Constitution

Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited

ACN 137 010 658

A Company Limited by Guarantee

Constitution Amended 13 May 2013 pursuant to Members Special Resolution passed at 2012 AGM to alter the Company name to “Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited”.

Constitution Amended 11 November 2015 pursuant to Members Special Resolutions passed at 2015 AGM to amend clauses 1.1; 10.1; 10.7 and 15.
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1 Definitions and Interpretations

1.1 Definitions

In this Constitution unless the contrary intention appears:

ACN means Australian Company Number.

Alternate Director means a person appointed as an Alternate Director under clause 21.1.

ATO means the Australian Tax Office.

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

Board means all or some of the Directors acting as a board.

Chairman means the Chairman appointed under clause 20.1.

Committee means a Directors’ committee constituted under clause 17.

Company means Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited being an Australian public company limited by guarantee established under the Corporations Act 2001 (Commonwealth).

Constitution means this Constitution as amended from time to time and a reference to a Clause is a reference to a Clause of this Constitution.

Corporations Act means the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

Murray Darling Wetlands means the wetlands within the Murray Darling Basin, including but not limited to lakes, swamps, lagoons, creeks, marshes and billabongs.

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

Directors means all or some of the persons holding office as Directors of the Company.
Deputy Chairman means the Deputy Chairman appointed under clause 20.1.

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

Member means a person entered on the register of the Company as a Member.

Murray Darling Basin means an area located within the States of New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia as defined by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, which is approximately 3,370 kilometres in length and covers an area of approximately 1,061,469 square kilometres.

Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited Public Fund means the public fund established in accordance with clause 2.1(k).


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.

Rule means a rule made by the Company 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.

1.2 Interpretation

(a) In this Constitution unless the contrary intention appears:

(i) words importing any gender include all other genders;

(ii) the singular includes the plural and vice versa;

(iii) a reference to a law includes regulations and instruments made under the law;

(iv) 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;

(v) 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;

(vi) 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;

(vii) 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;

(viii) a reference to an amount paid on a share includes an amount credited as paid on that share; and
(ix) Australian dollars, dollars, A$ or $ is a reference to the lawful currency of Australia.

(b) 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.

(c) Corporations Act

In this Constitution unless the contrary intention appears:

(i) 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; and

(ii) **section** means a section of the Corporations Act.

(d) Headings

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

(e) Replaceable rules not to 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 Purpose of Company

2.1 Objects

The objects of the Company are to:

(a) Promote and implement ecologically sound management of Murray-Darling wetlands to optimise environmental values;

(b) Promote the sustainable utilisation of wetlands and water resources;
(c) Restore and improve the ecological health of floodplain wetlands along the southern Murray-Darling Basin, including the headwaters of the Great Dividing Range; the floodplain and rain fed wetlands (not connected to rivers);

(d) Facilitate greater community awareness of wetland values and management requirements in the Murray-Darling Basin wetlands;

(e) Utilise the latest research and best management practices to protect and restore Murray-Darling Basin wetlands;

(f) Develop functional links with other wetland and river management organisations;

(g) Develop direct community involvement in cooperative rehabilitation projects for the Murray-Darling Basin wetlands in cooperation with government agencies and key land managers;

(h) Identify sources of funding and seek sponsorship for implementing wetland programs in the Murray-Darling Basin wetlands;

(i) Promote management-oriented research and recognition of research priorities for the Murray-Darling Basin wetlands throughout the Murray, Murrumbidgee and lower Darling River catchments;

(j) Expand interstate liaison and cooperation by fostering links with other agencies and wetland rehabilitation organisations;

(k) Promote the Company’s activities as examples of successful wetland rehabilitation for adaptation and implementation in other major river catchments in Australia; and

(l) Establish and maintain a public fund to be called the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited Public Fund for the specific purpose of supporting the environmental objects of the Company.
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.

