



HERBERT
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FREEHILLS

Constitution

Regional Arts Australia



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Constitution

Regional Arts Australia ABN 45 000 525 182

A company limited by guarantee

1 Company's name

The name of the company is Regional Arts Australia.

2 Company's purposes

The company's principal purpose is to promote the arts in regional and remote Australia, (namely literature, music, performing arts, visual arts, design, film, video, television, radio, community arts, arts or languages of Indigenous persons or movable cultural heritage) for the public benefit by, without limitation:

- (a) working collaboratively with regional arts organisations, all levels of Government, regional organisations, national peak bodies, and others to strengthen the arts, culture and creative sector;
- (b) increasing, securing and administering resources for regional arts projects and programs;
- (c) organising events and opportunities for the development of the arts in regional and remote Australia;
- (d) undertaking research that connects regional and remote creative practice to sustainable economic, social, cultural and environmental development in regional communities.

3 Company's powers

Solely for carrying out the company's purposes, the company may exercise all of the powers of a company limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act.

4 Not for profit

4.1 Application of the company's income and property

- (a) The company's income and property must be applied solely towards promoting the company's purposes.
- (b) No part of the income or property may be paid, transferred or distributed, directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus, or other profit distribution, to any member or director in their capacity as member or director.



- (c) This rule 4 does not prohibit indemnification of, or payment of premiums on contracts of insurance for, any director to the extent permitted by law and this constitution.

4.2 Payments of directors fees

No directors fees may be paid to the directors.

4.3 Other payments to directors

All other payments to directors must be approved by the directors including, but not limited to:

- (a) out-of-pocket expenses incurred by a director in performing a duty as a director of the company; or
- (b) a service rendered to the company by a director in a professional or technical capacity or as an employee, other than in the capacity as a director of the company, where:
 - (1) the provision of the service has the prior approval of the directors; and
 - (2) the amount payable is not more than an amount that commercially would be reasonable payment for the service.

5 Membership

- (a) The members are the directors.
- (b) Every member agrees to comply with this constitution and supports the purposes of the company set out in rule 2.
- (c) The company must maintain a register of members setting out the name, address, alternate electronic or other address (if any) for receipt of notices and date membership starts and ceases.
- (d) A person immediately ceases to be a member if the person ceases to be a director.

6 Liability and guarantee of member

- (a) The liability of the members is limited to the amount of the guarantee given in rule 6(b).
- (b) Every member must contribute an amount not more than \$10 to the property of the company if it is wound up while the person is a member or within one year after the person ceases to be a member, for:
 - (1) payment of the company's debts and liabilities contracted before the time the individual ceased to be a member; and
 - (2) expenses of winding up.

7 Winding up

- (a) If, on the winding up or dissolution of the company, any property remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, and after application of rule 8, this property must only be transferred to an entity that is charitable at law.
- (b) The entity referred to in rule 7(a) must be decided by the directors, or if the directors do not wish to decide or do not decide, it must be decided by the Supreme Court of Victoria.

8 Inclusion on the Register of cultural organisations

8.1 Application of this rule

If the company is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under item 12.1.1 of section 30-100 of the ITAA97 it must comply with this rule 8 and only to the extent required by relevant law, regulation or guideline applicable to the company, or any administrative requirement or practice of the Australian Taxation Office or any regulator.

8.2 Establishment of Public Fund

- (a) The company must establish and maintain for its principal purpose and principal activities in Australia a fund to be called Regional Arts Australia Fund (or such other name as decided by the directors and notified to the Department or the ACNC, as required) (**Public Fund**):
 - (1) to which gifts of money or property and Deductible Contributions given for those purposes are to be made;
 - (2) to which any money received by the company because of those gifts and Deductible Contributions is to be credited; and
 - (3) that does not receive any other money or property.
- (b) The money in the Public Fund will be kept separate, or separately identifiable, as required by the Department or the ACNC, from other funds of the company and used only to further the company's principal purpose.
- (c) The company must seek donations from the public to the Public Fund.
- (d) The not-for-profit provisions of rule 4.1 apply to the Public Fund.

