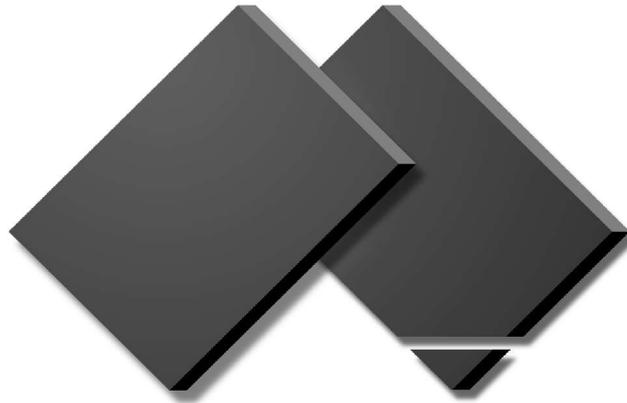


The Net Effect Party



Constitution

Preamble and Definitions

0.1 This document lays out the ideals, objectives, rules and regulations of The Net Effect Party.

0.2 The full name of the party shall be “The Net Effect Party” which may be shortened to “Net Effect” or “Party” for brevity throughout this document.

0.3 A “Member” refers to a financial member of The Net Effect Party.

0.4 The Australian Electoral Commission will be abbreviated to “AEC” and the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 will be referred to as “the Act” throughout this document.

0.5 The “Constitution of The Net Effect Party” may be referred to as the “Constitution” throughout this document. Any other constitution will be referred to by its full name.

0.6 “Party Hierarchy” refers collectively to the Party Leader, Deputy Leader, Party President, Deputy President, Financial Officer, Deputy Financial Officer, Party Secretary, Website Administrator, Deputy Website Administrator, Forum Administrators and any Elected Representatives in either House of Parliament.

0.7 “National Conference” refers to a meeting of the Party Hierarchy and any Members who wish to attend, at an offline location, to discuss Party matters and hold internal Party elections at various times. Any offline votes held at a National Conference will be counted with online votes to present a final quorum of voting Members.

Part 1 – Ideals

1.1 We, the Members of The Net Effect Party, hereby recognise the following as our ideals:

Human Rights

1.2 We endorse the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and will work to ensure they are upheld by our national laws.

1.3 We will make no distinction in law to any person regarding, but not limited to, race, colour, sex, sexuality, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or any other status.

Environment

1.4 All our policies will be based on environmental sustainability and the maintenance of the ecosystem where relevant.

1.5 We support the development of clean, renewable energy sources as a primary focus of our energy based society.

1.6 We will use as little non-renewable resources as possible in disseminating our documentation, keeping it in electronic format to save paper except where absolutely necessary.

1.7 We discourage paper based letters and petitions, and will provide online alternatives to facilitate communication between the public and the Party wherever practical.

Healthcare

1.8 All Australians should have universal access to timely, medically necessary health services, regardless of financial status.

Education

1.9 All Australians should have free access to primary and secondary education, and all Australians should have access to tertiary education based solely on merit.

Defence

1.10 We support the maintenance of a well equipped defensive military force for the protection of our national territories and sovereign interests.

1.11 We oppose unilateral armed action by our defence forces unless needed to actively defend our soil from invading forces. We will only support overseas action on the basis of United Nations resolutions that also adhere to our laws of armed combat.

Information Technology

1.12 We oppose any law that discriminates between the online and digital media rights of citizens compared to their existing offline rights.

1.13 We support the retention of the telecommunications infrastructure in public hands so that all may benefit equally from this important resource.

1.14 We believe that all Australians should have access to the Internet where practical, regardless of financial status.

1.15 We believe that government business should, where possible, be conducted using open and public standards to assist in the free interchange of information.

1.16 We support the right of all citizens to be anonymous online and explicitly reject any attempt to track citizen behaviour not consistent with existing offline laws concerning privacy.

Privacy, Media & Censorship

1.17 We are against censorship of all media, speech and expression. We recognise the right of the individual to see and hear what they wish, free of government or public influence.

1.18 We aim to preserve a fair and independent voice in all forms of media, and ensure that corporate or government interests do not result in the suppression of dissenting views.

1.19 We oppose any one person or company controlling a majority stake of any form of media, or having influences across more than one medium.

