



# NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

---

As adopted by Federal Council July 1988,  
amended in June 2010, June 2013,  
September 2017, September 2019  
and November 2025.

## **NAME**

- 1.1 The name of the organisation shall be “The National Party of Australia”, also known as “The Nationals” and hereinafter referred to as The Nationals or the Party.

## **OBJECTS**

- 2.1 The objects of the Party shall be to:
- (a) promote within Australia
    - (I) a society based on Christian ethics and loyalty to the Crown
    - (II) the defence and security of the Nation and support for its Allies
    - (III) the maintenance of democracy, liberty, incentive, individual enterprise and the pursuit of excellence
    - (IV) the improvement of the well-being of all people
    - (V) the greatest possible development of primary, secondary and tertiary industries by private enterprise
    - (VI) the maintenance of a democratic system of Government
    - (VII) a restriction on the size of Government and levels of taxation to the minimum required to achieve efficient administration with the least possible intrusion into the lives of individuals, industry and commerce
    - (VIII) the transfer to the States and to Local Government of those powers and responsibilities most properly administered by those authorities
  - (b) ensure the continued development of the Party as an independently organised conservative political force, with the fundamental aim of winning office in the Commonwealth Parliament in order to implement the objects and policies of the Party for the benefit of the Nation
  - (c) secure the election to the Commonwealth Parliament of candidates endorsed in accordance with this Constitution.

## **DEFINITIONS**

- 3.1 The following definitions shall apply to this Constitution:
- (a) “The Party” means the federation of Affiliated Parties constituted by this Constitution
  - (b) “Federal Constitution” means this Constitution
  - (c) “Affiliated Party” or “Affiliated Parties” means, subject to Clauses 34.1 and 34.2:
    - National Party of Australia - N.S.W.
    - Liberal National Party of Queensland
    - National Party of Australia - Victoria
    - National Party of Australia (S.A.) Inc.
    - National Party of Australia (WA) Inc.

and such other organisations within Tasmania and any of the Australian Territories as may become affiliated with The Nationals in accordance with this Constitution

- (d) “Associated Organisations” means those organisations which are associated, but not Affiliated, with the Party in accordance with clause 35.1 of this Constitution
- (e) “Federal Council” means the assembly established in accordance with clause 8.1 of this Constitution
- (f) “Federal President” means the President of the Party
- (g) The “Federal Vice-President” means the Vice-President of the Party

- (h) The “Federal Treasurer” means the Treasurer of the Party
- (i) The “Federal Secretary” means the Secretary of the Party
- (j) The “Federal Director”, means the Federal Director of the Party as defined in 31.2
- (k) “Federal Conference” means the assembly of members established in accordance with Clause 22.1 of this Constitution
- (l) “Federal Management Committee” means the committee established in accordance with Clause 17.1 of this Constitution
- (m) “Federal Leader” means the Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals
- (n) “Federal Parliamentary Nationals” means the Party of Senators and Members elected to the Commonwealth Parliament, constituted in accordance with clause 25.2 of this Constitution
- (o) “Federal Policy” means the platform and policies of the Party as determined in accordance with this Constitution
- (p) “Federal Electorate Council” means the councils established by the Affiliated Parties in each State or Territory, howsoever called, being councils in Federal electoral divisions formed in accordance with the Constitutions of the Affiliated Parties and accepted by Federal Council or Federal Management Committee as per Clauses 34.2(c) and 34.11 of this Constitution
- (q) “Women’s Federal Council” means the Federal Council of the women’s representatives of each Affiliated Party, formed in accordance with a Constitution approved by Federal Council
- (r) “Young National Party of Australia”, “Young Nationals”, and “Young Nationals Federal Council” mean the organisation of younger members of Affiliated Parties and Associated Organisations formed in accordance with a Constitution approved by Federal Council
- (s) “Trustee” means such eminent person as is appointed Trustee of the Party in accordance with clause 40.1.
- (t) Fees means financial contributions payable by affiliated parties from time to time.

## **POWERS**

4.1 The Party shall have the power to:

- (a) provide, equip and maintain a Federal Secretariat in Canberra to promote the objects and policies of the Party
- (b) take such steps by personal or written appeals, public meetings or otherwise as may from time to time be deemed expedient for the purpose of procuring contributions to the funds of the Party in the form of donations, annual subscriptions and otherwise
- (c) receive and accept donations and endowments of money or of any form of property whether real or personal provided that no donation subscription or endowment may be received or accepted if it is subject to any condition relating to the exercise by any member of the Party holding public office of the powers or entitlements of such office
- (d) produce, publish, issue and distribute gratuitously or otherwise such books, newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals and other literature to promote the objects and policies of the Party
- (e) invest any moneys of the Party in such manner as may from time to time be determined
- (f) borrow money with or without security for the purpose of carrying out and exercising any of the objects or powers of the Party, and also to lend money to such persons, companies or bodies on such terms as may seem expedient and to guarantee the performance of contracts by any person, company or body (including the payment or repayment to any bank or other lender on demand or otherwise of any moneys,

loans, advances or banking accommodation and interest and charges) and to mortgage charge or otherwise encumber the whole or any part of the property of the Party in support of any such guarantee

