

SOUTHERN GOLD COAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC

RULES FOR INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

1 Interpretation

1.1 In these Rules:

(a) **Act** means the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* (Qld).

(b) **present** :

(i) at a Board of Management meeting, see Rule 23.6; or

(ii) at a general meeting, see Rule 37.2.

1.2 A word or expression that is not defined in these Rules, but is defined in the Act has, if the context permits, the meaning given by the Act.

2 Name, Area and Political neutrality

2.1 The name of the incorporated Association is the Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce Inc ("**the Association**").

2.2 The general area of operation of the Association will be the area bounded by the Tallebudgera Creek and the New South Wales border, and the eastern edge of the Springbrook National Park.

2.3 The Association shall be strictly non-party political and non-sectarian.

2.4 No member of the Association who holds public office or who has publically announced they are standing or who has become a registered candidate, or its equivalent, for public office such as Council, State or Federal Parliament or a member who acts as a paid or unpaid official in any political party, can hold a position on the Board of Management or be Chairperson of a committee of the Association.

2.5 The Association recognizes that persons holding public office such as Councillors, State and Federal Politicians and Senators are elected by local residents and the Association will use its endeavours to treat those elected officials regardless of their political persuasion in a non-political manner and based purely on issues affecting its members.

3 Objects

3.1 The objects of the Association are:

(a) to promote the economic health of our members and the well-being of both our members and tourists by providing leadership and representation for issues affecting the business community.

(b) to discuss and deal with any subjects affecting the best interests of members and the community in its region;

- (c) to advance the interests of the commercial community of the Gold Coast. Where it does not conflict with (a), and if it is in the furtherance of the objects generally, to advance the interests of the commercial community of neighbouring suburbs and precincts as well.
- (d) to promote, support, or oppose legislation or other measures affecting the business of its members.
- (e) to give expression to the opinion of members regarding events or proposals affecting the interests of the commercial community of the Gold Coast.
- (f) to watch over and protect the general interests of trade, commerce, industry and civil rights;
- (g) to assist in the development of trade and industry;
- (h) to collect information on all matters of interest to commerce, industry and the community and which may include consultations with professionals, eminent citizens and leaders of industry.
- (i) to consult with and approach Councils, State and Federal Governments on matters affecting its members or the business community generally.
- (j) to form a code of practice whereby the transaction of business may be simplified and facilitated;
- (k) to affiliate with such organisations as the Association may deem fit;
- (l) to conduct or control such forms of entertainment from time to time as would add to the pleasure of citizens, members and visitors;
- (m) to purchase, lease or otherwise acquire land, property or chattels within the area and to sell, lease, sub-lease, or otherwise dispose of such assets. To mortgage such assets and carry out any scheme which is considered to be in the best interests of the Association;
- (n) to appoint three trustees to hold all the property and effects both real and personal of, or belonging to the Association at any time on or subject to such Trusts and provisions as the Association may from time to time appoint;
- (o) generally to carry on, conduct, do or assist in all or any matters which the Board of Management may deem fit for the encouragement of trade and commerce, or the assistance of members and the Association;
- (p) to assist in raising money for charity and/or non-profit organisations and to undertake and partake in charitable and non-profit events.
- (q) to set up a system of governance within the Association to attend to local matters including but not limited to delivering and providing networking opportunities, surveys, information, events and other services to local businesses in furtherance of the objects of the Association.

4 Powers

4.1 The Association has the powers of an individual.

4.2 The Association may, for example:

- (a) enter into contracts; and
- (b) acquire, hold, deal with and dispose of property; and
- (c) make charges for services and facilities it supplies; and
- (d) do other things necessary or convenient to be done in carrying out its affairs including the hiring of staff or contractors.
- (e) obtain or maintain membership in any other organisation that the Association considers desirable in furthering its objects.
- (f) enter into any arrangements with any Government or Authority that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and the exercise of the powers of the Association
- (g) obtain from any such Government or Authority any rights, privileges and concessions which the Association may think is desirable to obtain; and to carry out, exercise and comply with any such arrangements, rights, privileges and concessions;
- (h) take any gift of property whether subject to any special trust or not, for any one or more of the objects of the Association;
- (i) raise funds by promotions, holding events, selling or accepting sponsorships and in any other manner consistent with these Rules and that will not give rise to a credible allegation of conflict of interest with the objects;
- (j) print and publish in paper or electronic form any newspapers, periodicals, newsletters, books or leaflets that the Association may think desirable for the promotion of its objects;
- (k) appoint, employ, remove or suspend such managers, clerks, secretaries, employees and other persons as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Association;
- (l) construct, improve, maintain, develop, work, manage, carry out, alter or control any houses, buildings, grounds, works or conveniences which may seem calculated directly or indirectly to advance the associations interests, and to contribute to, subsidise or otherwise assist and take part in the construction, improvement, maintenance, development, working, management, carrying out, alteration or control thereof;

