

Notice of Motion

Region Constitution amendment

Amalgamation of Nelson-Marlborough and West Coast Regions

It is moved that

Clause 5.1 is amended by deleting West Coast and changing Nelson-Marlborough to Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast.

Proposed by: Janet Tavener

Date: 29/8/22

Handwritten signature of Janet Tavener in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by 'Tavener' and a horizontal flourish underneath.

Seconded by: Kelly Walker

Date: 29/8/22

Handwritten signature of Kelly Walker in blue ink, appearing as 'K Walker'.

Amendment to Notice of Motion regarding Clause 5.1 of Branch Constitution

The motion currently reads:

It is moved that
Clause 5.1 is amended by deleting West Coast and changing Nelson-Marlborough to
Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast.

Proposed amendment to the motion:

It is moved that the motion regarding Clause 5.1 be amended to include:
And also that Auckland be replaced with Auckland-Northland.

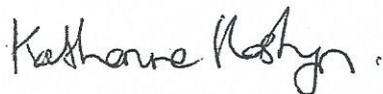
The amended motion would read:

It is moved that
Clause 5.1 is amended by deleting West Coast and changing Nelson-Marlborough to Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast *and also that Auckland be replaced with Auckland-Northland.*

Signed:



Gae Beckingsale



Katharine Hoskyn

Rationale:

We hope Nelson-Marlborough-West Coast won't mind this addition to its Notice of Motion. The northern most region voted at its AGM on 30 October 2022 to change its name to Auckland-Northland Region.

The original naming of the region was based on the old concept of Auckland Province which covered both Auckland and Northland. It is more appropriate for the name of the Region to reflect the place names in current use. The use of hyphenated naming is in line with other regions that cover multiple areas.

Notice of Motion

Branch Constitution – Amendments to the maximum term of office for Management Committee members

It is moved that clause 3.3 of the NZ Branch Constitution be replaced with:

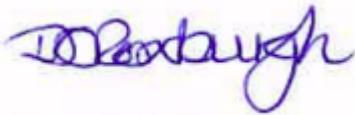
Those elected under clause 3.2 shall each hold office for one year. No person shall hold office in one of these positions for more than three consecutive years, but in exceptional circumstances this term of office can be extended to four years.

On ceasing to hold office for at least eleven months that person shall then be eligible for re-election to the original office. This provision shall not preclude any person who has held one or more of the offices in question from holding any of the other offices so that the total term of office bearing in that case exceeds in aggregate three consecutive years.



Proposed by: Elaine Laidlaw

Date: 28/8/2022



Seconded by: Debbie Roxburgh

Date: 28/8/2022

Rationale:

The New Zealand Branch Constitution currently specifies a maximum term of office for these members of the Management Committee – President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. No maximum term of office is specified for the other members of the committee.

Treating all positions in the same way would bring the following benefits:

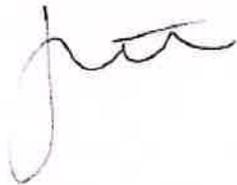
- The normal term of office will be three years. This allows for a regular rotation of members of the Standing Committee i.e. President, Secretary, Treasurer with ideally only one member of the Standing Committee changing each year.
- Regular changes of committee members ensure that the Management Committee receives ongoing injections of fresh ideas and enthusiasm.
- A 3-year maximum term in any one position allows time for committee members to make a significant impact in their position and leave plans in place for their successor.
- A specified maximum term makes the level of commitment clear to members considering standing for one of the Management Committee positions.

Current wording of NZ Branch Constitution clause 3.3

- 3.3 Those elected under clause 3.2 shall each hold office for one year. No person shall hold office as President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer for more than four consecutive years, but on ceasing to hold such office for at least eleven months that person shall then be eligible for re-election to the original office. This provision shall not preclude any person who has held one or more of the offices in question from holding any of the other offices so that the total term of office bearing in that case exceeds in the aggregate four consecutive years.

Notice of Motion Branch Constitution – Amendments to reflect changes to the Incorporated Societies Act

The Management Committee proposes that the NZ Branch Constitution be amended to reflect the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (**new Act**). The proposed amendments are set out in the Attachment.



