



Constitution

Women in Business & Regional Development Inc

www.wibrd.org.au
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1. NAME

The name of the organisation is Women in Business and Regional Development referred to herein as “the association”.

2. DEFINITIONS

“committee” means the committee of management of the association

“general meeting” means a general meeting of members of the association convened in accordance with these rules

“member” means a member of the association

“the Act” means the Associations Incorporation Act 1985

“special resolution” means a special resolution defined in the Act

“month” shall mean a calendar month

“Region” means the Limestone Coast, South East of South Australia

3. OBJECTS

The association will be a catalyst for accelerating the level of active participation of the Region’s women to foster economic growth, business prosperity and employment. The objects of the association are:

- i The relief of poverty for rural women
- ii The advancement of education for rural women through the provision of knowledge, greater educational and employment opportunities
- iii Identify and encourage women who have the potential to stimulate creativity, wealth and business at a community level
- iv Provide potential leaders with skills, motivation and confidence to identify and promote opportunities for economic development in their communities and in the Region
- v Support individual women who wish to establish a new business or to expand an existing business to access information, advice and opportunities for skills development
- vi Initiate actions that make practical differences to rural women’s lives and livelihoods
- vii Provide stimulating networks for sharing, discussion and debate for rural women
- viii Build networks for rural women with other groups throughout the Limestone Coast, Australia and the world

- ix Encourage provision of services by government agencies and private organisations for rural women
- x Promote awareness of rural women's contributions to the social and economic bottom line
- xi Celebrate women's social and economic achievements

4. POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The association shall have all the powers conferred by Section 25 of the Act.

5. MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Types

a. Ordinary Member

Any person who supports the objects of the association and agrees to be bound by its rules and who applies for membership of the association shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another member. The application for membership shall be made in writing, signed by the applicant and the proposer and seconder. Upon the acceptance of the application by the committee and upon payment of the first annual subscription, the applicant shall be a member of the association.

b. Social Member

Any person who supports the objects of the association and agrees to be bound by its rules and who applies for membership of the association shall be deemed to be a member of the association.

5.2 SUBSCRIPTIONS

5.2 Types

a. Ordinary Member Subscription

i. The subscription fees for membership shall be such sum (if any) as the members shall determine from time to time in general meeting.

ii. The subscription fees shall be payable annually on 1 July or at a time that the committee determines.

iii. Any member whose subscription is outstanding for more than three months after the due date for payment shall cease to be a member of the association, provided always that the committee may reinstate such a person's membership on such terms as it thinks fit.

b. Social Member Subscription

No membership fee is payable by a social member of the association.

5.3 Resignations

A member may resign from membership of the association by giving written notice to the secretary or public officer of the association. Any resigning member shall be liable for any outstanding subscriptions which may be recovered as a debt due to the association.

5.4 Expulsion of a Member

a. Subject to giving a member an opportunity to be heard or to make a written submission, the committee may resolve to expel a member upon a charge of misconduct detrimental to the interests of the association.

b. Particulars of the charge shall be communicated to the member at least one month before the meeting of the committee at which the matter will be determined.

c. The determination of the committee shall be communicated to the member, and in the event of an adverse determination the member shall, (subject to 5.4d below), cease to be a member 14 days after the committee has communicated its determination to the member.

d. It shall be open to a member to appeal the expulsion to the association at a general meeting. The intention to appeal shall be communicated to the secretary or public officer of the association within 14 days after the determination of the committee has been communicated to the member.

e. In the event of an appeal under 5.4d above, the appellant's membership of the association shall not be terminated unless the determination of the committee to expel the member is upheld by the members of the association in general meeting after the appellant has been heard by the members of the association, and in such event membership will be terminated at the date of the general meeting at which the determination of the committee is upheld.

5.5 Register of Members

A register of members must be kept and contain:

- i) The name and address of each member
- ii) the date on which each member was admitted to the association, and
- iii) if applicable, the date of and reason(s) for termination of membership.

6. THE COMMITTEE

6.1 Powers and duties

a. The affairs of the association shall be managed and controlled by a committee which, in addition to any powers and authorities conferred by these rules, may exercise all such powers and do all such things as are within the objects of the association, and are not by the Act or by these rules required to be done by the association in general meeting.

b. The committee has the management and control of the funds and other property of the association.

c. The committee shall have authority to interpret the meaning of these rules and any other matter relating to the affairs of the association on which these rules are silent.

d. The committee shall appoint a public officer as required by the Act.

