

# Constitution of the North Queensland Party

Effective as at 30 July 2011

This Constitution was adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the North Queensland Party held in Cairns on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

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The Objects are clearly articulated at the beginning of this document. Other matters are spelt out and provided for in the provisions of this document as follows:-

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## Objects

- We will work with our members and the people of North Queensland to maximise their political representation in North Queensland.
- We will work with democratically elected governments, local, State and Federal, to secure economic equity between North Queensland and the southeast regions of this State.
- We will work cooperatively with Governments, local, State and Federal, but all times strive to achieve the best possible outcomes for our members and the communities we represent in North Queensland.
- We will seek to ensure fair and equitable returns to North Queensland proportionate to the productivity within the region to secure sustainable business and industry. We seek to improve Australians' understanding of the economic circumstances and particular needs of North Queensland.

- The NQP will provide a voice for North Queenslanders through which they can be heard, and in so doing will adhere to the democratic principles which are the fundamental right of every Australian.
- We will work for the promotion of the election to the Queensland Legislative Assembly all candidates endorsed by the NQP.
- We will work for the promotion of the election to Local Government in North Queensland all candidates endorsed by the NQP.
- We will work for the promotion of the election to the Federal Parliament all candidates endorsed by the NQP.

## **1. Identity**

- 1.1 The name of the Party is North Queensland Party, herein called "NQP".
- 1.2 This constitution identifies the principles governing the conduct of the Party's affairs and the bodies responsible for implementing them.
- 1.3 All other Party documents are subordinate to this constitution.
- 1.4 This constitution can be changed only by a resolution which is supported by a seventy per cent (70%) majority of such members of the Party as voted in a party vote in accordance with this constitution.

## **2. Party Structure**

- 2.1 The NQP consists of an Executive and any number of sub-branches.
  - (a) Members may be a member of the party without being the member of a sub-branch
  - (b) Members may only be the member of one sub-branch and may transfer from one subbranch to another sub-branch.
- 2.2 The NQP has an Executive committee of no more than 12 members.
  - (a) The Annual General Meeting will decide the number of members of the Executive.
- 2.3 NQP Executive Duties and Responsibilities
  - (a) To direct, organise and co-ordinate as required by the membership, the policies, meetings, functions and administration of the Party, in accordance with the Constitution.
  - (b) To employ persons, contractors or consultants to carry out the work of the Party.
  - (c) To responsibly manage and conservatively invest the funds of the party.

- 2.4 The NQP Executive shall have a minimum of six (6) office bearers being President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registered Officer and Deputy Registered Officer, elected by the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall decide the other roles within the Executive which may include registrar, minutes secretary, fundraising officer, elections officer, and other specific roles as agreed by the meeting and as recommended by an executive meeting prior to the AGM.
  - (b) The roles of Secretary and Treasurer cannot be held by the one person, so that there are a minimum of six (6) members of the Executive.
  - (c) Should the number of Executive members fall below six (6) due to resignation or any other reason then the Executive may appoint any current voting member to the Executive and then appoint any member of the Executive to any vacant position within the Executive until the next AGM or special General Meeting.
  - (d) Should the President vacate or resign that position then the Executive shall appoint any current voting member as an Executive member and will also appoint any Executive member to be President until the next AGM or special General Meeting.
  - (e) The Secretary is the Membership Officer unless another member of the Executive is appointed.
  - (f) The Secretary is the Electoral Officer unless another member of the Executive is appointed.
- 2.5 All office bearers and Executive committee members are appointed to the next Annual General Meeting. As much as practicable, the election of new officers shall follow the report of the outgoing Executive at the AGM.
- 2.6 Quorum for meetings of the NQP Executive.
- (a) At meetings of the NQP Executive, more than 50% of the members elected to the committee as at the close of the last general meeting of the members form a quorum.
  - (b) If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a Executive Committee meeting called on the request of members of the committee, the meeting lapses.
  - (c) If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a Executive Committee meeting called other than on the request of the members of the committee—
    - i) the meeting is to be adjourned for at least 1 day; and
    - ii) the members of the management committee who are present are to decide the day, time and place of the adjourned meeting.