4.3 The Association may take over the funds, property and other assets and liabilities of any other incorporated associations with which the Association is authorised to amalgamate;

4.4 The Association may transfer all or any part of its property, assets and liabilities to any other incorporated associations with which the association is authorised to amalgamate;

- 4.5 The Association may take over the funds, property and other assets and liabilities of any other incorporated associations having objects altogether or in part similar to those of the Association and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income or property among its members to an extent at least as great as that imposed upon the Association under or by virtue of Rule 49 and to accept the membership, funds and assets of any such incorporated (or previously incorporated) association.
- 4.6 The Association may also issue secured and unsecured notes, debentures and debenture stock for the Association.
- 4.7 To do all such lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and the exercise of the powers of the Association.

5 Classes of members

- 5.1 The following persons shall be eligible for membership of the Association:
- (a) any company, firm or person engaged as owner or employer in any trade, profession, industry or business; or
 - (b) any government department, instrumentality or corporation which may in the opinion of the Board of Management promote or advance trade commerce, industry and the objects of the Chamber; or
 - (c) any person who may in the opinion of the Board of Management promote or advance trade, commerce, industry and the objects of the Chamber.
- 5.2 The number of ordinary members is unlimited.
- 5.3 The Board of Management may provide additional designations to ordinary memberships such as bronze, silver, gold or any other such designations for the purposes of providing various benefits and establishing various levels of membership fees.
- 5.4 Although more than one representative may be entitled to attend functions; each financial ordinary member will have only one (1) vote at any meeting of the members.
- 5.5 The Board of Management may grant honorary membership to any person, corporation or firm distinguished in public affairs, commerce or finance or any person, corporation or firm the Board of management considers desirable, for a period which the Board of Management determines who will be entitled to all the privileges of an ordinary member save the privilege of voting at meetings.
- 5.6 The Association may grant honorary life memberships in recognition of special or meritorious services to the Association and such person, corporation or organisation shall thereupon be entitled to all the privileges of an ordinary member, including the right to vote at meetings, but will not be required to pay a subscription. An honorary life member is granted membership by a general resolution of the Association after a recommendation by the Board of Management.

6 Automatic membership

- 6.1 A person who, on the day the Association is incorporated, was a member of one of the constituent associations and who, on or before a day fixed by the Board of

Management, agrees in writing to become a member of the Association, must be admitted by the Board of Management-

- (a) to the equivalent class of membership of the Association as the member held in the constituent associations; or
- (b) if there is no equivalent class of membership; as an ordinary member.

7 New membership

- 7.1 An applicant for membership of the Association must be proposed by 1 financial member of the Association ("**the proposer**") and seconded by another financial member (the seconder).
- 7.2 An application for membership must be:
 - (a) in writing; and
 - (b) signed by the applicant and the applicants proposer and seconder; and
 - (c) in the form decided by the Board of Management.
- 7.3 Rights conferred on members by law and by these Rules are personal and are not transferable.

8 Membership fees

- 8.1 The membership fee for each ordinary membership and for each other class or designation of membership (if any):
 - (a) is the amount decided by the Board of Management from time to time; and
 - (b) is payable when, and in the way, the Board of Management decides.
- 8.2 A member of the Association who, before becoming a member, has paid the members annual subscription for membership of one or more of the constituent associations, is not liable to pay a further amount of annual subscription for the period before the day fixed by the Board of Management as the day on which the next annual subscription is payable.