8.3 Ministerial Rules

The company must comply with any rules that the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Commissioner, the ACNC or the Minister responsible for the Register make to ensure that gifts and Deductible Contributions made to the Public Fund (established under rule 8.2) will only be used for the company's principal purpose and principal activities as set out in rule 2(a).

8.4 Statistical information

The company must provide to the Department or the ACNC, as required, statistical information on the gifts and Deductible Contributions made to the Public Fund.



8.5 Notifying the Department

The company must notify the Department or the ACNC, as required, of:

- (a) any changes to its principal purpose;
- (b) any change to the name of the company or its Public Fund;
- (c) any change to the membership of the committee administering the Public Fund under rule 8.6(a);
- (d) any proposed changes to, or any departure from, this rule 8;
- (e) if the company becomes insolvent, or commences any process for the winding up of the company or experiences other financial difficulties; or
- (f) any other issues reasonably required by the Department or the ACNC.

8.6 Public Fund administration and Public Fund Committee

- (a) The directors will administer the Public Fund provided there are at least 3 directors and the majority are Responsible Persons.
- (b) If there is not a majority of directors who are Responsible Persons, the directors must delegate the power to administer the Public Fund to a committee of not fewer than 3 people, a majority of whom are Responsible Persons.

8.7 Receipts

- (a) Receipts for gifts and Deductible Contributions to the Public Fund must be made in the name of the Public Fund and state:
 - (1) the number of the receipt;
 - (2) the name and ABN of the company;
 - (3) the name of the Public Fund;
 - (4) the name of the donor;
 - (5) the amount of the gift, the fact that it was a gift made to the Public Fund, and the date the gift was received, or information required by ITAA97 relating to Deductible Contributions, as applicable,and include the signature of a person authorised to act on behalf of the Public Fund.

8.8 Revocation or cessation of DGR status

At the first occurrence of:

- (a) the winding up or dissolution of the Public Fund;
- (b) the company or Public Fund ceasing to be endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under Subdivision 30-BA of ITAA 97;

any surplus assets of the Public Fund must be transferred to the public fund of an entity which is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under item 12.1.1 of section 30-100 of the ITAA 97, the identity of which must be decided by the directors, or if the directors do not wish to decide or do not decide, by the Supreme Court of Victoria.



9 Altering this constitution

- (a) The company must not pass a special resolution altering the constitution, if, as a result, the company would cease to be a charity.
- (b) A resolution purporting to alter this constitution in breach of rule 9(a) will have no effect.
- (c) The company must give notice of any alteration to the regulators as required.

10 General meetings

- (a) The directors may convene a general meeting at such time and place as the directors see fit.
- (b) General meetings must be conducted in accordance with rule 12, with the following modifications:
 - (1) A member may appoint a proxy on behalf of the member. The directors may decide the rules relevant to the appointment and powers of the proxy.
 - (2) A members' resolution may be passed in accordance with rule 12.6 unless a meeting is required by the Corporations Act, such as a resolution to remove an auditor or a director, or a resolution that by law requires a special resolution.

11 Directors

11.1 Appointing directors

- (a) The minimum number of directors is 3 and the maximum number of directors is 9.
- (b) The directors may appoint any individual as a director, provided:
 - (1) that individual has signed a consent to act as director;
 - (2) the appointment is consistent with any Board Composition Policy adopted from time to time by the directors; and
 - (3) the individual is not disqualified from managing a corporation under the Corporations Act nor disqualified from being a responsible entity under the ACNC Act.
- (c) Subject to rule 11.2, a director holds office for a maximum of 9 years from the date of appointment, unless the directors otherwise decide for any particular director.

