



April 15, 2021

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE NOOSA ARTS THEATRE CONSTITUTION FOR CONSIDERATION

Dear Noosa Arts Theatre member,

Please find attached three motions for the alteration of the Noosa Arts Theatre Constitution proposed to be put to the vote by members at the AGM on April 30, 2021.

Motion 1 is a proposed update to the description of the Treasurer's duties.

Motions 2 and 3, if adopted, will change the way the management committee operates.

Motions 2 and 3 have associated risks and opportunities which have been listed. Please read them carefully before casting your vote to adopt or reject on April 30.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Good Faith

Frank Wilkie

Noosa Arts Theatre President

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TECHNICAL CHANGE

MOTION 1: That the members approve the following wording change to Section 20 of the constitution to better reflect the Treasurer's role.

Moved:

Seconded:

20 TREASURER

20.1 The Treasurer shall:

- (a) **oversee** the receipt of all moneys paid to or received on behalf of the Association and **the issue of receipts** for those moneys in the name of the Association;
- (b) **oversee** payment of all moneys referred to in paragraph a) into such account or accounts of the Association as the committee may from time to time direct;
- (c) **oversee** payments from the funds of the Association with the authority of a general meeting or of the Committee and in so doing ensure that all cheques are signed by any two (2) of the President, **Vice-President**, Secretary or Treasurer or any 1 of 3 other members of the association who have been authorised by the Management Committee to sign cheques issued by the association. However, 1 of the persons who signs the cheque must be the president, the secretary or the treasurer.
- (d) **oversee** the keeping of accounting records that correctly record and explain the financial transactions and financial position of the association;
- (e) **oversee** the keeping of accounting records in such manner so as to enable true and fair accounts of the association being prepared from time to time;
- (f) **oversee** the keeping of accounting records in such a manner that will enable true and fair accounts of the association to be conveniently and properly **externally** audited;
- (g) submit to its members at the Annual General Meeting accounts of the association showing the financial position of the association at the end of the immediately preceding financial year.
- (h) examine and report to the Committee at each meeting on all outstanding accounts, produce same, and tender recommendations as to payments thereof;
- (i) **oversee** custody of all securities, books and documents of a financial nature and accounting records of the association, including those referred to in paragraph d); and
- (j) carry out such duties as the Management Committee may direct.

PROCEDURAL CHANGE

MOTION 2: That the members approve the addition of clause 26.11 permitting the Management Committee to remove from the committee any management committee member who has been absent without reason or apology for three consecutive management committee meetings.

Moved:

Seconded:

26 MEETINGS OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

26.11 The Management Committee can remove by vote from the Management Committee a Management Committee Member who has been absent without reason or apology for three consecutive Management Committee meetings.

Opportunities/Pros	Risks/Cons
Enables the committee to make way for members who are more willing and able to contribute	It's often difficult to gain and retain the full complement of management committee members with needed skills.
This will help ensure the committee has management committee members who are dedicated and committed	May be perceived to be a "punitive hard line" that makes potential volunteers reluctant to sign up.
Quality and professional management committee members are never or rarely absent without a good reason or an apology.	Runs contrary to the ethos of volunteerism. Committee members are volunteers who give what they can and have other professional and personal obligations.

PROCEDURAL CHANGE

MOTION 3: That the members approve the addition of clause 26.12 permitting General Members to attend management committee meetings as observers.

Moved:

Seconded:

26 MEETINGS OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

26.12 The Management Committee may permit general members to attend its meetings as observers

Opportunities/Pros	Risks/Cons
May make Noosa Arts Theatre the first community group in Australia to allow general members to attend Management Committee meetings	May interfere with the work of the volunteer management committee with any disruptive members having to be asked to be silent or leave.
Shows commitment to open-ness and transparency	May expose the volunteer management committee to intimidation by those with grievances or personal agendas
Members get to hear first-hand how and why decisions were made	May inhibit the freedom volunteer management committee members need to speak freely which is critical during the decision making process
May foster greater interest in the management committee's work	May make volunteer management committee members reluctant to attend or commit to the committee. Hard enough to attract and retain a full committee already.
Gives members assurance their committee is working in their interests and have nothing to hide.	Members already have access to the minutes of each meeting containing the decisions made and they can speak anytime to committee members.
Gives members assurance any issues they are personally interested in will be considered seriously	Members are already free to directly address the committee on any issue of interest to them upon request
Adds and extra layer of scrutiny and oversight on the committee.	Committee work is already onerous enough for volunteers. This may make the more reticent, but highly skilled volunteers reluctant to remain on, or volunteer for, committee duties.
Prepares the theatre for a more open, inclusive future.	Compared to other NFP's, NAT's decision making framework has served the theatre well. Such a change makes the working environment for future management committees over the next 10-20 years less certain.