9 Admission and rejection of new members

- 9.1 The Board of Management must consider an application for membership at the next Board of Management meeting held after it receives:
 - (a) the application for membership; and
 - (b) the appropriate membership fee for the application.
- 9.2 The Board of Management must ensure that, as soon as possible after the person applies to become a member of the Association, and before the Board of Management considers the persons application, the person is advised:
 - (a) whether or not the Association has public liability insurance; and

- (b) if the Association has public liability insurance:the amount of the insurance. Such notice may be given on any form provided for the making of such applications.
- 9.3 The Board of Management must decide at the meeting whether to accept or reject the application.
- 9.4 If a majority of the members of the Board of Management present at the meeting vote to accept the applicant as a member, the applicant must be accepted as a member for the class of membership applied for.
- 9.5 The secretary of the Association must, as soon as practicable after the Board of Management decides to accept or reject an application, give the applicant a written notice of the decision.

10 When membership ends

- 10.1 A member may resign from the Association by giving a written notice of resignation to the secretary.
- 10.2 The resignation takes effect at:
 - (a) the time the notice is received by the secretary; or
 - (b) if a later time is stated in the notice: the later time.
- 10.3 The Board of Management may terminate a member's membership if the member:
 - (a) is convicted of an indictable offence; or
 - (b) does not comply with any of the provisions of these Rules; or
 - (c) has membership fees in arrears for at least 2 months; or
 - (d) conducts himself or herself in a way considered to be injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of the Association.
- 10.4 Before the Board of Management terminates a member's membership, the Board of Management must give the member a full and fair opportunity to show why the membership should not be terminated.
- 10.5 If, after considering all representations made by the member, the Board of Management decides to terminate the membership, the secretary of the Board of Management must give the member a written notice of the decision.
- 10.6 Membership will automatically lapse if membership fees are in arrears for over 3 months, but which membership may be reinstated at the discretion of the Board.

11 Appeal against rejection or termination of membership

- 11.1 A person whose application for membership has been rejected, or whose membership has been terminated, may give the secretary written notice of the person's intention to appeal against the decision.

- 11.2 A notice of intention to appeal must be given to the secretary within 1 month after the person receives written notice of the decision.
- 11.3 If the secretary receives a notice of intention to appeal, the secretary must, within 1 month after receiving the notice, call a general meeting to decide the appeal.

12 General meeting to decide appeal

- 12.1 The general meeting to decide an appeal must be held within 3 months after the secretary receives the notice of intention to appeal.
- 12.2 At the meeting, the applicant must be given a full and fair opportunity to show why the application should not be rejected or the membership should not be terminated.
- 12.3 Also, the Board of Management and the members of the Board of Management who rejected the application or terminated the membership must be given a full and fair opportunity to show why the application should be rejected or the membership should be terminated.
- 12.4 An appeal must be decided by a majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote at the meeting.
- 12.5 If a person whose application for membership has been rejected does not appeal against the decision within 1 month after receiving written notice of the decision, or the person appeals but the appeal is unsuccessful, the secretary must, as soon as practicable, refund the membership fee paid by the person.

13 Register of members

- 13.1 The Board of Management must keep a register of members of the Association.
- 13.2 The register must include the following particulars for each member:
- (a) the full name of the member;
 - (b) the postal, residential and business address of the member;
 - (c) the date of admission as a member;
 - (d) the date of death or time of resignation of the member;
 - (e) details about the termination or reinstatement of membership;
 - (f) any other particulars the Board of Management or the members at a general meeting decide.
- 13.3 The register must be open for inspection by members of the association at all reasonable times.
- 13.4 The inspection shall be limited to 30 minutes. No copying of the register (other than by the making of handwritten notes) is permitted.
- 13.5 A member must contact the secretary to arrange an inspection of the register.

13.6 However, the Board of Management may, on the application of a member of the Association, withhold information about the member (other than the members full name) from the register available for inspection if the Board of Management has reasonable grounds for believing the disclosure of the information would put the member at risk of harm.

14 Prohibition on use of information on register of members

14.1 A member of the Association must not:

- (a) use information obtained from the register of members of the Association to contact, or send material to, another member of the Association for the purpose of advertising for political or religious purposes; or
- (b) use information obtained from the register of members of the Association to contact, or send material to, another member of the Association for the purpose of advertising for charitable or commercial purposes; or
- (c) disclose information obtained from the register to someone else, knowing that the information is likely to be used to contact, or send material to, another member of the Association for the purpose of advertising for political, religious, charitable or commercial purposes.

14.2 Sub-rule 14.1(b) does not apply if the use or disclosure of the information is approved by the Board of Management of the Association.

