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# RESIDENTS FIRST WOOLLAHRA INDEPENDENTS CONSTITUTION

## **RESIDENTS FIRST WOOLLAHRA INDEPENDENTS CONSTITUTION**

### **OBJECTIVES**

Residents First Woollahra Independents (also known as Residents First, Residents First Woollahra, Residents First Independents and RFW) (hereinafter referred as RFW) is committed to:

- A The endorsement of independent candidates for election to the Council in the Municipality of Woollahra.
- B Seeking the conduct of good government of the Municipality of Woollahra by supporting the election of persons of ability and integrity.
- C Ensuring the candidates selected are unlikely to be persons with a potential for a conflict of interest between their own business and personal affairs and those matters of concern and the principles held by the community.
- D Making sure the candidates endorsed by RFW are free to make their own decisions independently on any Council matter, except that RFW requires that they caucus for the appointment of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Chairs of Committees.
- E The refreshment of Council with new councillors. To this end RFW usually seeks to support a candidate for no more than two terms of office on the Council.

### **STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES**

RFW supports the election to Council of men and women pledged to implement honest and responsible local government which keeps paramount the rights and interest of residents who will at all times:

- To prevent overdevelopment and maintain Woollahra's present character substantially unchanged;
- To keep party politics out of local government and protect the true interests of residents;
- To ensure provision of Council services and maintenance of Council assets at levels and standards which meet justifiable projects and services affecting community requirements;
- To foster co-operation with other public bodies and authorities in relation to projects and services affecting Woollahra so as to optimize the benefits accruing to residents;
- To hold rates and charges to the minimum consistent with the needs of Woollahra Council;

- To improve communications between the Council and residents and resident groups;
- To preserve Woollahra's independence by resisting amalgamation with incompatible area; and
- To make decisions and determine goals and policy for Council to implement.

## **FUNCTION AND POWERS**

### **Membership**

#### *Eligibility*

The persons accepted to membership of RFW are those persons thought fit by the executive to be suitable persons to be RFW members.

RFW members retain their membership until such time as they resign.

A register of members will be maintained and updated following the resignation of a member.

Members have no liabilities for the debts of RFW.

#### *Fees*

No entrance fee or ongoing fee is payable by members

RFW members may be requested to make donations to RFW in election years.

### **Meetings**

The Registered officer is charged with the responsibility of calling periodic meetings of members of RFW if and when required.

#### *Conduct of meetings*

Decisions are taken by majority (50%) votes on the voices. With a tied vote the Registered Officer has a casting vote, and in his/her absence the chairperson of the meeting.

#### *Minutes*

Minutes recording the decisions taken, will be kept of each duly convened meeting. At each meeting the Registered Officer will sign the minutes of the previous meeting, as a true and correct record of the meeting, on the passing of a resolution to that effect.

#### *Amending the Constitution*

The executive be permitted to make any or all such amendments to the constitution as may be required by any relevant legislation.

## **OFFICE BEARERS**

The office bearers (Executive) comprises of the Registered Officer\*, Deputy Registered Officer\*, the Treasurer and an elected Councillor. In the event that there is no RFW elected councillor a former RFW councillor.

\*As registered pursuant to the Electoral Funding Act, 2018

### *Election of Office Bearers*

Nomination for office bearers are received from the floor at a duly convened meeting of RFW.

The office bearers continue in office until retirement or defeat at the next following election of office bearers.

### *Secretary*

The Executive may appoint a Secretary.

### *Sub Committees*

Members of the sub committees are detained by the office bearers.

Sub- committees are constituted each election year and may comprise:

- Campaign sub-committee;
- Selection sub-committee;
- Treasury sub-committee;

The campaign sub-committee is charged with the development and implementation of the strategy of RFW's endorsed candidates at the Local Government elections;

The selection sub-committee is charged with the responsibility of selecting appropriate candidates to stand for the election as RFW endorsed at the Local Government elections;

The treasury sub-committee is charged with the responsibility of raising funds necessary for the election campaign, with control and management of those funds with the maintenance of the necessary accounting records.

## **FINANCE MANAGEMENT**

Source of funds for RFW is donations and levies.

All monies received are to be duly receipted and promptly deposited to the RFW bank account(s).