11.2 Vacation of office

The office of a director becomes vacant:

- (a) if the director dies;



- (b) if the director resigns by notice to the company;
- (c) if the director is removed from office by resolution of the members;
- (d) if the director is appointed for a specific term of office and is not reappointed;
- (e) if the director is disqualified from managing a corporation under the Corporations Act or disqualified from being a responsible entity under the ACNC Act;
- (f) except to the extent of a leave of absence granted by the directors, if the director fails to attend at least three consecutive meetings of the directors or at least four meetings over a period of one year; or
- (g) in the circumstances outlined in the Corporations Act.

11.3 Powers and duties of directors

- (a) The directors are responsible for managing the company's affairs and carrying out the company's purposes set out in rule 2.
- (b) The directors may exercise all the company's powers which are not required, by the Corporations Act or by this constitution, to be exercised by the members in a general meeting.
- (c) The directors must ensure they are aware of, and comply with, their duties as directors, including the ACNC governance standards.
- (d) The directors must ensure the company's financial affairs are managed responsibly, including:
 - (1) maintaining financial records that correctly record and explain its transactions and financial performance, and enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared annually;
 - (2) deciding how payments are to be approved or executed by or on behalf of the company; and
 - (3) ensuring the company does not operate while insolvent.
- (e) The directors may delegate any of their powers or functions to one or more of the directors, a committee, an employee, agent or other person as the directors decide.

11.4 Directors conflict of interest

- (a) A director must disclose a perceived or actual material conflict of interest to the other directors.
- (b) Unless the directors decide otherwise and where permitted by law, a director who has a material personal interest in a matter that is being considered at a directors meeting must not:
 - (1) be present while the matter is being considered; or
 - (2) vote on the matter.
- (c) The directors may make a policy or rules relating to disclosure of interests and subsequent requirements of the directors. Any policy or rules will bind all directors.



- (d) An act, transaction, agreement, instrument, resolution or other thing with a third party is not invalid or voidable only because a director fails to comply with the policy or rules.
- (e) A director is not disqualified from contracting or entering into an arrangement with the company as vendor, purchaser or in another capacity merely because the director holds office as a director or because of the fiduciary obligations arising from that office.
- (f) A contract or arrangement entered into by or on behalf of the company in which a director is in any way interested is not invalid or voidable merely because the director holds office as a director or because of the fiduciary obligations arising from that office.
- (g) A director who has an interest in an arrangement involving the company is not liable to account to the company for any profit realised under the arrangement merely because the director holds office as a director or because of the fiduciary obligations arising from that office, provided that the director complies with applicable disclosure requirements under this constitution, any policy or rules of the company and the law.
- (h) A director may hold any other office or position (except auditor) in the company or a related body corporate in conjunction with their directorship and may be appointed to that office or position on terms (including remuneration and tenure) that the directors decide.

11.5 Committees

- (a) The directors may delegate their powers to one or more committees consisting of any number of directors and/or others.
- (b) A committee must exercise its powers within the terms of the delegation.
- (c) The procedures in rule 12 apply as far as possible to the decision-making of any committees.

11.6 Validity of acts

An act done by a person acting as a director, a meeting of directors, or a person exercising a power or function delegated to them by a director is not invalidated merely because of one of the following circumstances, if that circumstance was not known by that person, the directors or the committee (as applicable) when the act was done:

- (a) a defect in the appointment of the person as a director or delegate;
- (b) the person being disqualified as a director or having vacated office; or
- (c) the person not being entitled to vote.

12 Decision-making procedures

12.1 Convening meetings

- (a) A director may call a meeting by giving reasonable notice to the other directors, or by the secretary giving notice of the meeting to all directors.
- (b) A notice of meeting:



- (1) must specify the time and place of the meeting;
 - (2) need not state the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting;
 - (3) may be given immediately before the meeting; and
 - (4) must be given in accordance with rule 15.1.
- (c) The non-receipt of notice of a meeting, or a failure to give notice of a meeting, does not invalidate any thing done or resolution passed at the meeting if:
- (1) the non-receipt or failure occurred by accident or error;
 - (2) the director waives notice of that meeting before or after the meeting;
 - (3) the director notifies the company of their agreement to that thing or resolution personally or by post, telephone, email or other electronic means before or after the meeting; or
 - (4) the director attended the meeting.

