



Hunter Region Landcare Network Incorporated

Constitution

Under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009

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Part 1 - Preliminary

1. Definitions

(1) In this constitution:

authorised signatory, in relation to an association, means a person who has authority to sign official documents on behalf of the association. The Public Officer is automatically one of the authorised signatories.

Director-General means the Director-General of the Department of Finance and Services

the committee means the management committee of the association

ordinary committee member means a member of the committee who is not an office-bearer of the association.

Public Officer means the person appointed in accordance with the Act.

secretary means:

(a) the person holding office under this constitution as secretary of the association, or

(b) if no such person holds that office - the public officer of the association.

special general meeting means a general meeting of the association other than an annual general meeting.

the Act means the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*.

the Regulation means the *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2010*.

(2) In this constitution:

(a) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty, and

(b) a reference to the exercise of a function includes, if the function is a duty, a reference to the performance of the duty.

(3) The provisions of the *Interpretation Act 1987* apply to and in respect of this constitution in the same manner as those provisions would so apply if this constitution were an instrument made under the Act.

2. Name

The name of the association shall be Hunter Region Landcare Network Incorporated (referred to in the constitution as “the association”).

3. Objects of the Association

Mission

The Hunter Region Landcare Network supports the Landcare community in working to improve the natural environment of the Hunter Region.

Objectives

- (a) Provide processes where the views and needs of Landcarers can be conveyed to governments, sponsors and other interested parties.
- (b) Provide representation for the Landcare groups in the Hunter Region.
- (c) Encourage and facilitate effective coordination of resources, information and ideas across the Hunter Region that supports the Landcare community.
- (d) Enter into agreements with individuals or organisations that promote and further develop Landcare in the region.

Part 2 – Membership

4. Membership in general

- (1) A person is eligible to be a member of the association if the person has been nominated and approved for membership.
- (2) Membership is open to all individuals and organisations who accept the objects and constitution of the association.
- (3) The committee shall determine whether or not to accept an application for membership.
- (4) Members shall pay such fees as are determined by the association.
- (5) Membership fees shall fall due on the first day of each financial year of the association.

5. Nomination for membership including life membership

- (1) Nomination for membership of the association must be made to the secretary of the association, in the form set out by the committee.
- (2) As soon as practicable, once the committee makes the determination to accept or reject a nomination, the secretary must notify the nominee in writing.
- (3) Once accepted the secretary must enter or cause to be entered the nominee's name in the register of members and, on the name being so entered, the nominee becomes a member of the association.
- (4) Life membership may be bestowed on a member who has performed exemplary service to the association.
 - (a) Any member can nominate another member for life membership.
 - (b) Acceptance of life membership shall be determined by the committee at their first meeting after receipt of such written nomination.
 - (c) Life members shall be entitled to the same privileges as ordinary members.

6. Cessation of membership

A person ceases to be a member of the association if the person:

- (a) dies, or
- (b) resigns membership, or
- (c) is expelled from the association, or
- (d) fails to pay the annual membership fee.

7. Membership entitlements not transferable

A right, privilege or obligation which a person has by reason of being a member of the association:

- (a) is not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another person, and
- (b) terminates on cessation of the person's membership.

8. Resignation of membership

- (1) A member of the association may resign from membership of the association by first giving to the secretary written notice of at least one month (or such other period as the committee may determine) of the member's intention to resign and, on the expiration of the period of notice, the member ceases to be a member.
- (2) If a member of the association ceases to be a member under subclause (1) and in every other case where a member ceases to hold membership, the secretary must make an appropriate entry in the register of members recording the date on which the member ceased to be a member.

9. Register of members

- (1) The secretary of the association must establish and maintain a register of members of the association specifying the name and postal or residential address of each person who is a member of the association together with the date on which the person became a member.
- (2) The register of members must be kept in New South Wales:
- (3) The register of members must be open for inspection, free of charge, by any member of the association at any reasonable hour.
- (4) A member of the association may obtain a copy of any part of the register on payment of a fee of not more than \$1 for each page copied.
- (5) If a member requests that any information contained on the register about the member (other than the member's name) not be available for inspection, that information must not be made available for inspection.
- (6) A member must not use information about a person obtained from the register to contact or send material to the person, other than for:
 - (a) the purposes of sending the person a newsletter, a notice in respect of a meeting or other event relating to the association or other material relating to the association, or
 - (b) any other purpose necessary to comply with a requirement of the Act or the Regulation.