All outgoings are to be paid by the treasurer by direct debit from a RFW bank account and only on payable receipts.

The treasurer is responsible for keeping books and records.

The financial year end is 30 June.

### **REGULATORY COMPLIANCE**

The Registered Officer, the Secretary and the Treasurer are responsible for ensuring compliance with Electoral Act 2017 and the Electoral Funding Act 2018.

### **DISSOLUTION**

If it is resolved at a duly convened meeting to dissolve RFW, any surplus funds held by RFW at that date after payment of all RFW debts, shall be distributed to a political party or a charity as determined by the members.

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Registered party information required under the Electoral Act 2017 and the Local Government Act 1993:

Please provide written responses in the spaces provided to address the following party information if it is not explicitly outlined in the party's constitution. This information will be published on the NZEC Electoral Commission's website with the party's constitution:

(i) the party's objects:

ENDORSEMENT OF NEW INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES FOR COUNCILLORS ON WOOLLAWRA COUNCIL WHO ARE PERSONS OF INTEGRITY AND ABILITY AND ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST

(ii) the procedure for amending the party's written constitution:

THE EXECUTIVE IS PERMITTED TO MAKE ANY OR ALL SUCH AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY ANY RELEVANT LEGISLATION

(iii) the rules for membership of the party, including the procedure for accepting a person as a member and ending a person's membership:

EXECUTIVE ACCEPTS MEMBERSHIP FROM APPLICANTS IT THINKS ARE A SUITABLE FIT FOR MEMBERSHIP. MEMBERSHIP IS RETAINED UNTIL THE MEMBER QUESTIONS. THE MEMBERSHIP LIST IS AMENDED ACCORDINGLY.

(iv) a description of the party structure and of how the party manages its internal affairs:

REGISTERED OFFICER CALLS MEETINGS OF MEMBERS AS AND WHEN REQUIRED. DECISIONS MADE ON MATTERS BY OFFICE BEARERS ARE ELECTED, SUBCOMMITTEES CONSTITUTED IN ELECTION YEARS BY OFFICE BEARERS (ELECTED)

(v) the procedure for selecting a person to hold an office in the party and for removing a person from office:

OFFICE BEARERS ARE ELECTED AND HOLD OFFICE UNTIL RETIREMENT OR DEFEAT AT ELECTION. OFFICE BEARERS APPOINT SUB COMMITTEES AND SECRETARY

(vi) the names of the officers or members of the party responsible for ensuring the party complies with the Electoral Act 2017 and the Electoral Funding Act 2018:

REGISTERED OFFICER: GEOFF KUNDE  
TREASURER: MIKE SELBY  
SECRETARY: LUISE ELSING

Please provide clear statements that explicitly outline all of the required information.

**Registered party information required under the *Electoral Act 2017* and the *Local Government Act 1993*:**

Please provide written responses in the spaces provided to address the following party information if it is not explicitly outlined in the party's constitution. This information will be published on the NSW Electoral Commission's website with the party's constitution.

(i) the party's objects:

(ii) the procedure for amending the party's written constitution:

(iii) the rules for membership of the party, including the procedure for accepting a person as a member and ending a person's membership:

*Attached is a copy of the rules for the procedure for ending a person's membership.*

(iv) a description of the party structure and of how the party manages its internal affairs:

(v) the procedure for selecting a person to hold an office in the party and for removing a person from office:

(vi) the names of the officers or members of the party responsible for ensuring the party complies with the *Electoral Act 2017* and the *Electoral Funding Act 2018*:

**Please provide clear statements that explicitly outline all of the required information.**

In the event the executive forms the view that a member's conduct is detrimental to the good name of RFW the executive shall serve on the member a statement identifying the nature of the conduct that has caused the service of the statement, the member will have 21 days to provide a statement as to why her or his membership should not be cancelled. In the event no statement is received the executive may determine to cancel the member's membership and advise the member accordingly. In the event the member submits such statement and the executive is of the view her or his membership should be cancelled the executive will refer the matter to committee of 3 comprising of former Councillors (to be formed from six former Councillors – 3 nominated by the executive and 3 from the member (to be drawn from a hat to form the review committee).

The decision of the review committee will be binding on the executive and the member and such committee is not required to provide reasons and is not subject to review.