of this Division.

(Division 23 deleted and replaced 12 November 1988, and then amended as indicated above)

24. Convention Procedure

24.1 CHAIRMAN

- (a) The Convention shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council, or if the Chairman is not available, by a ViceChairman of the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council, nominated by the Chairman and if such ViceChairman is not available by a Preselector chosen by and from the Preselectors at the Convention.
- (b) The Chairman shall have a deliberative and a casting vote.

(Clause 24.1 amended 12 November 1988, 23 July 1989, 12 October 2008)

24.2 LOCKING OF DOORS

Upon the formal commencement of the Convention the Chairman shall require the doors to be locked and thereafter no Preselector shall be permitted to enter the Convention.

(Clause 24.2 amended 12 October 2008)

24.3 ADDRESSES BY CANDIDATES

- (a) Each applicant shall be entitled to address the Convention for such period as the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council determines. After such address, each applicant shall answer any relevant questions put through the Chairman by Preselectors for such period as the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council determines.
- (b) The Convention may require any applicant to address it or answer questions for such further period as it determines.

(Clause 24.3 amended 12 October 2008)

24.4 VOTE TO PROCEED

- (a) Immediately after all applicants have addressed the Convention a vote shall be taken without debate to ascertain whether the Convention desires to proceed to select a candidate.
- (b) Subject to paragraph (d), the vote shall be decided by a show of hands.
- (c) A Preselector may request that the vote be conducted by a secret ballot. a request under this paragraph must be made either:
 - (i) in writing to the State Director before the Convention; or
 - (ii) from the floor at the Convention before the vote is taken.
- (d) If five or more Preselectors make a request under paragraph (c), then the vote shall be decided by a secret ballot.
- (e) If the Convention decides not to proceed, the Convention shall thereupon be concluded and the Administrative Committee, if it is practicable to do so, shall reopen applications for endorsement and take such other steps as it considers necessary to enable the holding of a further Convention.

(Clause 24.4 amended 7 November 2009)

24.5 SELECTION OF CANDIDATE

If the Convention resolves to proceed with the selection of a candidate, an exhaustive ballot shall be taken in the manner prescribed by the Administrative Committee until an applicant receives an absolute majority of formal votes cast in any ballot between all the applicants remaining at that stage.

24.6 FREE VOTE

Votes shall be cast by Preselectors in accordance with their individual judgement free of any direction, restriction or undertaking.

(Clause 24.6 amended 12 October 2008)

24.7 TIED BALLOT CHAIRMAN'S CASTING VOTE

In the case of a tie another ballot of the Convention shall be taken between the tied applicants. The Chairman's casting vote shall be placed in a sealed envelope and handed with the deliberative vote to the returning officer who shall only open the envelope and count the casting vote in the case of a further tie occurring.

24.8 RESPONSIBILITY

The State Director shall be responsible for the proper conduct of all Conventions.

24.9 RETURNING OFFICER

The State Director shall appoint a returning officer for each Convention from amongst the members of the Party's staff (including the State Director). The returning officer shall:

- (a) be responsible for the registration of Preselectors at the Convention, and ensuring that only Preselectors who are eligible to attend the Convention are admitted to the Convention and permitted to participate and vote at the Convention;
- (b) report to the Chairman of the Convention at the commencement of the Convention as to the number of Preselectors present and their eligibility; and
- (c) conduct all ballots at the Convention.

(Clause 24.9 inserted 1 April 2001, amended 12 October 2008)

24.10 SCRUTINEERS

Each applicant shall be entitled to appoint one scrutineer, who must be a member of the Party but not a Preselector to the Convention. Any appointment of a scrutineer shall be made by the applicant informing the returning officer of the name of the scrutineer prior to the commencement of registration of Preselectors at the Convention. Scrutineers so appointed shall:

- (a) be entitled to observe all aspects of the Convention, including but not limited to the registration of Preselectors, the informal meeting with applicants required by Clause 23.14, and the conduct of any ballot at the Convention;
- (b) refrain from communicating with any delegate to the Convention from the time registration of Preselectors commences until the conclusion of the Convention;
- (c) comply with all directions given by the returning officer for the proper conduct of the Convention, including but not limited to any direction to maintain confidentiality as to the voting on any ballot at the Convention.

(Clause 24.10 inserted 1 April 2001, amended 12 October 2008)

24.11 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PRESELECTIONS – MACHINERY PROVISIONS

- (a) For Conventions to preselect a candidate or candidates for the Legislative Council:
 - (i) Subject to Clause 21.1 the Administrative Committee shall determine the number of candidates to be selected; and
 - (ii) The provisions of Clause 26.10 shall apply.
- (b) In the event of a casual vacancy occurring amongst the sitting members of the Legislative Council or endorsed candidates for the Legislative Council, the replacement candidate shall be selected in the same manner as for an ordinary Convention to preselect candidates for the Legislative Council.
- (c) A Convention called to preselect a candidate or candidates for the Legislative Council shall determine the order on the ballot paper of the Legislative Council candidates selected at that Convention.
- (d) If, as a result of changed circumstances subsequent to a Convention (including a casual vacancy), it is necessary to alter the order on the ballot paper, a further Convention called pursuant to paragraph (b), above, shall determine the order on the ballot paper of endorsed Legislative Council candidates previously selected by a Convention.
- (e) No sitting member of the Legislative Council or endorsed Legislative Council candidate shall be present during or participate in that part of a meeting which determines the order on the ballot paper of endorsed Legislative Council candidates.