10. Fees and subscriptions

- (1) A member of the association must, on admission to membership, pay to the association an entrance fee as determined by the committee.
- (2) In addition to any amount payable by the member under subclause (1), a member of the association must pay to the association an annual membership fee as determined by the committee:

- (a) except as provided by paragraph (b), before 1 July in each calendar year, or
- (b) if the member becomes a member on or after 1 July in any calendar year - on becoming a member and before 1 July in each succeeding calendar year.

11. Members' liabilities

The liability of a member of the association to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the association or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the association is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of membership of the association as required by clause 8.

12. Resolution of disputes

- (1) A dispute between a member and another member (in their capacity as members) of the association, or a dispute between a member or members and the association, are to be referred to a community justice centre for mediation under the *Community Justice Centres Act 1983*.
- (2) If a dispute is not resolved by mediation within 3 months of the referral to a community justice centre, the dispute is to be referred to arbitration.
- (3) The *Commercial Arbitration Act 1984* applies to any such dispute referred to arbitration.

13. Disciplining of members

- (1) A complaint may be made to the committee by any person that a member of the association:
 - (a) has refused or neglected to comply with a provision or provisions of this constitution, or
 - (b) has wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the association.
- (2) The committee may refuse to deal with a complaint if it considers the complaint to be trivial or vexatious in nature.
- (3) If the committee decides to deal with the complaint, the committee:
 - (a) must cause notice of the complaint to be served on the member concerned, and
 - (b) must give the member at least 14 days from the time the notice is served within which to make submissions to the committee in connection with the complaint, and
 - (c) must take into consideration any submissions made by the member in connection with the complaint.
- (4) The committee may, by resolution, expel the member from the association or suspend the member from membership of the association if, after considering the complaint and any submissions made in connection with the complaint, it is satisfied that the facts alleged in the complaint have been proved and the expulsion or suspension is warranted in the circumstances.
- (5) If the committee expels or suspends a member, the secretary must, within 7 days after the action is taken, cause written notice to be given to the member of the action taken, of the reasons given by the committee for having taken that action and of the member's right of appeal under clause 12.
- (6) The expulsion or suspension does not take effect:
 - (a) until the expiration of the period within which the member is entitled to appeal against the resolution concerned, or

- (b) if within that period the member exercises the right of appeal, unless and until the association confirms the resolution under clause 14, whichever is the later.

14. Right of appeal of disciplined member

- (1) A member may appeal to the association in general meeting against a resolution of the committee under clause 13, within 7 days after notice of the resolution is served on the member, by lodging with the secretary a notice to that effect.
- (2) The notice may, but need not, be accompanied by a statement of the grounds on which the member intends to rely for the purposes of the appeal.
- (3) On receipt of a notice from a member under subclause (1), the secretary must notify the committee which is to convene a general meeting of the association to be held within 28 days after the date on which the secretary received the notice.
- (4) At a general meeting of the association convened under subclause (3):
 - (a) no business other than the question of the appeal is to be transacted, and
 - (b) the committee and the member must be given the opportunity to state their respective cases orally or in writing, or both, and
 - (c) the members present are to vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
- (5) The appeal is to be determined by a simple majority of votes cast by members of the association.

Part 3 - The committee

15. Powers of the committee

Subject to the Act, the Regulation and this constitution and to any resolution passed by the association in general meeting, the committee:

- (a) is to control and manage the affairs of the association, and
- (b) may exercise all such functions as may be exercised by the association, other than those functions that are required by this constitution to be exercised by a general meeting of members of the association, and
- (c) has power to perform all such acts and do all such things as appear to the committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the association.

16. Composition and membership of committee

- (1) The committee is to consist of the office-bearers of the association, each of whom is to be elected at the annual general meeting of the association and ordinary committee members.
- (2) The office-bearers of the association shall be chairperson, deputy-chairperson, secretary, and treasurer and any others deemed necessary by the committee.
- (3) The ordinary committee members shall be up to one delegate appointed by each of the sub-groups of the association.
- (4) Each member of the committee shall, subject to this constitution, hold office until the conclusion of the annual general meeting following the date of the member's election, but is eligible for re-election.

