

The Wilderness Society (Tasmania) Inc.

Constitutional Amendments and Rationale

1. Delete rule 10(b)ii) the Assistant Convenor. This position will cease to exist after 31 December 2011. The occupant of the position at that date will be deemed to occupy a position of an ordinary Committee Member;

Rationale: The rule is substantially redundant and just confuses the situation with the number of ordinary Committee Members.

2. In rule 10) The Committee and Sub-Committees, make the following changes:
Delete rules 10(c) An employee of the Association cannot be Treasurer.
and
10(d) At least one (1) member of staff, but no more than two(2), will be elected onto the Committee
and amend rule (f) "The office of any Committee Member becomes casually vacant if the Committee Member:" by replacing subrules
vii) ceases to be a Member of the Association; or
viii) is appointed to fill a vacancy on the Committee, otherwise than an appointment under Rule 10)(x).

with

- vii) ceases to be a Member of the Association;
- viii) is appointed to fill a vacancy on the Committee, otherwise than an appointment under Rule 10)(x);
- ix) is or becomes a paid employee of the Association;
- x) is or becomes a member of the governing body of any other organisation in the Wilderness Society Group;
- xi) is or becomes an elected or appointed representative on any local council or in any parliament in Australia; or
- xii) subject to the law, is or becomes a member of a registered political party, either State, Territory or Federal.

Rationale:

Re. staff, to avoid conflicts of interest, in a staff member managing themselves or making decisions which affect staff including themselves. Of course, the committee should maintain close links with staff, including inviting them to committee meetings as appropriate or even by default.

Re. governing body of other TWS organisation, to avoid conflicts of interest.

Re. political representatives and political party members, to avoid real or apparent conflicts of interest and to ensure that TWS is able to maintain its independence from party politics and work with or criticise all sides of politics.

Note: Rule 33 c) 10) of the TWS Ltd constitution says that the position of a Director of TWS Ltd becomes vacant if the Director:

10) to minimise the risk of potential conflicts of interest;

i. is or becomes a paid employee of TWS or any organisation in the Wilderness Society Group;

ii. is or becomes a member of the governing body of any organisation in the Wilderness Society Group;

iii. is or becomes an elected or appointed representative on any local council or in any parliament in Australia; or

iv. subject to the law, is or becomes a member of a registered political party, either State, Territory or Federal.

3. In rule 13) National Membership, replace 'The Wilderness Society Australia Inc', 'The Wilderness Society Australia Incorporated' and 'TWS Australia' with 'The Wilderness Society Ltd'.

Rationale: The organisation's name has changed.

4. In rule 24, "Nominations for Election to the Committee", amend rule (d)iii) "given to the Public Officer prior to the beginning of the meeting at which the election is being held." to read "iii) given to the Public Officer 10 days prior to the beginning of the meeting at which the election is being held."

Rationale: To ensure that members have adequate time to consider who is standing for election and make arrangements to vote if they desire. This will be more democratic and will help protect the organisation from a surprise takeover.

5. Replace rule 24(e) "If, in the case of Rule 24(d), insufficient valid nominations are received for a position prior to the meeting, nominations for that position may be proposed and accepted at the meeting, provided the majority of members present agree to this procedure."
with "In the case of Rule 24(d), the Public Officer shall cause the names and brief biographies of all candidates for election to be published on the web site of the Association at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting at which the election is being held."

Rationale: See previous point, also to provide information about the candidates for the members to use to decide on their vote.