

## **Protocol for NSW Regional Elections**

This is a suggested protocol to be used where NSW Region:

1. wishes to maintain proportionate representation on its Regional Committee by electing two representatives from each of its five zones (NSW is permitted under Regulation 40 to have a maximum of ten rather than nine members on its Regional Committee); and
2. is required to elect its Regional Executive by direct election (this means that all members in the region vote to elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer from amongst those nominated for each of those positions).

### **Stage 1: Nominations**

- Each person who nominates must nominate as a representative for their zone. They may also, and on the same nomination form, nominate for an executive role on the Regional Committee.
- Once nominations are received (which must be at least 30 days before the meeting at which the election is to be held) notice of each candidate nominated must be given to all Regional Members entitled to vote with the notice of meeting at which an election is to be held.
- Proxy forms should also be provided to members with the notice of meeting to allow them to vote by proxy (either giving the person who holds their proxy a discretion to vote as they chose or directing the person who holds their proxy to vote for specific candidates). All proxy votes are to be received by the returning officer for NSW Region no later than the 48 hours before the meeting at which the election is to occur.

### **Stage 2: Voting for the Regional Executive**

- All members of the Region entitled to vote are entitled to vote in the election of the Regional Executive.
- Each member of the Executive elected fills one of the representative positions for their zone.
- Once both representative positions for a zone have been filled by candidates elected to the Regional Executive, no further candidates from that zone shall be eligible for election, unless they become eligible to fill a general position (described below under Voting for the Balance of the Committee).
- The order of seniority for the purpose of voting for the Regional Executive shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer.
- Where only one nomination has been received for one or more positions on the Regional Executive, the first election held shall be for the most of those positions. That candidate shall be declared elected and shall also fill one of the two representative positions for that candidate's zone.

- Where there are any other positions on the Regional Executive for which only one nomination has been received, those too shall be declared elected unless and until both representative positions in a zone have been filled.
- Once all single nomination positions on the Regional Executive have been filled (or a candidate who was the single nominee for a position on the Regional Executive has been disqualified on the basis that both representative positions for that candidate's zone have already been filled) the election of other members of the Regional Executive for which there are two or more candidates shall proceed. (If any of the remaining candidates, come from a zone for which two representatives have already been elected, those candidates are disqualified from standing for election to the Regional Executive).

### **Stage Three: Voting for the balance of the Regional Committee**

- Once all positions on the Regional Executive for which there were eligible candidate nominated is complete, voting for the balance of the Regional Committee shall commence.
- All members eligible to vote in the Region's elections are entitled to vote for representatives for all zones.
- Where there are only sufficient candidates to fill the remaining representative positions for a zone, that candidate or those candidates shall be declared elected.
- Where there are not sufficient candidates to fill the remaining representative positions for a zone nominations for the unfilled representative position or positions shall be accepted from the floor of the meeting.
- If the nominations received for representative positions in a zone (whether in writing prior to the meeting or, where permitted, from the floor of the meeting) are insufficient to fill a zone's two representative positions, then any unfilled position shall become a general position and all those who nominated, either in writing prior to the meeting or from the floor, shall be entitled to stand for election to that general position,
- Election for general positions (if any) shall take place after all elections for positions as zone representatives have concluded.
- Any proxy given for a candidate who was unsuccessful or disqualified in an earlier election shall be regarded as cast in favour of a candidate for a general position.