

**Constitution**  
**Warrah Society**

**ACN 000 705 644**

(Company)

**A Company Limited by Guarantee**

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## 1 Definitions and Interpretation

### 1.1 Definitions

In this Constitution unless a contrary intention appears:

**Alternate Director** means a person appointed as an alternate director under clause 20.1.

**Annual General Meeting** has the same meaning as the term 'AGM' in the Corporations Act.

**Anthroposophical Society** means the society founded by Rudolf Steiner in 1924.

**Auditor** means the auditor for the time being of the Company.

**ASIC** means the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

**Chairman** means the chairman appointed under clause 19.1.

**Chief Executive Officer** means the chief executive officer appointed under clause 24.1.

**Committee** means a committee of Directors constituted under clause 17.

**Company** means Warrah Society being an Australian public company limited by guarantee established under the Corporations Act (Cth) which bears the ACN 000 705 644.

**Constitution** means this constitution as amended from time to time.

**Corporations Act** means the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

**Director** means a person holding office as director of the Company.

**Directors** means some or all of the directors of the Company acting as a board.

**Deputy Chairman** means the deputy chairman appointed under clause 19.1.

**General Meeting** means a meeting of the Members of the Company.

**Income Tax Assessment Act** means the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth).

**Life Member** means a Member honoured as a life member under clause 6.4.

**Member** means a person entered on the Register of the Company as a member.

**Register** means the register of members under the Corporations Act and if appropriate includes a branch register.

**Registered Office** means the registered office for the time being of the Company.

**Related Body Corporate** has the same meaning it has in the Corporations Act.

**Representative** means a person appointed to represent a corporate Member at a General Meeting of the Company in accordance with the Corporations Act.

**Rudolf Steiner** means Dr Rudolf Steiner, philosopher, scientist and social reformer, born in 1861 and died in 1925.

**Rule** means a rule made by the Directors in accordance with clause 15.

**Schedule** means a schedule to this Constitution.

**Seal** means the common seal (if any) of the Company.

**Secretary** means a person appointed as a secretary of the Company and includes an honorary Secretary and where appropriate includes an acting secretary and a person appointed by the Directors to perform all or any of the duties of a secretary of the Company.

**Special Resolution** takes the meaning given by section 9 of the Corporations Act.<sup>1</sup>

**Statement of Values and Principles** means the matters set out in Schedule 2 to this Constitution.

## 1.2 Interpretation

In this Constitution unless the contrary intention appears:

- (a) words importing any gender include all other genders;
- (b) the singular includes the plural and vice versa;

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of adoption of this Constitution, section 9 provides that a Special Resolution is a resolution:

- (a) of which notice has been given to the Members in accordance with clause 8.3; and
- (b) that has been passed by at least 75% of the votes cast by Members entitled to vote on the resolution.

- (c) a reference to a law includes regulations and instruments made under the law;
- (d) a reference to a clause is a reference to a clause in this Constitution unless otherwise stated;
- (e) a reference to a law or a provision of a law includes amendments, re-enactments or replacements of that law or the provision, whether by the State or the Commonwealth of Australia or otherwise;
- (f) a reference to a meeting includes a meeting by technology where all attendees have reasonable opportunity to participate;
- (g) a power, an authority or a discretion reposed in a Director, the Directors, the company in General Meeting or a Member may be exercised at any time and from time to time;
- (h) “writing” and “written” includes printing, typing and other modes of reproducing words in a visible form including, without limitation, any representation of words in a physical document or in an electronic communication or form or otherwise; and
- (i) Australian dollars, dollars, A\$ or \$ is a reference to the lawful currency of Australia.

### **1.3 Signing**

Where, by a provision of this Constitution, a document including a notice is required to be signed, that requirement may be satisfied in relation to an electronic communication of the document in any manner permitted by law or by any State or Commonwealth law relating to electronic transmissions, or in any other manner approved by the Directors.

### **1.4 Corporations Act**

In this Constitution unless the contrary intention appears:

- (a) an expression has, in a provision of this Constitution that deals with a matter dealt with by a particular provision of the Corporations Act, the same meaning as in that provision of the Corporations Act;
- (b) “section” means a section of the Corporations Act; and
- (c) while the Company is a registered charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth):

- (i) subject to clause 1.4(c)(ii), the provisions of the Corporations Act in Part 2G.2 and Part 2G.3 apply as if section 111L(1) of the Corporations Act was not enacted; and
- (ii) if one of those provisions includes a reference to ASIC, including a reference to lodge any document with, or seek consent or approval from ASIC, that particular requirement does not apply to the Company.

## **1.5 Headings**

Headings are inserted for convenience and are not to affect the interpretation of this Constitution.

## **1.6 Replaceable rules do not apply**

The provisions of the Corporations Act that apply as replaceable rules are displaced by this Constitution and accordingly do not apply to the Company.