15 Appointment or election of secretary

15.1 The secretary must be an individual residing in Queensland, or in another State but not more than 65km from the Queensland border, who is:

- (a) a member of the Association elected by the Association as secretary; or
- (b) any of the following persons appointed by the Board of Management as secretary:
 - (i) a member of the Associations Board of Management;
 - (ii) another member of the Association;
 - (iii) another person.

15.2 If the Association has not elected an interim officer as secretary for the Association before its incorporation, the members of the Board of Management must ensure a secretary is appointed or elected for the Association within 1 month after incorporation.

15.3 If a vacancy happens in the office of secretary, the members of the Board of Management must ensure a secretary is appointed or elected for the Association within 1 month after the vacancy happens.

15.4 If the Board of Management appoints a person mentioned in sub-rule 15.1(b)(ii) as secretary, other than to fill a casual vacancy on the Board of Management, the person does not become a member of the Board of Management.

- 15.5 However, if the Board of Management appoints a person mentioned in sub-rule 15.1(b)(ii) as secretary to fill a casual vacancy on the Board of Management, the person becomes a member of the Board of Management.
- 15.6 If the Board of Management appoints a person mentioned in sub-rule 15.1(b)(iii) as secretary, the person does not become a member of the Board of Management.
- 15.7 In this Rule -casual vacancy, on a Board of Management, means a vacancy that happens when an elected member of the Board of Management resigns, dies or otherwise stops holding office.

16 Removal of secretary

- 16.1 The Board of Management of the Association may at any time remove a person appointed by the Board of Management as the secretary.
- 16.2 If the Board of Management removes a secretary who is a person mentioned in Rule 15.1(b)(i), the person remains a member of the Board of Management.
- 16.3 If the Board of Management removes a secretary who is a person mentioned in Rule 15.1(b)(ii) and who has been appointed to a casual vacancy on the Board of Management under Rule 15.5, the person remains a member of the Board of Management.

17 Functions of secretary

- 17.1 The secretary's functions include, but are not limited to:
- (a) calling meetings of the Association, including preparing notices of a meeting and of the business to be conducted at the meeting in consultation with the president of the Association; and
 - (b) keeping minutes of each meeting; and
 - (c) keeping copies of all correspondence and other documents relating to the Association; and
 - (d) maintaining the register of members of the Association.

18 Membership of Board of Management

- 18.1 The Board of Management of the Association consists of:
- (a) a president;
 - (b) two vice presidents;
 - (c) a treasurer;
 - (d) a secretary;
 - (e) and other Board members that members of the Association elect at an annual general meeting

- 18.2 The total number of persons holding positions on the Board of Management must be no greater than 12 unless this number is increased by a resolution of members at a general meeting.
- 18.3 In the case of a corporation or unincorporated body that is a member, the representative of that corporation or unincorporated body may be a member of the Board of Management.
- 18.4 A member of the Board of Management, other than a secretary appointed by the Board of Management under Rule 15.1(b)(iii) who is not a member of the Board under Rule 15.6, must be a financial member of the Association.
- 18.5 At each annual general meeting of the Association, the members of the Board of Management must retire from office, but are eligible, on nomination, for re-election.
- 18.6 A financial member of the Association may be appointed to a casual vacancy on the Board of Management under Rule 21.
- 18.7 A member of the Board of Management who has publicly announced they are standing or who has become a registered candidate, or its equivalent, for public office such as Council, State or Federal Parliament must elect to stand-aside or resign from the Board of Management pending the outcome of the election concerned. A member of the Board who stood aside and who has withdrawn their candidature or whose quest to be elected is unsuccessful, shall be entitled to resume their seat on the Board at the time of formal withdrawal of their candidature or after the results of the election concerned have been declared and which shows the failure of the member to be elected. A successful candidate must resign.
- 18.8 The Board of Management may appoint pursuant to Rule 18.6 a financial member to fill the vacancy caused by a member standing aside pursuant to Rule 18.7. The tenure of such casual appointee shall terminate on the earlier of the resuming of their seat by the stood-aside member, or the next General Meeting held to elect members of the Board of Management.
- 18.9 The Board of Management has the right to stand-down any member at any time who makes during the course of that member's election campaign, public political statements which are contrary to the stated policy of the Chamber.
- 18.10 The executive Board of Management ("**the Executive**") of the Association consists of:
- (a) the president;
 - (b) any one of the vice-presidents;
 - (c) the treasurer;
 - (d) the secretary.
- 18.11 The Executive shall have the power to act on behalf of the Board of Management between meetings with respect to urgent matters.
- 18.12 The Executive may meet together at any time, but no business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present and notice of the meeting has been received by members of the Executive.