Proposed by: Jeanette Watson

Date: 31/8/2022



Seconded by: Debbie Roxburgh (NZ Branch Vice-President) Date: 31/8/2022

Rationale:

The new Act was assented to in April 2022. The final date for existing societies to re-register under the new Act is a date still to be fixed in April 2026. In order to re-register, the Branch needs to have a constitution that complies with the new Act. The re-registration window opens in November 2023.

The timing for transition compared with that of the Branch AGMs means that the Branch has up to 4 AGMs (January 2023, 2024, 2025 & 2026) in which to complete this process (if special General Meetings or postal voting are not to be needed).

Therefore, despite the Regulations under the new Act not having been promulgated yet (and not forecasted to be until at least Sept 2023), the Management Committee proposes that an initial set of amendments to the constitution be considered and passed by the membership at this time. This will allow the majority of changes necessary to comply with the new Act to be considered and adopted without urgency, and allow further changes for other proposals to be made to the 'new' constitution. (If the Regulations later indicate that the changes made need further amendment, then those minor changes may need to be proposed for adoption at a later AGM.)

Legal advice has been sought from Chris Kelly of Wellington. His donation of time and expertise is greatly appreciated.

The changes proposed represent only those amendments the Management

Committee has been advised are required to comply with the new Act, reflect changes made by the new Act, reflect administrative changes otherwise suggested, or are to correct previous minor errors.

Attachment

Proposed amendments to Branch Constitution

Amend Clause 1 by re-numbering clauses 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 as 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 – to correct numbering.

Add to Clause 2.1(1):

'and must have consented to be a member of the Branch.'

Amend Clause 2.1(2) to delete the second sentence ("Any Life and Long-Term member of the Society may become a member of the Branch, at that person's request.") – this is unnecessary as the first sentence says that anyone over 16 can join.

Amend Clause 2.3(2) by replacing "30 September" with "30 November" to extend the time which members have to pay before their benefits are removed.

Re-number Clause 2.3(2)(iv) as Clause 2.3(3) – this is a typographical change only and obviously how the clause is supposed to appear.

Add to Clause 2:

2.5 Register of Members: Management Committee shall keep a register of all the Branch's members, and shall update the register as soon as practicable after becoming aware of changes to the information. The register of members shall contain the following details of each member:

- (1) their name;
- (2) last known contact details;
- (3) date of becoming a member; and
- (4) any other information required by law to be kept.

Amend Clause 3.1 to divide the committee into Standing members and Coordinators for financial purposes:

The Branch shall be administered by a Management Committee consisting of:

- (1) Office bearers of the Branch and who have financial authority:
 - a. the President
 - b. the Vice-President
 - c. the Secretary
 - d. the Treasurer; and
- (2) Ordinary members:
 - a. Communications, Publicity and Membership Coordinator
 - b. Information Technology Coordinator
 - c. Education and Training Coordinator
 - d. Youth Coordinator

Add to Clause 3:

3.6 Removal: Management Committee may remove a Management Committee member ('defaulting officer') by the unanimous vote of all Management Committee members other than the defaulting officer, upon the occurrence of:

- (1) the defaulting officer becoming disqualified from being an officer of an incorporated society; or
- (2) the resolution of a dispute under Clause 12, which resolution includes requiring the removal of the defaulting officer.

Amend each of Clause 4.2, 5.4 and 8.3(4) to insert 'if there is an equality of votes' after the words 'casting vote'.

Add to Clause 4:

4.3 Contact Person: The Secretary shall be the contact person for the purposes of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, unless Management Committee agrees to appoint another officer to be the contact person.

Amend Clause 5.1 (list of Regions) by deleting reference to West Coast.

Amend Clause 7.4 to read:

'The Treasurer shall control and manage the finances of the Branch using an appropriate system approved by Management Committee, and shall report to Management Committee at least quarterly on material transactions occurring and the state of the Branch's finances, in the form requested by Management Committee.'

