

## Brisbane Area WICEN Group Inc (Qld)

### Proposed change to Clause 4 of the Constitution of Brisbane Area WICEN Group Inc (Qld).

I propose to that Clause 4 (Illustration 1:) of the Constitution of Brisbane Area WICEN Group Inc (Qld) be amended to read as follows;

Clause 4;

- a. The membership of the Association shall consist of the following classes of members:-
  - a.i. Ordinary Members.
  - a.ii. Associate members.
  - a.iii. Life members.
  - a.iv. Honorary members.
- b. The number of Ordinary members shall be unlimited and in the opinion of the Management Committee, shall
  - b.i. The number of ordinary members is unlimited.
  - b.ii. An ordinary member must hold an Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency as per the [Radiocommunications Act 1992](#) (the Act) and issued by the authorised regulatory authority within the Commonwealth of Australia.
- c. Any person, over the legal age, may apply to the association to become an ordinary member provided that when they apply, the applicant must provide to the association, suitable evidence that they hold an operator's certificate as per clause 4.b.ii.
- d. An ordinary member is entitled to vote at any meeting of the association.
- e. A person may apply for associate membership of the association who;
  - e.i. is under the legal age, irrespective of the whether they do or do not hold an amateur operator's certificate of proficiency.
  - e.ii. Is of legal age and interested in radio communications and who does not hold an operator's certificate as per clause 4.b.ii.
- f. An associate member may not vote on any motion at any meeting of the association.

- g. The number of Associate members shall not exceed the number of Ordinary members.
- h. The number of Life members who may be appointed in any one financial year shall be limited to two, and to qualify for appointment, a member must have rendered outstanding service to the Association. Appointment to Life Membership shall be made pursuant to a recommendation of the Management Committee, subsequently ratified by a majority of members present and entitled to vote at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association.
- i. Honorary members may be any person who volunteers to assist, or who is requested to do so, in any real or simulated emergency or exercise, and who, in the case of an operator, is in the opinion of the Net Controller, sufficiently trained in message handling. Honorary membership terminates when the person signs off with the Net Controller at the termination of the emergency or exercise.
- j. The Management Committee reserves the right, as it may see fit, to vary the conditions for a membership on a case by case basis only, subject to the particular membership being ratified by a vote by the Ordinary Members at the next General Meeting of the Association.

## The current Clause 4 of the Constitution;

### CLASSES OF MEMBERS

4.
  - a. The membership of the Association shall consist of Ordinary members, and any of the following classes of members:-
    - a.i. Associate members.
    - a.ii. Life members.
    - a.iii. Honorary members.
  - b. The number of Ordinary members shall be unlimited and in the opinion of the Management Committee, shall
    - b.i. Have demonstrated competence in message handling,  
And / Or
    - b.ii. Have a commitment to the objects of the Association.
  - c. The number of Associate members shall not exceed the number of Ordinary members, and may be any person who is interested in emergency communications.
  - d. Associate members are not entitled to vote at any meeting of the Association.
  - e. The number of Life members who may be appointed in any one financial year shall be limited to two, and to qualify for appointment, a member must have rendered outstanding service to the Association. Appointment to Life Membership shall be made pursuant to a recommendation of the Management Committee, subsequently ratified by a majority of members present and entitled to vote at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association.
  - f. Honorary members may be any person who volunteers to assist, or who is requested to do so, in any real or simulated emergency or exercise, and who, in the case of an operator, is in the opinion of the Net Controller, sufficiently trained in message handling. Honorary membership terminates when the person signs off with the Net Controller at the termination of the emergency or exercise.

*Illustration 1: Current Clause 4 of the Brisbane Area WICEN Group Inc (Qld)*

## Reasons for requesting the change;

1. In the current Constitution, Clause 4.b only requires an applicant for full membership to be able to have skills in message passing and a commitment to the object of the association. This rule would allow the association's membership to be made up of a majority of or entirely of non-amateurs. This would mean that the association would not be legally able to make decisions relating to its network of repeaters, as such decisions would not be made by individuals holding an amateur operator's certificate of proficiency issued by the authorised regulatory authority within the Commonwealth of Australia.
2. Clause 4.c allows non-amateurs to join with the view to encourage their interest and to encourage them toward obtaining their certificate of proficiency. This rule should be designed to encourage non-amateurs to develop their skills. Under the current rule, the association could see itself being made up the a core of non-amateurs members and a smaller group of amateurs with associate membership. If this were to occur then how would the radio network which we own and operate be managed. Those who could vote would not have the required skills as per the regulations and those with the skills would not have enough votes to deal with any issue associated with the network.

Our current membership is made up of 2 life members, 25 ordinary members and 8 associate members, if 8 ordinary member elect to take out associate membership, this will trigger a Constitutional crisis as our membership will breach Clause 4.c in that the number of associates will be greater than the number of ordinary members.

3. The current Clause 4 does not give any guidance for processing membership applications from anyone not of legal age.
4. Clause 4.j allows the Management Committee to be able to accept an individual's nomination under circumstance varying from those specified by Clause 4.a to 4.i subject to the nomination being accepted by a vote of the Ordinary Members at the next General Meeting. Some examples of the circumstances under which the Management Committee may make such determinations may include;
  - a nominee's health preventing their active involvement at meetings, activities etc. but who wishes to be involved in some way.
  - a nominee being located at a remote location which would preventing their active involvement at meetings, activities etc. but who wishes to be involved in some way.
  - a nominee who possesses valuable knowledge and/or skills in the field of radio communications or other fields of benefit to the Association but who does not an amateur operator's certificate of proficiency and whose involvement in the Association would be of great benefit to the Association.

Until the above issues have been clarified by the members of the association, I will not be accepting any membership renewals for 2017/18 financial year. I should point out that Clause 8.f states that a current members is financial up until 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2017.

Your faithfully

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D. Longland  
Treasurer Brisbane Area WICEN Group Inc (Qld)  
27/06/17