(Clause 24.11 inserted 24 July 2004, amended 12 October 2008)

25. Endorsement

25.1 SUBMISSION OF PARTICULARS

Particulars of the chosen candidate or candidates shall be immediately forwarded by the Chairman of the Convention to the State Director for consideration by the Administrative Committee for endorsement.

(Clause 25.1 amended 24 July 2004)

25.2 DECISION BY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

The Administrative Committee may:

- (a) endorse the selection of a candidate or candidates by a Convention or of an unopposed candidate;
- (b) require that a further Convention be held to reconsider the selection of a candidate or candidates; or
- (c) resolve by resolution supported by threequarters of the members of the Administrative Committee that a further Convention be held and that a particular candidate or candidates shall not be eligible to participate in that further Convention;

and it shall advise the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council, as the case may be, of its decision accordingly and, if necessary, convene a further Convention as soon as practicable.

(Clause 25.2 amended 24 July 2004, 12 October 2008)

25.3 REOPENING OF APPLICATIONS

If the Administrative Committee resolves that a further Convention be held it shall upon request by the Electorate Conference or a Regional Electorate Council, reopen applications for endorsement.

(Clause 25.3 amended 12 October 2008)

25.4 RECONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATE

In the event of the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council becoming aware of matters of substance relating to the chosen candidate which it believes were not known to the Convention and which may well have led the Convention to a different result then the Electorate Conference or Regional Electorate Council, may request the Administrative Committee to reconsider the candidate chosen by the Convention whether or not that candidate has been endorsed by the Administrative Committee.

(Clause 25.4 amended 26 July 1987, 12 October 2008)

25.5 CANCELLATION OF ENDORSEMENT

- (a) The Administrative Committee may by a resolution carried by threequarters of the members present resolve that any endorsement be cancelled.
- (b) If the Administrative Committee so resolves it may, if it thinks fit, reopen applications for endorsement.
- (c) A candidate or candidates shall then be chosen by a further Convention convened by the Administrative Committee unless the Administrative Committee considers there will not be sufficient time to conduct a Convention in which case it may select a candidate or candidates.

(Clause 25.5 amended 26 July 1987, 24 July 2004)

25.6 FURTHER CONVENTIONS

Where a further Convention is convened and applications for endorsement have not been reopened:

- (a) the Preselectors to the Convention shall be determined as if the date on which the Administrative Committee resolved to convene a further Convention were the date of the first calling of applications for endorsement; and
- (b) the Convention shall consider all persons who originally applied for endorsement and who are still eligible for endorsement and have not withdrawn their applications; and
- (c) in all other respects the Convention shall be conducted as if it were the first Convention to be held.

(Clause 25.6 amended 12 October 2008)

25.7 APPLICATIONS FOR ENDORSEMENT REOPENED

Where a further Convention is to be convened and applications for endorsement are reopened, the preselection shall be conducted as if the date of reopening of applications were the date of the first calling for applications for endorsement, save that all persons who originally applied for endorsement and who are still eligible for endorsement and who have not withdrawn their applications shall be deemed to have applied for endorsement.

25.8 NO CANDIDATE

In an Electorate or Region in which no candidate has, or insufficient candidates have, been selected the Administrative Committee shall have the power to select a candidate or candidates.

(Clause 25.8 amended 24 July 2004, 12 October 2008)

26. Senate

26.1 ELIGIBILITY

Any Member of the Party shall be eligible to apply to be endorsed as a candidate for election to the Senate.

(Clause 26.1 deleted and replaced 23 July 1989)

26.2 PROCEDURE

The procedure to be followed for the preselection and endorsement of a Senate candidate shall, as far as practicable, be the same as for the choice of other parliamentary candidates and includes for the avoidance of doubt, the application of Clause 23.12A.

26.3 COMPOSITION

A Convention for the selecting of a Senate candidate shall consist of:

- (a) delegates to State Assembly elected by Federal Electorate Conferences;
- (b) the nonparliamentary members of the Administrative Committee;
- (c) members of State Assembly elected by State Council under Clause 11.2A;
- (d) three male and three female delegates to be elected by Proportional representation by each Federal Electorate Conference from amongst the eligible Members not being parliamentary Members of each Federal Electorate Conference provided that:
 - (i) at the date of first calling for applications for endorsement and at the time of the meeting to elect such delegates, the State Director holds records showing that the Federal Electorate Conference has at least 20 eligible Members;
 - (ii) to be eligible to be elected as a delegate of a Federal Electorate Conference under this subclause, or to vote in an election for such a delegate, a person must have been, as at the date of first calling for applications for endorsement and remain as at the date of such election, an eligible Member in respect of that Federal Electorate Conference such that he or she would be eligible to attend a Convention if one were held for that Federal Electorate pursuant to subclause 23.2(e) and Clause 23.4;
- (e) Victorian non-parliamentary members of the Federal Executive of the Liberal Party of Australia; and
- (f) 120 State Council delegates comprising 30 males and 30 females selected by random ballot from State Council delegates from metropolitan Electorate Conferences and 30 males and 30 females selected by random ballot from State Council delegates from country Electorate Conferences. For the purposes of this subclause, the State Director will follow the procedure as provided by Clause 11.18 as far as practicable.

