



## CONSTITUTION OF THE LOCAL PARTY

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## **Preamble**

The Local Party exists to promote participatory democracy. It seeks to empower communities to have more say over the decisions made in parliaments on their behalf.

In an era of growing inequality, shrinking resources and climate chaos, we need new political structures that prioritise community solutions over the interests of career politicians.

The heart and the power of The Local Party lies in its local group structures and the commitment to citizen juries. While traditional politics exploits divisive issues for political gain, citizen juries use the wisdom of all in the community to find solutions.

Traditional party politics is getting further from the people it is meant to represent and it is not addressing many of the biggest issues. The 21<sup>st</sup> century must be about collaboration and sharing, not competition and domination.

We hope The Local Party will be a catalyst for broader systemic political change, whether through growing our party, changing existing ones, or both.

## **1. Name and registered office of the party**

1.1 **Name:** The name of the Party is The Local Party of Australia (the Party), which name shall be adopted by any branches in any of the states and territories of Australia.

1.2 **Establishment:** The Party was established for political purposes under the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.

1.3 **Abbreviation:** The Local.

1.3 The registered office of the Party shall be at 680 Huon Rd, Fern Tree, Tasmania 7054, or such other place as the Management Committee may from time to time determine.

1.4 **Logo:**



## **2 . Objectives of the Party**

2.1 To seek election or appointment to public office of candidates endorsed by the Party in local, state or territory and commonwealth parliaments.

2.2 To promote candidates endorsed by the Party for election to the House of Assembly or the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Tasmania.

2.3 To maintain registration under the Australian Electoral Commission as an eligible political party under the Commonwealth Electoral Act.

2.4 To maintain registration by the Electoral Commissioner of Tasmania as a political party under the Tasmanian Electoral Act.

2.5 To seek the election or appointment to public office of people who are committed to the objectives and principles of this constitution.

2.6 To further the principles and values of the party outlined in Section 3 of this constitution.

2.7 To progress new collaborative ways to navigate the environmental, social and economic crisis that Australia and the world is facing.

2.8 To promote parliamentary responsibility by enabling each elected member to vote according to their conscience.

2.9 To encourage broader and deeper community ownership of policies, decisions and legislation that affect the people of Tasmania and Australia.

## **2 (a) Other states and territories**

If so resolved by the Management Committee or by an ordinary resolution at a General Meeting:

2 (a) .1 to promote candidates endorsed by the Party to the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth or the Australian Senate for states and territories other than Tasmania.

2 (a).2 to promote candidates endorsed by the Party for election to parliamentary houses in states and territories other than Tasmania.

2(a).3 to become registered, and maintain registration, as a political party under the applicable laws of states and territories other than Tasmania.

2(a).4 to represent the people of states and territories other than Tasmania through the parliamentary system at a national, state and territory level.

2(a).5 to identify, raise awareness of, focus on and represent at a national, state and territory level, the interests of persons domiciled in states and territories other than Tasmania in relation to issues that affect those states and territories.

## **3. Principles**

3.1 The Local Party's principles are based on the following values which underlie all sustainable communities:

- (a) Courage
- (b) Action
- (c) Kindness
- (d) Empathy
- (e) Respect

3.2 The Party recognises the Aboriginal people of Lutruwita (Tasmania) as the original custodians and acknowledges that sovereignty of the island (Tasmania) and Australia was never ceded.

3.3 The Party acknowledges that Australia and humanity are facing the existential threat of climate change and that we have already entered an age of great disruption to our physical safety and social norms.

3.4 In order to respond to these new threats of our own making, Australia needs a new political system that:

(a) is solutions-based and unifying rather than adversarial and divisive – an approach that relies on genuine dialogue with community members

(b) involves as broad a cross section of knowledge and experience as possible in decision-making

(c) bases well-informed decisions on the best available science and on validated stakeholder consultation processes

(d) recognises that the current party political structures have facilitated the problems we now face and are inadequate to fix these problems

(e) tackles challenges and pursues solutions using systems thinking. This means looking at the interconnected nature of elements in any system (such as social welfare, health systems, and economic systems) and identifying how and where to best influence change, rather than approaching the challenge from the current technical and political perspectives

(f) works to continuously improve and expand the capacity and mindsets of all our elected representatives so we can collectively act with more understanding, more systems thinking, and thus evolve better solutions

(g) continuously evolves, just as our society itself does

(h) recognises that we are overshooting our ecological boundaries

(i) works directly with communities to reach equitable decisions on how best to utilise our common resources.