Add to Clause 8.1

'and within 15 months of the last Annual General Meeting' after the words 'its financial year' on line 2, to ensure that the Act's requirements are clear when setting the timing of the AGM; and *'and by such means'* after the words 'at such time and place' on line 2, to clearly allow electronic meetings.

'Any member of the Branch may attend any general meeting.' at the end of the clause, to clearly state that any member may attend.

Add to clause 8.3:

- (5) No written resolution in lieu of a general meeting may be passed. This provision does not limit the right to vote by ballot by post and electronic means under clause 8.3(3) or clause 9.3.

Amend clause 8.5(2) to read:

'report of the President or the Secretary on the operations and affairs of the Branch during the completed accounting period'

Add to clause 8.5(4):

'and disclosures of interest'

Add as clause 9.4:

As permitted by the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, the Branch (ie the Management Committee acting on behalf of the Branch) may amend this constitution if the amendment has no more than a minor effect, or corrects errors or makes similar technical alterations. Management Committee must send written notice of the amendment to every member of the Branch at their last known contact address. The notice must state the text of the amendment, and the right of the member to object to the amendment. If no objection from a member is received within 20 working days after the date on which the notice is sent, Management Committee may make the amendment. However, if such an objection is received, the Branch may not make the amendment under this clause.

12 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Add new Clause 12:

12.1 The dispute resolution procedures set out in schedule 2 to the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, as amended by law from time to time, are adopted as the dispute resolution procedures of the Branch and are to be read as part of this Constitution.

12.2 Those dispute resolution procedures are expanded as follows:

- (a) The Branch may form a Complaints Committee to consider the issue and decide on the matter.
- (b) Management Committee will appoint a Branch member who has no interest in the complaint to chair the Complaints Committee, as agreed by the complainant, and the respondent (if any).
- (c) The chair of the Complaints Committee will select at least two other Society members with no interest in the complaint to complete the committee.
- (d) Decisions made by the Complaints Committee will be final and binding, provided that the Complaints Committee acted in accordance with this clause 12 in making that decision.

Dispute Resolution Procedures from the Act (amended to refer to the Branch, so it's easier to understand):

1 How complaint is made

(1) A Branch member or an officer may make a complaint by giving to Management Committee a notice in writing that—

- i. states that the member or officer is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute; and
- ii. sets out the allegation to which the dispute relates and whom the allegation is against; and
- iii. sets out any other information reasonably required by the Branch.

(2) The Branch may make a complaint involving an allegation against a Branch member or an officer by giving to the member or officer a notice in writing that—

- i. states that the Branch is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute in accordance with the Branch's constitution; and
- ii. sets out the allegation to which the dispute relates.

(3) The information given under subclause (1)(b) or (2)(b) must be enough to ensure that a person against whom an allegation is made is fairly advised of the allegation concerning them, with sufficient details given to enable them to prepare a response.

2 Person who makes complaint has right to be heard

(1) The person who makes the complaint has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined. If the Branch made the complaint, an officer may exercise this right on behalf of the Branch.

(3) Without limiting the manner in which the member, officer, or Branch may be given the right to be heard, they must be taken to have been given the right if—

- i. they have a reasonable opportunity to be heard in writing or at an oral hearing (if one is held); and
- ii. an oral hearing is held if the decision maker considers that an oral hearing is needed to ensure an adequate hearing; and
- iii. an oral hearing (if any) is held before the decision maker; and
- iv. the member's, officer's, or Branch's written statement or submissions (if any) are considered by the decision maker.

3 Person who is subject of complaint has right to be heard

(1) This clause applies if a complaint involves an allegation that a member, an officer, or the Branch (the **respondent**)—

- i. has engaged in misconduct; or
- ii. has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under the society's constitution or bylaws or this Act; or
- iii. has damaged the rights or interests of a member or the rights or interests of members generally.

(2) The respondent has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined.

(3) If the respondent is the Branch, an officer may exercise the right on behalf of the Branch.