12.2 Digital meetings

- (a) A director who takes part in a meeting by telephone or digital means is taken to be present in person at the meeting.
- (b) The simultaneous linking together by telephone or digital means of a sufficient number of the directors to constitute a quorum constitutes a meeting.
- (c) All the provisions in this constitution relating to meetings apply, as far as they can and with any necessary changes, to meetings by telephone or digital means.
- (d) A meeting by telephone or digital means is taken as held at the place decided by the chair of the meeting, as long as at least one person involved was at that place for the duration of the meeting.
- (e) If a technical difficulty occurs which means that one or more directors cannot participate, the chair may adjourn the meeting until the difficulty is remedied or may, if a quorum remains present, continue with the meeting.

12.3 Quorum

- (a) No business may be transacted at a meeting unless a quorum is present at the time the business is dealt with.
- (b) A quorum consists of a majority of directors, or at least 3 directors, whichever is the greater number.
- (c) If the number of directors in office is less than the minimum number of directors fixed under this constitution, the remaining directors must act as soon as possible to appoint additional directors, as required, and, until that has happened, may only act if and to the extent that there is an emergency requiring them to act.

12.4 Chair

- (a) The directors may elect one of the directors as chair and may decide the period for which that person is to be the chair. The election of the chair must be passed by at least a two thirds (rounded to the nearest whole number) majority of the directors.



- (b) The chair must preside as chair at each meeting if present within 10 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting and willing to act.
- (c) If there is no chair or the conditions in rule 12.4(b) have not been met, the directors present must elect one of the directors as chair of the meeting.

12.5 Decisions at meetings

- (a) Except where by law a resolution requires a special majority, a resolution at a meeting must be decided by a majority of votes cast by the directors present.
- (b) Where the votes on a proposed resolution are equal, the chair of the meeting does not have a second or casting vote, and the vote is taken as lost.

12.6 Decisions without a meeting

- (a) A resolution is taken to have been passed if:
 - (1) all of the directors who would be entitled to receive notice of a meeting and to vote on a resolution are given a document setting out that resolution;
 - (2) at least 75% of the directors sign or consent to the resolution within the time specified, or if no time is specified, within 14 days of the document being sent to the directors; and
 - (3) the directors who sign or consent to the resolution would have constituted a quorum at a meeting held to consider that resolution.
- (b) A director may consent to a resolution by:
 - (1) signing the document containing the resolution (or a copy of that document);
 - (2) giving the company notice agreeing to the resolution and either setting out its terms or otherwise clearly identifying them; or
 - (3) telephoning the secretary or the chair and signifying assent to the resolution and clearly identifying its terms.
- (c) The resolution is taken as passed when the last director required to constitute at least 75% of the directors signs or consents to that resolution within the time period specified in rule 12.6(a)(2).

12.7 Minutes and records

- (a) The directors must ensure:
 - (1) minutes of general meetings, directors meetings and committee meetings (including all resolutions proposed); and
 - (2) records of resolutions passed by members, directors and committees without a meeting,are recorded and kept as part of the company's records. The records must be made within one month after the relevant meeting is held or resolution passed.
- (b) The minutes of a meeting must be signed within a reasonable time by the chair of the meeting or the chair of the next meeting.



13 Secretary

- (a) The directors must appoint at least one secretary who ordinarily resides in Australia and who may also be a director.
- (b) The secretary must provide consent to the appointment.
- (c) The secretary can be removed by the directors.

14 Indemnity and insurance

14.1 Persons to whom the indemnity and insurance apply

The indemnity and insurance referred to in this rule 14 applies to Indemnified Officers.