17. Election of committee members

- (1) Nominations of candidates for election as office-bearers of the association or as ordinary committee members:
 - (a) must be made in writing, signed by 2 members of the association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of the nomination), and
 - (b) must be delivered to the secretary of the association at least 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.
- (2) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and further nominations are to be received at the annual general meeting.
- (3) If insufficient further nominations are received, any vacant positions remaining on the committee are taken to be casual vacancies.
- (4) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated are taken to be elected.
- (5) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot is to be held.
- (6) The ballot for the election of office-bearers and ordinary committee members of the committee is to be conducted at the annual general meeting in such usual and proper manner as the committee may direct.
- (7) A person nominated as a candidate for election as an office-bearer or as an ordinary committee member of the association must be a member of the association.

18. Secretary

- (1) The secretary of the association must, as soon as practicable after being appointed as secretary, lodge notice with the association of his or her address.
- (2) It is the duty of the secretary to keep minutes of:
 - (a) all appointments of office-bearers and members of the committee, and
 - (b) the names of members of the committee present at a committee meeting or a general meeting, and
 - (c) all proceedings at committee meetings and general meetings.
- (3) Minutes of proceedings at a meeting must be signed by the chairperson of the meeting or by the chairperson of the next succeeding meeting.

19. Treasurer

It is the duty of the treasurer of the association to ensure:

- (a) that all money due to the association is collected and received and that all payments authorised by the association are made, and
- (b) that correct books and accounts are kept showing the financial affairs of the association, including full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the association.

20. Casual vacancies

- (1) In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the membership of the committee, the committee may appoint a member of the association to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed is to hold office, subject to this constitution, until the

conclusion of the annual general meeting next following the date of the appointment.

- (2) A casual vacancy in the office of a member of the committee occurs if the member:
 - (a) dies, or
 - (b) ceases to be a member of the association, or
 - (c) becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth, or
 - (d) resigns office by notice in writing given to the secretary, or
 - (e) is removed from office, or
 - (f) becomes a mentally incapacitated person, or
 - (g) is absent without the consent of the committee from 3 consecutive meetings of the committee, or
 - (h) is convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty for which the maximum penalty on conviction is imprisonment for not less than 3 months, or
 - (i) is prohibited from being a director of a company under Part 2D.6 (Disqualification from managing corporations) of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth.

21. Removal of committee members

- (1) The association in general meeting may by resolution remove any member of the committee from the office of member before the expiration of the member's term of office and may by resolution appoint another person to hold office until the expiration of the term of office of the member so removed.
- (2) If a member of the committee to whom a proposed resolution referred to in subclause (1) relates makes representations in writing to the secretary or chairperson (not exceeding a reasonable length) and requests that the representations be notified to the members of the association, the secretary or the chairperson may send a copy of the representations to each member of the association or, if the representations are not so sent, the member is entitled to require that the representations be read out at the meeting at which the resolution is considered.

22. Committee meetings and quorum

- (1) The committee must meet at least 3 times in each period of 12 months at such place and time as the committee may determine.
- (2) Additional meetings of the committee may be convened by the chairperson or by any member of the committee.
- (3) Oral or written notice of a meeting of the committee must be given by the secretary to each member of the committee at least 48 hours (or such other period as may be unanimously agreed on by the members of the committee) before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting.
- (4) Notice of a meeting given under subclause (3) must specify the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting and no business other than that business is to be transacted at the meeting, except business which the committee members present at the meeting unanimously agree to treat as urgent business.
- (5) Any 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the committee.

- (6) No business is to be transacted by the committee unless a quorum is present and if, within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting is to stand adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week and this is communicated to all members of the committee as soon as possible.
- (7) If a quorum is not present after the elapsed time, those members present at the meeting are able to discuss business and propose a motion. The motion stays in abeyance until the next meeting when a quorum is present, then a vote on the proposed motion occurs.
- (8) At a meeting of the committee:
 - (a) the chairperson or, in the chairperson's absence, the deputy-chairperson is to preside, or
 - (b) if the chairperson and the deputy-chairperson are absent or unwilling to act, such one of the remaining members of the committee as may be chosen by the members present at the meeting is to preside.