(Clause 26.3 amended 2 August 2003, 12 October 2008, amended 27 July 2024)

26.3AA REGISTRATION A PRE-REQUISITE TO ATTENDANCE

To be permitted to attend a Convention for the selection of a Senate candidate, all persons in Clause 26.3 must, at least 7 days prior to the day on which the Convention is scheduled to be held, register with the State Director their intention to attend the Convention, and any person who has not registered with the State Director their intended attendance by this time shall not be permitted to attend the Convention

(Clause 26.3AA inserted 27 July 2024)

26.3A ELECTIONS BY FEDERAL ELECTORATE CONFERENCES

For the purpose of subclause 26.3(d):

- (a) The State Director must as soon as practicable after, and in any event within five business days of, the date of first calling for applications for endorsement, notify each Federal Electorate Conference entitled to elect delegates under subclause 26.3(d) that the Electorate Conference must call a general meeting to elect such delegates within 28 days of being advised by the State Director to do so, or such shorter period as the Administrative Committee may determine in the case of urgent necessity.
- (b) An Electorate Conference under subclause (a) must have held a general meeting to elect such delegates within 45 days of being advised by the State Director to do so, or such shorter period as the Administrative Committee may determine in the case of urgent necessity.
- (bb) If the general meeting called in accordance with subclause (b) fails to meet quorum, then another general meeting may be called by that Electorate Conference on a date approved by the Administrative Committee.
- (c) The Federal Electorate Conference may elect additional delegates from amongst its eligible Members not being parliamentary Members, if it thinks fit.
- (d) Subject to Clause 26.3AA, if a delegate elected by a Federal Electorate Conference pursuant to subclause 26.3(d) or subclause (c) above:
 - (i) resigns his or her delegateship by written notice to the Electorate Conference Chair or Secretary; or
 - (ii) is ineligible to attend the Convention; and
 - (iii) as a result, the Electorate Conference has less than the number of delegates to the Convention to which it is entitled;then a meeting of the Federal Electorate Conference may be called on not less than 48 hours notice for the purpose only of electing persons from amongst its eligible Members not being parliamentary Members to fill the casual vacancy as a delegate to the Convention. Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause 19.9, notice of that Electorate Conference meeting may be given by telephone either to a Member personally or by message left at the most recent telephone number for that Member shown in the records of the Electorate Conference.
- (e) Particulars of the Convention delegates and their order of election, and particulars of persons elected to fill vacant positions as convention delegates, shall be notified to the State Director as soon as practicable after, and in any event within five business days of, their election and if such particulars are not so notified the delegates concerned shall not be permitted to register their intention to attend the Convention under Clause 26.3AA.
- (f) Where a Federal Electorate Conference elects additional delegates, on the day that is 7 days prior to the day on which the Convention is scheduled to commence the State Director shall, after taking into account any unfilled casual vacancies notified under subclause (e) above, eliminate the excess delegates in the reverse order of their election, and no person shall be entitled to register their intended attendance of the Convention under Clause 26.3AA at any time thereafter.
- (g) The delegates elected by a Federal Electorate Conference pursuant to subclause 26.3(d) and subclauses (c) and (d) above, shall also be the Electorate Conference's delegates if the Convention is reheld within a period of six (6) calendar months.
- (h) In any election of delegates pursuant to subclause 26.3(d) or subclauses (c) or (d) above, members of either Federal or State Parliament, candidates, relatives of candidates and employees of candidates (as described in Clause 23.13), and staff members of candidates (as described in Clause 23.13A), shall not be eligible to vote or nominate delegates for such an election.

(Clause 26.3A inserted 12 October 2008, amended 15 October 2011, Clause 26.3A (b) amended 27 July 2024, Clause 26.3A (bb) inserted 27 July 2024)

26.3B (CLAUSE 26.3B DELETED 27 JULY 2024)

26.4 NOTICE

Such a Convention shall be held after Special Notice has been given at a time and place determined by the Administrative Committee.

26.5 COPIES

Following the close of applications for endorsement all applicants and all members of the Convention shall be provided with a copy of each application.

26.6 CHAIRMAN

The Convention shall be chaired by the State President or if unavailable a Vice President nominated by the State President or if unavailable by a person selected from and by the Administrative Committee.

26.7 DELIBERATIVE AND CASTING VOTE

The Chairman shall have a deliberative and a casting vote.

26.8 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No person who is an applicant for endorsement as a Senate candidate shall attend, or be permitted to attend any meeting of the Administrative Committee, State Assembly, State Parliamentary Party or a Federal Electorate Conference while matters relating to such endorsement are being considered.

(Clause 26.8 amended 12 October 2008)

26.9 NUMBER, TIME, QUESTIONS

The Administrative Committee shall determine the number of candidates to be selected, the time for which applicants shall be permitted to address the Convention and the time during which applicants shall answer questions put through the Chairman by members of the Convention.