- (d) If, at an adjourned meeting mentioned in subrule (2.6(c)), there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for the meeting, the meeting lapses.
- 2.7 The Secretary shall notify the Executive of all meetings with sufficient time for every member to attend.
- 2.8 Attendance by telephone or video conference call shall be treated as if attendance were in person.
- 2.9 Any two (2) Executive members may call upon the Secretary to call an Executive meeting and the Secretary shall comply with the request.

### **3. Policy Adoption**

- 3.1 Policies shall be formulated with the maximum participation of members and shall finally be determined by the direct and equal say of the membership.
- 3.2 Policy shall be determined by a simple majority at an Annual General Meeting or special meeting.
- 3.3 Policy petitions are to be submitted to the Secretary in writing or as agenda items for discussion at the Annual General Meeting or special meeting.
- 3.4 All financial members of the Party may attend or vote by proxy at the Annual General Meeting for election of Executive committee and office bearers by show of hands and simple majority decision with due reference to the constitution.
- 3.5 The Executive will finalise all matters of policy after due consultation with members.
- 3.6 Emergency policy decisions can be made by the Executive. Any such decision shall be submitted for ratification by special meeting within two months. The Executive shall not make any emergency policy decision which contradicts any policy of the Party already approved by a vote of members

### **4. Financial Structure**

- 4.1 The Party will raise funds via membership, private and corporate donation and fundraising events and activities, as well as return on investments.
- 4.2 The party shall abide by all relevant laws including employment laws, electoral and association laws.
- 4.3 All funds raised are to be paid into a bank account in the name of the "North Queensland Party" as approved by the Executive and receipts issued for all funds received.
- 4.4 All withdrawals or transfers from the NQP account will require the signature of two (2) of six (6) nominated Executive members as agreed by the Executive.

- 4.5 The Treasurer will keep proper records in accordance with accepted accounting principles. Such records to be audited annually and an audited report produced for the AGM.
- 4.6 The Treasurer shall provide regular financial reports on a timely basis as directed by the Executive and shall immediately report any matters of concern.
- 4.7 All NQP funds are to be conservatively invested. Example: *Deposits in Australian banks in Australian currency would be the most common form of investment and equity investments would normally be avoided. The exception may be the purchase of a building to house the administrative functions of the party: NQP House.*
- 4.8 All members of the Executive are voluntary and unpaid positions with reasonable expenses paid for duties undertaken on behalf of the NQP.
- 4.9 An Executive officer and administrative staff, contractors and consultants may be employed or contracted at the discretion of the Executive and said persons may attend and report to Executive meetings but will not have voting rights on the Executive.
- 4.10 All funds raised through donation, membership fees, bank interest or any other means are to be applied to further the goals of the NQP as contained in this constitution, charter, mission statement and policies.
- 4.11 The membership fee and term of membership may be varied by a decision of the Executive without amendment to this constitution. No such decision shall be retrospective. Nothing in this paragraph limits the expulsion of a member as per this constitution.

## **5. Selection of candidates for elections**

- 5.1 The Secretary shall call for nominations and give sufficient time for nominations to be received, bearing in mind the election timeframe.
- 5.2 Nominees for preselection must be nominated by no less than six (6) current voting members of the party.
- 5.3 Nominees for preselection must be available for an interview by the preselection committee and be of good character and sound mind. Nominees should demonstrate an understanding of the needs of North Queensland, have political acumen in addition to written and verbal communication skills.
- 5.4 Preselection of candidate(s) to stand for Local Government, Queensland Legislative Assembly, Federal House of Representative and Senate seats are endorsed by a selection committee consisting of no less than three (3) members of the Executive.
- 5.5 A person is to be preselected as a candidate by the vote of a majority of party members in an electorate and becomes a Candidate after endorsement by the NQP selection committee, with notification to be made by letter.