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## **2 Objects of the Company**

The objects of the Company are to assist people with intellectual and other disabilities in Australia in need of benevolent relief, particularly by:

- (a) providing individually tailored residential, education and other community based supports and services that maximise choice and control for each individual consistent with the Statement of Values and Principles;
- (b) responding to the individually assessed or personally expressed needs of each individual by facilitating the acquisition of personal, vocational, living, leisure and associated skills and providing support for optimal health and well being;
- (c) facilitating positive outcomes and opportunities for human development of children and adults with intellectual and other disabilities including by fostering service-providing organisations which are committed to providing education, choice, maximum independence, competence, integration and a valued social network for people with intellectual and other disabilities;
- (d) promoting the interests of people with intellectual and other disabilities and their related needs to the community and governments;

- (e) encouraging and participating in the establishment of support systems to meet their current and future needs;
- (f) act as trustee and to perform and discharge the duties and functions incidental thereto where this is incidental or conducive to the attainment of these objects; and
- (g) do such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of these objects.

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### **3 Powers**

The Company has the legal capacity and powers of an individual and also has all the powers of a Body Corporate under the Corporations Act.

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## **4 Application of income for objects only**

### **4.1 Application of income and property**

The income and the property of the Company, however derived:

- (a) must be applied solely towards the promotion of the purposes of the Company as set out in clause 2; and
- (b) may not be paid or transferred to the Members, in whole or in part, either directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise.

### **4.2 Payment in good faith**

The above clause does not prevent payment in good faith to a Member, or to a firm of which a Member is a partner:

- (a) of reasonable remuneration for services to the Company;
- (b) for goods supplied in the ordinary course of business;
- (c) of reasonable interest on money borrowed from a Member at a rate not exceeding that fixed for the purposes of this clause by the Company in a General Meeting; or
- (d) of a reasonable rent for premises let by a Member.



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## **5 Winding Up**

### **5.1 Contributions by Members**

- (a) Each Member undertakes to contribute to the Company's property if the Company is wound up while they are a Member, or within one year after they cease to be a Member.
- (b) This contribution is for:
  - (i) payment of the Company's debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a Member;
  - (ii) the costs of winding up; and
  - (iii) adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.
- (c) The amount is not to exceed \$5.

### **5.2 Application of property**

- (a) If any property remains on the winding up or dissolution of the Company and after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, that property may not be paid to or distributed among the Members but must be given or transferred to some other institution:
  - (i) having objects similar to the objects of the Company; and
  - (ii) whose constitution prohibits the distribution of its income and property among its members to an extent at least as great as imposed on the Company under this Constitution.
- (b) The institution will be determined by the Members at or before the time of dissolution.

### **5.3 Revocation of Australian Tax Office endorsement**

- (a) Where the Company has been endorsed as a deductible gift recipient as an organisation or in relation to a public fund under Subdivision 30-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act, then where:
  - (i) the Company is wound up; or
  - (ii) the fund is wound up; or

- (iii) the endorsement under Subdivision 30-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act is revoked;

then any surplus assets of the Company or fund remaining after payment of all liabilities must be transferred to an institution or fund that:

- (iv) complies with clause 5.2; and
  - (v) is an endorsed deductible gift recipient; and
  - (vi) where the company is endorsed as a public benevolent institution under section 30-45(1) of the Income Tax Assessment Act is similarly endorsed.
- (b) Where the Company operates more than one fund for which it is a deductible gift recipient and its endorsement under Subdivision 30-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act is revoked only in relation to one of those funds then it may transfer any surplus assets of the fund after payment of all liabilities to any other fund for which it is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient.

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## **6 Membership**

### **6.1 Number of Members**

- (a) The minimum number of Members of the Company will be nine (9) or such greater number as the Directors determine from time to time, subject to that number complying with the Corporations Act.
- (b) The Members at the date of adoption of this Constitution and any person the Directors admit to membership under clause 6.2 are the Members of the Company.

### **6.2 Admission as a Member**

The Directors may admit any person as a Member if the person is eligible under clause 6.3 and makes an application in accordance with clause 6.5.

### **6.3 Membership criteria**

To be eligible to be a Member, a person must:

- (a) if a body corporate, be not-for-profit;

- (b) if a natural person, not be an employee of the Company or a spouse of an employee of the Company unless otherwise approved by the Directors;
- (c) be nominated by an existing Member;
- (d) agree to be bound by this Constitution in any manner the Directors determine;
- (e) uphold the Statement of Values and Principles; and
- (f) consent in writing to become a Member of the Company.

#### **6.4 Life Members**

- (a) The Directors may honour any Member as a Life Member, who:
  - (i) has rendered long and valued service to the Company; or
  - (ii) has demonstrated exceptional commitment to pursuing the Company's objects over time.
- (b) Life Members have the same rights as Members under this Constitution.
- (c) Clauses 6.8 and 6.9 do not apply to Life Members.
- (d) A Life Member ceases to be a Life Member on:
  - (i) death;
  - (ii) resignation by written notice to the Company having immediate effect or with effect from a specified date occurring not more than seven days after the service of the notice;
  - (iii) becoming of unsound mind or a person whose personal estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under a law related to mental health; or
  - (iv) the passing of a resolution by the Directors to remove the life membership of a Life Member.

#### **6.5 Membership process**

- (a) The application for Membership must be made:
  - (i) in writing, signed by the applicant;
  - (ii) in such form as the Directors from time to time prescribe; and
  - (iii) accompanied by the membership fee, if any, determined by the Directors.
- (b) Each application for membership must be considered by the Directors at the meeting of Directors first occurring after the application is made. At that meeting the Directors must

determine whether to admit the applicant to membership of the Company or whether to reject the application.