26.10 VOTE TO PROCEED

- (a) Immediately after all applicants have addressed the Convention a vote shall be taken without debate to ascertain whether the Convention desires to proceed to select a candidate or candidates.
- (b) Subject to paragraph (d), the vote shall be decided by a show of hands.
- (c) A Preselector may request that the vote be conducted by a secret ballot. a request under this paragraph must be made either:
 - (i) in writing to the State Director before the Convention; or
 - (ii) from the floor at the Convention before the vote is taken.
- (d) If five or more Preselectors make a request under paragraph (c), then the vote shall be decided by a secret ballot.
- (e) If the Convention decides not to proceed pursuant to paragraph (a) the Convention shall thereupon be concluded and the Administrative Committee, if it is practicable to do so, shall reopen applications for endorsement and take such other steps as it considers necessary to enable the holding of a further Convention.
- (f) After any applicant has received an absolute majority of the formal votes cast in a ballot and has been selected as a candidate it shall be in order for a member of the Convention to move a motion that the Convention not proceed to select further candidates and any such motion shall be voted upon by secret ballot without debate.
- (g) If the Convention decides not to proceed with the selection of further candidates pursuant to paragraph (f) the Convention shall thereupon be concluded and the Administrative Committee, if it is practicable to do so, shall reopen applications for endorsement for the number of candidates still to be selected and take such other steps as it considers necessary to enable the holding of a further Convention.

(Clause 26.10 deleted and replaced 16 August 1992, amended 7 November 2009)

26.11 EXHAUSTIVE SECRET BALLOT

If the Convention resolves to proceed with the selection of a candidate an exhaustive secret ballot shall be taken in the manner prescribed by the Administrative Committee until an applicant receives an absolute majority of the formal votes cast in any ballot between all the applicants remaining at that stage.

26.12 FREE VOTE

Votes shall be cast by members of the Convention in accordance with their individual judgment free of any direction, restriction or undertaking.

26.13 TIED BALLOT CHAIRMAN'S CASTING VOTE

In the case of a tie another ballot of the Convention shall be taken between the tied applicants. The Chairman's casting vote shall be placed in a sealed envelope and handed with the deliberative vote to the returning officer who shall only open the envelope and count the casting vote in the case of a further tie occurring.

26.14 CASUAL VACANCY

In the event of a casual vacancy occurring amongst the sitting Senators or endorsed candidates the replacement candidate shall be selected in the same manner as for an ordinary Senate Convention.

26.15 ORDER ON THE BALLOT PAPER

- (a) The Convention shall determine the order on the ballot paper of the Senate candidates selected at that Convention.
- (b) If, as a result of changed circumstances subsequent to a Convention (including a double dissolution or a casual vacancy), it is necessary to alter the order on the ballot paper, State Assembly shall determine the order on the ballot paper of endorsed Senate candidates previously selected by a Convention.
- (c) No sitting Senator or endorsed Senate candidate shall be present during or participate in that part of a meeting of State Assembly which considers the order on the ballot paper of endorsed Senate candidates.

(Clause 26.15 amended 23 July 1989, deleted and replaced 16 August 1992 and amended 12 October 2008)

27. Machinery Provisions

27.1 AMENDMENT

The Constitution may be amended by resolution of State Council passed by a twothirds majority of those present and voting.

27.2 INTERPRETATION

The Administrative Committee shall subject to direction or ratification by State Council determine all questions relating to the meaning and effect of the Constitution.

27.3 DISPUTES

In the event of a dispute arising as to:

- (a) the validity of the conduct of;
 - (b) the validity of the decisions made by; or
 - (c) the eligibility of any person to attend;
- any Branch meeting, Area Conference, Electorate Conference, Regional Electorate Council or Convention, the Administrative Committee shall have the power to ratify, amend or revoke any decision or action and to take such other action as it considers necessary and such action shall be final and binding on all Members of the Party.

(Clause 27.3 amended 12 October 2008)

27.4 REDISTRIBUTION

Where a redistribution occurs and the Party already has a Member of Parliament, or has endorsed a candidate for an Electorate or Region which is wholly or partly within a new or altered Electorate or Region, the Administrative Committee may declare the Member of Parliament or the endorsed candidate to be the Member of Parliament or the endorsed candidate for the new or altered Electorate or Region. If there are a number of such Members of Parliament or endorsed candidates the Administrative Committee may declare which of them is to be the appropriate Member or endorsed candidate.

(Clause 27.3 amended 12 October 2008)

27.5 LIMITATION OF REPLACEMENT OF DELEGATES

The Administrative Committee shall determine the period after which no delegate to any preselection Convention shall be able to be replaced.

(Clause 27.5 inserted 23 July 1989)

27.6 COMPLAINTS REGARDING CONDUCT DURING PRESELECTIONS

- (a) Any member of the Party may complain to the State Director in writing if such member believes that:
 - (i) an applicant for preselection; or
 - (ii) any person acting with the express or implied concurrence of such applicant for preselection; or
 - (iii) a Preselector at such preselection;has been guilty of conduct gravely detrimental to the Party and which is calculated or likely to affect the outcome of such preselection.
- (b) Upon receipt of such complaint, the State Director shall investigate the same and shall report to the Administrative Committee, the results of such investigation.