- 5.6 Any member of the Executive must resign his/her position once elected as a Member of the Parliament of the State or the Commonwealth Parliament.
- 5.7 No nominee presented to the selection panel may also sit on the selection panel.
- 5.8 Casual Senate vacancy. Where the Party is required to present a nomination to the State Governor for the filling of a casual Senate vacancy, the procedures given in this Constitution for the selection of Senate candidates shall apply. The preferred option for determining who will fill a Casual Senate vacancy will be:
- (a) A ballot of party members. However, if an absolute majority of the Executive determines that there is insufficient time to hold a ballot of members, the casual Senate vacancy shall be filled as follows;
  - (b) The position shall be offered to the next most preferred candidate, as determined by the Executive.
- 5.9 The Act requires that a constitution contain a rule requiring that a preselection ballot must satisfy the general principles of free and democratic elections, including:-
- (a) Only members of the party who are eligible electors may vote;
  - (b) Only members of the party who are eligible to vote in the ballot under the party's constitution may vote;
  - (c) Each member has only 1 vote;
  - (d) Voting must be done by secret ballot;
  - (e) A member must not be improperly influenced in voting;
  - (f) A member's ballot paper must be counted if the member's intention is clear;
  - (g) Members' votes must be accurately counted;
  - (h) Each person who is seeking selection may be present personally, or may be represented by another person, at the ballot and for the scrutiny, and counting, of votes.

## **6. Meetings**

- 6.1 The Executive shall cause an Annual General meeting of the NQP to be held as near as possible to twelve (12) months, no fewer than ten (10) months and no more than fourteen (14) months from the date of the last Annual General Meeting.
- 6.2 Members shall be given a minimum of twenty one (21) days notice of the date, time and location of an Annual General Meeting.
- 6.3 The Executive shall cause special meetings of the NQP to be held as required.

- (a) The Executive shall take heed of any petition from members for a special meeting and shall cause a special meeting if:
  - i) In the opinion of the Executive a meeting is to the benefit of the party, or
  - ii) The petition is signed by a significant number of members as determined by the Executive.
- 6.4 Members shall be given a minimum of fourteen (14) days notice of the time, date and location of a special meeting.
- 6.5 Mail, email or a prominent posting on the NQP website <http://www.northqueenslandparty.org.au/> detailing the location, date, time and agenda of any meeting shall be deemed sufficient notice of any AGM or special meeting.
- 6.6 The Executive may hold closed meetings for policy and campaign purposes otherwise members should normally be allowed to observe Executive meetings at the discretion of the President.
- 6.7 Amendments to this constitution must be passed by a majority of seventy percent (70%) of attending members, and proxies, at an AGM or special meeting called for the purpose. Any motion to amend this constitution must be listed on the agenda and submitted to the Executive, with supporting documents at least seven (7) days before the AGM.
- 6.8 The outgoing Executive will present a report of activities and an audited financial report at the Annual General meeting as near as practicable to the first order of business.
- 6.9 All financial voting members of the Party may attend or vote by proxy at the Annual General Meeting for election of Executive committee and office bearers by show of hands and absolute majority decision.
- 6.10 A motion calling for a secret ballot, if passed, shall take precedence over the requirements of voting to be by show of hands.

## **7. Proxies**

- 7.1 Members who are unable to attend meetings may provide their proxy vote to any current voting member.
- 7.2 All proxies must be lodged on the appropriate form that will be supplied by the Secretary.
- 7.3 The proxy will take the form of a written and signed authority given by one member to another nominated member or the Secretary to vote on his or her behalf at any nominated meeting. The proxy may specify the manner in which the proxy vote is to be exercised or may leave the vote at the discretion of the nominated member.

- 7.4 All proxy forms are to be correctly completed and forwarded to the Secretary to arrive at least seven days prior to the relevant meeting.
- 7.5 Proxy holders will be advised by the Secretary prior to a ballot of the proxies registered to them.
- 7.6 No member may carry more than ten (10) proxies, except:
- 7.7 The Secretary may carry any number of proxy votes where the signed proxy form specifies the manner in which the proxy vote is to be exercised.

## **8. Communications**

- 8.1 The President is the primary spokesperson for the NQP including its sub-braches and any committees.
- 8.2 All press releases, advertising and media interviews, issued or conducted in the name of the NQP should, where possible, be authorized by the President or his/her nominated representative.
- 8.3 The President may nominate any person, as spokesperson in general or limited to a specified issue or for a limited time. Example: *This would normally be restricted to the senior candidate in any election for the duration of the election, or an expert, and limited to a specific issue.*
- 8.4 The President may similarly authorize a public relations consultant or nominated media spokesperson with the approval of a majority of the Executive.

