

FAQ for PLA members for upcoming AGM

PLA members will be voting on the new ***Parks and Leisure Australia Constitution***, and the ***Parks and Leisure Australia Strategic Plan 2026-2030***. The vote will take place at the Annual General Meeting as part of the annual national conference in Hobart on TUESDAY 11.11.2025 at 12:00pm.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be convened by the Board and will consider the usual AGM business. The AGM will also consider a special resolution to replace the current PLA Constitution with a new Constitution developed with input received from our members and approved by the Board (with assistance from Moores, a law firm that specialises in not-for-profit governance).

In summary:

- The AGM has been convened by the National Board to consider:
 - AGM regular business
 - the proposed new PLA Constitution
 - the proposed new PLA Strategic Plan

Consultation Timeline

Action	Date
Webpage on constitution updated	22 August 2025
Online submissions open and EDM sent	29 August 2025
Consultation (webinars) sessions for Regional Councils PLA Advisory	19 September 2025
PLA Members Q&A session held	22 September 2025
Submissions and consultations close	26 September 2025
Review of submissions	3 October 2025
Advice to Moores and Final draft prepared	17 October 2025
Present final version for AGM online and via EDM	20 October 2025

What are the key differences between the current and proposed Constitutions?

Issue	Current PLA Constitution	Proposed PLA Constitution
General comments	Over 30 years old	Current legislative and legal requirements
	Unknown preparation	Prepared with legal support
	Unknown	Consultation undertaken with all PLA members and inclusions and suggestions where relevant will be included.
	Membership fees are received by PLA	Remains the same
Language used	Legal language which is difficult to understand	Plain English but legally based language
Name	Included	Included
Purpose and Powers	Included	Updated and clarified
Not-for-profit	Not mentioned	Clearly articulates that the PLA organisation is a not-for-profit organisation.
Membership	Included	Clarifies and refines membership classes and eligibility to become a member, and legislative requirements of a member register. Membership code of conduct and disciplinary actions.
General Meetings	Included	Clarifies and refines, including updating meetings using virtual technology
Voting at general meetings	Minimal information	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Dispute resolution	Not mentioned	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Appointment and removal of directors	Included	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Board decision making	Minimal information	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Directors' powers and duties	Minimal information	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016

Issue	Current PLA Constitution	Proposed PLA Constitution
Directors' interests	No discussion on conflict of interests	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Office Bearers and Chief Executive Officer	Included	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Regions	Treats all Regions and Regional Councils equally	Remains the same
Regional Councils	Treats all Regions and Regional Councils equally	Remains the same
Regional Council Executive Officers	Treats all Regions and Regional Councils equally	Remains the same
Regional Councils	Requires PLA to indemnify Regional Councils over which the Board has oversight	Remains the same
	Members all hold membership directly in PLA	Remains the same
	The current PLA Constitution does not give the Board the ability to stand down Regional Council members.	PLA Constitution would introduce an ability to stand down Regional Council members, including in circumstances where Regional Council members do not comply with the terms of any delegation from the Board (for example, if Regional Councils spend money beyond authorised limits) or do not comply with the Constitution. As the Board are legally and personally responsible for all PLA actions (including those of Regional Councils), it is necessary and appropriate to have this mechanism in place.
	The Regional Council framework in the current PLA Constitution is unclear in some respects. Regional Councils are established under clause 68-76 of the current PLA Constitution.	The Proposed PLA Constitution includes Terms of Reference that are intended to provide the Regional Councils with a clearer operating framework.
	The Board is ultimately legally responsible for all PLA operations across Australia. It delegates authority for the day-to-day operations of Regions to Regional Councils.	Remains the same

Issue	Current PLA Constitution	Proposed PLA Constitution
Awards	Limited information	Clearly articulates the Awards of Excellence process for nominees and winners
Indemnities and insurance	Included	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Administration	Limited information	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Records, accounting and audit	Limited information	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Amending this Constitution	Constitution can be amended by special resolution of all members (as is normal governance practice)	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Notices	Included	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Winding up	Included	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Interpretation	Included	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Transitional provisions	Included	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Membership classes	Included	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Proxy form	Included	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Regions	Included	Articulates clearly the legislative requirements and updates since 2016
Regional Council Terms of Reference	Not included	Articulated clearly

How do States and Territories have a voice on the Board?

The PLA National Board includes a seat for the Regional President or another nominee from every Regional Council.

What is a Regional Council?

Regional Councils are members delegated by the PLA National Board to carry out the day-to-day operations of each Region, but they are not directors (as defined by the Australian Institute of Company Directors). They do not have the governance duties and responsibilities (including Corporations Act duties) that the Board have. The Regional Councils delegations are subject to conditions, those conditions include the Region having a Board approved annual budget and annual operational plan in place. This condition is important to ensure the responsible use of PLA funds and to ensure that the Board can meet their financial oversight responsibilities.