- (c) Upon receipt of the State Director's report, if the Administrative Committee is satisfied that there has been conduct which is gravely detrimental to the Party and which is calculated or likely to affect the outcome of such preselection, by any applicant for preselection, or any person acting with the express or implied concurrence of such applicant for preselection, then the Administrative Committee shall have the power to exclude such applicant for preselection from that preselection convention and from any other preselection convention for which that applicant has nominated.
- (ca) If the applicant has already been chosen by a convention, then the Administrative Committee may refuse to endorse such applicant. If such applicant has been endorsed by the Administrative Committee, then the Administrative Committee may set aside such endorsement.
- (d) Upon receipt of the State Director's Report, if the Administrative Committee is satisfied that there has been conduct which is gravely detrimental to the Party and which is calculated or likely to affect the outcome of such preselection by a Preselector to such preselection, then the Administrative Committee shall have the power to disqualify that Preselector from continuing as a Preselector to such preselection and the Preselector's position shall not be filled by any other member during the currency of such preselection.
- (e) Prior to taking any decisions pursuant to this Clause, the Administrative Committee shall give any Member against whom it is considering exercising its power under this Clause the right to be heard.
- (f) The Administrative Committee shall not exercise any of the powers given to it pursuant to this clause, save and except by a motion voted upon in secret ballot and which is carried by two thirds majority of those members of the Administrative Committee present and voting.

(Clause 27.6 inserted 12 August 1990, amended 12 October 2008)

27.7 STANDING ORDERS FOR MEETINGS

- (a) Subject to this Constitution, the Administrative Committee may by a three quarters majority of its members prescribe Standing Orders for the notification, holding and conduct of meetings and elections by any body of the Party established by this Constitution, save for the State Parliamentary Party.
- (b) Any Standing Orders prescribed by the Administrative Committee under subclause (a) will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency with any Standings Orders, rules or by-laws made, determined or promulgated by any other body of the Party, unless subsequently overridden by express reference in that other body's Standing Orders, rules or by-laws.

(Clause 27.7 inserted 15 June 2019, Clause 27.7 (a) amended 27 July 2024, Clause 27.7 (b) inserted 27 July 2024)

28. Winding Up

28.1 TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

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 amongst its or their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Party under or by virtue of this Constitution.

28.2 DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE BODY

An appropriate company, association, society or other body shall be determined by State Council at the time of dissolution and in default thereof by such Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria as may have or acquire jurisdiction in the matter.

28.3 RESOLUTION TO DISSOLVE PARTY

The Party may be dissolved upon the passing of a resolution by State Council passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

(Clause 28.3 inserted 12 November 1988)

29. (Division 29 deleted 15 November 1987)

30. Transitional Provisions for changes made on 12 October 2008

(Title to Division 30 amended 12 October 2008)

30.1 COMMENCEMENT

Despite anything to the contrary in this Constitution, changes to this Constitution made on 12 October 2008 ("Relevant Changes") shall come into operation on 1 January 2009 subject to the following:

- (a) delegates to State Council elected by Branches and Federal Electorate Councils will cease to be delegates to State Council from 1 January 2009;
- (b) State Council Delegates elected at the first annual meeting of Electorate Conferences will take office from the time of their election;
- (c) until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of State Council in 2009, Policy Assembly will continue to operate, delegates to Policy Assembly will remain delegates, and all references in the Constitution to 'State Assembly' will be taken to read 'Policy Assembly';
- (d) Federal Electorate Councils and State Electorate Councils will cease to exist from 1 January 2009, at which time Federal Electorate Conferences and State Electorate Conferences will come into existence in their place and for this purpose the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Electorate Councils immediately prior to the replacement of those Electorate Councils will be deemed to be the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen respectively of those Electorate Conferences until the first annual meeting of those Electorate Conferences which shall be held in February or March 2009;
- (e) Branches will elect delegates to Regional Electorate Councils for 2009 at their next Annual Meetings to be held after 12 October 2008, and if necessary may fill a casual vacancy in one or more of those positions, in accordance with the provisions of clause 8 as it applied immediately before the Relevant Changes;
- (f) from 1 January 2010, delegates elected by Branches to Regional Electorate Councils will cease to be delegates to Regional Electorate Councils except that the Chairs and Vice Chairmen of Regional Electorate Councils immediately prior to that date will be deemed to be the Chairs and Vice Chairmen respectively of those Electorate Councils until the first annual meeting of the new Regional Electorate Conferences which shall be held in February or March 2010;
- (g) from 1 January 2009, a Member is deemed to be a member of the Electorate Conferences in which his or her branch is located provided that a Member of a Branch which is within more than one Electorate (a split Branch) will have until 12 February 2009, to notify the State Director of the State Electorate Conference which he or she wishes to become a member of, in the absence of which the Member will be deemed from 1 January 2009 to have elected to become a Member of the State Electorate Conference closest in proximity to his or her residence (as determined by the State Director);
- (h) in addition to any other requirement imposed by this Constitution, a Member who joins the Party after 12 October 2008 but before 1 January 2009, will not be entitled to attend a Convention for the Legislative Assembly or House of Representatives as a member of an Electorate Conference, unless that Member:
 - (i) resides in the relevant Electorate; and
 - (ii) has been a continuous Member for at least two years;
- (i) before 1 January 2010, in the case of a preselection for a Legislative Assembly or House of Representatives Electorate where the sitting Liberal member has applied for re-endorsement:
 - (i) the provisions of this Constitution as they applied immediately before the Relevant Changes, apply to that preselection;
 - (ii) the entitlements of Branches to elect delegates to such a preselection will be calculated as at the time immediately before the Relevant Changes except that Branches will be subject to Clause 8.9 as if it applied as at that time;
 - (iii) no Member may vote in an election of delegates to such a preselection or be elected as a delegate to such a preselection unless that person was entitled to do so under this Constitution as at the time immediately prior to the Relevant Changes;
 - (iv) if the Electorate Council has ceased to exist, the Chairman and Vice Chairmen of the relevant Electorate Conference will be deemed to be the Chairman and Vice Chairmen of the Electorate Council for the purposes of conducting the preselection.
- (j) in the case of a preselection for a Legislative Council Region before 1 January 2010:
 - (i) subject to paragraph (ii), the provisions of this Constitution as they applied immediately before the Relevant Changes, apply to that preselection; and
 - (ii) the nomination procedure provided for in clauses 21.1(c), 21.4(b) and 21.10(c) applies to that preselection.
- (k) in the case of a preselection for the Senate:
 - (i) before the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of State Council in 2009, the Convention for the purposes of clause 26.3 shall consist of the non-Parliamentary members of the Policy Assembly; or
 - (ii) after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of State Council in 2009 and before 1 January 2010, the Convention for the purposes of clause 26.3 shall consist of the non-Parliamentary members of the State Assembly;
- (l) despite anything to the contrary in this Constitution, for the annual meeting of State Council in 2009 candidates for election under Clauses 11.2 and 11.2A may nominate and be nominated by Members, even though such candidates and Members may not be State Council delegates.