4  Application of income for Objects only

4.1  Profits

The profits (if any) or other 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

Clause 4.1(b) does not prevent payment in good faith to a Member, or to a firm of which a Member is a partner:

(a) of remuneration for services to the Company;

(b) for goods supplied in the ordinary course of business;

(c) of interest at a rate not exceeding fixed for the purposes of this clause 4.2 by the Company in general meeting on money borrowed from a Member; or

(d) of a reasonable rent for premises let by a Member.

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 (1) year after they cease to be a Member.

(b) The contribution referred to in clause 5.1(a) 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 of the contribution referred to in clause 5.1(a) is not to exceed any membership fee or $10.00, whichever is the lesser.

5.2 Application of property

(a) If any property and/or assets remains on the winding-up or dissolution of the Company and after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, that property and/or assets may not be paid or given 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 ATO endorsement

Where the Company has established any fund that has been endorsed under Subdivision 30-BA of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth)* (as amended) as a deductible gift recipient then where:

(a) the Company is wound up;

(b) the gift fund is wound up; or

(c) the endorsement under Subdivision 30-BA of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth)* is revoked;
any surplus assets of the fund remaining after payment of all liabilities must be transferred to an institution or fund that complies with clause 5.2 and is an endorsed deductible gift recipient.

6 Membership

6.1 Number of Members

(a) The number of Members of the Company will be such number between fifty (50) and one hundred (100) as the Directors shall determine from time to time, subject to that number complying with the Corporations Act.

(b) The Members subscribing to this Constitution upon incorporation and any person the Directors admit to Membership under clause 6.2 are the Members of the Company.

6.2 Admission as Member

The Directors may admit any person as a Member if the person is eligible under clause 6.3 and agrees to be bound by this Constitution in any manner the Directors determine.

6.3 Membership criteria

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

(i) be proposed and seconded by an existing Member; and

(ii) consent in writing to become a Member of the Company.

6.4 Membership process

(a) The application for Membership must be made:

(i) in writing, signed by the applicant; and

(ii) in such form as the Directors from time to time prescribe.
(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 within fourteen (14) days notify the applicant of the decision of the Directors.

6.5 Directors’ discretion to admit or refuse admission as Member

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

6.6 Subscription fees

A person who applies and is approved for membership as provided in this Constitution is eligible to be a Member of the Company on payment of any joining fee and annual subscription as is payable in accordance with this Constitution.

6.7 Membership terms

(a) From the date of adoption of this Constitution, all membership of the Company will be renewable every three (3) years.

(b) At the end of each three (3) year period, each Member may reapply for membership.

7 Ceasing to be Member

7.1 Cessation of membership

A Member ceases to be a Member on:

(a) death;

(b) resignation by written notice to the Company such resignation to have immediate effect or with effect from a specified date occurring not more than seven (7) 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 (12) months after the subscription was due and payable;

(d) 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;

(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) on the expiry of a three (3) year term of membership, unless the Member had applied for and been admitted as a Member for the following term; or

(h) on that Member ceasing to be a Director. In such circumstances the Member is able to make a new application for membership pursuant to clauses 6.2 and 6.4.

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 prejudicial to the interests of the Company; or

(iii) fails to pay any debt due to the Company for a period of three (3) months after the date for payment such debt not including a subscription referred to in clause 7.1(c).

(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 28 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 28(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(b)(iii).

8 Members meetings

8.1 Annual general meetings

(a) Annual general meetings of the Company are to be held in accordance with the Corporations Act and, in particular:

(i) The Company must hold an annual general meeting at least once in each calendar year and within five (5) months after the end of the Company’s financial year; and

(ii) The annual general meeting is to be held in addition to any other general meetings held by the Company in the year.

(b) In addition to any other business which may be transacted at an annual general meeting, the business of an annual general meeting is to include the following:

(i) The tabling of the Company's:

   (A) annual financial report;

   (B) Directors' report; and

   (C) auditor's report.

