

Constitution of the Electoral Reform Society of W.A. (Inc.)

1. **Name:** The Electoral Reform Society of Western Australia (Inc.). Hereafter referred to as the Society.
2. **Objects:** To further democracy by promoting fair and effective electoral methods. In particular methods that satisfy the following criteria:
 - (a) Elected representative bodies should have members representing the various opinions of the voters in as near proportion as is practicable to the numbers of voters expressing those opinions in their ballots
 - (b) Voters should have the greatest possible freedom to indicate their preference ordering of the candidates. As far as any ballot is unambiguous it should remain in the count
 - (c) For multiple-choice referenda, or for filling single seats, the method should elect an option preferred by majorities of voters to each rival option.
3. **Powers:** The Society has the power to do all such things as are necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects of the Society including affiliation with bodies with similar objects.
4. **Non-Profit:** The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Society. No portion of the or the income or property shall be paid , transferred or distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the Society, provided that nothing shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any officer or employee of the Society or to any person other than a member in return for services rendered to the Society.
5. **Membership:** Open to all enrolled electors of Australia who satisfy the Society that they subscribe to the objects of the Society. There shall be two classes of member: Ordinary Members who live in the Perth Metropolitan area and are able to attend General Meetings, and Corresponding Members who are usually unable to attend General Meetings.
6. **Admission and Expulsion:** The membership of a member may be terminated for
 - (i) being more than three months in arrears with the annual subscription
 - (ii) actions contrary to the objects of the Society
 - (iii) actions contrary to the welfare of the Society. Admission and expulsion of members may be delegated to the Committee but any expelled member may appeal to a General Meeting and this appeal must be notified to members in the notice of the Meeting
7. **Officers and Committee:** The Officers shall consist of a Committee of at least five members elected at the Annual General Meeting by the single-transferable-vote method of proportional representation. The method shall be the current rules of the [Proportional Representation Society of Australia](#) or a variation agreed to in a postal ballot of all members. From those elected to the Committee the Annual General Meeting shall elect the following Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. The Vice President shall have all the powers and duties of the President whenever the President is unable to act for the Society because of prolonged absence, sickness or death.

Casual vacancies shall be filled, if possible, by scrutiny of the ballots that elected the vacating members. In filling the vacancies the ballots shall have the weight (the summed weight if a ballot appears several times) appropriate to the final stage of the election at which the vacating members were elected. Otherwise casual or the Committee and casual vacancies of Office bearers can be filled temporarily by the Committee until the next General Meeting when they shall be filled by that meeting. The Committee shall act for the Society between General Meetings, subject only to general direction by General Meetings.

- 8. Meetings:** The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the period beginning of October through to the end of February each year. General meetings can be called by the President, by the Committee or by a General Meeting. There shall not be more than eighteen weeks between General Meetings. Special general meetings shall be held if called for by a petition signed by at least one fifth of the members. The business of Special General Meetings shall be limited to the business specified in the petition, and notified to all members at least one week before the meeting.
- 9. Audit:** The Annual General Meeting shall appoint an auditor and the audited financial accounts shall be presented to the next Annual General Meeting.
- 10. Quorums:** The quorum at a General Meeting shall be five or one fifth of the ordinary membership which ever is the larger. The quorum at a committee meeting shall be three.
- 11. Constitution:** This constitution can be altered at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting by a two-thirds majority. The proposed alteration must be notified to members at least one week before such meeting. This constitution can be altered by a simple majority of valid votes in a postal ballot of all members.
- 12. Common Seal:** The common seal of the Society engraved with the name of the Society shall be kept in the care of the President. The seal shall not be used or affixed to any deed or other document except pursuant to the resolution of the committee and in the presence of the President and two members of the Committee both of whom shall subscribe their names as witnesses.
- 13. Dissolution:** The Society may be dissolved or wound up by resolution at any general meeting or at a special meeting called for such purpose. If upon dissolution or winding up or the Society there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property what so ever, the same shall not be paid to, transferred or distributed amongst the members of the Society. It shall be given to the [Proportional Representation Society of Australia](#) or some other association, institution or body having objects similar wholly or in part to the objects of the Society, provided that the association, institution of body shall prohibit the distribution of its income and property among its members, or shall be paid to or transferred to some charitable object, which association, institution, body or object shall be determined by the members of the Society at or before the time of dissolution or winding up. In default of any such resolution such payment, transfer or distribution shall be determined by a judge of the District Court.

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