- (g) engage and dismiss employees and agents of the Party and fix their remuneration and terms of employment unless otherwise specified in this Constitution
  - (h) grant and pay pensions, salaries, gratuities or other payments to any person in recognition of services rendered to the Party
  - (i) do all such acts and things as are or may be incidental or conducive to the attainment or furtherance of any of the objects or the exercise of any of the powers as set out in this Constitution or otherwise for furthering the interests of the Party.
- 4.2 The Party is formed to carry out the objects above mentioned and not for the purpose securing pecuniary profit to the members from the transactions thereof.
- 4.3 The income and property of the Party whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Party as set forth in this Constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to the members of the Party, provided always that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration whether by way of salary or honoraria or otherwise in return for any service actually rendered to or on behalf of the Party, to any officers or servants of the Party or to any member thereof or other person.
- 4.4 If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Party there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall be paid or distributed amongst any continuing Affiliated Parties or transferred to other organisations having objects similar to the objects of the Party and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Party under or by virtue of this Constitution, such organisations to be determined by the Federal Council of the Party at or before the time of dissolution and in default thereof by such Court or Judge as may have or acquire jurisdiction in the matter.

## **ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

- 5.1 The organisational structure of the Party shall comprise:
- (a) Federal Council, which is the supreme governing body
  - (b) Federal Management Committee, which is the body having responsibility for the day to day management of the affairs of the Party
  - (c) Federal Conference
  - (d) Federal Parliamentary Nationals
  - (e) Affiliated Parties
  - (f) Associated Organisations
  - (g) Women's Federal Council
  - (h) Young Nationals

## **FEDERAL COUNCIL**

- 6.1 The supreme governing body of the Party shall be Federal Council.

### **Powers of Federal Council**

- 7.1 Federal Council shall have the power to:
- (a) formulate and adopt Federal policies not inconsistent with policy adopted by Federal Conference and for that purpose develop a Federal platform embodying the objects and policies of the Party
  - (b) alter this Constitution in accordance with clause 42.1 of this Constitution

- (c) establish advisory committees for such purposes as it shall think fit
- (d) provide the Federal Management Committee with such general recommendations concerning the management of the Party as it shall think fit
- (e) set fees payable by the Affiliated Parties from time to time on the recommendation of the Federal Management Committee
- (f) subject to the powers of the Federal Management Committee, admit parties or organisations to affiliation or association, in accordance with Clauses 34.8 and 35.1 of this Constitution
- (g) terminate the affiliation or association of Affiliated Parties or Associated Organisations in accordance with Clauses 36.1 to 36.8 and 37.1 of this Constitution
- (h) receive and consider reports and recommendations of the Federal Management Committee
- (i) consider motions submitted for consideration of Federal Council by:
  - Federal Management Committee
  - Federal Parliamentary Nationals
  - Affiliated Parties
  - Women's Federal Council
  - Young Nationals
- (j) appoint such persons, if any, as it may from time to time determine, as Trustees of the Party in accordance with Clause 40.1 of this Constitution
- (k) appoint annually the auditors of the Party
- (l) exercise such other powers as may be provided for by this Constitution
- (m) from time to time, upon the recommendation of Federal Management Committee, make awards to eminent individuals to recognise their outstanding contribution to The Nationals and particularly to its Federal Organisation and its role in the affairs of Australia.

### **Federal Council membership**

8.1 Federal Council shall comprise:

- (a) the Federal Leader
- (b) the Deputy Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals
- (c) the Senate Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals
- (d) all other Senators and Members of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals
- (e) the Parliamentary Leader of each Affiliated Party
- (f) the President or Chairman of each Affiliated Party
- (g) three delegates of each Affiliated Party who are financial members of that Affiliated Party.
- (h) two further women delegates of the Women's Section of each Affiliated Party. Where an Affiliated Party does not have a Women's Section, two further women delegates of that Affiliated Party
- (i) two delegates of the young party organisation of each Affiliated Party. Where an Affiliated Party does not have a constituted young party organisation, two further young member delegates of that Affiliated Party
- (j) the Federal President
- (k) the Federal Vice-President
- (l) the Federal Secretary

- (m) the Federal Treasurer
- (n) the immediate past Federal President
- (o) the President of the Women's Federal Council
- (p) the President of the Young Nationals
- (q) the Chairman of the Policy Standing Committee

all of whom shall be members of Federal Council until such time as another person is elected or appointed in their place.

### **Delegates and Alternate Delegates**

- 9.1 The Parliamentary Leader of an Affiliated Party may appoint another member of his or her Parliamentary Party to attend and vote as his or her alternate delegate at meetings of Federal Council at all times when he or she is not present.
- 9.2 In addition to appointing delegates, the Affiliated Parties, the Women's Sections of each Affiliated Party and the young party organisations of each Affiliated Party may appoint alternate delegates to attend and vote at meetings of Federal Council at which the delegate for whom the alternate has been appointed is not present.
- 9.3 No delegate or alternate delegate shall be entitled to represent more than one Affiliated Party
- 9.4 All delegates and alternate delegates shall be financial members of the Affiliated Party, Women's Section or young party organisation, by which they are appointed.
- 9.5 An alternate delegate attending a meeting of Federal Council in the place of a delegate shall have the same rights and privileges as an ordinary delegate.
- 9.6 Except as provided by this clause, no member of Federal Council shall be entitled to appoint a representative to attend or vote at meetings of Federal Council at times when he or she is not present.