23. Delegation by committee to sub-committee

- (1) The committee may, by instrument in writing, delegate to one or more sub-committees (consisting of such member or members of the association as the committee thinks fit) the exercise of such of the functions of the committee as are specified in the instrument, other than:
 - (a) this power of delegation, and
 - (b) a function which is a duty imposed on the committee by the Act or by any other law.
- (2) A function the exercise of which has been delegated to a sub-committee under this clause may, while the delegation remains unrevoked, be exercised from time to time by the sub-committee in accordance with the terms of the delegation.
- (3) A delegation under this clause may be made subject to such conditions or limitations as to the exercise of any function, or as to time or circumstances, as may be specified in the instrument of delegation.
- (4) Despite any delegation under this clause, the committee may continue to exercise any function delegated.
- (5) Any act or thing done or suffered by a sub-committee acting in the exercise of a delegation under this clause has the same force and effect as it would have if it had been done or suffered by the committee.
- (6) The committee may, by instrument in writing, revoke wholly or in part any delegation under this clause.
- (7) A sub-committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper.

24. Voting and decisions

- (1) Questions arising at a meeting of the committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the committee are to be determined by a majority of the votes of members of the committee or sub-committee present at the meeting.
- (2) Each member present at a meeting of the committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the committee (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote but, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.
- (3) In the presence of a quorum the committee may act despite any vacancy on the committee.

- (4) Any act or thing done or suffered, or purporting to have been done or suffered, by the committee or by a sub-committee appointed by the committee, is valid and effectual despite any defect that may afterwards be discovered in the appointment or qualification of any member of the committee or sub-committee.

Part 4 - General meetings

25. Annual general meetings - holding of

- (1) The association must hold its first annual general meeting within 18 months after its registration under the Act.
- (2) The association must hold its annual general meetings:
 - (a) within 6 months after the close of the association's financial year, or
 - (b) within such later time as may be allowed by the Director-General or prescribed by the Regulation.

26. Annual general meetings - calling of and business at

- (1) The annual general meeting of the association is, subject to the Act and to clause 25, to be convened on such date and at such place and time as the committee thinks fit.
- (2) In addition to any other business which may be transacted at an annual general meeting, the business of an annual general meeting is to include the following:
 - (a) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since that meeting,
 - (b) to receive from the committee reports on the activities of the association during the last preceding financial year,
 - (c) to elect office-bearers of the association and ordinary committee members,
 - (d) to receive and consider any financial statement or report required to be submitted to members under the Act.
- (3) An annual general meeting must be specified as such in the notice convening it.

27. Special general meetings - calling of

- (1) The committee may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a special general meeting of the association.
- (2) The committee must, on the requisition in writing of at least 5 per cent of the total number of members, convene a special general meeting of the association.
- (3) A requisition of members for a special general meeting:
 - (a) must state the purpose or purposes of the meeting, and
 - (b) must be signed by the members making the requisition, and
 - (c) must be lodged with the secretary, and
 - (d) may consist of several documents in a similar form, each signed by one or more of the members making the requisition.
- (4) If the committee fails to convene a special general meeting to be held within 1 month after that date on which a requisition of members for the meeting is lodged with the secretary, any one or more of the members who made the requisition

may convene a special general meeting to be held not later than 3 months after that date.

- (5) A special general meeting convened by a member or members as referred to in subclause (4) must be convened as nearly as is practicable in the same manner as general meetings are convened by the committee.

28. Notice

- (1) Except if the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the association, the secretary must, at least 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, give a notice to each member specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.
- (2) If the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the association, the secretary must, at least 21 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, cause notice to be given to each member specifying, in addition to the matter required under subclause (1), the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution.
- (3) Members who have items of business they wish considered at a General Meeting shall give written notice of such business to the Secretary. The Secretary shall include that business in the next notice calling a General Meeting.