- (c) When an applicant has been accepted or rejected for membership the Secretary must immediately notify the applicant of the decision of the Directors.

#### **6.6 Directors' discretion to admit or refuse admission as a Member**

The Directors have the discretion to refuse any person or corporation admission as a Member without giving any reason for refusing.

#### **6.7 Registration as a Member**

If the Directors accept an application for membership, as soon as practicable, the Directors must cause the name of the person to be entered on the Register.

#### **6.8 Membership terms**

- (a) From the date of adoption of this Constitution, Members are admitted for a term of three (3) years ending on 31 January following the three (3) year anniversary of the date each Member's name is entered on the Register or the date of each Member's last renewal, or such other period as determined by the Directors.
- (b) At the end of the membership term, each Member may reapply for membership. The renewal process must be made in accordance with the process prescribed by the Directors at the relevant time.

#### **6.9 Membership fees**

The Members must pay such membership fees as prescribed from time to time by the Directors.

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### **7 Ceasing to be a Member**

#### **7.1 Cessation of membership**

A Member ceases to be a Member on:

- (a) death;
- (b) resignation by written notice to the Company having immediate effect or with effect from a specified date occurring not more than seven days after the service of the notice;

- (c) failing to pay any subscription that may be prescribed by the Directors from time to time for a period of twelve months after the subscription was due and payable;
- (d) becoming of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under a law related to mental health;
- (e) becoming bankrupt or insolvent or making an arrangement or composition with creditors of a person's joint or separate estate generally;
- (f) the passing of a resolution by the Directors or Members in General Meeting pursuant to clause 7.2;
- (g) the expiry of the three year term of membership, unless the Member had applied for and been admitted as a Member for the following term;
- (h) the cessation of that Member as a Director, if that Member is also a Director (in such circumstances the Member is able to make a new application for membership pursuant to clauses 6.2 and 6.5); or
- (i) termination of his or her appointment as a Director pursuant to clause 13.

## **7.2 Termination of membership**

- (a) Subject to this Constitution the Directors or Members in General Meeting may at any time terminate the membership of a Member if the Member:
  - (i) refuses or neglects to comply with this Constitution or any applicable Rules or regulations made by the Directors;
  - (ii) engages in conduct which in the opinion of the Directors is unbecoming of the Member or prejudicial to the interests of the Company;
  - (iii) fails to pay any debt due to the Company for a period of three months after the date for payment (such debt not including a subscription referred to in clause 7.1(c)); and
  - (iv) makes statements which are inconsistent with or contrary to the Statement of Values and Principles.
- (b) For a decision of the Directors or the Members in General Meeting under clause 7.2 to be effective the dispute resolution procedure contained in clause 26 must be followed. The general nature of the allegations made against the Member must be notified to the

Member and for the purposes of clause 26.1(a) this notification will be the notice of the Dispute.

### **7.3 Limited liability**

The Members have no liability as Members except as set out in clause 5.1.

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## **8 General Meetings**

### **8.1 Annual General Meetings**

Annual General Meetings of the Company are to be held in accordance with the Corporations Act.

### **8.2 Convening a General Meeting**

The Directors may convene and arrange to hold a General Meeting of the Company when they think fit and must do so if required to do so under the Corporations Act.

### **8.3 Notice of a General Meeting**

Notice of a meeting of Members must be given in accordance with clause 31 and the Corporations Act.

### **8.4 Calculation of period of notice**

In computing the period of notice under clause 8.3, both the day on which the notice is given or taken to be given and the day of the meeting convened by it are to be disregarded.

### **8.5 Cancellation or postponement of General Meeting**

- (a) Where a meeting of Members (including an Annual General Meeting) is convened by the Directors they may by notice, whenever they think fit, cancel the meeting or postpone the holding of the meeting to a date and time determined by them.
- (b) This clause 8.5 does not apply to a meeting convened in accordance with the Corporations Act by a single Director, by Members, by the Directors on the request of Members or to a meeting convened by a Court.

## **8.6 Notice of cancellation or postponement of a meeting**

Notice of cancellation, postponement or change of place of a General Meeting must state the reason for cancellation or postponement and be given:

- (a) to each Member individually; and
- (b) to each other person entitled to be given notice of a meeting of the Company's Members under the Corporations Act.

## **8.7 Contents of notice of postponement of meeting**

A notice of postponement of a General Meeting must specify:

- (a) the postponed date and time for the holding of the meeting;
- (b) a place for the holding of the meeting which may be either the same as or different from the place specified in the notice convening the meeting; and
- (c) if the meeting is to be held in two or more places, the technology that will be used to facilitate the holding of the meeting in that manner.

## **8.8 Number of clear days for postponement of meeting**

The number of clear days from the giving of a notice postponing the holding of a General Meeting to the date specified in that notice for the holding of the postponed meeting must not be less than the number of clear days' notice of the General Meeting required to be given by this Constitution or the Corporations Act.

## **8.9 Business at postponed meeting**

The only business that may be transacted at a General Meeting the holding of which is postponed is the business specified in the original notice convening the meeting.