- 18.13 At every meeting of the Executive, three members of the Executive shall constitute a quorum.
- 18.14 The Executive may request the attendance of any member at its meeting for such purposes as it considers fit, but no member so attending shall be entitled to vote.
- 18.15 The Board of Management may increase the number of the Executive by appointing up to 2 members of the Board of Management to the Executive. That appointment shall lapse at the next annual general meeting.

19 Electing the Board of Management

- 19.1 A member of the Board of Management may only be elected as follows:
- (a) any 2 financial members of the Association may nominate another financial member (the candidate) to serve as a member of the Board of Management;
 - (b) the nomination must be:
 - (i) in writing; and
 - (ii) signed by the candidate and the financial members who nominated him or her; and
 - (iii) given to the secretary at least 14 days before the annual general meeting at which the election is to be held;
 - (c) each financial member of the Association present and eligible to vote at the annual general meeting may vote for 1 candidate for each vacant position on the Board of Management;
 - (d) if, at the start of the meeting, there are not enough candidates nominated, nominations may be taken from the floor of the meeting.
- 19.2 A person may be a candidate only if the person:
- (a) is an adult; and
 - (b) is not ineligible to be elected as a member under section 61A of the Act.
- 19.3 A member of the Association cannot nominate for a position on the Board of Management if they have been in the immediate year previously, a member of the Board of Management and failed to attend at least 50% or more of the meetings of the Board of Management held during the year of their membership.
- 19.4 A list of the candidate's names in alphabetical order, with the names of the members who nominated each candidate, must be posted in a conspicuous place in the office or usual place of meeting of the association for at least 7 days immediately preceding the annual general meeting.
- 19.5 If required by the Board of Management, balloting lists must be prepared containing the names of the candidates in alphabetical order.
- 19.6 The Board of Management must ensure that, before a candidate is elected as a member of the Board of Management, the candidate is advised:

- (a) whether or not the Association has public liability insurance; and
- (b) if the Association has public liability insurance:the amount of the insurance. Such notice may be given on any form provided for the making of such applications.

20 Resignation, removal or vacation of office of Board of Management member

- 20.1 A member of the Board of Management may resign from the Board of Management by giving written notice of resignation to the secretary.
- 20.2 The resignation takes effect at:
 - (a) the time the notice is received by the secretary; or
 - (b) if a later time is stated in the notice:the later time.
- 20.3 A member may be removed from office at a general meeting of the Association if a majority of the members present and eligible to vote at the meeting vote in favour of removing the member.
- 20.4 Before a vote of members is taken about removing the member from office, the member must be given a full and fair opportunity to show cause why he or she should not be removed from office.
- 20.5 A member has no right of appeal against the member's removal from office under this Rule.
- 20.6 A member immediately vacates the office in the circumstances mentioned in s 64(2) of the Act.
- 20.7 A member of the Board of Management who is absent without leave for 3 meetings (calculated cumulatively) of the Board of Management is deemed to have resigned at the third meeting.
- 20.8 The Board of Management can grant a leave of absence to a member of the Board of Management for any term it thinks fit.
- 20.9 Where a leave of absence is granted to the president, a vice president (chosen by the Board of Management) may fill the position and if a vice president is not available, the Board of Management can appoint an acting president who shall have all the same powers, obligations and rights of the president.
- 20.10 A leave of absence can only be granted to a member of the Board of Management if they are unable to attend a Board of Management meeting because:
 - (a) of a personal or family ill health serious enough to warrant granting such leave;
 - (b) the member is overseas or interstate or intrastate more than 75 kilometres from the place of meeting;
 - (c) the member having to attend another unavoidable and non-reschedulable business meeting.

20.11 For the Board of Management to consider a leave application, the request for leave under Rule 20.10 must be provided to the Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the Board meeting.

21 Vacancies on the Board of Management

21.1 If a casual vacancy happens on the Board of Management, the continuing members of the Board of Management may appoint another financial member of the Association to fill the vacancy until the next annual general meeting, (unless appointed pursuant to Rule 18.8.