### **Meetings of Federal Council**

- 10.1 There shall be an annual meeting of Federal Council at such date, time and place as decided by the Federal Management Committee.

### **Election of officers**

- 11.1 Federal Council shall elect annually a Federal President, who shall not be a sitting member of any Parliament in Australia and shall not hold office for more than six (6) consecutive terms.
- 11.2 Federal Council shall elect annually a Federal Vice-President.
- 11.3 To be eligible to nominate as Federal President or Federal Vice-President, a candidate shall
  - (a) be a financial member of an Affiliated Party or Parties of at least four consecutive years standing; and
  - (b) be a member of Federal Council; or
  - (c) have served as a member of Federal Council on at least one occasion; or
  - (d) have served as a member of an Australian parliament representing an Affiliated Party.
- 11.4 Federal Council shall elect annually a Federal Treasurer, a Federal Secretary, and a Chairman of the Policy Standing Committee, who shall each be a financial member of an Affiliated Party, but who need not otherwise be a member of Federal Council.
- 11.5 Prior to the election of the Federal President, Federal Vice-President, Federal Treasurer, Federal Secretary and Chairman of the Policy Standing Committee:
  - (a) Nominations for each of the positions shall be called for at the same time as notice in writing is given of each annual meeting of Federal Council
  - (b) Nominations shall be in writing and signed by the nominee and nominators
    - (l) in the case of the Federal President and Federal Vice-President be signed by

three (3) nominators who shall be members of Federal Council, and at least two of whom shall be financial members of different Affiliated Parties.

(II) in the case of the Federal Treasurer, the Federal Secretary, and the Chairman of the Policy Standing Committee be signed by one (1) nominator who shall be a member of Federal Council.

- (c) Nominations shall be supplied to the Federal Director by no later than 30 days prior to Federal Council
- (d) The names of the nominees shall be supplied to Federal Councillors following the close of nominations and ahead of the Federal Council meeting.
- (e) All elections, where required, shall be by preferential ballot conducted by the Federal Director as returning officer.
- (f) Should no valid nomination for a position be received by the close of nominations or should a candidate withdraw his or her nomination leaving no nominees the Federal Director shall extend the nomination period until 14 days prior to Federal Council. If no nominations for a position are received by this time the Federal Director shall call for nominations for that position from the floor.

11.6 Notwithstanding clause 8.1 of this Constitution, the Federal President, the Federal Vice-President, the Federal Treasurer, the Federal Secretary and the Chairman of the Policy Standing Committee shall each hold office until the close of the next annual meeting of Federal Council.

11.7 No member of Federal Council may be a member of any political party other than an Affiliated Party, unless that member is a member in accordance with clause 25.2(b), 34.2(e), or 35.

### **Quorum, meeting and voting procedures**

12.1 A quorum for a meeting of Federal Council shall be one-quarter of its members including:

- (a) members who are delegates of not less than three (3) Affiliated Parties, and
- (b) not less than one-quarter of the members of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals.

12.2 All members of Federal Council shall have a vote on all motions put to Federal Council, except as provided in clause 35.11 of this Constitution.

12.3 The Federal President shall be the chairman of Federal Council.

12.4 At all times at which the Federal President is not present at meetings of Federal Council the Federal Vice-President shall chair the meeting.

12.5 If at any time the Federal President and the Federal Vice-President are absent from a meeting of Federal Council, Federal Council shall elect a President or Chairman of one of the Affiliated Parties to chair the meeting.

12.6 In the case of an equality of votes on any motion at a meeting of Federal Council, the chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.

12.7 In the event of the death, resignation or retirement of the Federal President, the Federal Vice-President shall become the Acting Federal President of the Party, unless the Federal Management Committee appoints another member of Federal Council to fill the casual vacancy. The person so appointed shall hold office until the next annual meeting of Federal Council.

12.8 In the event of the death, resignation or retirement of the Federal Vice-President, Federal Secretary, Federal Treasurer or the Chairman of the Policy Standing Committee, the Federal Management Committee shall appoint another member of Federal Council to fill the casual vacancy.

12.9 Except as otherwise specifically provided for by this Constitution all decisions of Federal Council shall be decided by a simple majority of those members who, being present and entitled to vote, vote on the resolution.

12.10 Minutes shall be kept of the proceedings of each meeting of Federal Council and shall be

signed as a correct record thereof by the chairman of the meeting.