## **8.10 Proxy at postponed meeting**

Where by the terms of an instrument appointing a proxy:

- (a) the proxy is authorised to attend and vote at a General Meeting or General Meetings to be held on or before a specified date; and
- (b) the date for holding the meeting is postponed to a date later than the date specified in the instrument of proxy;

then, by force of this clause 8.10, that later date is substituted for and applies to the exclusion of the date specified in the instrument of proxy, unless the Member appointing the proxy gives to the Company at its Registered Office notice in writing to the contrary not less than 48 hours before the time to which the holding of the meeting has been postponed.

#### **8.11 Non-receipt of notice**

The non-receipt of notice of a General Meeting or cancellation or postponement of a General Meeting by, or the accidental omission to give notice of a General Meeting or cancellation or postponement of a General Meeting to, a person entitled to receive notice does not invalidate any resolution passed at the General Meeting or at a postponed meeting or the cancellation or postponement of a meeting.

#### **8.12 Director entitled to notice of meeting**

A Director is entitled to receive notice of and to attend all General Meetings and is entitled to speak at those meetings.

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## **9 Proceedings at General Meetings**

### **9.1 Number of a quorum**

- (a) A majority of the Members or nine (9) Members, whichever is the lesser number, present in person or by proxy are a quorum at a General Meeting.
- (b) In determining whether a quorum is present, each individual attending as a proxy is to be counted, except that:
  - (i) where a Member has appointed more than one proxy, only one is to be counted; and
  - (ii) where an individual is attending both as a Member and as a proxy, that individual is to be counted only once.

### **9.2 Requirement for a quorum**

- (a) An item of business may not be transacted at a General Meeting unless a quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to consider it.
- (b) If a quorum is present at the time the first item of business is transacted, it is taken to be present when the meeting proceeds to consider each subsequent item of business



unless the Chairman of the meeting (on the Chairman's own motion or at the request of a Member or proxy who is present) declares otherwise.

### **9.3 If quorum not present**

If within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for a meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting:

- (a) if convened by a Director or at the request of Members, is dissolved; and
- (b) in any other case, stands adjourned to the same day in the next week and the same time and place, or to such other day, time and place as the Directors appoint by notice to the Members and others entitled to notice of the meeting.

### **9.4 Adjourned meeting**

At a meeting adjourned under clause 9.3(b), nine (9) persons each being a Member or proxy present at the meeting are a quorum. If a quorum is not present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for the adjourned meeting, the meeting is dissolved.

### **9.5 Appointment and powers of Chairman of General Meeting**

If the Directors have elected one of their number as Chairman of their meetings, that person is entitled to preside as Chairman at a General Meeting.

### **9.6 Absence of Chairman at General Meeting**

If a General Meeting is held and:

- (a) a Chairman has not been elected by the Directors; or
- (b) the elected Chairman is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unable or unwilling to act;

then the following may preside as chair of the meeting (in order of precedence):

- (c) the Deputy Chairman if a Director has been so elected by the Directors; or
- (d) a Director present to preside as chair of the meeting.

## **9.7 Conduct of General Meetings**

- (a) The Chairman of a General Meeting:
  - (i) has charge of the general conduct of the meeting and of the procedures to be adopted at the meeting;
  - (ii) may require the adoption of any procedure which is, in the Chairman's opinion, necessary or desirable for proper and orderly debate or discussion and the proper and orderly casting or recording of votes at the General Meeting; and
  - (iii) may, having regard where necessary to the Corporations Act, terminate discussion or debate on any matter whenever the Chairman considers it necessary or desirable for the proper conduct of the meeting.
- (b) A decision by the Chairman under this clause is final.

## **9.8 Adjournment of General Meeting**

- (a) The Chairman of a General Meeting may at any time during the meeting adjourn the meeting or any business, motion, question, resolution, debate or discussion being considered or remaining to be considered by the meeting either to a later time at the same meeting or to an adjourned meeting at any time and any place, but:
  - (i) in exercising the discretion to do so, the Chairman may, but need not, seek the approval of the Members present in person or by proxy; and
  - (ii) only unfinished business is to be transacted at a meeting resumed after an adjournment.
- (b) Unless required by the Chairman, a vote may not be taken or demanded by the Members present in person or by proxy in respect of any adjournment.

## **9.9 Notice of adjourned meeting**

It is not necessary to give any notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at any adjourned meeting unless a meeting is adjourned for one month or more. In that case, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given as in the case of an original meeting.

### **9.10 Questions decided by majority**

Subject to the requirements of the Corporations Act, a resolution is taken to be carried if a simple majority of the votes cast on the resolution are in favour of it.

### **9.11 Equality of votes – no casting vote for Chairman**

If there is an equality of votes, either on a show of hands or on a poll, then the Chairman of the meeting is not entitled to a casting vote in addition to any votes to which the Chairman is entitled as a Member or proxy or attorney or Representative, and consequently the resolution fails.

### **9.12 Voting on show of hands**

- (a) At any General Meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is properly demanded and the demand is not withdrawn.
- (b) A declaration by the Chairman that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of the proceedings of the Company, is conclusive evidence of the fact.
- (c) Neither the Chairman nor the minutes need state and it is not necessary to prove the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.

### **9.13 Poll**

If a poll is demanded:

- (a) it must be taken in the manner and at the date and time directed by the Chairman and the result of the poll is the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded;
- (b) on the election of a Chairman or on a question of adjournment, it must be taken immediately;
- (c) the demand may be withdrawn; and
- (d) the demand does not prevent the continuance of the meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll has been demanded.