## **Definitions**

“Voting Member” is a member who has signed up to the party and been accepted as a member by the Management Committee.

“Citizen Jury” is a meeting of community members on an issue of interest to the community. The Jury will be constituted of not less than 12 people. People sitting on the Citizen Jury will be randomly selected from the community. Persons already engaged publicly on the issue being deliberated upon will automatically be excluded from sitting on the Jury. A written report of the Jury will then guide and underpin the policy of the Party on that issue.

“Local Party Issues Groups” are formed around issues rather than geographical boundaries and are open to members and non-members

“Local Branches” are open to members only and mirrors the geographical boundaries of federal electorates

## 4. Membership

4.1 Membership is available to any individual so long as they are:

- (a) joining as a member in their own right and not as a representative of another organisation or group
- (b) not a member of another political party
- (c) aligned to the objectives, values and principles of the Local Party
- (d) an Australian citizen, or an Australian resident, who is registered to vote.

4.2 **Voting Rights:** Membership of the party shall entitle members to vote on the business of the party.

4.3 **Cessation of Membership:** A person shall cease to be a member when:

- their written or verbal resignation is received by the Management Committee, or
- their membership is not renewed for 90 days after the renewal due date, or
- they join another political party.

### 4.4 Membership Fees:

- (a) Each member may pay an annual membership fee, but the payment of a fee will not be mandatory.
- (b) The Management Committee will determine how revenue from membership fees is to be allocated for the first two years following the registration of the Party.
- (c) After that date, the membership fee and how it is to be allocated will be agreed upon at The Local Party state conference by a simple majority of eligible delegates.

4.5 **Membership Register:** Members must provide the Party with the details required by the Party to keep the Party Register complete and current.

4.6 **Discretion to accept or reject a membership application:** The Management Committee may accept or reject an application for Party membership at its sole and absolute discretion, whether or not the applicant has complied with the requirements in clause 4.1.

4.7 **Expulsion from the Party:** The Management Committee may respond to breaches of the Constitution and, if required, expel a member from the Party if, in the opinion of the entire Management Committee, the member has undertaken activities or made statements that are not consistent with the objectives or principles of the Party.

4.8 **Discrimination:** No member will be discriminated against due to gender, age, race, ethnicity, class, religion, disability, sexuality or marital status.

**4.9 Conflict resolution:** Within three months of the registration of the Party, the Management Committee will create a set of procedures capable of dealing with conflict within a culture of respect and justice.

**4.10 Automatic membership of national organisation** Membership of any state branch automatically makes you a member of the national organisation

## **5; Management Committee**

**5.1 Composition:** The Management Committee must comprise at least four people, each of whom must be a Voting Member.

**5.2 Office Positions:** The Management Committee will have and include the following positions or offices:

5.2.1 Registered Officer

5.2.2 Deputy Registered Officer

5.2.3 Party Secretary

5.2.4 Treasurer

**5.3 Founding Management Committee:** The Founding Management Committee will consist of:

5.3.1 Registered Officer – Anna Bateman

5.3.2 Deputy Registered Officer – Evan Boardman

5.2.3 Party Secretary – Leanne Minshull

5.2.4 Treasurer – Jacinta Hill

**5.4 Term of the Committee:** At each annual conference of the Party (see 7.4.1), an election will be held to appoint:

- a) a Registered Officer (who shall also be the Public Officer)
- b) a Deputy Registered Officer
- c) a Party Secretary
- d) a Treasurer.

**5.5 Spill of the Committee:** The Management Committee can be dissolved by 50% of the membership calling in writing for a spill of the Committee. If a spill takes place:

- all members will be informed of the spill via email, or by phone if an email is not available
- a call for public officers will occur for a period of not less than 28 days
- a ballot of all voting members of the party will be undertaken
- new Management Committee members will be elected via a simple majority
- existing registered officers will remain in the positions until the end of the election period and the commencement of new offices.

5.6 **Casual Vacancies:** should a member of the management committee resign, all voting members will be made aware of the vacancy and a period of two weeks be allowed for eligible candidates to put themselves forward. The remaining management committee members will appoint the new management committee member via consensus. The appointment will then be ratified or overturned at the next state conference.

5.7 **Duties of the Management Committee's Office Holders:** The Registered Officer and Deputy Registered Officer will be entrusted to carry out the duties required of them by the various Acts that govern the regulation of political parties.

5.8 The Registered Officer is responsible for making public statements (including press releases and other formal and informal statements to the media) on behalf of the Party.