14.2 Indemnity

- (a) The company must indemnify, on a full indemnity basis and to the full extent permitted by law, each Indemnified Officer against all losses or liabilities (including costs and expenses) incurred by the person as an officer of the company.
- (b) This indemnity:
 - (1) is a continuing obligation and is enforceable by an Indemnified Officer even though that person has ceased to be an officer of the company;
 - (2) is enforceable without that person having first to incur any expense or make any payment; and
 - (3) operates only to the extent that the loss or liability in question is not covered by insurance.

14.3 Insurance

The company may, to the extent permitted by law:

- (a) purchase and maintain insurance; or
- (b) pay or agree to pay a premium for insurance,

for any Indemnified Officer against any liability incurred by the person as an officer of the company where the directors consider it appropriate to do so.

14.4 Savings

Nothing in this rule 14:

- (a) affects any other right or remedy that an Indemnified Officer may have in respect of any loss or liability referred to in this rule 14; or
- (b) limits the capacity of the company to indemnify or provide or pay for insurance for any person to whom this rule 14 does not apply.

15 Notice

15.1 Notice from the company

The company may give notice and any communication:

- (a) personally;
- (b) by post to the person's nominated address;
- (c) by email or other electronic means; or
- (d) by notifying the person by email or other electronic means, that the notice or communication or publication is available at a specified electronic address.

15.2 Notice to the company

Notice may be given to the company:

- (a) by personal service at its registered address;
- (b) by post to its registered address; or
- (c) by sending it to the company's principal email address, or if there is no principal email address, to the email address of the secretary.

15.3 Time of service

- (a) A notice from the company properly addressed and posted is taken to be served at 10.00am on the day that is three Business Days after the date it was posted.
- (b) Where the company sends a notice by email or other electronic means, the notice is taken as served at the time it is sent.
- (c) If service under rule 15.3(b) is on a day which is not a Business Day or is after 4.00pm (addressee's time), the notice is regarded as having been received at 9.00am on the following Business Day.

15.4 Other communications and documents

Rules 15.1 to 15.3 apply, as far as they can, with any necessary changes, to the service of any communication or document.

16 Definitions and interpretation

16.1 Definitions

Term	Meaning
ACNC Act	<i>Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth).</i>

ACNC	Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.
Business Day	Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding New Years' Day, Australia Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, ANZAC Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
Corporations Act	<i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth).
Deductible Contribution	a voluntary transfer of money or property in relation to an eligible fundraising event as described in item 7 or item 8 of the table in section 30-15 of the ITAA 97.
Department	the Commonwealth Department responsible for the Arts.
Gift	a voluntary transfer of money or property (including financial assets such as shares) where the donor receives no material benefit or advantage.
Guide	the Register's guidelines issued from time to time by the Department.
Indemnified Officer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 each person who is or has been a director or executive officer of the company; and 2 any other officers or former officers of the company as the directors in each case decide.
ITAA 97	<i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> (Cth).
Register	the register of cultural organisations maintained by the Department under section 30-295 of the ITAA 97.
Responsible Person	an individual who has a degree of responsibility to the wider Australian community as set out in the Guide.

16.2 Interpretation

In this constitution:

- (a) a reference to any legislation includes all delegated legislation made under it and amendments, consolidations, replacements or re-enactments of any of them;



- (b) a word or expression defined or used in the Corporations Act, covering the same subject, has the same meaning in this constitution;
- (c) a reference to a document being 'signed' or to 'signature' includes that document being executed under hand or under seal or by any other method and, in the case of a communication in electronic form, includes the document being authenticated in accordance with the Corporations Act or any other method approved by the directors;
- (d) a reference to a member present at a general meeting is a reference to a member present in person or by proxy, attorney or representative; and
- (e) the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular.

17 Corporations Act and ACNC Act

- (a) The replaceable rules set out in the Corporations Act do not apply to the company.
- (b) If at any time, the company is not a registered charity under the ACNC Act, the Corporations Act applies and (unless it is a replaceable rule) overrides any part of this constitution, or policy of the company, which is inconsistent with the Corporations Act.