

SIRA Governance Sub-Committee Report

Meeting held Thursday, July 10

Present: Bill Gye, Graeme Crayford, Hubert van Mierlo, Cass Gye, Boyd Attewell, Jenny Frazer, Alan Gaines, Carol Floyd.



The outcome is that GSC asks SIRAC to consider and decide upon the following 4 proposals:

Proposal 1: Constitutional Review

- (i) That the SIRA Committee decide whether **or not to proceed** with a process for reviewing our current Constitution with the ultimate aim of seeking to amend the Constitution at a Special General Meeting
- (ii) **Process for Review:** That the SIRA Committee decide whether **the process for engaging with the community** to carry out the above includes a community survey and community forum, the details of which are jointly worked out with GSC and CECS
- (iii) **Items for review in the Constitution: That the SIRA Committee decide** whether **the following 7 items** are those which will be included in the community engagement process:

1. Executive Positions:

- a. Should there be two Vice Presidents or only one?
- b. Should the requirement in our Constitution to have both a Secretary and Minute Secretary on the Executive be changed to only require the Secretary? (Note: each Committee could still determine if it requires a separate Minute Secretary)

2. Committee Number:

Should there be a change to the maximum number of Ordinary Committee Members from 10 to 7? (Note: this would reduce the total number of all Committee members from 16 to 13, or from 14 to 11, should 1a and 1b above be approved)

3. Nomination Process

Should there be a change to the nomination process for Committee elections so that all nominations are received in advance of the AGM (i.e. with a cut-off date) and remove the option for nominations being made at the AGM? (Note: A qualification clause could be provided that allows nominations at the AGM **IF** the number of nominations received before the meeting is less than the number of positions available)

4. Independent Nominations Officer

Should there be a new clause added to the Constitution stating that an Independent Nominations Officer be appointed by the Committee to receive and manage all nominations?

5. Committee Election System

Should there be an amendment to the ballot for Committee members?

- a) Direct ballot for President and a ballot for a pool of positions for the Committee. The Committee then elects the other required Office Bearers from their midst; OR

- b) Direct ballot for President, a direct ballot for Vice President(s) and a ballot for a pool of positions for the Committee. The Committee then elects the other required Office Bearers from their midst; OR
- c) Continue with a direct ballot for each Office Bearer and then a ballot for a pool of positions for the Committee (status quo).

6. Online and Postal Voting

Should online and postal voting be allowed for Committee elections? (Note: If online voting was allowed postal voting would be required for members not able to vote online)

7. Casting Vote Clause

Should Clause 21 (2) be amended to read *“Each member present at a meeting of the committee or any sub-committee appointed by the committee (excluding the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote but, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a casting vote”*?

Proposal 2: Privacy Policy: That the SIRA Committee decide whether a **Privacy Policy** is needed.: The rationale for this is *that this will give the SIRA Committee and Sub-committees greater guidance when discussing issues such as the use of the SIRA database, the POD, etc. to reassure SIRA members that we are endeavouring to be responsible with their personal information. This will also provide greater clarity in summarising how we comply with the 1988 Privacy Act and 2012 Privacy Amendment Act.*

Proposal 3: SIRA Members Code of Conduct: That the SIRA Committee decide whether a **Code of Conduct is needed:** For **ALL** SIRA members who attend SIRA meetings (including Sub-committee meetings) or are involved in other SIRA activities. The rationale for this is *that it would raise the awareness of members that they are expected to behave in accordance with principles of civil behaviour.*

Proposal 4: Confidentiality Agreement: That the SIRA Committee decide whether **an amendment to the current Confidentiality Agreement is required:** The rationale for this proposal is *that it will better clarify what is meant by confidentiality and increase awareness by members when they are handling, discussing or dealing with confidential information.*