5.9 The Registered Officer may delegate the responsibility to make public statements to a Party spokesperson.

5.10 The Secretary holds the responsibility for the carrying out of the Party's administration and for the conduct of its correspondence.

5.11 The Management Committee must call for nominations for Officers of the Management Committee at least 20 days prior to the annual state conference.

5.12 Nominations for Management Committee positions will be open to all eligible voting members and must be provided in writing at least seven days prior to the state conference, and must specify which role is being sought.

## 6. Public statements

6.1 Public statements made for or on behalf of the Party will only be made by:

- a) members of the Management Committee
- b) endorsed candidates seeking election at an upcoming state election
- c) spokesperson(s) for the Party appointed in writing by the Registered Officer
- d) the spokesperson for a Party (local) Issues Group.

## 7. Structure of the Party

### 7.1 Collaboration

- a. Local Party Issues Groups of members and non-members shall meet in person and on-line to create actionable plans to help achieve the objectives of the Party.
- b. Local Party Issues Group plans will be shared with the Management Committee and other existing Local Issues Groups.
- c. All Party office bearers, employees, elected representatives and endorsed candidates will undertake meaningful reconciliation dialogue with members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community annually. This dialogue process must have a minimum duration of a full day.
- d. All Party office bearers, employees, elected representatives and endorsed candidates will volunteer a minimum of 40 hours a year to a local community organisation.

## **7.2 Local Branches and Issues Groups structure**

Local Party Issues Groups will be formed around issues that further the objectives of the Party.

7.2.1 Local Party Issues Groups have a role to:

- a. educate the community on specific issues
- b. campaign to change policies and legislation
- c. present their work annually at the state conference
- d. elect a spokesperson who will speak on behalf of the Party on the local group issue
- e. spokespersons must be members of the Local Party
- f. communicate views and positions of the local group to the Management Committee and other Local Party Issues Groups.

7.2.2 Local Party Issues Groups can include members from across the state, and across the country, and are not necessarily restricted to single electorates.

7.2.3 All members of Local Party Issues Groups who are also members of the Party are eligible to put themselves forward for preselection for public office.

7.2.4 Local Party Branches will mirror the boundaries of federal electorates.

7.2.5 Local Party Branches are only open to members of the party

7.2.6 Members of Local Party Branches will pre-select candidates for their electorate following the pre-selection rules as set out in section 8 of the Constitution

## **7.3 Citizen Juries**

7.3.1 Local Issues Groups will commit to holding at least one citizen jury annually.

7.3.2 Elected Local Party members will hold at least two citizen juries annually.

## **7.4 State Conference**

7.4.1 A State Conference of all members, supporters and interested persons shall be held every year.

7.4.2 Notice of the State Conference will be sent directly to members at least 28 days before the meeting.

7.4.3 An unscheduled State Conference can be called by any Local Party Issues Group or Local Branch if decided by absolute consensus to do so and has a minimum of 50 members in the group or branch

7.4.4 Resolutions and changes to The Local Party constitution must be voted on and passed by not less than 75% of the current membership. State Conferences can be held digitally.

## **8. Candidates**

8.1 Timing for the selection and approval of candidates for public office shall be determined by the Management Committee and spokespeople of Local Issues Groups.

8.2 Candidates must be eligible voting members of the Party and a member of an Issues Group to be eligible for pre-selection.

8.3 Candidates must be a resident of the electorate in which they are seeking pre-selection.

8.4 Candidates shall be pre-selected by a ballot of all members of the electorate in which the candidates are putting themselves forward.

8.5 Notice of calls for preselection shall be distributed via email or letter by the Management Committee to all members no less than 28 days before a ballot of the membership opens.

8.6 All candidates for pre-selection will be free to communicate why they are putting themselves forward to other members so long as:

- a. alternative candidates are not attacked or slandered
- b. alternative candidates are not named or quoted in the communication
- c. no more than \$100 is spent on the means of delivering their communications.

## **9. Government transparency**

The Local Party is committed to greater accountability of government at all levels. In particular, The Local Party seeks:

9.1 The establishment of expenditure caps for all state and federal elections. Until this is achieved, the Local Party will:

- a. only accept donations from individuals and businesses aligned with the objectives of the Party
- b. disclose all donations within a 14-day period before the calling of the election.
- c. disclose all donations within a 24-hour period once writs for an election have been submitted
- d. refuse any donations seven days prior to the holding of an election.

9.2 The establishment of a well-resourced Federal Independent Commission against Corruption with broad ranging powers and the strengthening of state anti-corruption bodies where required.

9.3 The establishment of faster and broader freedom of information systems at a state and federal level.

Ends.