29. Quorum for general meetings

- (1) No item of business is to be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under this constitution to vote is present during the time the meeting is considering that item.
- (2) Five members present (being members entitled under this constitution to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.
- (3) If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting:
 - (a) if convened on the requisition of members, is to be dissolved, and
 - (b) in any other case, is to stand adjourned to the same day in the following week at the same time and (unless another place is specified at the time of the adjournment by the person presiding at the meeting or communicated by written notice to members given before the day to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place.
- (4) If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present (being at least 3) are to constitute a quorum.

30. Presiding member

- (1) The chairperson or, in the chairperson's absence, the deputy-chairperson is to preside as chairperson at each general meeting of the association.
- (2) If the chairperson and the deputy-chairperson are absent or unwilling to act, the members present must elect one of their number to preside as chairperson at the meeting.

31. Adjournment

- (1) The chairperson of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business is to be transacted at an

adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.

- (2) If a general meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, the secretary must give written or oral notice of the adjourned meeting to each member of the association stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- (3) Except as provided in subclauses (1) and (2), notice of an adjournment of a general meeting or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting is not required to be given.

32. Making of decisions

- (1) A question arising at a general meeting of the association is to be determined by either:
 - (a) a show of hands, or
 - (b) if on the motion of the chairperson or if 5 or more members present at the meeting decide that the question should be determined by a written ballot—a written ballot.
- (2) If the question is to be determined by a show of hands, a declaration by the chairperson that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, or an entry to that effect in the minute book of the association, is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against that resolution.
- (3) If the question is to be determined by a written ballot, the ballot is to be conducted in accordance with the directions of the chairperson.

33. Special resolutions

- (1) A special resolution must be passed by a general meeting of the association to effect the following changes:
 - (a) a change of the association's name
 - (b) a change of the association's constitution
 - (c) a change of the association's objects
 - (d) an amalgamation with another incorporated association
 - (e) to voluntarily wind up the association and distribute its property
 - (f) to apply for registration as a company or a co-operative.
- (2) Members must be given 21 days notice of the date of the meeting where the special resolution will be considered.
- (3) A special resolution shall be passed only with at least three-quarters of the members who are present at the meeting and entitled to vote (rounded up) voting in favour of it.
- (4) In situations where it is not possible or practicable for a resolution to be passed as described above, a request may be made to NSW Fair Trading for permission to pass the resolution in some other way.

34. Voting

- (1) A member shall be entitled to vote at general, special and annual general meetings of the association. Organisations and bodies shall each have one vote through their nominee
- (2) In the case of an equality of votes on a question at a general meeting, the chairperson of the meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
- (3) A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting of the association unless all money due and payable by the member to the association has been paid.
- (4) A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting of the association if the member is under 18 years of age.

35. Proxy votes not permitted

Proxy voting must not be undertaken at or in respect of a general meeting.

36. Postal ballots

- (1) The association may hold a postal ballot to determine any issue or proposal.
- (2) A postal ballot is to be conducted in accordance with Schedule 3 to the Regulation.

PART 5 - PUBLIC OFFICER

37. Public Officer

- (1) The Public Officer will be appointed by the committee.
- (2) The public officer is the official point of contact for the association and one of the authorised signatories.
- (3) A committee member or an ordinary member may hold the position of public officer. The public officer must be over 18 years of age and reside in New South Wales.
- (4) The public officer shall be deemed to have vacated their position under the following circumstances:
 - (a) death
 - (b) resignation in writing to the committee
 - (c) removal by the committee or at a general meeting
 - (d) bankruptcy or financial insolvency
 - (e) mentally incapacitated
 - (f) ceases to be a resident of New South Wales or
 - (g) meets any circumstances as provided for in the constitution
- (5) The Public Officer is required to notify NSW Fair Trading by the prescribed form in the following circumstances:
 - a) his/her appointment (within 28 days)
 - b) his/her change of address (within 28 days)
 - c) a change of the association's objects or constitution (within 28 days)
 - d) the association's financial affairs prescribed in Section 47 of the Act (within one month after the annual general meeting)

- e) a change in the association's name (within 28 days).

Part 6 - Miscellaneous

38. Insurance

The association shall effect and maintain insurance as required by law or regarded as necessary by the association.