### **Special meetings of Federal Council**

- 13.1 Additional meetings of Federal Council, which shall be special meetings, may be convened in accordance with clause 13.2 of this Constitution.
- 13.2 A special meeting of Federal Council shall be convened by the Federal President forthwith upon the Federal Secretary receiving a request in writing to convene such a meeting from:
  - (a) not less than thirty (30) members of Federal Council, including not less than one-quarter of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals; or
  - (b) three (3) Affiliated Parties; or
  - (c) the Federal Management Committee.
- 13.3 Special meetings of Federal Council shall be held in Canberra.

### **Convening of annual and special meetings of Federal Council**

- 14.1 Not less than fifty (50) days' notice in writing shall be given of each annual meeting of Federal Council.
- 14.2 Not less than twenty-one (21) days' notice shall be given of each special meeting of Federal Council.
- 14.3 Not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the annual meeting of Federal Council and not less than ten (10) days prior to a special meeting of Federal Council, the Affiliated Parties, the Women's Sections of each Affiliated Party and the young party organisation of each Affiliated Party shall nominate their delegates to Federal Council by notice in writing to the Federal President, lodged with the Federal Secretariat.
- 14.4 If, in the interests of the Party, the Federal Management Committee deems it necessary to postpone the holding of a Federal Council, Federal Management Committee may do so by notice in writing to the Affiliated Parties, the Federal Parliamentary Nationals, the Women's Federal Council and the Young Nationals. In the event of an annual meeting of Federal Council being postponed, it shall be convened at the earliest opportunity thereafter and shall include the election of officers.

## **FEDERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- 15.1 The day to day management of the affairs of the Party and the exercise of the powers of the party as defined in 4.1 shall be the responsibility of the Federal Management Committee.

### **Powers of Federal Management Committee**

- 16.1 The Federal Management Committee shall have the power to do all things necessary in the day to day management of the Party to achieve the objects and policies of the Party, including the power to:
  - (a) review the fees and other contributions payable by Affiliated Parties and make recommendations to Federal Council
  - (b) foster the establishment, development and growth of Branches and electoral structures of the Party in States and Territories where there is no Affiliated Party, and for that purpose to make regulations governing the powers of operation of such Branches and structures, which regulations shall have effect as if they were provisions hereof
  - (c) endorse candidates for federal elections and federal by-elections on behalf of the Party in States and Territories where there is no Affiliated Party
  - (d) reschedule meetings of Federal Council or Federal Conference pursuant to Clauses 14.4 and 24.3 of this Constitution
  - (e) establish Subcommittees and receive reports for such purposes as it shall think fit.
  - (f) appoint persons to fill casual vacancies in accordance with clause 12.7 to 12.8 of this

Constitution

- (g) appoint the Federal Campaign Director
- (h) exercise such other powers as may be provided for by this Constitution
- (i) recommend to Federal Council the conferring on eminent individuals of awards of the National Party of Australia as follows:
  - the Earle Page Medal
  - a Distinguished Service Certificate
  - a Certificate of Appreciationon the basis of criteria provided in clause 7.1(m) of this Constitution.

### **Membership of Federal Management Committee**

17.1 The Federal Management Committee shall comprise the:

- (a) Federal President
- (b) Federal Vice-President
- (c) Federal Leader
- (d) Deputy Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals
- (e) Senate Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals
- (f) Federal Treasurer
- (g) Federal Secretary
- (h) President or Chairman of each Affiliated Party
- (i) President of the Women's Federal Council
- (j) President of the Young Nationals
- (k) Immediate past Federal President
- (l) Chairman of the Policy Standing Committee.

### **Meetings of Federal Management Committee**

18.1 The Federal Management Committee shall meet at least quarterly, at such date, time and place as decided by the Federal President.

### **Quorum, meeting and voting procedures**

- 19.1 A quorum for a meeting of the Federal Management Committee shall be six (6).
- 19.2 All members of the Federal Management Committee shall have a vote on all motions put to the Federal Management Committee.
- 19.3 The Federal President shall be the chairman of the Federal Management Committee.
- 19.4 At all times at which the Federal President is not present at meetings of the Federal Management Committee the Federal Vice-President shall chair the meeting.
- 19.5 If at any time the Federal President and the Federal Vice-President are absent from a meeting of the Federal Management Committee, the Committee shall elect another of its members to chair the meeting.
- 19.6 In the case of an equality of votes on any motion at a meeting of the Federal Management Committee, the chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.
- 19.7 In the event of the President or Chairman of any Affiliated Party being unable to attend a meeting of the Federal Management Committee, he or she may appoint in writing, addressed to the Federal Secretary, a nominee who shall be a senior member of the Executive of the affiliated Party. The Federal Secretary shall table the letter of appointment and record it in the Minutes of the Federal Management Committee meeting to which it applies.

- 19.8 In the event of the President of the Women's Federal Council or the Young Nationals being unable to attend a meeting of the Federal Management Committee, he or she may appoint, in writing, a nominee who must be, in the case of the Women's Federal Council, the immediate past President; and in the case of the Young Nationals, its Vice-President.
- 19.9 All decisions of the Federal Management Committee, except as provided in clause 34.5, shall be decided by a simple majority of those who, being present and entitled to vote, vote on the resolution.
- 19.10 Minutes shall be kept of the proceedings of each meeting of the Federal Management Committee and shall be signed as a correct record thereof by the chairman of the meeting.