(Clause 30.1 deleted and replaced 12 October 2008)

30.2 CONTINUITY OF STATUS

Except as in this Constitution expressly or by necessary implication provided:

- (a) all persons, things and circumstances appointed or created by or under the Repealed Constitution shall under and subject to this Constitution continue to have the same status operation and effect as they respectively would have had if the Repealed Constitution had not been repealed;
- (b) in particular and without affecting the generality of the foregoing paragraph, such repeal shall not disturb the continuity of status operation or effect of any person body committee regulation bylaw order application determination decision recommendation direction exemption approval disapproval objection appointment delegation classification condition endorsement or any other thing made effected issued granted given presented passed fixed accrued incurred or acquired or existing or continuing by or under the Repealed Constitution;
- (c) the repeal of the Repealed Constitution shall not affect or disturb any validation effected or any transfer or powers duties and consequent thereon;
- (d) until and subject to the exercise of the powers contained in this Constitution all powers shall continue to be managed exercised or otherwise dealt with by the persons holding the appropriate offices and such persons shall continue in office pursuant to this Constitution until their successors are elected appointed or otherwise fixed pursuant to the terms of this Constitution.

30.3 (CLAUSE 30.3 DELETED 12 OCTOBER 2008)

30.4 CONTINUITY OF OFFICE

Except where otherwise expressly provided, the persons who held offices or positions as prescribed by the Constitution immediately prior to the changes made on 12 October 2008 as and from the commencement of those changes continue to hold such offices or positions for the remainder of the term of such offices or positions as prescribed in the Constitution immediately prior to 12 October 2008.

(Clause 30.4 amended 12 October 2008)

30.5 2015 SENATE PRESELECTION – SPECIAL PROVISION

Subject to clause 25, in the case of the current preselection for the Senate, the sole candidate who has indicated on his application for endorsement that he is nominating for the first position on the Senate ticket is deemed to have been selected for that position and the Convention shall be for the selection of the remaining candidate(s).

(Clause 30.5 inserted 28 March 2015)

31. Transitional Provision for 2023-24 Membership Renewals

31.1 GRACE PERIOD FOR 2023-24

Notwithstanding clause 3.12, and without affecting the operation of clause 3.12A, for the 2023-24 membership year, clause 3.12(a) shall operate as if the reference to “three months” were a reference to “four months” and clause 3.12(c) shall operate as if the reference to “nine months” were a reference to “eight months.”

(Division 31 inserted 23 September 2023)