### **9.14 Votes of Members**

- (a) Every Member has one vote.

- (b) Subject to this Constitution:
  - (i) on a show of hands, each Member present in person and each other person present as a proxy of a Member has one vote; and
  - (ii) on a poll, each Member present in person has one vote and each person present as proxy of a Member has one vote for each Member that the person represents.

#### **9.15 Right to appoint proxy**

- (a) Subject to the Corporations Act, a Member entitled to attend a meeting of the Company is entitled to appoint another person (whether a Member or not) as proxy to attend in the Member's place at the meeting. A proxy has the same right as the Member to speak and vote at the meeting and may be appointed in respect of more than one meeting.
- (b) The instrument appointing a proxy must be in writing under the hand of the appointor or of his attorney duly authorised in writing or, if the appointor is a corporation, either under seal or under the hand of an officer or attorney duly authorised. The instrument appointing a proxy will be deemed to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll. A Member will be entitled to instruct his proxy to vote in favour of or against any proposed resolutions. The proxy may vote as he thinks fit unless otherwise instructed.
- (c) No Member, and no other person, may hold and vote in accordance with more than three proxies.
- (d) The instrument appointing a proxy may be in the form set out in Schedule 1 to this Constitution.
- (e) The instrument appointing a proxy and the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is signed or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority will be deposited at the registered office of the Company, or at such other place within the State as is specified for that purpose in the notice convening the meeting, not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote, or, in the case of a poll, not less than 24 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll, and in default the instrument of proxy will not be treated as valid.

### **9.16 Validity of vote in certain circumstances**

Unless the Company has received written notice of the matter before the start or resumption of the meeting at which a person votes as a proxy, attorney or Representative, a vote cast by that person is valid even if, before the person votes:

- (a) the appointing Member dies;
- (b) the Member revokes the appointment or authority; or
- (c) the Member is mentally incapacitated.

### **9.17 Objection to voting qualification**

- (a) An objection to the right of a person to attend or vote at the meeting or adjourned meeting:
  - (i) may not be raised except at that meeting or adjourned meeting; and
  - (ii) must be referred to the Chairman of the meeting, whose decision is final.
- (b) A vote not disallowed under the objection is valid for all purposes.

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## **10 Directors**

### **10.1 Number of Directors**

The number of Directors must be such number between five (5) and ten (10) as the Directors may determine from time to time and in the absence of such determination, the number of Directors will be nine (9).

### **10.2 Directors elected at General Meeting**

The Company may, at a General Meeting at which a Director retires or otherwise vacates office, by resolution fill the vacated office by electing a person to that office.

### **10.3 Qualification of Directors**

- (a) To be eligible for the office of Director a person must:
  - (i) be a Member of the Company; and
  - (ii) consent in writing to act as a Director.

- (b) Two of the directors must be members of the Anthroposophical Society.

#### **10.4 Appointment of officers**

At the next meeting of the Directors held following the Company's adoption of this Constitution, the Directors shall appoint the officers of the Company. Thereafter, the Directors shall appoint those officers with such frequency as the Directors from time to time determine.

#### **10.5 Terms and retirement of Directors**

- (a) Directors are elected for terms of three (3) years.
- (b) At each Annual General Meeting, any Director who has held office for three (3) years or more since last being elected, must retire from office but subject to clause 10.6 is eligible for reappointment.
- (c) The Members may by Ordinary Resolution remove any Director before the expiration of that Director's period of office, and may by an Ordinary Resolution appoint another person in the place of that Director.
- (d) The Members may by Ordinary Resolution increase or decrease the period of time for which a director holds office under clause 10.5(b).

#### **10.6 Reappointment of Directors**

From the date of adoption of this Constitution, Directors are entitled to seek reappointment as Directors on three (3) consecutive occasions only so that a Director's period of continuous service to the Company after the date of adoption of this Constitution shall not exceed a period of twelve (12) years.

#### **10.7 Office held until conclusion of meeting**

A retiring Director holds office until the conclusion of the meeting at which that Director retires but subject to clause 10.6 is eligible for reappointment.

#### **10.8 Casual vacancy or additional Director**

- (a) The Directors may at any time appoint any person to be a Director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing Directors, provided the total number of Directors does not exceed the maximum number determined in accordance with clause 10.1.

- (b) A Director appointed under this clause holds office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company but is eligible for election at that meeting.

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## **11 Remuneration of Directors**

The Directors must not be paid any remuneration for their services as Directors.

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## **12 Expenses of Directors**

- (a) A Director is entitled to be reimbursed out of the funds of the Company for such reasonable travelling, accommodation and other expenses as the Director may incur when travelling to or from meetings of the Directors or a Committee or when otherwise engaged on the business of the Company.
- (b) Any payment to a Director must be approved by the Directors.