## **FEDERAL CONFERENCE**

- 20.1 A Federal Conference shall be convened by the Federal Council at least once in the life of every Commonwealth Parliament, or at least once every three (3) years, at such time and place determined by the Federal Management Committee.

### **Powers of Federal Conference**

- 21.1 Federal Conference shall have the power to:
- (a) adopt policy for the Party by considering and voting on such policy motions as may be submitted by:
    - (I) Federal Council
    - (II) Federal Management Committee
    - (III) Affiliated Parties
    - (IV) Federal Parliamentary Nationals
    - (V) Federal Electorate Councils
    - (VI) Women's Federal Council
    - (VII) Young Nationals
  - (b) receive addresses from the Federal Leader, the Federal President and other speakers as determined by Federal Council or the Federal Management Committee
  - (c) receive such reports as Federal Council or the Federal Management Committee may wish to make
  - (d) consider such matters as the chairman of Federal Conference may permit.

### **Delegates to Federal Conference**

- 22.1 Federal Conference shall comprise:
- (a) all members of Federal Council
  - (b) in addition to its delegates appointed under clause 8.1(g), seven delegates appointed by each Affiliated Party
  - (c) in addition, five delegates appointed by each Affiliated Party for—
    - (I) each member of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals at the Calculation Date who is a member of the Affiliated Party, and
    - (II) each former member of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals who is or was a member of the Affiliated Party and who, at the Calculation Date, is no longer a member of the Parliament, if his or her place in the Parliament has not been filled at that date
  - (d) three (3) delegates being members of the State or Territory Parliamentary Party of each Affiliated Party, nominated by members of that State or Territory Parliamentary Party
  - (e) two (2) women delegates from each Affiliated Party, who are not members of Federal

Council, nominated by the Women's Federal Council

- (f) two (2) delegates from each Affiliated Party being members of that Party's young member organisation, who are not members of Federal Council, nominated by the Young Nationals.

22.2 No member of or delegate to Federal Conference may be a member of any other political party or political organisation, unless that member is a member in accordance with clause 25.2(b) or the other party or organisation is an Affiliated Party or Associated Party or Organisation under the provisions of this Constitution.

22.3 A delegate of an Affiliated Party must be a member of the Affiliated Party.

22.4 For clause 22.1, the Calculation Date is the date by which the notice convening Federal Conference is required to be given under clause 24.1

### **Quorum, meeting and voting procedures**

23.1 A quorum for Federal Conference shall be not less than one-quarter of those who in accordance with clause 22.1 of this Constitution are entitled to attend, but including:

- (a) people who are delegates of not less than three (3) Affiliated Parties, and
- (b) not less than one-quarter of the members of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals

23.2 All members of or delegates to Federal Conference shall have a vote on all motions put to Federal Conference.

23.3 The Federal President shall be the chairman of Federal Conference.

23.4 At all times at which the Federal President is not present at meetings of Federal Conference, the Federal Vice-President shall chair the meeting.

23.5 If, at any time, the Federal President and the Federal Vice-President are absent from a meeting of Federal Conference, Federal Conference shall elect a President or Chairman of an Affiliated Party to chair the meeting.

23.6 In the case of an equality of votes on any motion at a meeting of Federal Conference, the chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.

23.7 All decisions of Federal Conference shall be decided by a simple majority of those people who, being present and entitled to vote, vote on the resolution.

23.8 Minutes shall be kept of the proceedings of each Federal Conference and shall be signed as a correct record thereof by the chairman of the meeting. Such minutes shall be confirmed by the next meeting of Federal Council.

### **Convening of Federal Conferences**

24.1 Not less than fifty (50) days' notice in writing shall be given of the convening of a Federal Conference.

24.2 Not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to a Federal Conference, the Affiliated Parties, the Women's Federal Council and the Young Nationals shall nominate their delegates to Federal Conference by notice in writing to the Federal President, lodged with the Federal Secretariat.

24.3 If, in the interests of the Party the Federal Management Committee deems it necessary to postpone the holding of a Federal Conference, the Federal Management Committee may do so by notice in writing to members of Federal Council.

## **FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY NATIONALS**

25.1 There shall be a Federal Parliamentary Nationals for the purposes of promoting the objects of the Party in the Commonwealth Parliament.

25.2 The members of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals shall be:

- (a) those Senators and Members of the House of Representatives being members of Affiliated Parties elected to the Commonwealth Parliament upon the endorsement of Affiliated Parties in accordance with this Constitution

- (b) such other Senators and Members of the House of Representatives as, with the approval of members of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals, are admitted to membership of that Party.
- 25.3 The Federal Parliamentary Nationals may make rules, not inconsistent with this Constitution, for the management of its internal affairs and may vary such rules from time to time.

