

# Australian Conservative Party

## CONSTITUTION (Proposed)

### **Preamble**

We, the members of the Australian Conservative Party, in pursuit of our commitment to individual liberty, free markets, and limited government, hereby establish this Constitution to guide our principles, objectives, organization, and democratic processes.

### **Article I: Name and Abbreviation**

- 1) The name of the political party shall be the "Australian Conservative Party", also known as "The Conservatives" or "Conservative Party", hereafter referred to as the Party.
- 2) The official abbreviation of the Party shall be "CSV" or "ACP".

### **Article II: Aims and Objectives**

- 1) The Party is committed to the following aims and objectives:
  - a) Promoting individual liberty and personal responsibility.
  - b) Advocating for a limited government that respects the rights and freedoms of the Australian people.
  - c) Ensuring a strong and well-funded Defence force to protect Australia's sovereignty.
  - d) Supporting free-market principles, economic prosperity, and entrepreneurship.
  - e) Fostering a culture of fiscal responsibility and efficient government spending.
  - f) Upholding the values of democracy, rule of law, and transparency.
  - g) Supporting the Crown as the head of state.
  - h) Pursuing policies that prioritize Federal security and border protection.
  - i) Asserting and defending the sovereignty of Australia in all matters, including international agreements and decisions.
  - j) Standing candidates for the Commonwealth House of Representatives and/or Senate elections to represent the interests and values of the Party.
  - k) Standing candidates for any Australian state or territories Assembly or Legislative Council to represent the interests and values of the Party.

### **Article III: Membership**

Membership of the Party comprises two categories:

- 1) There shall be two types of membership:
  - a) Financial Members: Financial members shall have the right to vote in Party matters.
  - b) Non-Financial Members: Non-financial members shall not have voting rights but may participate in Party discussions and activities.
- 2) Rights and Responsibilities of Members:
  - a) Financial Members have the right to participate in Party activities, vote in Party decisions, and stand for Party positions.
  - b) Financial members have the right to vote office bearers at specified Federal Assemblies where the member has been a paid-up member for a minimum of 2 years.

- c) Financial members have the right to propose policy and vote for that policy listed on the following or subsequent Federal Assembly meeting agenda unless a prior special meeting has been called to vote.
  - d) Members agree to uphold and promote the Party's principles and adhere to this Constitution.
  - e) Members must not simultaneously hold membership in another political party.
  - f) Only "Financial" members have voting rights, with each having one vote.
  - g) Membership ceases upon death, resignation, or expulsion.
- 3) Admission and Termination:
- a) The Federal Executive handles membership applications and expulsions.
  - b) Members convicted of disqualifying electoral offenses cannot retain membership.
  - c) Memberships may be suspended or terminated by the Federal Executive, adhering to due process, and providing reasons.
- 4) Divisions can recommend rejections or suspensions.
- 5) The Federal Executive may vote to suspend or expel any member at any time where the Federal Executive considers this to be in the interests of the Party.

#### **Article IV: Party Structure and Office Bearers**

- 1) Party structure encompasses:
- a) Federal Executive: Comprising any Party members who are elected to the House of Representatives or Senate, State/Territory members and Office Bearers, the Federal Executive are responsible for leading the Party and implementing its objectives.
  - b) Federal Assembly: Comprising general members, the Assembly meets yearly and recommends policy to the Federal Executive, as well as discusses and votes on party matters.
  - c) Divisions: Local or regional groups established with Federal Executive approval, aligned with Party principles.
- 2) The Federal Executive:
- a) Consists of elected members and office bearers where the office bearers serve a three-year term with the possibility of re-election by the Federal Assembly
  - b) The founding office bearers may hold their position for a minimum of 5 years unless voted by the Federal Executive or at the discretion of the individual office bearer.
  - c) Possesses authority to formulate policies, select candidates, manage Party finances, and establish committees.
  - d) May delegate specific powers to subordinate bodies, as needed.
- 3) The Federal Assembly:
- a) Consists of financial members, non-financial members & the Federal Executive
  - b) Elects office-bearers, including the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
  - c) Participates in promoting the objectives and aims of the Party.
  - d) Discusses policy and makes recommendations in the interest of the party to the Federal Executive.

#### **Article V: Federal Executive**

- 1) The Federal Executive shall serve as the Party's principal governing body and is vested with the authority to:
- a) Promote the Party's guiding Principles.
  - b) Enhance the public perception of the Party.
  - c) Select candidates for elections at federal, state, territory, and local government levels.
  - d) Determine membership fees.