1.20 We specifically forbid the government from attempting to exert any editorial influence over the media.

1.21 We support full freedom of information in all government business not meeting any national security criteria, and where national security is concerned, we advocate an independent government oversight committee with the necessary clearances and strong powers to examine all classified material and report back to the public any breaches of law.

Part 2 – Objectives

2.1 We, the Members of The Net Effect Party, hold the following to be our objectives:

2.2 To endorse candidates for Federal election in both the House of Representatives and the Senate;

2.3 To be a registered Federal political party as defined by the Act and to be the sole source of any subsequent State and Territory affiliated parties;

2.4 To be a non-profit organisation with all finances being used solely towards Party administrative costs;

2.5 To provide the people of Australia with a tolerant, equal opportunity party dedicated to improving the living conditions of all Australians regardless of race, colour, sex, sexuality, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;

2.6 To be completely accountable for our actions and open in our dealings with the people of Australia whom we are elected to serve;

2.7 To advance our ideals through Parliament.

Part 3 – Rules & Regulations

Amending the Party Constitution

3.1 Any changes to this Constitution must be ratified by a 70% majority of Members from a quorum of 70%, with the exception that changes to Part 1 of this Constitution and this paragraph itself must be ratified by a 90% majority of Members from a quorum of 90%.

3.2 A quorum may be gained either through online voting or through a National Conference, or any combination thereof. This collective process will be known as a “vote”.

Amending Policies

3.3 Changes to Party policy must be ratified by a 60% majority of Members from a quorum of 60%.

Party Hierarchy Elections

3.4 Unless otherwise stated, all positions within the Party Hierarchy will be opened up for Member election every two years. All positions will be voluntary in nature.

3.5 If a full Party Hierarchy position is made vacant at a time other than an election, the Deputy position holder will become the full position holder and a replacement Deputy will be voted on to serve for the time remaining until the next Party election for that position. In all other cases a new position holder will be voted on to hold the position until the next Party election.

No Confidence Motions Regarding Hierarchy Members

3.6 In the event that Members no longer have confidence in the ability of a Hierarchy Member to fulfil their duties, a call for a vote of no confidence may be made to any Forum Administrator, who must comply with the request and present an online vote asking whether such a vote be held. If more than 25% of Members agree that a vote of no confidence should be held, the Party as a whole is compelled to hold that vote. A no confidence vote must be voted on by a quorum of 80% of Members to be binding.

3.7 A Member may only make a maximum of two unsuccessful calls for a vote of no confidence, after which they will be barred from further calls for one year.

3.8 If a vote of no confidence is passed by 60% or more, that Hierarchy Member will have one month to hold an appeal, after which they will resign their position if not successful. At that time the Party will hold a vote to elect a replacement. The only exception to this will be that Elected Representatives will remain as Party representatives in Parliament until the next federal election is due, at which time the Party will vote on whether or not they be permitted to run again.

3.9 A successful vote of no confidence against a Hierarchy Member does not require them to resign from the Party; it only requires them to resign their Hierarchy position and revert back to being a normal Member.

3.10 In the event that a no confidence vote is unsuccessful, the Hierarchy Member against whom the vote was held may not have another no confidence vote held against them for one year.

Party Leader

3.11 The Party Leader will be determined by a special vote once every three years after a call is made for volunteers to stand for leadership. The call will be made by the Party Leader approximately one year before a Federal election is held, but no later than December 31st of the year prior to a Federal election. Leadership elections will be held one month after the call has gone out.

3.12 The Party Leader will head the ballot if the Leader chooses to run for the Senate, and will therefore be the first elected representative in the Senate if sufficient Federal votes are gained to ensure parliamentary election.

Deputy Leader

3.13 A Deputy Leader will be elected by the same method as the Party Leader. The Deputy Leader will assist the Party Leader in all matters and fill in for the Party Leader as required. If running for the Senate, the Deputy Leader will be the second person on the ballot if the Party Leader is also contesting the Senate, and the first person on the Senate ballot if the Party Leader is running for a House of Representatives seat.

Party President

3.14 The Party President will be the senior non-elected official of the Party. The Party President will liaise with the Party Leader and Deputy Leader on all Party matters and provide administrative support via the rest of the Hierarchy to all Elected Representatives.

3.15 The Party President may stand for election for either House, but if successful must resign the presidency to the Deputy President, who will assume the role of Party President.