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## **13 Vacation of office of Director**

In addition to the circumstances in which the office of a Director becomes vacant under the Corporations Act, the office of a Director becomes vacant if the Director:

- (a) becomes of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health;
- (b) resigns from the office by notice in writing to the Company;
- (c) becomes insolvent or bankrupt, compounds with his creditors, or assigns his estate for the benefit of his creditor;
- (d) is absent personally or by proxy or Alternate Director at three successive meetings of the Directors without leave of absence from the Directors;
- (e) becomes prohibited for being a Director by reason of any order of any court of competent jurisdiction; or
- (f) ceases meeting the eligibility requirements in clause 10.3(a).

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## **14 Powers and duties of Directors**

### **14.1 Directors to manage the Company**

- (a) The Directors are to manage the business of the Company and may exercise all the powers of the Company that are not, by the Corporations Act or by this Constitution, required to be exercised by the Company in General Meeting.
- (b) The Directors will cause the Company to be conducted in accordance with the Statement of Values and Principles.

### **14.2 Specific powers of Directors**

Without limiting the generality of clause 14.1, and subject to any trusts relating to the assets of the Company, the Directors may exercise all the powers of the Company to:

- (a) borrow or raise money;
- (b) charge any property or business of the Company; and
- (c) give any security for a debt, liability or obligation of the Company or of any other person.

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## **15 Rules**

Subject to this Constitution, the Directors may from time to time by resolution make and rescind or alter Rules which are binding on Members for the management and conduct of the business of the Company.

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## **16 Appointment of attorney**

- (a) The Directors may, by power of attorney, appoint any person to be the attorney of the Company for the purposes and with the powers, authorities and discretions held by the Directors for the period and subject to the conditions that they think fit.
- (b) A power of attorney granted under this clause 16 may contain any provisions for the protection and convenience of persons dealing with the attorney that the Directors think fit and may also authorise the attorney to delegate (including by way of appointment of a substitute attorney) all or any of the powers, authorities and discretions of the attorney.



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## **17 Directors' committees and delegation**

- (a) The Directors may delegate any of their powers, other than powers required by law to be dealt with by Directors as a board, to a committee or committees consisting of such one or more of their number and other persons as they think fit.
- (b) A committee to which any powers have been delegated under this clause 17 must exercise those powers in accordance with any directions of the Directors. A power so exercised is taken to have been exercised by the Directors.
- (c) The powers of delegation expressly or impliedly conferred by this Constitution on the Directors are conferred in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the power conferred by section 198D of the Corporations Act.

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## **18 Proceedings of Directors**

### **18.1 Directors' meetings**

- (a) The Directors may meet together for conducting business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit.
- (b) A Director may at any time, and the Secretary must on the written request of a Director, convene a meeting of the Directors.

### **18.2 Questions decided by majority**

A question arising at a meeting of Directors is to be decided by a majority of votes of Directors present and entitled to vote, and that decision is for all purposes a decision of the Directors.

### **18.3 Alternate Director and voting**

A person who is present at a meeting of Directors as an Alternate Director for another Director has one vote for each absent Director who would be entitled to vote if present at the meeting and for whom that person is an Alternate Director. If that person is also a Director, then that person also has one vote as a Director in that capacity.

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## **19 Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Directors**

### **19.1 Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman**

The Directors may elect from their number a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman of their meetings and may also determine the period for which the persons elected as Chairman and Deputy Chairman are to hold office.

### **19.2 Absence of Chairman at Directors' meeting**

If a Directors' meeting is held and:

- (a) a Chairman has not been elected under clause 19.1; or
- (b) the Chairman is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unable or unwilling to act;

then the Deputy Chairman, if elected under clause 19.1, must be the chairman of the meeting or, if the Deputy Chairman is not present, the Directors present must elect one of their number to be a chairman of the meeting.

### **19.3 No casting vote for Chairman at Directors' meetings**

In the event of an equality of votes cast for and against a question, the chairman of the Directors' meeting does not have a second or casting vote, and consequently the question is decided in the negative.

---

## **20 Alternate Director**

### **20.1 Appointment**

- (a) Subject to the Corporations Act, a Director may appoint a Member, with the approval of the Directors, to be an Alternate Director in the Director's place during such period as the Director thinks fit.
- (b) Subject to the Corporations Act, an appointment of an Alternate Director must be recorded by a notice in writing signed by the Director who makes or made the appointment, and delivered to the Company.

## **20.2 Notice**

An Alternate Director is entitled to notice of all meetings of the Directors and, if the appointor does not participate in a meeting, the Alternate Director is entitled to participate and vote in the appointor's place.

## **20.3 Alternate Director's powers**

An Alternate Director may exercise all the powers of the appointor except the power to appoint an Alternate Director and, subject to the Corporations Act, may perform all the duties of the appointor except to the extent that the appointor has exercised or performed them.

## **20.4 Alternate Director responsible for own acts and defaults**

Whilst acting as a Director, an Alternate Director:

- (a) is an officer of the Company and not the agent of the appointor; and
- (b) is responsible to the exclusion of the appointor for the Alternate Director's own acts and defaults.

## **20.5 Alternate Director and remuneration**

An Alternate Director is not entitled to receive from the Company any remuneration or benefit.

## **20.6 Termination of appointment of Alternate Director**

The appointment of an Alternate Director may be terminated at any time by the appointor even if the period, if any, of the appointment of the Alternate Director has not expired, and terminates in any event if the appointor ceases to be a Director.

## **20.7 Termination in writing**

The termination of an appointment of an Alternate Director must be effected by a notice in writing signed by the Director who made the appointment and delivered to the Company.