(4) Without limiting the manner in which a respondent may be given a right to be heard, a respondent must be taken to have been given the right if—

- i. the respondent is fairly advised of all allegations concerning the respondent, with sufficient details and time given to enable the respondent to prepare a response; and
- ii. the respondent has a reasonable opportunity to be heard in writing or at an oral hearing (if one is held); and

- iii. an oral hearing is held if the decision maker considers that an oral hearing is needed to ensure an adequate hearing; and
- iv. an oral hearing (if any) is held before the decision maker; and
- v. the respondent's written statement or submissions (if any) are considered by the decision maker.

4 Investigating and determining dispute

(1) The Branch must, as soon as is reasonably practicable after receiving or becoming aware of a complaint made in accordance Clause 12.1, ensure that the dispute is investigated and determined.

(2) Disputes must be dealt with in a fair, efficient, and effective manner.

5 Branch may decide not to proceed further with complaint

Despite Clause 12.4, the Branch may decide not to proceed further with a complaint if—

- 1) the complaint is trivial; or
- 2) the complaint does not appear to disclose or involve any allegation of the following kind:
 - i. that a member or an officer has engaged in material misconduct;
 - ii. that a member, an officer, or the society has materially breached, or is likely to materially breach, a duty under the society's constitution or bylaws or this Act;
 - iii. that a member's rights or interests or members' rights or interests generally have been materially damaged;
- 3) the complaint appears to be without foundation or there is no apparent evidence to support it; or
- 4) the person who makes the complaint has an insignificant interest in the matter; or
- 5) the conduct, incident, event, or issue giving rise to the complaint has already been investigated and dealt with in some other manner; or
- 6) there has been an undue delay in making the complaint.

6 Branch may refer complaint

(1) The Branch may refer a complaint to:

- i. a subcommittee or an external person to investigate and report; or
- ii. a subcommittee, an arbitral tribunal, or an external person to investigate and make a decision.

(2) The Branch may, with the consent of all parties to a complaint, refer the complaint to any type of consensual dispute resolution (for example, mediation, facilitation, or a tikanga-based practice).

7 Decision makers

A person may not act as a decision maker in relation to a complaint if 2 or more members of Management Committee or a complaints subcommittee consider that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person may not be—

- 1) impartial; or
- 2) able to consider the matter without a predetermined view.

AMENDMENT TO

Notice of Motion re Branch Constitution

Add to Clause 8.5(4)

“and disclosures of interest”

Whilst being in agreement with the intent of this change we are concerned that this amendment appears to only apply the disclosure requirement to some Management Committee members not all. It is general practice in other organisations that key personnel are required to disclose any interest (conflict of interest) as pertinent.

Given that the situation of a member of Management Committee could change at any time we suggest that it might be more appropriate to add a sub-clause as follows to Clause 4 to address this.

“Should any member of Management Committee be in a position where they have a potential conflict of interest with the Branch this must be disclosed.”

Moved:

Vicky Heslop


Seconded:

Kelly Walker
K.K. Walker

Date:

3 November 2022.

Minor amendments to

Notice of Motion

Branch Constitution – Amendments to reflect changes to the Incorporated Societies Act

November 2022

Amendment inserting “if there is an equality of votes’, delete the reference to ‘5.4’ – this clause contains reference to this condition already.

Information Note on Dispute Resolution Procedure (not part of the constitution):

Para 1(3) – reference to ‘1(b) or 2(b)’ should be read ‘1ii or 2ii’

Para 2(3) – should be numbered 2(2)

Two Notices of Motion: Alteration to Constitution for One-Person, One-Vote.

At the 2022 AGM two Notices of Motion passed that work be undertaken on modifications to the New Zealand Branch Constitution so that voting on *Determination of Branch Service Fees and Expenses of Office Bearers* and for *Notices of Motion* are managed in such a way as to enable each financial member to be responsible for the allocation of their own vote (often described as 'one-person, one-vote').

The two following Notices of Motion move to alter the Branch Constitution to enable one-person, one-vote to occur at future AGMs for these items (Fees and expenses determination and Notices of Motion).

The Branch constitution already has a mechanism for vote by ballot by post and electronic means in Clauses 8.3 (3) (in Constitution as at 1 January, 2022). The clause requires both options be available to take into account differing practices within the Branch with regard to use of email and electronic means.

