

**Special General Meeting of the
New South Wales Wildlife Council
Date: Tuesday May 22 2012 Time: 2:30-pm
Place: Bridge St, Hurstville**



Meeting declared open 2:40pm

1. MEMBERS PRESENT / APOLOGIES

Present: Audrey Koosmen (present by phone) (NATF), Lorraine Vass (FOK), Shirley Lack (NARG), Caroline Enfield (WIRES), Philip Machin (NARG Alt.), Meredith Ryan (FAWNA), Ilona Roberts (TVWC), Jackie Maisey (NTWC), Geoff Bartlett (HKPS), Julie McConnell (IGLs), Graham Wardell (Wildlife Carers Mudgee), Shona Lorigan (ORRCA), Leanne Taylor WIRES Alt.), Rochelle Ferris (ASR).

Apologies: James Fitzgerald (LAOKO) Denise Singleton (RRANA), Bruce Mulligan (Wildlife Aid, Alt.) , Coralie Tarlinton (Wildcare Q), Paige Sinclair (Pet Porpoise Pool), Paul McLeod (KIC), Joanne Kelly (Wildlife Aid), Helen Kennedy (Sydney Wildlife), Jane Mills (WRSC).

2. DISCUSSION

The purpose of this meeting is to adopt changes to the NWC Constitution, some proposed at various meetings of the Council for the purpose of clarity and others to ensure consistency with the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*.

The Chair gave a brief summary of the review timeline which had encompassed many months with various draft versions being made available for comment on the NWC List.

Phil Machin reviewed the efforts made by himself and Meredith Ryan over the past several months, and the contribution from the members of the NWC. He drew attention to his email of 18 May 2012 to which was attached a table of responses to the draft under consideration (Version 7). Of the 12 members who responded, 10 agreed with the draft.

On behalf of the WIRES Board, Caroline Enfield listed their objections to the changes to the draft constitution for the following reasons:

- 1) The NWC Management Committee (*formerly "Executive"*) of seven should have a quorum of four, and not three, as proposed.
- 2) The casting vote "in the case of equal votes, cast to the chair"
WIRES believes that in the interests of fairness, if equal votes are cast the vote should automatically fall to the negative, rather than awarding an extra vote to the chair.
- 3) WIRES disagrees with the proposed change: "Quorum of a general meeting -7 councillors present in person or by teleconference"
Reason for objection: NWC is made up of 24 member groups and representation is on behalf of more than 4000 volunteers. The default position for a quorum is 50% +1 - which would indicate 13. In WIRES' view the proposed 7 is not sufficient to be truly democratic, and the number should be increased. (At this point Julia McConnell mentioned there were now 26 member groups).
- 4) WIRES opposes the proposal to allow any alternate to carry a vote in addition to the rep.
Two votes for one organisation is not democratic.

Julia McConnell for IGLs also pointed out that if both the rep and alternate of a member group were voted into the Management Committee and one of them was voted in as chair, there was the potential for 3 votes to be cast by one organisation, which would be very undemocratic.

These were voted on in turn as raised, but no mention is made of those vote counts. Does anyone have records of the numbers in each case?

Two proposals for further amendments were then individually discussed by the meeting.

Motion: that the Constitution, Version 7, as distributed on May 1st to members with the notice of a Special General Meeting, be adopted with the following amendments:

From

Clause 20 [Meetings and quorum] (6):

Any 3 members of the Management Committee constitutes a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the Management Committee.

To

Clause 20 [Meetings and quorum] (6):

Any 4 members of the Management Committee constitutes a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the Management Committee.

and

From

Clause 2 [Membership generally] (3):

Member groups and IGLs are required to:

- a) give timely advice to the Secretary of their primary representative and alternate;
- b) due notice of intention to change representative or alternate; and
- c) ensure attendance at meetings (in person or by teleconference).

To

Clause 2 [Membership generally] (3):

Member groups and IGLs should:

- a) give timely advice to the Secretary of their primary representative and alternate;
- b) due notice of intention to change representative or alternate; and
- c) ensure attendance at meetings (in person or by teleconference).

Moved: Phil Machin

Seconded: Meredith Ryan

Votes: 10 votes in the affirmative, 2 votes in the negative

Motion Carried

Meredith Ryan as Public Officer declared that the two amendments did not qualify as substantive.

Meeting closed 4:00pm