## **9. Membership**

- 9.1 Membership of the NQP is open to any person who is not expressly excluded from membership and is not a member of another Australian political party, is entitled to vote in Australian Federal and State elections, is prepared to comply with this constitution, and pays the prescribed fees.
- 9.2 Review of membership applications is the responsibility of the Executive or such other body as the Executive determines.
- 9.3 An application is rejected if it is opposed by the Executive or such other body as the Executive determines. Otherwise, the application is accepted.
- 9.4 A member is deemed to be enrolled upon receipt of the application by the membership officer.
- 9.5 Members are not entitled to vote in preselection at local, state, federal, branch or sub-branch level until one (1) month after they become a member of the NQP, but may take part in all other party activities.
- 9.6 The membership enrolment of a person who is entitled to such enrolment in accordance with clause 2.1 must be effected by the secretary upon receipt of a written application from that person, provided that:

- (a) such application has been signed by the person;
  - (b) such application is accompanied by the appropriate joining fee or evidence that this
  - (c) has been paid to the Party in a manner specified by or acceptable to the Executive; and
  - (d) such application includes a declaration by the person that they subscribe to this constitution and are not a member of another political party.
- 9.7 The Executive must determine the amount payable by way of fee or fees and the fees must be paid:
- (a) by the person applying to be enrolled as a member, such fee to be referred to as the joining fee,
  - (b) by the member renewing or continuing their membership, such fee to be referred to as the renewal fee;
  - (c) and in so determining, the Executive must also specify the period of time for which the payment of such fee or fees confers financial status to the relevant membership, and in default such period of time is one year.
- 9.8 Any increase of the amount payable by way of membership fees must be by resolution of the Executive after notice of that proposal has been published in an issue of the NQP newsletter available to the membership at least thirty days prior to the meeting of the Executive where the question is to be decided.
- 9.9 A member must have their membership enrolment continued or renewed by the membership officer according to the procedures specified for this in the regulations of this constitution and resolutions of the Executive provided only that the appropriate renewal fee has been paid to the Party in a manner specified by or acceptable to the Executive.
- 9.10 A person ceases to be enrolled as a member if the financial status of their membership is more than six (6) months in arrears with respect to their renewal fee, or if they have resigned from the Party where such resignation is in writing and is signed by the member, or resigned by email where such email notification is verified by the Secretary and a 48 hour 'cooling-off' period has been observed, or if they have been expelled from the Party pursuant to the provisions of this constitution.
- 9.11 The rights, privileges, entitlements and duties of membership as specified in this constitution and any constitution of the sub-branch to which the member may belong must be extended to and honoured by a person enrolled as a member where that membership has the status of financial voting member, or where that membership has had the status of non-financial for no more than three (3) months; otherwise while the person remains enrolled as a member they may not exercise or be permitted to exercise those rights, privileges, and entitlements other than to renew their membership.

- 9.12 It is the duty of each member to promptly forward to the membership officer all necessary renewals information and changes of information needed including postal and email addresses, to maintain accurate information about their membership enrolment.
- 9.13 It is the duty of the secretary or nominated membership officer and the Executive to do all that is reasonable to ensure that renewals and other information relevant to the membership roll are properly and promptly processed so as to ensure the accuracy of the membership roll; and such processing must be complete in less than three (3) months.
- 9.14 No person may be accepted as a member if convicted of a disqualifying electoral offence within the previous ten years.
- 9.15 If a current member is convicted of an electoral offence during their period of membership that membership is immediately terminated.

## **10. Sub-Branches**

- 10.1 The Executive can assist in the formation of sub-branches for the purpose of furthering the goals of the NQP.
- 10.2 A minimum of six (6) members may apply to form a sub-branch of the NQP.
- 10.3 The purpose of a sub-branch is to further the goals of the NQP, to raise donations and memberships, to suggest policy and nominate and support candidates in elections.
- 10.4 All funds collected at sub-branch level are to be deposited in the NQP account with relevant documentation forwarded to the party Treasurer within seven (7) days.
- 10.5 10.5 Sub-branches will have their own Executive consisting of no more than 5 office holders who will report to the NQP Executive.
- 10.6 No member is authorized to incur expenditure for any reason on behalf of the party without prior written authorization from the Treasurer and one other member of the NQP Executive.