These notices are presented as two separate Notices of Motions as opinions can differ for each type of AGM decision.

If both Notices of Motion pass, Clause 8.3 (3) would be numbered in the following way:

(3) A vote by ballot by post and electronic means of individual Branch members

*(i) **will** be held for the Determination of Branch Fees and Expenses for Office Bearers prior to General Meetings*

*(ii) **will** be held for Notices of Motion, except for Alterations to the Constitution, prior to General Meetings*

*(iii) **may** be held for Alterations to the Constitution in accordance with Clause 9.3*

*(iv) **may** be held on other items at the discretion of the Management Committee or if approved at a Branch Annual General Meeting*

The individual clauses are shown as bullet points in the Notices of Motion on the following page as numbering will depend on how many of the resolutions pass. Item (i) relates only to Determination of Fees and Expenses. Items (ii) and (iii) relate to Notices of Motion. Item (iv) relates to both types of AGM decisions and so appears on both our Notices of Motion.

The numbering of clauses in these Notices of Motion relate to the New Zealand Branch Constitution as at 1 January, 2022

Notice of Motion: Alteration to the Constitution to enable One -person, one vote for Determination of Branch Fees and Expenses for Office Bearers

That Clause 8.3 (3) of the New Zealand Branch Constitution be re-worded to read:

(3) A vote by ballot by post and electronic means of individual Branch members:

- *will be held for the Determination of Branch Fees and Expenses for Office Bearers prior to General Meetings*
- *may be held on other items at the discretion of the Management Committee or if approved at a Branch Annual General Meeting*

And that Clause 8.5 (7) of the New Zealand Branch Constitution be re-worded to read:

(7) Receipt of vote on the Determination of Branch Fees and Expenses for Office Bearers. Should the vote not be successful in determining these fees and expenses, the delegates at the General Meeting will be authorised to do so.

Moved Katharine Hoskyn

Katharine Hoskyn

Seconded Antanas Procuta

Antanas Procuta

Rationale:

This motion uses the expression used in the New Zealand Branch Constitution - *Determination of Branch Service Fees and Expenses of Office Bearers*. This encompasses the payments to Management Committee and other roles such as shop keeper, editor, summer school organiser or any other role that Management Committee chose to decide at the AGM.

The determination of fees and expenses differs from other Notices of Motion. If the motion recommended by Management Committee is defeated, an alternative mechanism for the decision needs to be available such as default to the status quo or having the decision made by delegates at an AGM. For this reason, two clauses in the Constitution need to be altered.

The alteration to Clause 8.5 (7) provides for the existing situation whereby delegates at an AGM made a decision about fees or expenses if the Management Committee recommendation is not accepted. Management Committee would however have some warning that an alternative is needed, rather than having to determine an alternative at the AGM (as at present).

This gives the best of both worlds. Management Committee can identify the will of individual members. If the membership do not like the recommendation of Management Committee, there is a second chance to formulate a proposal.

Why one-person, one-vote?

It is probably helpful to review why the concept of 'one-person, one-vote' is favoured by many members. In summary: Differing practices across regions in relation to region AGM voting means that the extent to which a member's vote is 'counted' depends on the region within which the member resides. For example, regions with only one or two votes are unable to split their vote to reflect diverse views. Some regions decide to cast all votes based on the majority view in their region. Even in large regions, if contrary views do not reach the threshold for one vote for be cast, the contrary views are not represented.

Voting is not just about a decision being made, it is also about members feeling that they have been heard and recognised. This is particularly important for financial matters relating to membership fees and how they are spent.

A further reminder may be helpful about some statistics and comments about level of engagement in AGMs: Level of engagement in online voting is a concern for people favouring voting at face-to-face meetings. The previous working party calculated the current level of engagement in voting processes. The attendance at the Branch AGM is typically between 50 – 80 people, of which 40 are region delegates. Attendance in any one year at all region AGMs is typically between 140 – 180. This is 20% – 25% of membership. It is impossible to estimate how many people might engage with an online voting system (participation in surveys is completely different to engaging in voting). However numbers need to be assessed against current engagement.

