



Australian Council of Agricultural Journalists

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# CONSTITUTION @ September 2010

## 1. Name

The name of the organisation shall be the Australian Council of Agricultural Journalists Inc. which can be abbreviated to ACAJ when required.

## 2. Objects

- 2.1 To provide a national umbrella organisation for state and territory-based rural media groups which each operate independently but are working to promote similar objects.
- 2.2 To develop and support a national and international network for rural journalists and affiliated rural media organisations, including with the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists.
- 2.3 To provide opportunities for urban, rural and regional media organisations to access quality information.
- 2.4 To promote rural journalism and rural issues through activities such as professional development opportunities, use of internet and social media tools, overseeing and managing awards, and cultivating a presence in the national capital.
- 2.5 To provide a professional framework and point of reference for members of the media with an interest in rural and regional affairs.
- 2.6 To promote economically and environmentally sustainable use of agricultural resources of Australia and its territories.
- 2.7 To improve the knowledge and understanding of food production and primary industries by the Australian community.
- 2.8 To assist government and semi-government bodies, educational and scientific institutions, and any organisations or persons whatsoever for the purpose of advancing the interests of member groups and affiliated groups.

## 3. Powers

The Australian Council of Agricultural Journalists Inc shall be empowered as follows:

- 3.1 To appoint annually a committee of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, IFAJ delegate and public officer (who must be a resident of New South Wales). The immediate past president will be an ex-officio member of the committee and additional members can be appointed to ensure each state member organisation has representation.
- 3.2 The committee to have authority, on a majority of those attending the committee meetings, to:
  - 3.2.1. Call meetings of state members, usually by teleconference;
  - 3.2.2. Invite suitable persons to address meetings;
  - 3.2.3. Make decisions about funding, sponsorship and expenditure.
- 3.3 The committee to charge a yearly state membership fee, to be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **4. Legislative framework**

The organisation shall operate under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and Associations Incorporation Regulation 2010 as outlined by the New South Wales Government's Office of Fair Trading.

#### **5. Politics**

The organisation shall be non-political. No attempt shall be made to form the organisation into a political body.

#### **6. Membership**

The members of the organisation are state rural media bodies.

#### **7. Termination of membership**

For non-payment of annual fees, within two months of a notice of fees being due, membership in the organisation can be terminated.

#### **8. Quorum**

- 7.1 At all general and annual general meetings, for the purpose of voting on any motion submitted to the organisation, a quorum shall consist of the majority of committee members being present.
- 7.2 For a committee meeting, four members of the committee will constitute a quorum.

#### **9. Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the organisation will be held by teleconference between 1 August and 31 September each year.

## **10. Elections**

9.1 An election of the officers to hold the posts nominated in 3.1 will be held during the Annual General Meeting by poll of members attending.

9.2 Casual vacancies will be filled by the next committee meeting after the position becomes vacant.

## **11. Treasurer**

The treasurer will submit to the Annual General Meeting, an audited financial statement for the preceding financial year, namely 1 July to 30 June which is then lodged by the Public Officer with the relevant authority (Office of Fair Trading, New South Wales).

## **12. Bank account**

Any funds of the organisation shall be paid into a bank account. The bank account shall be operated by the treasurer, president, vice-president or secretary – with any two being required to sign conjointly.

## **13. Affiliation**

The organisation, as determined by a simple majority vote of members at a properly constituted meeting, may enter into affiliations with other organisations/associations as considered desirable.

## **14. Amendments to the Constitution**

This Constitution may be amended at a properly constituted meeting of the organisation, provided notice of the amendment (s) has been given in writing to the secretary. When such notice is given, a meeting of the organisation will be convened as soon as practicable to discuss and vote on the proposed amendment (s).

## **15. Patron**

The ACAJ may invite the Federal Minister for Primary Industries to be the patron of the organisation.

## **16. Winding up**

In the event of the winding up of the organisation, surplus funds in hand shall be divided equally between the active state member organisations.