### **Officers of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals**

- 26.1 Officers of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals shall be the:
- (a) Federal Leader
  - (b) Deputy Federal Leader
  - (c) Senate Leader
  - (d) Deputy Senate Leader
  - (e) Chief Whip in the House of Representatives
  - (f) Deputy Whip in the House of Representatives
  - (g) Whip in the Senate.
- 26.2 The officers of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals shall be elected by that Party in such manner as it shall think fit.
- 26.3 The Federal Parliamentary Nationals may elect or appoint other Parliamentary officers and representatives to Parliamentary committees and delegations as it shall think fit.

### **POLICIES OF THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY NATIONALS**

- 27.1 The Federal Parliamentary Nationals shall be responsible for the implementation of the policies of the Party in the Commonwealth sphere as far as is possible.
- 27.2 The Federal Parliamentary Nationals shall consider policy decisions of the Federal Conference and Federal Council.
- 27.3 If circumstances require the Federal Parliamentary Nationals to act inconsistently with policy decisions made by Federal Conference or Federal Council, the Federal Leader shall advise the reasons for doing so to the Federal Management Committee.

### **Coalition Agreements**

- 28.1 It is recognised that:
- (a) the objects of the The Nationals will be achieved by the Party winning and maintaining Government in the Commonwealth Parliament
  - (b) the Federal Parliamentary Nationals may decide that its prospects of winning and maintaining Government are enhanced by it forming a coalition or alliance with another Parliamentary political party, either in Government or Opposition
  - (c) the Federal Parliamentary Nationals may accordingly enter into, alter the terms of, or terminate, either in Government or Opposition, a coalition or alliance with another Parliamentary political party
  - (d) before commencing negotiations for the purpose of entering into, altering the terms of, or terminating any such coalition or alliance, and before deciding to enter into, alter the terms of or terminate any such alliance, the Federal Leader shall consult with the Federal Management Committee, whose views on the matter shall be conveyed to the members of the Federal Parliamentary Nationals and shall be fully taken into account by them in making their decision.

### **CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT**

- 29.1. The Party shall endorse candidates for election to the Commonwealth Parliament at each Federal election and Federal by-election in such electorates as may be determined in

accordance with this Constitution.

- 29.2 The endorsement of candidates for election to the Commonwealth Parliament in each State and Territory in which there is an Affiliated Party shall be the responsibility of that Affiliated Party.
- 29.3 Affiliated Parties shall on behalf of the Party:
- (a) determine in which Federal electoral divisions within their State or Territory candidates are to be endorsed on behalf of the Party
  - (b) determine the endorsement and method of endorsement of candidates for a Federal election or Federal by-election within their State or Territory
  - (c) manage the election campaign within their State or Territory, in coordination with the Federal Campaign Committee and the Federal Campaign Director
  - (d) direct and supervise all campaign advertising within their State and Territory in coordination with the Federal Campaign Committee and the Federal Campaign Director
  - (e) establish a programme for the collection of funds necessary to finance the Federal campaign within their State or Territory.
- 29.4 Candidates endorsed for election to the Commonwealth Parliament by Affiliated Parties or the Federal Management Committee shall abide by this Constitution and support the policies of the The Nationals as espoused by the Federal Parliamentary Nationals.
- 29.5 No Affiliated Party shall endorse candidates for election to the Commonwealth Parliament in Federal electoral divisions other than those within its own State or Territory.
- 29.6 If a member of an Affiliated Party stands for election to the Senate or House of Representatives against a candidate endorsed in accordance with this Constitution, the Affiliated Party shall forthwith expel that member.
- 29.7 In States and Territories in which there is no Affiliated Party, the Federal Management Committee may endorse candidates on behalf of the Party.

## **FEDERAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE**

- 30.1 There shall be a Standing Committee of the Federal Management Committee known as the Federal Campaign Committee
- 30.2 The Federal Campaign Committee shall comprise:
- (a) the Federal President (or nominee)
  - (b) the Federal Leader (or nominee)
  - (c) the Federal Campaign Director (or nominee)
  - (d) the State Campaign Director of each State in which the Party proposes to endorse candidates in the next Federal election
  - (e) such other members as the Federal Management Committee shall from time to time determine.
- 30.3 The Federal Campaign Committee shall have responsibility for the conduct of general elections, by-elections and continuous campaigning for the Party within the framework of a budget determined by the Federal Management Committee.
- 30.4 The Federal Campaign Committee and the Federal Campaign Director shall be responsible for coordinating with Affiliated Parties and Associated Organisations all matters pertaining to Federal election, Federal by-election and Federal referendum campaigns.

## **FEDERAL SECRETARIAT**

- 31.1 There shall be a Federal Secretariat of the Party, which shall be situated in Canberra, and shall be made up of the Federal Director and such staff and facilities as the Federal Management Committee may determine.

