

Notice of Motion – Removal of the word ‘remit’ from the New Zealand Branch Constitution

That the following words be removed from the New Zealand Branch Constitution:

- ‘and remits’ from Clauses 8.5(8)
- “Remits,” from the heading of Clause 8.6
- “Remits and” from Clause 8.6

The clauses then read as follows:

8.5 Business of AGM: The order of business at the Annual General Meeting shall, as nearly as may be, consist of:

(8) voting on Notices of Motion ~~and Remits~~;

8.6 ~~Remits~~, Notices of Motion: ~~Remits and~~ Notices of Motion must be:

Rationale:

The New Zealand Branch Constitution contains reference to “remits” and “notices of motion”, with no definition of either term. It is not helpful having two undefined but similar terms in the constitution, especially when the terms have been used interchangeably.

It would be best if the terms were either defined in the Constitution, referenced to an authoritative source for definition or simplified to one expression. A standard, universal definition of the term ‘remit’ is hard to identify. The term ‘Notice of motion’ is more clearly understood.

Therefore the motion is being put to remove the term ‘remit’ from the constitution.

The initial impetus for the two terms is likely to have arisen from the desire to separate a) ideas for future investigation and discussion from b) specific actions to be undertaken within the Branch. It may be helpful to have guidelines to assist movers with the drafting of notices of motion. It is good practice for a motion to be clear about whether it relates to an idea for discussion or a specific action. However that information does not need to be contained in the Constitution.

Moved:

Katharine Hoskyn



Seconded:

Michele Miller

Notice of Motion – Amending a Notice of Motion

That work be undertaken on modifications to the New Zealand Branch Constitution so that amendments to Notices of Motion for the Annual General Meeting be received by the Branch Secretary prior to the circulation of the final agenda.

Rationale:

This Notice of Motion is about a principle. It does not contain the detail about how this principle would be enacted. If this motion is successful, details will be discussed and changes to the Branch constitution will be brought to a future AGM.

The principle is that, instead of amendments to Notices of Motion arising from the floor at AGM, they would be pre-notified and pre-circulated, similar to the current practice for the RSCDS AGM. (For example, notices of motion received and circulated to members, amendments are sent to the Branch Secretary, the final agenda is circulated with the original motion and the amendment/s).

The Consult2020 Working Group have identified that, irrespective of voting process, the current practice of amending motions from the floor at the AGM is problematic for the following reasons:

- It is difficult for region representatives with no opportunity to discuss the amendment with the members they represent
- Poorly thought-through wording can occur through drafting amendments 'on the spot' from the floor during the meeting
- There are potential difficulties of managing meeting procedures for Branch officers and meeting attendees with spontaneous or unnotified amendments, especially if complex

The acceptance of modifications from the floor at a meeting has the advantage of allowing flexibility to reflect the mood of the meeting in a Notice of Motion. However where discussion in regions generally takes place in advance, it should be possible to pre-identify amendments.

Nevertheless it may be desirable to include the possibility of modification of the amendment as urgent business should this be necessary. Such a clause would be a 'back-stop' rather than a process regularly used.

The purpose of circulating an agenda is to ensure that business is known in advance. Pre-notification of amendments enables better member-based discussion prior to the AGM.

Moved: Katharine Hoskyn



Seconded: Quentin Currall



Notice of Motion – Motions regarding Determination of Branch Fees and expenses of Office Bearers

That work be undertaken on modifications to the New Zealand Branch Constitution so that amendments to motions regarding Determination of Branch Fees and Expenses of Office Bearers for the Annual General Meeting be received by the Branch Secretary prior to the circulation of the final agenda.

Rationale:

This Notice of Motion is about a principle. It does not contain the detail about how this principle would be enacted. If this motion is successful, details will be discussed and changes to the Branch constitution will be brought to a future AGM.

The determination of Branch fees and expenses of office-bearers is separated from Notices of Motions in the Branch Constitution. The rationale is to ensure that fees and expenses are set at a meeting. (For example, if the original motion fails, another one has to be put to the meeting as these must be determined at the meeting).

The principle is that, instead of amendments arising from the floor at AGM for motions relating to fees and expenses, they would be pre-notified and pre-circulated. (For example, fee and expense recommendations are usually determined by Branch Officers, they would be circulated to members, amendments are sent to the Branch Secretary, the final agenda is circulated with the original motion and the amendment/s).

The Consult2020 Working Group have identified that, irrespective of voting process, the current practice of amending financial motions from the floor at the AGM is problematic for the following reasons:

- It is difficult for region representatives with no opportunity to discuss the amendment with the members they represent
- The financial implications cannot be fully explained for an amendment only received at the meeting

The purpose of circulating an agenda is to ensure that business is known in advance. Pre-notification of amendments enables better member-based discussion prior to the AGM.

Moved: Katharine Hoskyn



Seconded: Quentin Currall