INDEX

	Clause No.
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE	13
Casual Vacancies	13.2, 13.3
Chairman	13.8
Disputes	27.3
Interpretation of Constitution	27.2
Membership	13.1
Notice of Meetings	13.6
Quorum	13.5
Redistributions	27.4
Report	13.7
Responsibilities	13.4
Time Limitation for Replacement of Delegates	27.5
AREA CONFERENCES	20
Attendance and Voting	20.2
Composition	20.1
Guidelines	20.3
Motions and Resolutions	20.4
BRANCHES (see also Branch Meetings and Elections)	3A, 6
Amalgamation	6.6
Application to Join	3A.1, 3A.2, 3A.3
Attendance at Branch Meetings	3A.3
Defunct Branches	6.8
Disbandment	6.7
Dissolution	6.10, 6.11
Formation	6.1
Loss of Branch Membership	3A.5
Property of Branch	6.13
Resignation from Branch	3A.4
Right of Appeal	6.11
Rules	6.3
Suspension	6.10, 6.11
BRANCH MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS	7, 8
Annual Meeting	7.1
Annual Return	7.2
Ballots and Voting	7.7
Calling of Meeting	7.5
Casual Vacancy	8.5
Chairman	7.8
Failure to Hold Annual Meeting	7.3
Notice of Meeting	7.4
Inaugural Meetings	8.6
Office Bearers and Committee Members	8.1
Period of Office	8.7
Quorum	7.6
DEFINITIONS and INTERPRETATION	2
Casting Vote	2.5
Defined Terms	2.1
Notice	2.2
Requirement of Membership	2.4
Residence	2.3
ELECTORATE CONFERENCES and REGIONAL ELECTORATE COUNCILS	19
Accounts	19.6(b), 19.19

Annual Meeting	19.6, 19.7
Annual Return	19.6A
By-Elections – Conduct of Campaign	19.20
Casual Vacancies	19.14
Composition	19.1
Convening of meetings	19.8
Elections and Voting	19.16
Election Budget	19.18
Election of Office Bearers and Delegates	19.13
Entitlement to State Council and State Assembly	19.21
Executive Committee	19.17
Inaugural Meeting	19.5
Nomination of State Assembly Delegates	19.15
Notice of Meeting	19.9, 19.10
Proxies for REC meetings	19.11
Quorum	19.12
Redistributions/Revisions - effect	19.5A
Resolutions	19.4
Responsibilities	19.2
Telephone Meetings	19.12A
Tenure of Office Bearers and Delegates	19.13A
No Dual Delegateships	19.13B
ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATE	25
Cancellation of Endorsement	25.5
Chosen Candidate	25.1
Decision by Administrative Committee	25.2
Reconsideration of Candidate	25.4
Further Conventions	25.6, 25.7
No Candidate	25.8
Re-opening of Applications	25.3
EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION OF A MEMBER	4
Effect on Continuous Membership	4.4
Grounds and Procedure	4.1
Opposing an Endorsed Candidate	4.5
Re-admission	4.6
No Renewal of Membership	4.3
Interaction with admission provisions	4.7
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS	18
Area Finance Committees	18.6, 18.7
Duties of State Finance Committee	18.2
Income and Property	18.8
Indemnity of Party Office Bearers	18.10
Payments from Electorate Fighting Fund	18.7
Remuneration	18.9
Rules	18.3
State Finance Committee	18.1
Trustees	18.4, 18.5
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	12A
Local Government Council	12A.1-12A.3
Local Government Endorsement Committee	12A.4, 12A.5
MACHINERY PROVISIONS	27
Preselections – Complaints Regarding Conduct	27.6
Constitution Amendment	27.1
Constitution Interpretation	27.2
Disputes	27.3

Redistribution	27.4
Limitation of Replacement of Delegates	27.5
Standing Orders for Meetings	27.7
MEMBERSHIP	3, 3A
Application for Membership	3.4, 3.4A, 3.5, 3.5A, 3.5B, 3.5C, 3.5D, 3.5E, 3.7, 3A.1, 3A.2, 3A.3
Becoming a Party Member	3.4A
Duty of a Member	1.2
Eligibility	3.1
Grace Period	3.12
Life Membership	3.22
Membership Fees	3.9, 3.11, 3.13, 3.21B
Member at Large	3.4, 3.7, 3.21A
Metropolitan or Country	3.21
Party Membership	3.3
Portability	3.14
Prohibition Against Paying Membership Fees of Others	3.21B
Redistribution/ Redivision	3.23
Renewal Notices	3.10
Resignations	3.15, 3.16, 3A.4
Safeguarding Integrity of Electorate Conferences	3.21A
Transfers	3.17, 3.18, 3.19
Vacation of Office	3.12A
MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER PARTIES OR ORGANISATIONS	5
Disclosure	5.2
Not permitted	5.1A
Proscribed Organizations - Ineligibility for Membership	5.1(a)
Proscribed Organizations - Cessation of Membership	5.1(b)
Non-member who has opposed an endorsed Candidate	5.3
NAME and OBJECT of THE PARTY	1
Duty of a Member	1.2
Name	1.1
Object of Party	1.3
PARTY OFFICERS	17
Executive Officer Women's Sections	17.2
State Director and Administrative Staff	17.1
PLATFORM of THE PARTY	11.4(a), 12.3
PRESELECTION of CANDIDATES	21
Advertisement	21.3
Applications	21.4
Application by Defeated Sitting Member	23.3A
Complaints Regarding Conduct	27.6
Conflict of Interests	21.6
Consultants and Prohibited Material	21.7
Contested Electorates	21.1
Copies of Applications	21.11
Eligibility for Endorsement - Membership	21.5
Investigations of Applicants	21.8
Non-contested Electorates	21.2
Preselection Conduct Rules	21.7, 21.12
Public Statements, Circulation of Written Material	21.12
Timing of Preselections in Liberal Held Seats	21.3A