21.2 The continuing members of the Board of Management may act despite a casual vacancy on the Board of Management.

21.3 However, if the number of Board members is less than the number fixed under Rule 24.1 as a quorum of the Board of Management, the continuing members may act only to:

- (a) increase the number of Board of Management members to the number required for a quorum; or
- (b) call a general meeting of the Association.

22 Functions of the Board of Management

22.1 Subject to these Rules or a resolution of the members of the Association carried at a general meeting, the Board of Management has the general control and management of the administration of the affairs, property and funds of the Association.

22.2 The Board of Management has authority to interpret the meaning of these Rules and any matter relating to the Association on which the Rules are silent, but any interpretation must have regard to the Act, including any regulation made under the Act.

Editor's Note: *The Act prevails if the Associations Rules are inconsistent with the Act:see section 1B of the Act.*

22.3 The Board of Management may exercise the powers of the Association:

- (a) to borrow, raise or secure the payment of amounts in a way the members of the Association decide; and
- (b) to secure the amounts mentioned in paragraph (a) or the payment or performance of any debt, liability, contract, guarantee or other engagement incurred or to be entered into by the Association in any way, including by the issue of debentures (perpetual or otherwise) charged upon the whole or part of the Association's property, both present and future; and
- (c) to purchase, redeem or pay off any securities issued; and
- (d) to borrow amounts from members and pay interest on the amounts borrowed; and
- (e) to mortgage or charge the whole or part of its property; and

- (f) to issue debentures and other securities, whether outright or as security for any debt, liability or obligation of the Association; and
 - (g) to provide and pay off any securities issued; and
 - (h) to invest in a way the members of the Association may from time to time decide.
- 22.4 For sub-rule 22.3(d), the rate of interest must not be more than the current rate being charged for overdrawn accounts on money lent (regardless of the term of the loan) by:
- (a) the financial institution for the Association; or
 - (b) if there is more than 1 financial institution for the Association:the financial institution nominated by the Board of Management.
- 22.5 Where a member of the Board of Management holds a position with responsibilities and duties assigned, the member is responsible for the effective management and reporting of those duties at each and every meeting of the Board of Management.

23 Meetings of the Board of Management

- 23.1 Subject to this Rule, the Board of Management may meet and conduct its proceedings as it considers appropriate.
- 23.2 The Board of Management must meet at least once every quarter (except that the Board shall not be required to meet during the month of January) to exercise its functions.
- 23.3 The Board of Management must decide how a meeting is to be called.
- 23.4 Notice of a meeting is to be given in the way decided by the Board of Management.
- 23.5 The Board of Management may hold meetings, or permit a Board member to take part in its meetings, by using any technology that reasonably allows the member to hear and take part in discussions as they happen.
- 23.6 A Board member who participates in the meeting as mentioned in subrule (5) is taken to be present at the meeting.
- 23.7 A question arising at a Board meeting is to be decided by a majority vote of members of the Board present at the meeting and, if the votes are equal, the chairperson has a casting vote as well as a primary vote.
- 23.8 A member of the Board of Management must not vote on a question about a contract or proposed contract with the Association if the member has an interest in the contract or proposed contract and, if the member does vote, the members vote must not be counted.
- 23.9 The president is to preside as chairperson at a Board of Management meeting unless the president has appointed another Board member as chairperson.
- 23.10 If there is no president, a vice president is to preside as chairperson at a Board meeting unless the president has appointed another Board member as chairperson.

- 23.11 If there is no president or vice president or a chairperson has not been appointed or they are not present within 10 minutes after the time fixed for a Board of Management meeting, the Board members may choose 1 of their number to preside as chairperson at the meeting.

24 Quorum for, and adjournment of, Board of Management meeting

- 24.1 At a Board of Management meeting, more than 40% of the members elected to the Board as at the close of the last general meeting of the members form a quorum.
- 24.2 If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a Board of Management meeting called on the request of members of the Board, the meeting lapses.
- 24.3 If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a Board of Management meeting called other than on the request of the members of the Board:
- (a) the meeting is to be adjourned for at least 1 day; and
 - (b) the members of the Board of Management who are present are to decide the day, time and place of the adjourned meeting.
- 24.4 If, at an adjourned meeting mentioned in subrule (3), there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for the meeting, the meeting lapses.