- 31.2 The Federal Director shall be:
- (a) the chief executive officer in charge of the Federal Secretariat
  - (b) unless otherwise determined by the Federal Management Committee, the Federal Campaign Director for all Federal election, Federal by-election and Federal referendum campaigns
  - (c) the registered officer of the Party for the purposes of the Commonwealth Electoral Act.
- 31.3 The terms of employment of the Federal Director shall be determined from time to time by the Federal Management Committee.
- 31.4 The Federal Director shall be appointed by the Federal Management Committee acting in consultation with the Federal Leader.
- 31.5 The Federal Secretariat shall perform such functions as required by the Federal Leader and the Federal Management Committee including:
- (a) provision of administrative, research and support facilities as required to the Federal Parliamentary Nationals, Federal Council, Federal Management Committee, Federal Conference, Women's Federal Council and Young Nationals
  - (b) arranging facilities for and coordinating meetings of Federal Council, Federal Conference and Federal Management Committee, and maintaining minutes of such meetings
  - (c) preparing and publishing material aimed at further promoting the Party
  - (d) any other activities required by the Federal Leader and the Federal Management Committee to assist the Party to maintain and increase its representation in the Commonwealth Parliament.
- 31.6 The Federal Secretariat shall perform its functions in accordance with an annual budget and separate election, by-election and referendum campaign budgets as determined by the Federal Management Committee.

## **POLICY STANDING COMMITTEE**

- 32.1 There shall be a Policy Standing Committee of Federal Council which shall coordinate and monitor the development of policy and philosophy and make recommendations to Federal Council in relation to the same. The Policy Standing Committee shall comprise:
- (a) a Chairman, who shall be elected annually at each annual meeting of Federal Council as per Clauses 11 and 12 of this Constitution
  - (b) the Federal Parliamentary Leader and his Deputy
  - (c) the Federal President and Federal Vice-President
  - (d) the President of Women's Federal Council and the President of the Young Nationals
  - (e) one (1) member of the Federal Parliamentary Party who does not hold a portfolio.
  - (f) such other members as may be appointed by the Federal Management Committee.

## **FEES**

- 33.1 The Affiliated Parties shall pay such fees as are determined from time to time by Federal Council in the manner and at times specified by Federal Council.
- 33.2 The amount of the fees payable by Affiliated Parties shall be determined by Federal Council, having regard to recommendations of the Federal Management Committee and to the amount necessary to meet the costs of convening meetings of Federal Council, Federal Management Committee and Federal Conference, and such other activities of Federal Council as deemed appropriate.
- 33.3 The members of or delegates to any meeting of Federal Council or Federal Conference of any Affiliated Party which has not paid the fees due by it within twenty-one (21) days prior to such

meeting shall, notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, be entitled to attend but not to vote at that meeting.

## **AFFILIATIONS**

- 34.1 An organisation in a State or Territory where there is no Affiliated Party may apply to become an Affiliated Party by application in writing to the Federal Secretary.
- 34.2 No such organisation shall be admitted to affiliation unless it:
- (a) has not less than one hundred (100) financial members
  - (b) has subscribed to the objects and policies of the Party and undertaken to be bound by this Constitution
  - (c) has a Constitution acceptable to the Party
  - (d) is eligible for registration as a political party under the Commonwealth Electoral Act
  - (e) is not affiliated with any other political party or political organisation, provided that Federal Council may grant an exemption from any of these provisions as it may determine
- 34.3 An application for affiliation shall comply with the Guidelines for Affiliation as approved by Federal Council.
- 34.4. The Federal Management Committee shall within thirty (30) days of the receipt of an application for affiliation decide to accept or reject the application and shall forthwith notify the applicant of its decision
- 34.5 An application for affiliation considered by the Federal Management Committee shall only be approved upon a vote if passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members of the Federal Management Committee present and voting.
- 34.6 If the Federal Management Committee decides to reject an application for affiliation, no further application from the same organisation shall be considered for twelve (12) months from the date of such rejection.
- 34.7 If the Federal Management Committee decides to accept an application, the application shall be considered at the next meeting of Federal Council.
- 34.8 An application for affiliation considered by Federal Council shall only be approved upon a vote if passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members of Federal Council present and voting.
- 34.9 In the event of Federal Council voting against affiliation, no further application for affiliation from the same organisation shall be considered for twelve (12) months from the date of such vote.
- 34.10 The decision of Federal Council to admit or reject an application for affiliation shall be final.
- 34.11 An Affiliated Party shall notify in writing to the Federal Management Committee any changes to its Constitution or its name.
- 34.12 If a member of an Affiliated Party stands for election to the Senate or House of Representatives against a candidate endorsed in accordance with this Constitution, the Affiliated Party shall forthwith expel that member.

## **ASSOCIATIONS**

- 35.1 An organisation in a State or Territory where there is no Affiliated Party may apply to become an Associated Party by application in writing to the Federal Secretary.
- 35.2 No such organisation shall be admitted to association unless in a State or Territory where there is no Affiliated Party. The Federal Council shall have the power to permit any organisation which:
- (a) broadly follows the objects and policies of the Party.
  - (b) has a constitution acceptable to the Party.