(ii) Confirmation by the Company of the minutes of:

   (A) the last preceding annual general meeting; and
(B) any special general meeting held since the last preceding annual general meeting; and

(iii) tabling of any reports on the activities of the Company during the last preceding financial year.

(c) An annual general meeting must be specified as such in the notice convening it.

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 this Constitution 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 general meeting

Notice of cancellation or 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 general 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 general 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 general 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 general 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 forty-eight (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 general meeting

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

9 Proceedings at general meetings

9.1 Reference to Member

Unless the contrary intention appears, a reference to a Member in this clause 9 means a person who is a Member or a proxy of that Member, or the Representative of the Corporate Member.

9.2 Number of quorum

(a) Subject to clause 9.1, five (5) of the current number of Members (or in case of an uneven number the number nearest to one half (1/2)) present in person or by corporate representative 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 (1) proxy, only one (1) 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.

9.3 Requirement for 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.

9.4 If quorum not present

If within fifteen (15) 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.

9.5 Adjourned meeting

At a meeting adjourned under clause 9.4(a), three (3) persons each being a Member or proxy present at the meeting are a quorum. If a quorum is not present within fifteen (15) minutes after the time appointed for the adjourned meeting, the meeting is dissolved.

9.6 Appointment and powers of chair of general meeting

If the Directors have elected one of their number as Chairman in accordance with clause 20.1, that person is entitled to preside at a general meeting.
9.7 Absence of Chairman at general meeting

If a general meeting is held and:

(a) a Chairman has not been elected by the Directors in accordance with clause 20.1; or

(b) the Chairman elected in accordance with clause 20.1 is not present within fifteen (15) minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unable or unwilling to act;

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

(c) the Deputy Chairman elected in accordance with clause 20.1 if he or she has been so elected by the Directors; or

(d) another Director or Member elected by the Members present to preside as chair of the general meeting.

9.8 Conduct of general meetings

The chair of a general meeting:

(a) has charge of the general conduct of the meeting and of the procedures to be adopted at the meeting, such procedures including assigning the responsibility for the taking and distributing of minutes;

(b) may require the adoption of any procedure which is in the chair’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;

(c) may, having regard where necessary to the Corporations Act, terminate discussion or debate on any matter whenever the chair considers it necessary or desirable for the proper conduct of the meeting; and

(d) a decision by the chair under this clause is final.
9.9 **Adjournment of general meeting**

(a) The chair 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 chair may, but need not, seek the approval of the Members present in person or by corporate representative or by proxy; and

(ii) only unfinished business is to be transacted at a meeting resumed after an adjournment.

(b) Unless required by the chair, a vote may not be taken or demanded by the Members present in person or by corporate representative or by proxy in respect of any adjournment.

9.10 **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 (1) month or more. In that case, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given as in the case of an original meeting.

9.11 **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.

9.12 **Equality of votes - no casting vote for chair**

If there is an equality of votes, either on a show of hands or on a poll, the chair of the meeting is not entitled to a casting vote in addition to any votes to which the chair is entitled as a Member or proxy or attorney or Representative.
9.13  Voting on show of hands

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. A declaration by the chair 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. Neither the chair 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.

9.14  Poll

If a poll is demanded:

(a) it must be taken in the manner and at the date and time directed by the chair and the result of the poll is the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded;

(b) on the election of a chair 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.

9.15  Votes of Members

(a) Every Member has one (1) vote.

(b) Subject to this Constitution:

   (i) on a show of hands, each Member present in person or by corporate representative and each other person present as a proxy of a Member has one (1) vote; and

   (ii) on a poll, each Member present in person or by corporate representative has one (1) vote and each person present as proxy of a Member has one (1)
vote for each Member that the person represents, provided that in addition to the requirements of the Corporations Act.

9.16 Right to appoint proxy

(a) Subject to the Corporations Act, a Member entitled to attend at 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. Unless otherwise instructed the proxy may vote as he thinks fit.