- e) Develop and adopt policies that align with the Party's objectives.
  - f) Establish, modify, or repeal by-laws as deemed necessary for the Party's well-being.
  - g) Establish both permanent and ad-hoc committees as required.
  - h) Undertake all actions and initiatives necessary or beneficial for the effective management of the Party.
  - i) Exercise all functions that fall within the authority of the Party, except those functions that require a General Meeting of members as outlined in this Constitution.
- 2) The Federal Executive shall:
- a) Receive and consider all motions and recommendations from the Federal Assembly.
  - b) Present policies it has adopted to the Federal Assembly.
  - c) Retain control over all membership fees and other party funds.
  - d) Serve as the Dispute Resolution Committee responsible for adjudicating disputes in adherence to procedural fairness and the principles of natural justice, while also considering other pertinent dispute clauses outlined in this Constitution. Any Party member is eligible to submit a written dispute to the Secretary. All formal written disputes received by the Secretary will be reviewed by the Disputes Resolution Committee, or in cases where the Committee is absent, by the Federal Executive. Timely responses will be provided. The decisions of the Dispute Resolution Committee are binding on all Party members.
- 3) The election and term of service for the Federal Executive shall be as stipulated in the Party's bylaws.

#### **Article VI: Roles of the Office Bearers**

- 1) The President shall:
- a) Be the Senior Executive Officer of the Party.
  - b) Chair all Federal Executive and Federal Assembly meetings of the Party.
  - c) Be a member "ex officio" of all committees.
- 2) The Vice-President shall:
- a) Perform the duties of the President during his/her absence or at his/her request.
  - b) Be a member "ex officio" of all committees.
- 3) The Secretary shall:
- a) Have overall responsibility for correspondence in connection with the Party.
  - b) Ensure the maintenance of a register of members as directed by the Federal Executive.
  - c) Record all appointments of office-bearers and members of the Federal Executive.
  - d) Ensure that minutes are taken of all proceedings at Federal Executive meetings and general meetings of the Party including the Federal Assembly.
  - e) Present such minutes to the subsequent corresponding meeting for approval as a true and accurate record and retained as its principal record.
- 4) The Treasurer shall:
- a) Have overall responsibility for the care of the Party's finances.
  - b) Ensure that all membership fees, donations and other monies collected are promptly paid into a bank account approved by the Federal Executive.
  - c) Ensure that all payments authorised by the Federal Executive are made.
  - d) Ensure that correct accounts are kept showing the financial affairs of the Party, including full details of receipts and expenditure.
  - e) Ensure the maintenance of an accurate and current register of Party assets.
  - f) Present to each meeting of the Federal Executive a statement of income and expenditure for the period since the prior meeting
  - g) Present approved financials to meetings as required.

h) Ensure the Party complies with such financial reporting obligations as are required by law.

#### **Article VII: Meetings**

- 1) Federal Executive meetings are held at least biannually or as required.
- 2) Quorum is reached with three Federal Executive members, including either the President or Vice-President.
- 3) Meetings require at least two days' notice unless by unanimous agreement.
- 4) In the absence of the President or Vice-President, a chairperson may be appointed.
- 5) Decisions are made by a simple majority, with the chairperson holding a casting vote in case of a tie.

#### **Article VIII: General Meetings**

- 1) The Party holds an annual General Meeting, known as the Federal Assembly, to address important matters.
- 2) Special General Meetings may be convened by the Federal Executive or upon petition by at least 25 percent of individual financial members.
- 3) All members can attend General Meetings, with only financial members eligible to vote.
- 4) Notice of General Meetings is provided at least four weeks in advance.
- 5) Members must submit matters for discussion at least two weeks before the meeting.
- 6) General Meetings may be open to observers unless decided otherwise.
- 7) The Federal Assembly agenda includes reports, elections, policy consideration, and general business.
- 8) Quorums are not required for General Meetings.
- 9) General Meetings are not adjourned except for valid reasons.

#### **Article IX: Elections**

- 1) Federal Executive elections occur at each Federal Assembly, addressing casual vacancies.
- 2) Only Federal Assembly attendees with voting eligibility may participate in elections.
- 3) Nominations must be submitted two weeks before the Federal Assembly.
- 4) Federal Executive candidates must be recognized "Financial" members for the preceding two years or founding members.
- 5) Casual vacancies are temporarily filled by the Federal Executive until the next Federal Assembly.
- 6) Elections are conducted via optional preferential secret ballot.
- 7) Candidates may appoint scrutineers to observe the vote count.

#### **Article X: Amendments to the Constitution**

- 1) This Constitution can be amended through a motion presented by the Federal Executive at a General Meeting.
- 2) Constitutional amendments require approval by a 90 percent majority vote for changes to the objectives and a 75 percent majority vote for other amendments at the General Meeting.