- (c) is not affiliated with any other political party or political organisation, provided that Federal Council may grant an exemption from any of these provisions as it may determine.
- 35.3 The Federal Management Committee shall within thirty (30) days of the receipt of an application for association decide to accept or reject the application and shall forthwith notify the applicant of its decision.
- 35.4 An application for association considered by the Federal Management Committee shall only be approved upon a vote if passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members of the Federal Management Committee present and voting.
- 35.5 If the Federal Management Committee decides to reject an application for association, no further application from the same organisation shall be considered for twelve (12) months from the date of such rejection.
- 35.6 If the Federal Management Committee decides to accept an application, the application shall be considered at the next meeting of Federal Council.
- 35.7 An application for association considered by Federal Council shall only be approved upon a vote if passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members of Federal Council present and voting.
- 35.8 In the event of Federal Council voting against association, no further application for association from the same organisation shall be considered for twelve (12) months from the date of such vote.
- 35.9 The decision of Federal Council to admit or reject an application for association shall be final.
- 35.10 Associated Organisations may send, at their own expense, such delegates or observers as may be specified in the resolution approving the association, or a subsequent resolution of the Federal Council carried by a two-thirds majority, to Federal Management Committee, Federal Council and Federal Conference.
- 35.11 Delegates from Associated Organisations may participate in meetings on the same terms as any other delegate, provided that such delegates shall not vote on any resolution which:
  - (a) seeks to amend this Constitution
  - (b) relates to the terms and conditions upon which any Organisation affiliates or becomes associated with the Party
  - (c) relates to the election of office bearers
  - (d) relates to the administration of the Party, and such delegates shall not be eligible to be elected as an office bearer of the Party.

## **TERMINATION OF AFFILIATION**

- 36.1 If an Affiliated Party:
  - (a) fails to comply with the terms of this Constitution
  - (b) amends its Constitution in a manner inconsistent with its obligations as an Affiliated Party, or
  - (c) otherwise conducts itself in a manner inconsistent with its obligations as an Affiliated Party, an application to terminate its affiliation may be made in accordance with Clauses 36.2 to 36.8 of this Constitution.
- 36.2 An application to terminate the affiliation of an Affiliated Party shall be made by notice in writing to the Federal Management Committee by not less than ten (10) members of Federal Council.
- 36.3 The application shall set out the detailed grounds on which termination of affiliation is proposed.
- 36.4 The Federal Management Committee shall give notice of the application for termination of affiliation and the grounds thereof to the Affiliated Party concerned and to each member of

Federal Council.

- 36.5 The Federal Management Committee shall convene a special meeting of Federal Council not less than thirty (30) days following the date of receipt of the application for termination of affiliation.
- 36.6 Federal Council may, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of its members present and voting at a meeting of Federal Council convened in accordance with this clause, vote to terminate the affiliation of an Affiliated Party.
- 36.7 A decision by Federal Council to terminate the affiliation of an Affiliated Party shall become effective on the date specified in the resolution and if no such date is specified it shall become effective immediately.
- 36.8 A decision by Federal Council to terminate the affiliation of an Affiliated Party shall be final.

## **TERMINATION OF ASSOCIATION**

- 37.1 Federal Council may, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of its members present and voting, terminate the association of an Associated Organisation.

## **THE NATIONALS WOMEN'S FEDERAL COUNCIL**

- 38.1 There shall be The Nationals Women's Federal Council which shall consist of women delegates from each Affiliated Party.
- 38.2 The Women's Federal Council shall meet annually immediately prior to the annual Federal Council meeting.
- 38.3 The Women's Federal Council shall meet under its Constitution, approved by Federal Council, and elect its own officers and may convene such other meetings as it shall think fit.

## **YOUNG NATIONALS**

- 39.1 There shall be a Young National Party of Australia, also known as the Young Nationals, which shall be governed by a Constitution approved by Federal Council.
- 39.2 The governing body of the Young Nationals shall be the Young Nationals Federal Council, which shall consist of members from the young party organisations of Affiliated Parties and Associated Organisations. Where an Affiliated Party or Associated Organisation does not have a constituted young party organisation, its delegates to the Young Nationals Federal Council shall be younger party members within the age range of the collective young party organisations of the Affiliated and Associated Parties.
- 39.3 The Young Nationals Federal Council shall meet annually immediately prior to the annual Federal Council meeting to elect its office bearers and consider other business, and may convene such other meetings as it shall think fit, including a Young Nationals Federal Conference once in the life of each Commonwealth Parliament, or once every three (3) years.

## **TRUSTEES**

- 40.1 Federal Council may appoint as Trustees of the Party such eminent people who have given outstanding service to the Party as it shall think fit.
- 40.2 Trustees appointed by Federal Council shall hold office for such period as Federal Council may determine.
- 40.3 The position of Trustee shall be an honorary position in the Party.
- 40.4 Trustees shall be entitled to attend all meetings of Federal Council and Federal Conferences and shall be entitled to speak at such meetings, but not entitled to vote.

## **INDEMNITY**

- 41.1 The Federal President, Federal Treasurer, Trustees, Federal Secretary, members of Federal Council, and any other officers or servants of Federal Council or the Federal Secretariat shall

**THE NATIONALS**  
*for Regional Australia*

 6 Geils Court, Deakin ACT 2600  02 6273 3822  
 federal.nationals@nationals.org.au  nationals.org.au