Deputy President

3.16 The Deputy President may carry out the duties of the Party President when delegated.

Financial Officer

3.17 The Financial Officer is responsible for managing the Party donations and liaising with the AEC about such donations. The Financial Officer and the Deputy Financial Officer are the sole Members allowed to view the contributor names of financial donations and pass these on to the AEC as required by law.

3.18 To prevent any possibility of contributions being made to curry political favour, these two Members will not be allowed to vote on Party policies and will not be counted as part of any quorum for those votes. They will retain all other rights of membership and when they vacate those positions they will have their full voting rights reinstated.

3.19 No other Member is allowed to ask for contributors' names and anyone attempting to gain that information will be reported back to the Hierarchy for possible disciplinary action.

3.20 The Financial Officer will also hold the role of Party Agent as defined by the Act, being responsible for lodging the Party's financial disclosure returns and the person to whom payments of election funding will be made by the AEC.

Deputy Financial Officer

3.21 The Deputy Financial Officer may carry out the duties of the Financial Officer when delegated.

Party Secretary

3.22 The Party Secretary is responsible for the administration, documentation, membership register of the Party, and notification to the AEC of any Party Hierarchy changes (including change of address). The Secretary has the authority to register and deregister the Party. The AEC must be notified in writing whenever a new Secretary takes office. This advice needs to be on Party letterhead and should include supporting documentation such as Party minutes appointing the new Secretary to the post.

3.23 The Party Secretary will also hold the position of Registered Officer as defined by the Act:

- a. The Registered Officer is responsible for correspondence relating to Party registration, including deregistration. The Registered Officer will also sign the forms to nominate and endorse the candidates and request that the Party's registered name or abbreviation be shown on ballot papers next to the candidates' names.
- b. The Registered Officer is not allowed to resign, but must instead be replaced by another person nominated by the Party. Until the replacement is accepted by the AEC, the current Registered Officer must remain in the position as mandated by the Act.

Website Administrator

3.24 The Website Administrator is responsible for coordinating the Net Effect website, providing online versions of all Party documentation and acting as the final authority for all online aspects of the Party.

Deputy Website Administrator

3.25 The Deputy Website Administrator will be delegated to carry out the functions of the Website Administrator as required.

Forum Administrators

3.26 The Forum Administrators are responsible for maintaining the online Party forums and liaising with the Party Secretary to confirm membership details. The Forum Administrators are also responsible for forum security and online voting procedures. The number of Forum Administrators will be reassessed from time to time to ensure that the workload does not become excessive.

Elected Representatives

3.27 Elected Representatives are responsible for implementing Party policy on the floor of Parliament.

3.28 In the event that two or more people wish to contest the same electoral seat for the House of Representatives, an internal Party pre-selection will be held to determine who gets to run for that seat. A first past the post system of election will determine the winner.

3.29 To determine the order of candidates on the Senate ballot beyond the Party Leader and Deputy Leader if they are contesting Senate seats, an internal Party pre-selection will be held, again using a first past the post system.

Spokespersons

3.30 Only the Party Leader, Deputy Leader, Party President, Deputy President, and Elected Representatives may act as official spokespersons for The Net Effect Party.

Members

3.31 All Members agree to abide by the Constitution of The Net Effect Party.

3.32 Membership fees will be collected annually at the anniversary of the Member's joining date and are non-refundable. The Membership fee will be set at the beginning of each calendar year by a Party vote and may not be raised by more than 10% in any one year.

3.33 All Members are entitled to vote on Party Hierarchy and Party policies.

3.34 Members may put forth amendments to the Constitution and Party policy for a vote. Voting is to be coordinated through the Party Hierarchy.

3.35 Members may contest any Party Hierarchy position and may run as a candidate for either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

3.36 Members must vote in a minimum of 20% of all votes, with a three month grace period extant from their date of joining where no votes need to have been cast. This allows the Member to build up their vote tally without undue pressure being placed on them to vote on every issue.

No Confidence Motions Regarding Members

3.37 Members may petition the Party Hierarchy to have another non-Hierarchy Member expelled from the Party on the grounds that they are not abiding by the Constitution. The Party Hierarchy will investigate the allegation and if a case is made for expulsion, will put the matter to a vote of no confidence in that Member. If a vote of no confidence is passed by 60% or more, that Member will have one month to hold an appeal, after which they will resign their membership if not successful.

3.38 A Member may only make a maximum of two unsuccessful calls for a vote of no confidence, after which they will be barred from further calls for one year.