(c) No Member, and no other person, may hold and vote in accordance with more than three (3) 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 forty-eight (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 twenty-four (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.
(f) A vote given in accordance with the terms of an instrument of proxy will be valid notwithstanding the previous death or unsoundness of mind of the principal or revocation of the instrument or of the authority under which the instrument was executed, if no notice in writing of such death unsoundness of mind or revocation as aforesaid has been received by the Company at the registered office by 5pm on the day before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the instrument is used.

9.17 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; or

(b) the Member revokes the appointment or authority.

9.18 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 chair of the meeting, whose decision is final.

(b) A vote not disallowed under the objection is valid for all purposes.

10 Directors

10.1 Number of Directors

(a) The number of Directors shall be such number between three (3) and ten (10) as the Members shall determine from time to
time in accordance with clause 10.2 and in the absence of such a determination, shall be five (5).

(b) The Directors will be elected by the Members at the AGM.

(c) The Members may by Ordinary Resolution remove any Director before the expiration of that Director’s term of office, and may by Ordinary Resolution appoint another person in place of that Director.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Constitution Directors shall hold office for three years and may be reappointed or replaced by the Members.

10.2 Change of number of Directors

The Company in general meeting may by resolution increase or reduce the number of Directors, and may also determine the rotation in which the increased or reduced number of Directors is to retire from office.

10.3 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.

10.4 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) A majority of the Directors must be persons who, because of their tenure of some public office or other position or activity in the community, have a responsibility to the community as a whole, and a high degree of responsibility to the public in controlling and administering the Company.

10.5 Election of officers

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

10.6 Rotation of Directors

(a) At each annual general meeting a third of the Directors for the time being, or, if their number is not three (3) nor a multiple of three (3), then the number nearest one third, and any other Director who has held office for three (3) years or more since last being elected, must retire from office.

(b) In determining the number of Directors to retire, account is not to be taken of a Director who only holds office until the conclusion of the meeting in accordance with clause 10.8.

(c) The Directors to retire at any annual general meeting in accordance with this clause must be those who have been longest in office since their last election, but, as between persons who were last appointed as Directors on the same day, those to retire must be determined by lot, unless they otherwise agree among themselves.

(d) 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.

10.7 Reappointment of Directors

Directors are entitled to seek reappointment as Directors on three (3) occasions only so that a Director’s period of service to the Company shall not exceed a period of twenty (20) years.

10.8 Office held until conclusion of meeting

A retiring Director holds office until the conclusion of the meeting at which that Director retires but is eligible for re-election.

10.9 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(a).

(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.

11 Remuneration and employment of Directors

11.1 Remuneration as Directors

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

11.2 Paid employment of Directors

A Director may be a paid employee of, or be interested in any contract to provide services to, the Company provided:

(a) such contract or services are not in breach of any provision of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW); and

(b) the provisions of the Corporations Act with regard to material personal interests, and registration of the Company without the word ‘Limited’ (if relevant), are complied with.

12 Expenses of Directors

A Director is entitled to be reimbursed out of the funds of the Company 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. Any payment to a Director must be approved by the Directors.

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 or compounds with his creditors or assigns his estate for the benefit of his creditors;

(d) is absent personally or by proxy or Alternate Director from two (2) successive meetings of the Directors without leave of absence from the Directors; and

(e) becomes prohibited for being a Director by reason of any order of any court of competent jurisdiction.

14 Powers and duties of Directors

14.1 Directors to manage the Company

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.

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 borrow or raise money, to charge any property or business of the Company to give any security for a debt, liability or obligation of the Company or of any other person.

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 and objects of the Company. Any changes must be circulated with the Notice of AGM meeting, placed on the AGM agenda and a quorum is required at the AGM to make the amended changes.
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 clause 16(a) 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.