## **20.8 Alternate Director and number of Directors**

An Alternate Director is not to be taken into account separately from the appointor in determining the number of Directors.

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## **21 Quorum for Directors' meeting**

- (a) At a meeting of Directors, the number of Directors whose presence in person or by participation through technology is necessary to constitute a quorum is as determined by the Directors, and, unless so determined, is one half of the Directors holding office, or if there is an odd number of Directors, then the majority of Directors holding office.
- (b) The continuing Directors may act despite a vacancy in their number. If their number is reduced below the minimum fixed by clause 10.1, the continuing Directors may, except in an emergency, act only for the purpose of filling vacancies to the extent necessary to bring their number up to that minimum or to convene a General Meeting.

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## **22 Circulating resolutions**

- (a) The Directors may pass a resolution without a Directors' meeting being held if all of the Directors entitled to vote on the resolution sign a document containing a statement that they are in favour of the resolution set out in the document.
- (b) Separate copies of a document may be used for signing by Directors if the wording of the resolution and statement is identical in each copy.
- (c) The resolution is passed when the last Director signs.

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## **23 Validity of acts of Directors**

All acts done at a meeting of the Directors or of a Committee, or by a person acting as a Director are taken as valid as if the relevant person had been duly appointed or had duly continued in office and was qualified and entitled to vote, even if it is afterwards discovered that:

- (a) there was a defect in the appointment or continuance in office of a person as a Director or of the person so acting; or
- (b) a person acting as a Director was disqualified or was not entitled to vote.

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## **24 Chief Executive Officer**

### **24.1 Appointed by the Directors**

The Chief Executive Officer must be appointed by the Directors and will have the day to day responsibility for the operation of the services of the Company.

### **24.2 Qualifications of Chief Executive Officer**

To be eligible for the position of Chief Executive Officer, a person must:

- (a) have appropriate training and experience in Rudolf Steiner curative education and social therapy; and
- (b) be committed to the Statement of Values and Principles; and
- (c) be committed to fostering the anthroposophical ethos of the organisation.

### **24.3 Anthroposophical Council**

The Chief Executive Officer shall form the Anthroposophical Council which will have the responsibility of implementing the Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophical ethos of the Company.

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## **25 Secretary**

### **25.1 Appointment of Secretary**

There must be at least one Secretary who is to be appointed by the Directors.

### **25.2 Suspension and removal of Secretary**

The Directors may suspend or remove a Secretary from that office.

### **25.3 Powers, duties and authorities of Secretary**

A Secretary holds office on the terms and conditions (including as to remuneration) and with the powers, duties and authorities, as determined by the Directors. The exercise of those powers and authorities and the performance of those duties by a Secretary are subject at all times to the control of the Directors.

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## 26 Dispute resolution

### 26.1 Handling a dispute

Where there is a dispute, grievance or other disagreement between a Member and the Company, whether arising out of the application of these rules or otherwise (**Dispute**), then either must, prior to the commencement of any proceedings in a Court or Tribunal or before any authority or board, notify the other in writing of the nature of the Dispute, and the following must occur:

- (a) The Member and the Company must in the period fourteen days from the service of the notice of the Dispute (**Initial Period**) use their best endeavours to resolve the Dispute.
- (b) If the Company and the Member are unable to resolve the Dispute within the Initial Period, then the Dispute must be referred for mediation to a mediator agreed by the Member and the Company.
- (c) If the disputants are unable to agree on a mediator within seven days of the Initial Period, the Member or the Company may request the President of LEADR<sup>2</sup> to nominate a mediator to whom the dispute will be referred.
- (d) The costs of the mediation must be shared equally between the Member and the Company.
- (e) Where:
  - (i) the party receiving the notice of the Dispute fails to attend the mediation required by clause 26.1(b); or
  - (ii) the mediation has not occurred within six weeks of the date of the notice of the Dispute; or

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<sup>2</sup> LEADR is a not-for-profit organisation facilitating dispute resolution – further information can be found at [www.leadr.com.au](http://www.leadr.com.au).

(iii) the mediation fails to resolve the Dispute;

then the party serving the notice of Dispute will be entitled to commence any proceedings in a Court or Tribunal or before any authority or board in respect of the Dispute.

(f) The procedure in this clause will not apply in respect of proceedings for urgent or interlocutory relief.

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## **27 Execution of documents**

Documents executed for and on behalf of the company must be executed by:

- (a) two Directors;
- (b) a Director and the Secretary; or
- (c) such other persons as the Directors by resolution appoint from time to time.

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## **28 Accounts**

- (a) The Directors must cause proper financial records to be kept and if required by a law, regulation or guideline applicable to the Company or otherwise considered by the Directors to be appropriate, cause the accounts of the Company to be audited accordingly.
- (b) The Directors must distribute to the Members copies of the annual financial reports of the Company accompanied by a copy of the Auditor's report and Directors' report in accordance with the requirements of a relevant law, regulation or guideline.

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## **29 Seals**

### **29.1 Safe custody of common seals**

The Directors must provide for the safe custody of any seal of the Company.