PRESELECTION CONVENTIONS	23
Administration	23.15
Advice of Delegate Details to Candidates	23.12A
Candidates not to be Preselectors	23.2B
Composition	23.2, 23.2A, 23.3
Convening a Convention	23.1
Copies of Applications	23.12
Delegates for a Region	23.4A, 23.4B
Delegates from State Council	11.18, 23.3
Eligibility/Ineligibility of Members	23.2AA, 23.2B, 23.4, 23.13, 23.13A
Limitation of Replacement of Delegates	27.5
MPs not Involved	23.2B, 23.4A(h), 26.3A(h)
Proxies for President and Vice-President	23.9, 23.10
Relatives and Employees not to be Preselectors	23.13
Staff Members not to be Preselectors	23.13A
Meeting with Applicants	23.14
Timeline for Preselections for Electorates	23.11A
Time Limitation for Replacement of Delegates	27.5
PRESELECTION CONVENTION PROCEDURE	24
Address by Candidates	24.3
Chairman	24.1
Free Vote	24.6
Legislative Council Preselections	24.11
Locking of Doors	24.2
Meeting with Applicants	23.14
Returning Officer	24.9
Scrutineers	24.10
Selection of Candidates	24.5
Responsibility for Conduct of Conventions	24.8
Tied Ballot	24.7
Vote to Proceed	24.4
REDISTRIBUTIONS/ REDIVISIONS	3.23, 19.5A, 23.4
SENATE PRESELECTION	26
Casual Vacancy	26.14
Composition	26.3
Chairman	26.6, 26.7, 26.13
Conflict of Interest	26.8
Copies of Applications	26.5
Delegate Elections by Federal Electorate Conferences	26.3A
Delegates from State Council	26.3B
Deliberative and Casting Vote - Chairman	26.7
Eligibility for Endorsement	26.1
Exhaustive Secret Ballot	26.11
Free Vote	26.12
Notice of Convention	26.4
Number of Candidates to be Selected	26.9
Order on the Ballot Paper	26.15
Preselection and Endorsement Procedure	26.2, 26.9
Tied Ballot	26.13
Vote to Proceed	26.10
STANDING COMMITTEES of ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE	15
Area Finance Liaison Committee	15.11
Committees	15.1
Communities Engagement Committee	15.11A
Constitutional Committee	15.7
Federal Seats Committee	15.2

Media & Communications Committee	15.8
Membership and Branch Development Committee	15.6
Motions for State Council	15.12
Notification to Electorate Conferences	15.13
Rural & Regional Committee	15.5
Senate Campaign Committee	15.10
State Campaign Strategy Committee	15.4
State Seats Committee	15.3
Training Committee	15.9
STATE ASSEMBLY	14
Casual Vacancies	14.3
Chairman	14.9
Elections	14.5
Federal Council Delegates	14.5(a)
Frequency of Meetings	14.7
Functions and Responsibilities	14.4
Membership	14.1
Motions	14.12
Notice of Meetings	14.6
Proxies	14.13
Quorum	14.8
Report to State Council	14.10
Senate Candidates	14.11
Term of Office	14.2, 19.13A(b)
STATE CAMPAIGN CONFERENCE	16
Chairman	16.2
Membership	16.1
Meetings	16.4
Responsibility	16.3
STATE COUNCIL	11
Agenda Committee	11.11, 11.12
Annual Elections of Office Bearers	11.2, 11.3
Convening of Meetings	11.6
Election of State Assembly Delegates	11.2A
Eligibility for Election	11.13
Eligibility for Election as a Metropolitan or Country Representative	11.14
Membership	11.1
Notice of Meetings	11.8
Nomination and Investigation of Candidates	11.16
Permanent Membership	11.15
Policy Decisions	11.4(b), 12.4
Policy Motions	11.4A
Power of State Council	11.4
Preselection Delegates	11.18
Proxies	11.5
Public Statements, Written Material and Confidentiality	11.17
Quorum	11.9
Scrutineers for Elections	11.2B
Special Meetings	11.10
Standing Orders	11.7
Treasurer	11.3
STATE PARLIAMENTARY PARTY	12
Leadership and Officers	12.2
Membership	12.1
Policy Decisions of State Council	12.4
State Party Platform	12.3
Suspension of Membership	12.5

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS (for changes made on 12 October 2008)	30
Commencement	30.1
Continuity of Office	30.4
Continuity of Status	30.2
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS (for changes made on 23 September 2023)	31
Grace Period Extension	31.1
WINDING UP	28
Determination of Appropriate Body	28.2
Resolution to Dissolve Party	28.3
Transfer of Property	28.1
WOMEN'S SECTIONS	10
Aims	10.2
Elections	10.4
Executive Officer	17.2
Formation	10.1
Liberal Women's Council (Victoria)	10.5
Membership	10.3
Rules	10.6
YOUNG LIBERAL MOVEMENT	9
Annual Meeting and Annual Return	9.12
Branch Committee	9.7
Branches	9.2
By-Laws	9.11
Composition	9.1
Defunct Branches	9.9, 9.10
Membership Fees	9.6
Movement Council	9.3, 9.5
Movement Executive	9.4



Liberal Party of Australia
Victorian Division

CONSTITUTION

as amended by the
172 State Council, 27 July 2024