17 Directors’ Committees

(a) The Directors may delegate any of their powers, other than powers required by law to be dealt with by Directors, to a committee or committees consisting of two (2) or more of their number as they think fit.

(b) A committee to which any powers have been delegated under clause 17(a) 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) Notwithstanding the generality of this clause 17, there shall be a committee known as the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited Public Fund Committee which shall operate the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited Public Fund in accordance with the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited Public Fund Rules contained in Schedule 2 to this Constitution.

18 Powers of delegation

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.
19 Proceedings of Directors

19.1 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.

19.2 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.

19.3 Alternate Director or proxy and voting

A person who is present at a meeting of Directors as an Alternate Director or as a proxy 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 or a proxy and, if that person is also a Director, has one vote as a Director in that capacity.

20 Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Directors

20.1 Election of Chairman

The Members may appoint from their number a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman of Directors and may also remove and determine the terms upon which the persons elected as Chairman and Deputy Chairman are to hold office.

20.2 Absence of Chairman at Directors’ meeting

If a Directors’ meeting is held and:

(a) a Chairman has not been elected under clause 20.1;
(b) the Chairman is not present within ten (10) minutes after the
time appointed for the holding of the Directors’ meeting or is
unable or unwilling to act; or

(c) the Deputy Chairman, if elected under clause 20.1, 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 Directors’ meeting.

20.3 Chairman’s vote 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.

21 Appointment of Alternate Director

21.1 Appointment

(a) Subject to the Corporations Act, a Director may appoint a
person, 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 effected by a notice in writing signed by the
Director who makes or made the appointment and delivered to
the Company.

21.2 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.

21.3 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.
21.4 **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.

21.5 **Alternate Director and remuneration**

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

21.6 **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.

21.7 **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.

21.8 **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.

22 **Quorum for Directors’ meeting**

(a) At a meeting of Directors, the number of Directors whose presence in person is necessary to constitute a quorum is as determined by the Directors, and, unless so determined, is one half (1/2) 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(a), 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.

23 Chairman of Directors' Committee

The members of a Directors’ Committee may appoint one of their number as chairman of their meetings on such terms as may be determined by the Directors. If a meeting of a Directors’ Committee is held and:

(a) a chairman has not been elected; or

(b) the chairman is not present within ten (10) minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unable or unwilling to act,

then the members of the Directors’ Committee may elect one of their number to be chairman of the Directors' Committee meeting.

24 Meetings of Directors' Committees

24.1 Adjourning a meeting

A Directors’ Committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper.

24.2 Determination of questions

(a) Questions arising at a meeting of a Directors’ Committee are to be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting.

(b) In the event of an equality of votes, the chair of the Directors’ Committee meeting does not have a casting vote.

25 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 the document referred to in clause 25(a) may be used for signing by Directors if the wording of the resolution and statement is identical in each copy.

(c) The resolution referred to in clause 25(a) is passed when the last Director signs.

26 Validity of acts of Directors

All acts done at a meeting of the Directors or of a Directors’ Committee, or by a person acting as a Director are, 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

are as valid as if the relevant person had been duly appointed or had duly continued in office and was qualified and entitled to vote.

27 Secretary

27.1 Appointment of Secretary

There must be at least one (1) Secretary, who is to be appointed by the Directors.

27.2 Suspension and removal of Secretary

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

27.3 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.
Dispute resolution

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 (14) 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:

(i) a mediator agreed by the Member and the Company;
(ii) if the disputants are unable to agree on a mediator within seven (7) days of the Initial Period, the Chairman or the Chairman's nominee will appoint a mediator; and
(iii) the costs of the mediation will be shared equally between the Member and the Company.

(c) Where:

(i) The party receiving the notice of the Dispute fails to attend the mediation required by clause 28(b);
(ii) The mediation has not occurred within six (6) weeks of the date of the notice of the Dispute; or
(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.

