

# WOMEN'S ELECTORAL LOBBY (NSW) INCORPORATED

## CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the group is "Women's Electoral Lobby (NSW) Incorporated" herein after called "WEL".

### OBJECTIVES

2. To stimulate, foster, encourage and promote by education, publication and the dissemination of information, the feminist goals of:
  - (a) achieving cultural, social, economic, educational, sexual equality and reproductive freedom for women;
  - (b) changing social attitudes, practices and power relationships which discriminate against women;
  - (c) helping women overcome the inhibiting forces of conditioning which prevent them from reaching their full potential as confident and assertive individuals.
3. To research, solicit, receive, collate and disseminate (in any appropriate form) information which will educate the members of WEL, members of the Public Services and parliaments, private corporations and associations, committees of enquiry, and members of the community generally, on matters relevant to the achievement of these objectives;
4. To promote community education through the development, preparation, publication and dissemination of materials which foster and understanding of the objectives of WEL and matters relevant to these objectives;
5. To conduct lectures, meetings, courses and any other activities dealing with the objectives of WEL.

### POWERS

6. To realise these objectives, WEL may, subject to any Rules which may be adopted:
  - (a) employ staff or engage contractors to perform work for WEL;
  - (b) accept gifts or bequests, whether subject to a special trust or not, for any one or more of the objectives of WEL;
  - (c) borrow or raise money, buy, sell, supply and deal in, goods of all kinds; purchase, lease, hire or otherwise acquire, real or personal property; maintain and alter a building;
  - (d) affiliate or associate with any person, body or group having objectives similar to those of WEL, and to undertake jointly with any such person, body or group, any objective which is an objective of WEL;
  - (e) do all such other lawful things as are incidental to, or necessary for, furthering the objectives of WEL.

### MEMBERSHIP

7. Any person may become a member of WEL, subject to agreement to these objectives, and upon payment of the current annual subscription, shall be entitled to attend WEL meetings;
8. Members cannot vote if unfinancial one month after expiry of the annual subscription. Institutional members do not have voting rights;
9. The Administrative Committee (hereinafter called the WEL (NSW) Executive, or simply 'the Executive') will take over all general business of the organization, thereby allowing the cessation of all future General Meetings, which will be replaced with quarterly members' forums;
10. No member may act on behalf of WEL without the authority of at least two (2) members of the Executive;
11. Executive Meetings shall normally take place each month (except January). Five (5) Executive members personally, or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum;
12. At any Executive Meeting, decisions are normally to be reached through a process of discussion and debate, except on such occasion when it is decided by all members present that a vote should be taken. In such a case, each elected member present shall have one vote. The simple

majority of elected members present and voting shall determine whether any motion is carried. Any motion on which voting is equally divided shall be lost;

13. Elected Members attending an Executive meeting shall be advised of the date, hour and place of the next meeting. Notification of the next Executive meeting shall normally also be printed in each edition of the newsletter. By notifying the Co-ordinator or Convenor any member may attend and/or address any item of business on the agenda for any meeting;
- 13(a) Any WEL member may, whenever they think fit, convene a Special General Meeting. The Executive must, on receipt of a request from a member, convene a Special General Meeting within 60 days. The request for a Special General Meeting must state the purpose of the meeting. A quorum for a Special General Meeting shall be 15 members. The successful passage of any submission requires a vote in favour by 75% of those present.

#### **OFFICE BEARERS**

14. Office bearers may be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and shall comprise:
  - (a) Convenor
  - (b) Treasurer
  - (c) A minimum of seven members shall be elected at the AGM, including the Convenor and the Treasurer;
15. The function of the WEL Executive shall be to make decisions as they deem to be in the best interests of WEL and such decisions shall be available for scrutiny of the membership through distribution of minutes of the Executive Meetings;
16. In the event of a casual vacancy in any office, elected members at an Executive Meeting may appoint a person to the vacant office.

#### **ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT**

17. The Treasurer shall operate a bank account styled "Women's Electoral Lobby Incorporated (NSW)" into which all moneys received on behalf of WEL (NSW) shall be deposited, cheques to be signed by any two authorised signatories;
18. The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts at all times, and shall prepare such income and expenditure accounts and balance sheets as required;
19. The Public Officer or the Treasurer shall keep custody of the Common Seal. All records, books and other documents relating to WEL shall at all times be available for inspection by members;
20. A person with the appropriate knowledge shall be appointed to audit the accounts and the appointment approved by the Annual General Meeting.

#### **NON-PROFIT MAKING**

21. The income and property of WEKL, however derived, shall be applied solely to the promotion of its objectives as set forth in the Constitution, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise to its members except as remuneration or reimbursement for services rendered.

#### **DISSOLUTION**

22. WEL may be dissolved by a resolution of at least three-quarters (3/4) of the members present and voting at a Special General Meeting where twenty-one (21) clear days' notice specifying (with full particulars) the proposed dissolution has been given to all members.
23. If upon dissolution of WEL, at a Special General Meeting, there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be distributed amongst its members but shall be given to WEL National Inc or interstate WEL Groups or, if they have been dissolved, to some feminist women's group having objectives aiding the cause of women as outlined in clauses 2-5.

#### **AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION**

24. The Constitution may be amended by a resolution of the members present and voting at a Special General Meeting, where twenty-one (21) clear days' notice specifying (with full particulars) the proposed resolution has been given to all members.

(Reprinted 1 Nov 2005)