## **11. Winding up**

- 11.1 A sub-branch may be wound up at the Executives discretion without compensation or recourse, should the Executive decide that the sub branch be no longer effective or capable of supporting the goals of the NQP.
- 11.2 At the request of members or at the Executives sole discretion a special meeting may be called to wind up the NQP.
- 11.3 A vote of seventy percent (70%) of attending members (or proxy) is required to formally wind up the NQP.

11.4 In the event of the organization being wound up, any NQP funds remaining after the satisfaction of all of debts, and the sale of assets shall be donated to cancer research or associations as determined by the President.

## **12. Grievances Disputes and Appeals**

12.1 Members who become involved in a dispute with each other must take all practicable steps to resolve it between themselves, if necessary with the help of a mutually acceptable conciliator.

12.2 There shall be a NQP Registrar appointed by the Executive who must not hold any other positions within the party and must have demonstrated understanding of the party processes and ethos and an ability to facilitate conciliation.

(a) Disputes in the first instance will be presented to the NQP Registrar.

(b) Grounds for a dispute must be that the conduct at issue:

(c) significantly disadvantaged the appellant or the party; and

(d) was either improper or unreasonable; or

(e) a member has acted against the interests of the party either by:

i) failing to comply with the requirements of the Constitution or Regulations; or

ii) (some other conduct (conduct is improper if it breaches valid constitutional or other formal provisions, is manifestly unjust or works against the best interest of the party); or

iii) a member who holds executive or sub-branch, office or holds party endorsement for public office has failed to carry out the responsibilities of the position to such an extent, or to have carried them out in such a way, that such sub-branch or the party has been or probably will be seriously disadvantaged.

12.3 In general, disputes must be lodged with the Registrar within 14 days of the action in dispute taking place. If special circumstances are warranted this can be extended to 30 days.

12.4 Upon presentation of a dispute to the Registrar, he/she must determine:

(a) if the dispute is frivolous or vexatious; if this is the finding the dispute must be dismissed and the appellant only is to be notified; or

(b) if there is a prima facie case; if this is the finding all relevant parties must be informed and advised of the next steps in the process.

12.5 The Registrar's determination must be made within 14 days, or within 3 days in the case of ballots or if the claim is taken to be a matter of urgency. Any interested party may request that the matter be considered as urgent and the Registrar will

make any determination as is appropriate, taking into account the nature of the dispute and political implications.

- 12.6 When a prima facie case exists the Registrar must progress the dispute to mediation as soon as practicable.
- 12.7 In accordance with the gravity of the breach the registrar in his/her mediation may:
- (a) take no further action;
  - (b) issue a directive;
  - (c) issue a reprimand or an advice to the member on future conduct;
  - (d) In more serious cases, recommend to the Executive that any or all of the following rights of the member be suspended in whole or in part, for a specified or indefinite period:
    - i) the period of grace of a member whose subscription has expired;
    - ii) seeking or holding state, or sub-branch office;
    - iii) seeking or retaining endorsement of the party for public office;
    - iv) speaking on behalf of the party;
    - v) attending or participating in meetings of party bodies;
    - vi) Membership of the party.
    - vii) In the case of a ballot the Registrar may, in accordance with the gravity of the breach:
  - (e) Take no further action:
  - (f) Provide advice on the conduct of future ballots;
  - (g) Order a recount of the ballot.
  - (h) Order the ballot to be redone.
- 12.8 A decision or ballot result will stand while a dispute is being considered.
- 12.9 Any findings and recommendations of the Registrar must be reported to the Executive,
- 12.10 The Registrar shall refer all disputes relating to parliamentarians, parliamentary performance or public comments made by parliamentarians to the relevant Parliamentary Team, or where the Team is less than 3 parliamentarians, to the Executive.

- 12.11 If the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved within the Parliamentary Team it must then be referred back to the Registrar.