## **29.2 Use of common seal**

If the Company has a common seal or duplicate common seal:

- (a) it may be used only by the authority of the Directors, or of a Committee authorised by the Directors to authorise its use; and
- (b) every document to which it is affixed must be signed by a Director and be countersigned by another Director, a Secretary or another person appointed by the Directors to countersign that document or a class of documents in which that document is included.

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## **30 Inspection of records**

### **30.1 Inspection by Members**

Subject to the Corporations Act, the Directors may determine whether and to what extent, and at what times and places and under what conditions, the accounting records and other documents of the Company or any of them will be open to inspection by the Members (other than Directors).

### **30.2 Right of a Member to inspect**

A Member (other than a Director) does not have the right to inspect any document of the Company except as provided by law or authorised by the Directors or by the Company in General Meeting.

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## **31 Service of documents**

### **31.1 Document includes notice**

In this clause 31, a reference to a document includes a notice.

### **31.2 Methods of service**

- (a) The Company may give a document to a Member:
  - (i) personally;
  - (ii) by sending it by post to the address for the Member in the Register or an alternative address nominated by the Member; or



- (iii) by sending it to an electronic address nominated by the Member.
- (b) A document sent by post:
  - (i) if sent to an address in Australia, may be sent by ordinary post and is taken to have been received two days after the date of its posting; and
  - (ii) if sent to an address outside Australia, must be sent by airmail and is taken to have been received on the tenth day after the date of its posting.
- (c) If a document is sent by electronic transmission, delivery of the document is taken:
  - (i) to be effected by properly addressing and transmitting electronic transmission; and
  - (ii) to have been delivered on the day following its transmission.

### **31.3 Evidence of service**

A certificate in writing signed by a Director or a Secretary stating that a document was sent to a Member by post or electronic transmission on a particular date is prima facie evidence that the document was so sent on that date.

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## **32 Indemnity**

The Company may indemnify any current or former Director, Secretary or Chief Executive Officer of the Company or of a Related Body Corporate of the Company out of the property of the Company against:

- (a) every liability incurred by the person in that capacity; and
- (b) all legal costs incurred in defending or resisting (or otherwise in connection with) proceedings, whether civil or criminal or of an administrative or investigatory nature, in which the person becomes involved because of that capacity;

except to the extent that:

- (c) the Company is forbidden by statute to indemnify the person against the liability or legal costs; or
- (d) an indemnity by the Company of the person against the liability or legal costs would, if given, be made void by statute.

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### **33 Insurance**

The Company may pay or agree to pay, whether directly or through an interposed entity, a premium for a contract insuring a person who is or has been a Director or Secretary or Chief Executive Officer of the Company or of a Related Body Corporate of the Company against liability incurred by the person in that capacity, including a liability for legal costs, unless:

- (a) the Company is forbidden by statute to pay or agree to pay the premium; or
- (b) the contract would, if the Company paid the premium, be made void by statute.

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### **34 Contract**

The Company may enter into an agreement with a person referred to in clauses 32 and 33 with respect to the matters covered by these clauses. An agreement entered into pursuant to this clause may include provisions relating to rights of access to the books of the Company conferred by the Corporations Act or otherwise by law.

**Appointment of Proxy**

**Warrah Society  
ACN 000 705 644**

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ [name]

of \_\_\_\_\_ [address]

being a member/members of the above named Company hereby appoint

\_\_\_\_\_ [name]

of \_\_\_\_\_ [address]

or, in his or her absence \_\_\_\_\_ [name]

of \_\_\_\_\_ [address]

as my/our proxy to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the meeting of the members of the Company to be held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ and at any adjournment of that meeting.

[To be inserted if desired] This form is to be used in favour of / against the resolution (Strike out whichever is not desired)

[Insert details of specific resolutions if desired]

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATED \_\_\_\_\_

***This notice must be returned to Warrah Society at [address] by [time] on [date] [insert specific details ensuring that the time is 48 hours before the time for the meeting]***

### Statement of Values and Principles

- 1 Warrah Society's service philosophy is informed by an anthroposophical understanding of human development and the principles of Curative Education and Social Therapy.
- 2 We always uphold the rights and dignity of people with intellectual and other disabilities.
- 3 We uphold the National Disability Service Standards.
- 4 We strive for the highest standard of professional knowledge in providing quality education, services and support for both children and adults with disabilities.
- 5 We strive to understand each individual's disability and needs, and provide support that empowers each person to make choices, develop and contribute.
- 6 We acknowledge and support the innate capacity of each individual to know their own intentions and social needs, regardless of disability.
- 7 We recognise that although the physical body or soul may have a disability, the spirit of every individual is unique, enduring and free of disability.
- 8 We support individuals to build and maintain community networks of interest in accordance with their wishes, and encourage engagement and exchange with our local community.
- 9 We recognise the important principle that all relationships throughout Warrah Society carry a quality of *mutual* learning and respect.
- 10 We strive for clarity and transparency in communication and decision making as the foundation for trust, harmony and productive working relationships.
- 11 We strive to be a Learning Community where learning and continuous improvement are embraced by every individual as well as by the organisation.
- 12 We enjoy the cultural diversity of the Warrah Society community and encourage its expression through Festivals, special events and other cultural activities.
- 13 Our commitment to sound, holistic environmental values is inspired by Warrah Society's unique natural environment, and Warrah Society's Biodynamic Farm.