(d) The procedure in this clause 28 will not apply in respect of proceedings for urgent or interlocutory relief.
29 Documents

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

(a) two (2) Directors;

(b) a Director and the Secretary; or

(c) such other persons as the Directors by resolution appoint from time to time.

30 Accounts

The Directors must cause proper accounting and other records to be kept and must distribute copies of every profit and loss account and balance sheet (including every document required by law to be attached thereto) accompanied by a copy of the Auditor’s report thereon as required by the Corporations Act, provided, however, that the Directors must cause to be made out and laid before each annual general meeting a balance sheet and profit and loss account made up to date not more than six (6) months before the date of the meeting.

31 Seals

31.1 Safe custody of common seals

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

31.2 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.
32 Inspection of records

32.1 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).

32.2 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.

33 Service of documents

33.1 Document includes notice

In this clause 33, a reference to a document includes a notice.

33.2 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 a fax number or electronic address nominated by the Member.

(b) Post

A document sent by post:

(i) if sent to an address in Australia, may be sent by ordinary post;
(ii) if sent to an address outside Australia, must be sent by airmail; and

(iii) in either case, is taken to have been received on the day after the date of its posting.

(c) Fax or electronic transmission

If a document is sent by fax or electronic transmission, delivery of the document is taken:

(i) to be effected by properly addressing and transmitting the fax or electronic transmission; and

(ii) to have been delivered on the day following its transmission.

33.3 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 by fax or electronic transmission on a particular date is prima facie evidence that the document was so sent on that date.

34 Indemnity

The Company may indemnify any current or former Director, Secretary or 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 (except a liability for legal costs); 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 for 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.

35 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 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.

36 Director’s liability insurance

To the extent permitted by the Corporations Act, the Company may pay or agree to pay, a premium in respect of a contract insuring a person who is or has been a Director of the Company against a liability incurred by the person as a Director provided that the liability does not arise out of conduct involving:

(a) a wilful breach of duty in relation to the Company;

(b) a contravention of Subsections 232 (5) or (6) or any other provision of the Corporations Act; and

(c) for costs and expenses incurred by the person in defending proceedings, whether civil or criminal, whatever their outcome.

37 Contract

The Company may enter into an agreement with a person referred to in clauses 34, 35 and 36 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.
The Directors must cause the accounts of the Company to be audited in accordance with the requirements of the Corporations Act.
FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I, ..........................................................................................................................

(name)

of. ......................................................................................................................

(address)

being a member of Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited hereby

appoint

..........................................................................................................................

(name)

of. ......................................................................................................................

(address)

as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the general meeting of the Company

(annual general meeting or special general meeting, as the case may be) to be

held on the .............. day of.................... 20....

(day, month and year)

and at any adjournment of that meeting.

The proxy is authorised to vote in favour of/against (delete as appropriate) the

following resolutions:

..........................................................................................................................

Signed for Member appointing proxy

Date: .........................

NOTE: A proxy may only be given to another Member of the Company.
Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited Public Fund

Rules

Name

1. The name of the Public Fund is the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited Public Fund.

Definitions

2. In these Rules, unless the contrary intention appears:

a) **ABN** means the Australian Business Number.

b) **ATO** means the Australian Taxation Office.

c) **Company** means Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited being an Australian public company limited by guarantee incorporated pursuant to the provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)* and bearing the ACN 137 010 658 and having its principal address at 491 Smollett Street Albury, NSW, 2640.

d) **Department** means the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (or its successor having oversight of the Register of Environmental Organisations).

e) **Management Committee** means the Public Fund Management Committee referred to in Rule 6.

f) **Rules** means the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited Public Fund Rules.

g) **Public Fund** means the Public Fund referred to in Rule 1 above.

h) **Treasurer** means the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Objects

3. The objects of the Public Fund are as follows:
a) To establish and maintain the Public Fund for the specific purpose of supporting the environmental purposes and objects of the Company as set out in clause 2.1 of the Constitution of the Company.

b) To solicit and receive gifts, donations and legacies (Gifts) from the public for use exclusively for the purposes of the Company in accordance with subdivision 30-E of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth) and any Ministerial rules or rulings or determinations issued by the ATO for such environmental purposes (Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited Purposes).

c) To receive, acquire, hold and invest Gifts and apply moneys from the Public Fund for such Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Limited Purposes as are approved by the Management Committee.