### **13. Conduct of Parliamentary Representatives**

- 13.1 Anyone applying to be a candidate for the Party will be required to give a signed undertaking regarding the following: not to speak publicly against NQP policy unless there is a genuinely strong conscientious objection, in which case NQP policy must be stated first and then any qualification/s can be given.
- 13.2 If elected the candidate agrees that whilst he/she may retain the right to resign from the Party, if he/she does so he will resign the parliamentary seat beforehand.
- 13.3 An elected Member of Parliament shall adhere to the policies formulated by this Party:
- (a) Except that where the views of an elected member are in conflict with party policy, then the elected member may vote according to their conscience;
  - (b) and where, in the opinions of an elected member, their duty to their electorate is in conflict with Party policy, then the elected member may vote according to their duty to their electorate.
- 13.4 When an elected member recognises a conflict between either their conscience or their duty to their electorate and NQP policy, then they shall furnish a statement accounting for their position to the Executive, for their information.
- 13.5 When an elected member votes against the Party policy, then they shall at the earliest opportunity, furnish a statement accounting for the reason why they so voted to the Executive.
- 13.6 The Elected members shall elect a leader. In the event that a leader cannot be selected the Executive shall appoint the Parliamentary Leader.

### **14. Conduct of Members**

- 14.1 Any member of the NQP who disagrees with a policy or decision of the Party shall remain wholly free to express and advocate their own views, except on occasions when they are communicating in a public capacity as a representative of the Party, in which event they may express their own views, but make it clear that they do not reflect those of the Party.
- 14.2 Any member of the NQP shall conduct themselves as a credit to the Party, whether or not on party business or recognized as a member of the party at the time.
- 14.3 Any member of the NQP found by the Executive Committee to have breached the constitution may be subject of disciplinary action at the discretion of the Executive. The Executive may choose one or more of the following disciplinary measures against the member:
- (a) Discuss the matter with the member and take no further action.

- (b) Cancel the person's membership and publically announce the cancellation of the membership.
- (c) Make a formal statement renouncing the member's comments.
- (d) Order the member make a suitable public announcement or apology.
- (e) Remove the member from any position of authority within the party and the
- (f) Executive Committee vote on a suitable replacement.

## Definitions

In this constitution, the definitions below apply, unless some other meaning is clearly intended:-

**Absolute majority** means more than half of the persons entitled to vote

**Body** means a committee or officer of the Party at any level

**Sub-branch** means a group of members who conduct meetings at a local level

**Elected public office** means an elected position in a state, territorial or federal parliament, or municipal council or other similar body within Australia

**Eligible Elector** means someone who is eligible to vote in the election of a government

**Executive** means the Executive of the North Queensland Party

**Financial member** means a member whose membership status is financial in accordance with the provisions of this constitution

**Newsletter** means the NQP Journal of the Party as issued by the Secretary by mail or electronic means or both

**Majority** means more than half of the persons voting

**Member** means a person who is correctly enrolled as a member of the Party

**Members:** are "natural persons" - flesh and blood people, not organisations, companies, associations

**Membership officer** means the NQP Membership Officer and in the absence of a Membership officer being appointed or available the Secretary

**Party** means The North Queensland Party

**Party ballot** means a ballot open to all members of the Party who are qualified under this constitution

**Policy** means a public statement by the Party for and on behalf of the members and endorsed candidates and the Parliamentary representatives of the Party on matters of general and/or specific concern to the people of Queensland and Australia, which statement shall take the form of a declaration, opinion and/or pledge and shall be determined according to the provisions of this constitution

**Policy Frameworks:** Each policy of The North Queensland Party will have a policy framework as a preamble. These policy frameworks are not to be as broadly general as The Charter of The North Queensland Party but are to be sufficiently general to permit people's opinions to differ over the details of the policies.

**Pre-selection** means the endorsement by the Party, in accordance with the relevant constitutional provisions, of a person to stand as a candidate of the Party for elected public office

**Proxy:** Written and signed authority given by one member to another nominated member to vote on his or her behalf at any nominated meeting. The proxy may specify the manner in which the proxy vote is to be exercised or may leave the vote at the discretion of the nominated member.

**Related Parties:** as defined in Part XI of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act*

Clause 123(2) of this Act states that "For the purposes of this Part, 2 political parties shall be taken to be related if:

(a) one is a part of the other; or

(b) both are parts of the same political party"

**Relevant members** means the members of The North Queensland Party

**Simple Majority** means a majority of those voting

**State** means a state or territory of the Commonwealth of Australia

**Signature** Any provision requiring a person's signature on a document must be construed as meaning that such document be signed by that person with their personal signature

**Term:** As defined as a period of time between State Conferences

**NQP** is the abbreviation of the North Queensland Party and unless otherwise stated refers to the State body