Region AGMs have been described as utilising the 'one-person, one-vote' concept, as all members can vote a region AGMs. However, this is not really the case as travel and date/time of meeting can make meeting attendance difficult.

The previous working party identified concern about a group or region swaying a national decision was prevalent by supporters of both individual and delegate voting systems. Statistical analysis was presented to last year's AGM. With the largest region being only 33% of the branch membership, it would require very considerable apathy across the whole of the rest of the branch for that region to implement something alone (and it would require the near-impossible task of getting the whole of the region to fully engage and vote in the same direction). Calculation of other scenarios (groupings of regions) also showed the difficulty for a group of people to sway a vote.

As is typical of most Constitutions, detail is not given about how voting will be undertaken. (The process for delegate voting is not described in the Constitution). There are now good electronic options for voting in organisations similar to ours, some of which have no charge. The voting needs to follow the period of time to discuss and possibly amend Notices of Motion. While the detail about process for voting is detailed, a key point has been made – that both postal and electronic means are needed.

As extra-ordinary as it may seem, supporters of both individual and delegate voting are mostly aiming for the same goals:

- The value and importance of discussion within regions prior to voting
- The importance of ensuring that all members can have input into voting

The highly-valued discussion at region AGMS can still be part of the process prior to individuals casting their votes.

Notice of Motion: Alteration to the Constitution to enable One -person, one vote for voting on Notices of Motion

That Clause 8.3 (3) of the New Zealand Branch Constitution be re-worded to read:

(3) A vote by ballot by post and electronic means of individual Branch members:

- *will be held for Notices of Motion, except for Alterations to the Constitution, prior to General Meetings*
- *may be held for Alterations to the Constitution in accordance with Clause 9.3*
- *may be held on other items at the discretion of the Management Committee or if approved at a Branch Annual General Meeting*

with the numbering of clauses to be successive and dependent on the result for the other Notice of Motion for One-Person, One-Vote.

And that Clause 8.5 (8) of the New Zealand Branch Constitution be re-worded to read:

(8) Receipt of voting on Notices of Motion and voting on any Notices of Motion for Alteration of the Constitution

Moved Katharine Hoskyn



Seconded Antanas Procuta



Rationale:

Most explanation and reasons for One-Person, One-Vote from the previous motion also relate to voting on Notices of Motion.

Why are Alterations to the Constitution handled differently in this Notice of Motion?

They are excepted from being mandatory for individual voting. The possibility of individual voting is still possible under Clause 9.3 of the Branch Constitution – as an option, if requested by Management Committee or a General Meeting.

Alterations to a Constitution can be technical and complex. Such alterations may not be well-suited to an individual vote and level of engagement may be low. Alteration of one clause can have flow-on effects to other clauses and pre-determining a process for voting may be difficult. For that reason, at least in the early stages of using an individual voting process, it is recommended that Alterations to the Constitution are excluded.

Below are the relevant sections of the New Zealand Branch Constitution with the alterations shown:

8.3 Voting:

(1) At any General Meeting, each Region shall be entitled to one vote for every 20 members (or part of twenty) resident in the Region as at 30 September each year.

(2) These votes shall be exercised by the Region delegates appointed under clause 5.5. All votes to which a Region is entitled may be exercised by the Region's delegates, except that no delegate may carry more than three votes in total.

~~(3) A vote by ballot by post and electronic means of individual Branch members may be held at the discretion of the Management Committee or if approved at a Branch Annual General Meeting, in accordance with the requirements of clause 9.3(2) to (8) inclusive.~~

(3) A vote by ballot by post and electronic means of individual Branch members:

(i) will be held for the Determination of Branch Fees and Expenses for Office Bearers prior to General Meetings

(ii) will be held for Notices of Motion, except for Alterations to the Constitution, prior to General Meetings

(iii) may be held for Alterations to the Constitution in accordance with Clause 9.3

(iv) may be held on other items at the discretion of the Management Committee or if approved at a Branch Annual General Meeting

(4) The Chair of the meeting (as determined by clauses 7.1 and 7.2) shall have a casting vote.