Public Fund

4. The Public Fund is a public fund to which members of the public are invited to contribute.

5. The Public Fund is established solely for the purpose of carrying out the aforesaid objects, and shall be operated by the Management Committee as follows:

a) All Gifts, whether subject to any special trust or not, for any one or more objects of the Public Fund shall be deposited into the Public Fund, which shall be kept in a separate bank account from other funds of the Company;

b) The Management Committee may refuse to accept any Gift to the Public Fund and shall not be required to give any reason for so doing;

c) No Gifts other than Gifts for one or more of the objects of the Public Fund shall be received by the Public Fund;

d) Any moneys in the Public Fund not immediately required may be invested in such a manner as may be permitted under any ruling or determination in relation to public funds issued by the ATO for the investment of such funds;
e) Any interest on donations, income derived from donated property, and money from realization of such property is to be deposited into the Public Fund;

f) Any allocation of funds or property to other persons or organisations will be made in accordance with the established purpose of the Company and not be influenced by the preference of the donor; and

g) Receipts will be issued in the name of the Public Fund and proper accounting records and procedures are to be kept and used for the Public Fund.

Public Fund Management Committee

6. The Management Committee:

a) shall be comprised of at least three (3) Directors of the Company appointed from time to time by the Company's Board of Directors;

b) shall be made up of a majority of members which, because of their tenure of some public office or their professional standing, shall have an underlying community responsibility; and

c) shall meet at such times and places as they shall determine, as often as necessary to appropriately fulfill their responsibilities, but at least three times in each year.

Non Profit

7. The income and property of the Public Fund, however derived, shall be applied exclusively towards the promotion of the objects of the Public Fund as set forth in these Rules and no portion of them shall be paid or distributed directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise to members or officers of the Company except as reimbursement of out of pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the Public Fund or payment in good faith of bona fide remuneration to any employee in return for services actually rendered to the Public Fund or for goods supplied in the ordinary and usual course of business as an arm’s length transaction.
Accounts

8. Proper accounts shall be kept by the Company of the sums of money received and expended by the Public Fund. For this purpose separate general ledger revenue and expenditure accounts are to be established and maintained in the Company accounting system.

9. The Company shall prepare and submit to the Management Committee a proper set of annual financial statements.

10. Accounts of the Public Fund shall be audited at the same time as the accounts of the Company.

Dissolution

11. If on:

   a) the dissolution of the Public Fund; or

   b) the Public Fund ceasing to be endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient pursuant to the requirements of Section 30 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth);

there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities and the payment of all costs, charges and expenses of the dissolution, any property or funds, that property or funds shall be distributed to another fund listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations.

Changes to Public Fund

12. The Members of the Company may from time to time amend these Rules, however such amendments shall not take effect unless the ATO and Department have been notified of the amendments and have advised that the Public Fund retains its endorsement as a Deductible Gift Recipient.

13. The Management Committee will comply with any rules that the Treasurer and the Commonwealth Minister with responsibility for the environment may made to ensure that gifts made to the fund are only used for its principal purpose.
14. The Management Committee shall inform the Department of:

a) any changes to the name of the Company or the Public Fund; and

b) any changes to the membership of the Management Committee.

Statistical Information

15. Statistical information requested by the Department on donations to the Public Fund will be provided within four (4) months of the end of the financial year.

16. An audited financial statement for the Company and the Public Fund will be supplied with statistical information requested by the Department. The statement will provide information on the expenditure of Public Fund monies and the management of Public Fund assets.