6.2 Appointment

a. The committee shall be comprised of a chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, treasurer and up to eight committee members.

b. A committee member shall be a natural person.

c. All committee positions shall be subject to re-election at each AGM.

d. A retiring committee member shall be eligible to stand for re-election without nomination. No other person shall be eligible to stand for election unless a member of the association has nominated that person at least 28 days before the meeting by delivering the nomination of that person to the secretary of the association. The nomination shall be signed by the proposer and by the nominee.

e. Notice of all persons seeking election to the committee shall be given to all members of the association with the notice calling the meeting at which the election is to take place.

f. The committee may appoint a person to fill a casual vacancy, and such a committee member shall hold office until the next annual general meeting of the association and shall be eligible for election to the committee without nomination.

6.3 Proceedings of committee

a. The committee shall meet together for the dispatch of business at least quarterly.

b. Questions arising at any meeting of the committee shall be decided by a majority of votes, and in the event of equality of votes the chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.

c. A quorum for a meeting of the committee shall be one half of the members of the committee.

d. A member of the committee having a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a contract or proposed contract with the association must disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the committee as required by the Act, and shall not vote with respect to that contract or proposed contract. The member of the committee must disclose the nature and extent of his or her interest in the contract at the next annual general meeting of the association.

6.4 Disqualification of committee members

The office of a committee member shall become vacant if a committee member is:

- disqualified from being a committee member by the Act
- expelled as a member under these rules
- permanently incapacitated by ill health
- absent without apology from more than four meetings in a financial year
- no longer the duly appointed representative of a corporate member.

7. THE SEAL

The association shall have a common seal upon which its corporate name shall appear in legible characters. The seal shall not be used without the express authorisation of the committee, and every use of the seal shall be recorded in the minute book of the Association. The affixing of the seal shall be witnessed by the chairman and the secretary.

8. GENERAL MEETINGS

8.1 Annual general meetings

- a. The committee shall call an annual general meeting in accordance with the Act and these rules.
- b. The first annual general meeting shall be held within 18 months after the incorporation of the association, and thereafter within five months after the end of its financial year.
- c. The order of the business at the meeting shall be:
 - i) the confirmation of the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since that meeting
 - ii) the consideration of the accounts and reports of the committee
 - iii) the election of committee members
 - iv) any other business requiring consideration by the association in general meeting.

8.2 Special general meeting

- a. The committee may call a special general meeting of the association at any time.
- b. Upon a requisition in writing of not less than two ordinary members the committee shall, within one month of the receipt of the requisition, convene a special general meeting for the purpose specified in the requisition.
- c. Every requisition for a special general meeting shall be signed by the relevant members and shall state the purpose of the meeting.
- d. If a special general meeting is not convened within one month, as required by 8.2b above, the requisitionists, or at least 50% of their number, may convene a special general meeting. Such a meeting shall be convened in the same manner as nearly as practical as a meeting convened by the committee, and for this purpose the committee shall ensure that the requisitionists are supplied free of charge with particulars of the members entitled to receive a notice of meeting. The reasonable expenses of convening and conducting such a meeting shall be borne by the association.

8.3 Notice of general meetings

- a. Subject to 8.3b, at least 14 days notice of any general meeting shall be given to members. The notice shall set out where and when the meeting will be held, and particulars of the nature and order of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- b. Notice of a meeting at which a special resolution is to be proposed shall be given at least 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- c. A notice may be given by the association to any member by serving the member with the notice personally, or by sending it by post to the address appearing in the register of members.

- d. Where a notice is sent by post:
- i) the service is effected by properly addressing, prepaying and posting a letter or packet containing the notice, and
 - ii) unless the contrary is proved, service will be taken to have been effected at the time at which the letter or packet would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.

8.4 Proceedings at general meetings

a. Six members present personally or by proxy shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any general meeting.

b. If within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting a quorum of members is not present, a meeting convened upon the requisition of members shall lapse. In any other case, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place and if at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the time appointed for the meeting the members present shall form a quorum.

c. Subject to 8.4d, the chairman shall preside as chairman at a general meeting of the association.

d. If the chairman is not present within five minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, or he or she is present but declines to take or retires from the chair, the members may choose a committee member or one of their own number to be the chairman of that meeting.