8.4 Quorum: Delegates representing not less than one quarter of the membership and two-thirds of the Regions shall constitute a quorum for any General Meeting.

8.5 Business of AGM: The order of business at the Annual General Meeting shall, as nearly as may be, consist of:

- 1) the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and of any Special General Meeting held in the course of the year;
- 2) report of the President or the Secretary on the year's working of the Branch;
- 3) the Treasurer's Report and Approval of the Annual Financial Statements, which shall be audited or reviewed;
- 4) reports from each of the other members of the Management Committee including accounting for use of budgeted funds;
- 5) election of each of the members of the Management Committee;
- 6) appointment of an appropriately qualified individual to conduct an independent

audit or review of the Annual Financial Statements for the coming year;

~~7) determination of Branch service fees, and expenses of Office Bearers;~~

(7) Receipt of vote on the Determination of Branch Fees and Expenses for Office Bearers. Should the vote not be successful in determining these fees and expenses, the delegates at the General Meeting will be authorised to do so.

~~8) voting on Notices of Motion;~~

(8) Receipt of voting on Notices of Motion and voting on any Notices of Motion for Alteration of the Constitution

9) any other business raised by any Branch member or by Management Committee.

Questions from members about One-Person, One-Vote

What would happen at a Branch AGM if One-Person, One-Vote is used for Financial Matters and Notices of Motion?

An AGM would still be held with delegates representing each region. The early stages of the meeting would be exactly the same as at present. The region delegates at the AGM still manage:

- approval of minutes and matters arising,
- receipt and discussion about reports,
- election of officers and Management Committee,
- appointment of auditor/reviewer etc.,
- and General Business at the end of the meeting.

One-Person, One-Vote has been proposed for Financial Matters and Notices of Motion which occur at all (or most) AGMs. The feedback over the past few years from discussion groups and a branch survey showed the greatest interest in the concept for these matters. Elections for officers and Management Committee do not occur often. The process of One-Person, One-Vote can be extended to elections at a later date.

After the introduction of one-person, one-voting on Financial Matters and Notices of Motion, the AGM would receive the result of the voting. If the Motions about Financial Matters were not passed, the delegates at the AGM will need to make a decision, explained in the Notice of Motion as follows:

“The determination of fees and expenses differs from other Notices of Motion. If the motion recommended by Management Committee is defeated, an alternative mechanism for the decision needs to be available such as default to the status quo or having the decision made by delegates at an AGM. Management Committee would however have some warning that an alternative is needed, rather than having to determine an alternative at the AGM (as at present).”

The majority required for a Notice of Motion to pass would be as at present, using the usual convention of simple majority. At present the Branch Constitution does not state this requirement. (It only specifies the threshold for Notice of Motion changing the constitution). In the absence of anything in the Constitution, the use of a simple majority is the norm. This would apply to one-person, one vote as it does to voting by delegate.

Role of regions and their delegates in relation to Branch AGM:

Region delegates still represent their region at the Branch AGM: speak and vote in relation to the matters covered at the AGM. In addition to voting, delegates can also represent the views of their region.

Regions can still provide a forum for discussion about the notices of motions and financial matters as at present.

Voting on Amendments:

As had been mentioned on many occasions over the past few years, it is desirable to reduce the need for amendments if possible. Regardless of how a meeting is held or the form of voting, amendments add a degree of complexity to a meeting. The need for amendments can be reduced by discussing the issue raised in the motion prior to submitting the notice so that there are well-worded motions and few surprises.

When an amendment is proposed, the chair decides how it be handled – as at present. If using a one-person, one-vote process (either online or on paper), there would be:

- a) A vote to identify if the amendment should replace the original motion.
- b) Then a vote on both the original motion and the amendment.

If the vote in a) accepts the amendment, the result on the amendment in b) would be used. If not, the result on the original motion would be used.

This process can be complex and confusing at face-to-face meeting. It is no more complex using an online voting system or voting paper. If anything, it may be more easily understood (if clearly explained). Voters have more time to consider the issue.