3.39 In the event that a no confidence vote is unsuccessful, the Member against whom the vote was held may not have another no confidence vote held against them for one year.

Membership Conditions

3.40 Membership will be accepted when all of the following terms are met:

- a. Submission of a correctly filled out Membership Application form;
- b. The annual Membership fee has been paid;
- c. The person seeking Membership is legally entitled to do so as per the Act.

3.41 Membership will be terminated for the following reasons:

- a. The Member does not abide by the Constitution;
- b. The Member does not renew their Membership;
- c. The Member voluntarily renounces their Membership;
- d. The Member is unsuccessful in appealing a non-Hierarchy vote of no confidence;
- e. The Member ceases to be able to hold Membership as defined by the Act.

Financial Transactions

3.42 All financial transactions will be conducted in an open manner. A complete record of all financial transactions will be available at all times to the public, with the proviso that the privacy of individual and corporate contributions be maintained except as required by Australian law. Financial records will be audited each year by an independent accountant to ensure transparency of the Party's financial transactions.

3.43 Accounts will be set up in such a way that no one person can access funds by themselves.

3.44 Spending decisions will be decided upon by the Hierarchy after a 24 hour period of Member consultation for costs less than \$500, and a three day period for costs greater than or equal to \$500. Members may at any time propose spending costs through the Hierarchy, who will use their discretion on whether or not to carry those proposals through to Members.

3.45 Detailed financial procedures are published in a separate document entitled “The Net Effect Party Financial Procedures”, which will at all times adhere to the principles of the Constitution and be the definitive source of financial procedures.

Online Forum

3.46 The main discussion area of the Party is its online forum. This allows everyone to communicate and participate in Party matters regardless of geographic location. The online forums will be run by the Forum Administrators.

3.47 Both Australian and international citizens are able to sign up and post comments.

3.48 Only Party Members may vote on policy formation and other issues. These will be known in the forums as “votes”.

3.49 Occasionally informal polls may be conducted, with no restrictions on who may vote, to gather opinions on issues. These will be known in the forums as “polls”.

3.50 Detailed forum specifications are published in a separate document entitled “The Net Effect Party Internet Guidelines”, which will at all times adhere to the principles of the Constitution and be the definitive source of forum procedures.

Online Voting Security

3.51 For online voting to be considered secure, it needs to be open to outside scrutiny and have at its heart the ability to verify that only an authorised Member has cast a vote in the proper manner.

3.52 An online vote must fulfil the following criteria to be considered valid:

- a. The Member must be able to cast their vote such that only they know how they voted;
- b. The Member must be able to verify that their vote has been correctly registered, both at the time of casting the vote and at any other time after the event;
- c. The Member must only be able to vote once per issue;
- d. The vote must be correctly registered at the server;
- e. The server must be able to prove it has not been tampered with;
- f. The server's hardware and software must be open to scrutiny at any time and

independently verifiable by a third party;

- g. The server must be able to check the authority of a Member to cast a vote, but not retain specific identifiable information on how a Member voted after the event without that Member providing a hash key for verification purposes.

3.53 In the event that an online vote is questioned as to its validity and integrity, there must be a way to conduct a recount for up to one month after the vote.

State and Territory Sub-Branches

3.54 The federal branch of The Net Effect Party will be the sole source of any subsequent State and Territory affiliated parties, known as sub-branches, and will retain the authority over all registered trademarks used by such affiliates.

3.55 Sub-branches will at all times abide by the Constitution and will retain identical structures to the federal Party at their local level of operation.

3.56 Sub-branches will keep local policies in line with federal policy and the Constitution of the federal Net Effect Party will be the final word in the event of a dispute.

Procedure for Deregistering the Party

3.57 In the event that the Party can no longer remain operational according to the Act, the following procedure will take place to deregister the Party and disburse any remaining funds:

- a. Any outstanding debts will be paid in full;
- b. Any Party assets, remaining membership fees and donations will be donated to one or more charities, to be determined by a Party vote prior to deregistration;
- c. The Party name and trademarks will be collectively registered to the list of Members still active on the final day of the Party, so that any future use will depend on those Members;
- d. The Party Secretary will send notification of the deregistration to the AEC and disband the Party.

Constitution Availability

3.58 This Constitution will at all times be available in one or more open standard digital formats to anyone who wishes to have a copy.

Annexes

Annex 1 - The Net Effect Party Financial Procedures.

Annex 2 - The Net Effect Party Internet Guidelines.