8.5 Voting at general meetings

a. Subject to these rules, every member of the association has only one vote at a meeting of the association.

b. Subject to these rules, a question for decision at a general meeting, other than a special resolution, must be determined by a majority of members who vote in person or, where proxies are allowed, by proxy, at that meeting.

c. Unless a poll is demanded by at least six members, a question for decision at a general meeting must be determined by a show of hands.

d. A member being a body corporate shall be entitled to appoint one person, who shall not be a member of the association, to represent it at a particular general meeting or at all general meetings of the association. That person shall be appointed by the corporate member by a resolution of its board, which may be authenticated under its seal. Such a person shall be deemed to be a member of the association for all purposes until the authority to represent the corporate member is revoked.

8.6 Poll at general meetings

- a. If a poll is demanded by at least six members, it must be conducted in a manner specified by the person presiding and the result of the poll is the resolution of the meeting on that question.
- b. A poll demanded for the election of a person presiding or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately, but any other poll may be conducted at any time before the close of the meeting.

8.7 Special and ordinary resolutions

- a. A special resolution as defined in the Act.
- b. An ordinary resolution is a resolution passed by a simple majority at a general meeting.

8.8 Proxies

A member shall be entitled to appoint in writing a natural person who is also a member of the association to be their proxy, and attend and vote at any general meeting of the association.

9. MINUTES

- a. Proper minutes of all proceedings of general meetings of the association and of meetings of the committee, shall be entered within one month after the relevant meeting in minute books kept for the purpose.
- b. The minutes kept pursuant to this rule must be confirmed by the members of the association or the members of the committee (as relevant) at a subsequent meeting.
- c. The minutes kept pursuant to this rule shall be signed by the chairman of the meeting at which the proceedings took place or by the chairman of the next succeeding meeting at which the minutes are confirmed.
- d. Where minutes are entered and signed they shall, until the contrary is proved, be evidence that the meeting was convened and duly held, that all proceedings held at the meeting shall be deemed to have been duly held, and that all appointments made at a meeting shall be deemed to be valid.

10. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- a. The dispute resolution procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these Rules between –
 - (i) a member and another member
 - (ii) a member and the association

b. The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute and, if possible, resolve the dispute within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all of the parties.

c. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting the parties may choose to meet and discuss the dispute before an independent third person agreed to by the parties.

d. In this rule 'member' includes any person who was a member not more than six months before the dispute occurred.

11. FINANCIAL REPORTING

11.1 Financial year

The first financial year of the association shall be the period ending on the next 30 June following incorporation, and thereafter a period of 12 months commencing on 1 July and ending on 30 June of each year.

11.2 Accounts to be kept

The association shall keep and retain such accounting records as are necessary to correctly record and explain the financial transactions and financial position of the association in accordance with the Act. Refer to regulation 8 of the Associations Regulations.

11.3 Accounts and reports to be laid before members

The accounts, together with the auditor's report on the accounts, the committee's statement and the committee's report, shall be laid before members at the annual general meeting.

11.4 Appointment of auditor

a. At each annual general meeting, the members shall appoint a person to be auditor of the association.

b. The auditor shall hold office until the next annual general meeting and is eligible for re-appointment.

c. If an appointment is not made at an annual general meeting, the committee shall appoint an auditor for the current financial year.

12. PROHIBITION AGAINST SECURING PROFITS FOR MEMBERS

The income and capital of the association shall be applied exclusively to the promotion of its objects and no portion shall be paid or distributed directly or indirectly to members or their associates except as bona fide remuneration of a member for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the association.

13. WINDING UP

The association may be wound up in the manner provided for in the Act.

14. APPLICATION OF SURPLUS ASSETS

a. If after the winding up of the association there remains 'surplus assets' as defined in the Act, such surplus assets shall be distributed to any organisation which has similar objects and has rules which prohibit the distribution of its assets and income to its members. The association may determine to distribute surplus assets to nominated charities.

b. Such organisation or organisations shall be identified and determined by a resolution of members in general meeting.

15. RULES

These rules may be altered (including an alteration to the association's name) by special resolution of the members of the association. This includes rescission or replacement by substitute rules.

The alteration shall be registered with the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs, Corporate Affairs Commission, as required by the Act.

The registered rules shall bind the association and every member to the same extent as if they have respectively signed and sealed them, and agreed to be bound by all of the provisions thereof.