39. Funds - source

- (1) The funds of the association are to be derived from entrance fees and annual membership fees of members, grants from government and other organisations, donations and, subject to any resolution passed by the association in a general meeting, such other sources as the committee determines.
- (2) All money received by the association must be deposited as soon as practicable and without deduction to the credit of the association's bank or other authorised deposit-taking institution account.
- (3) The association must, as soon as practicable after receiving any money, issue an appropriate receipt.

40. Funds - management

- (1) Subject to any resolution passed by the association in general meeting, the funds of the association are to be used in pursuance of the objects of the association in such manner as the committee determines.
- (2) Members may only receive legitimate payments from the association for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the association as approved by the committee
- (3) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by any 2 members of the committee or employees of the association, being members or employees authorised to do so by the committee.

41. Change of name, objects and constitution

An application to the Director-General for registration of a change in the association's name, objects or constitution in accordance with section 10 of the Act is to be made by the public officer or a committee member.

42. Custody of books etc

The public officer must keep in his or her custody, or under his or her control, all records, books and other documents relating to the association, except as otherwise provided by this constitution. A former office bearer or general committee member must ensure that all documents belonging to the association in their possession are delivered to the new office bearer or public officer within 28 days of vacating office.

43. Inspection of books etc

- (1) The following documents must be open to inspection, free of charge, by a member of the association at any reasonable hour:
 - (a) records, books and other financial documents of the association,
 - (b) this constitution,
 - (c) minutes of all committee meetings and general meetings of the association.

- (2) A member of the association may obtain a copy of any of the documents referred to in subclause (1) on payment of a fee of not more than \$1 for each page copied.

44. Service of notices

- (1) For the purpose of this constitution, a notice may be served on or given to a person:
- (a) by delivering it to the person personally, or
 - (b) by sending it by pre-paid post to the address of the person, or
 - (c) by sending it by facsimile transmission or some other form of electronic transmission to an address specified by the person for giving or serving the notice.
- (2) For the purpose of this constitution, a notice is taken, unless the contrary is proved, to have been given or served:
- (a) in the case of a notice given or served personally, on the date on which it is received by the addressee, and
 - (b) in the case of a notice sent by pre-paid post, on the date when it would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post, and
 - (c) in the case of a notice sent by facsimile transmission or some other form of electronic transmission, on the date it was sent or, if the machine from which the transmission was sent produces a report indicating that the notice was sent on a later date, on that date.

45. Financial year

The financial year of the association is:

- (a) the period of time commencing on the date of incorporation of the association and ending on the following 30 June, and
- (b) each period of 12 months after the expiration of the previous financial year of the association, commencing on 1 July and ending on the following 30 June.

46. Amalgamation of associations

The association may, by special resolution at a general meeting, and where it furthers the objectives of the association:

- (a) amalgamate with one or more incorporated associations having similar objectives; and
- (b) whose association rules prohibit the distribution of assets and income to members; and
- (c) whose association must be exempt from income tax

47. Winding up or cancellation of the association

In the event the association is wound up or its incorporation cancelled:

- (a) any surplus property shall be transferred to an association in the Hunter Region which has similar objectives as Hunter Region Landcare Network Inc.; and
- (b) which is exempt from income tax; and
- (c) in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

End of Constitution

Addenda

Fees and subscriptions as at July 2014:

Fees and subscriptions are determined by the committee and may be revised from time to time.

Type	Amount
Entrance fee	\$NIL
Annual membership fee	\$NIL

Change History

August 1997	Original constitution developed through the efforts of the Landcarers who were nominated from the floor of the Hunter Region Landcare Forum held at Tocal
May 1999	Changes developed by the committee for the purpose of incorporation
August 2004	Revised and adopted at a Special General Meeting.
October 2008	Amendments and adoption at Special General Meeting
March 2011	Review, amendments and additions to comply with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and the Associations Incorporation Regulation 2010. Adopted at Special General Meeting April 9, 2011.
July 2014	Constitution reviewed and revised.
August 2014	Adopted at Annual General Meeting

Appendix 1 – Hunter Region Landcare Network Coverage Map

Hunter Region Landcare Network



The HRLN coverage is generally identified by the boundaries of the following NSW local government areas:

Upper Hunter
Muswellbrook
Singleton
Cessnock
Lake Macquarie
Newcastle
Maitland
Dungog
Port Stephens
(south of Karuah)