25 Special meeting of Board of Management

- 25.1 If the secretary receives a written request signed by at least 33% of the members of the Board of Management or the Executive, the secretary must call a special meeting of the Board by giving each member of the Board notice of the meeting within 14 days after the secretary receives the request.
- 25.2 If the secretary is unable or unwilling to call the special meeting, the president must call the meeting.
- 25.3 A request for a special meeting must state:
- (a) why the special meeting is called; and
 - (b) the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- 25.4 A notice of a special meeting must state:
- (a) the day, time and place of the meeting; and
 - (b) the business to be conducted at the meeting
- 25.5 A special meeting of the Board of Management must be held within 14 days after notice of the meeting is given to the members of the Board of Management.

26 Minutes of Board of Management meetings

- 26.1 The secretary must ensure full and accurate minutes of all questions, matters, resolutions and other proceedings of each Board of Management meeting are entered in a minute book.
- 26.2 To ensure the accuracy of the minutes, the minutes of each Board of Management meeting must be signed by the chairperson of the meeting, or the chairperson of the next Board of Management meeting, verifying their accuracy.

27 Appointment of Committees

- 27.1 The Board of Management may appoint a committee consisting of financial members of the Association considered appropriate by the Board to help with the conduct of the Association's operations.
- 27.2 The Board of Management may appoint committees consisting of financial members of the Association considered appropriate by the Board to deliver services, information, make recommendations, coordinate events and to help with the conduct of the Association's operations in particular designated suburbs, electoral boundaries, geographical areas or to deal with particular issues within the general area of operation of the Association. The Board of Management may choose the chairperson of such a committee. If appropriate, and with approval of the Board of Management, a committee may use the services of volunteers or non-members to assist in carrying out its functions. Volunteers or non-members may engage in deliberations on matters before a committee but may not vote.
- 27.3 A member of the committee who is not a member of the Board of Management is not entitled to vote at a Board of Management meeting.
- 27.4 A committee may elect a chairperson of its meetings if not already chosen by the Board of Management under clause 27.2.
- 27.5 If a chairperson is not elected, or if the chairperson is not present within 10 minutes after the time fixed for a meeting, the members present may choose 1 of their number to be chairperson of the meeting.
- 27.6 A committee may meet and adjourn as it considers appropriate.
- 27.7 A question arising at a committee meeting is to be decided by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting and, if the votes are equal, the chairperson has a casting vote as well as a primary vote.

28 Acts not affected by defects or disqualifications

- 28.1 An act performed by the Board of Management, a committee or a person acting as a member of the Board of Management is taken to have been validly performed.
- 28.2 Sub-rule 28.1 applies even if the act was performed when:
- (a) there was a defect in the appointment of a member of the Board of Management, committee or person acting as a member of the Board of Management; or
 - (b) a Board of Management member, committee member or person acting as a member of the Board of Management was disqualified from being a member.

29 Resolutions of Board of Management without meeting

- 29.1 A written resolution signed by each member of the Board of Management is as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a Board meeting that was properly called and held.
- 29.2 A resolution mentioned in sub-rule 29.1 may consist of several documents in like form, each signed by 1 or more members of the Board.

30 First annual general meeting

- 30.1 The first annual general meeting must be held within 6 months after the end date of the association's first reportable financial year.

31 Subsequent annual general meetings

- 31.1 Each subsequent annual general meeting must be held:
- (a) at least once each year;
 - (b) within 4 months after the end date of the Association's reportable financial year; and
 - (c) upon the giving of not less than 28 days' notice in writing.

32 Business to be conducted at annual general meeting of level 1 incorporated associations and particular level 2 and 3 incorporated associations

- 32.1 This Rule applies only if the Association is:
- (a) a level 1 incorporated association; or
 - (b) a level 2 incorporated association to which section 59 of the Act applies; or
 - (c) a level 3 incorporated association to which section 59 of the Act applies.
- 32.2 The following business must be conducted at each annual general meeting of the Association:
- (a) receiving the Association's financial statement, and audit report, for the last reportable financial year;
 - (b) presenting the financial statement and audit report to the meeting for adoption;
 - (c) electing members of the Board of Management;
 - (d) for a level 1 incorporated association: appointing an auditor or an accountant for the present financial year;
 - (e) for a level 2 incorporated association, or a level 3 incorporated association, to which section 59 of the Act applies: appointing an auditor, an accountant or an approved person for the present financial year.

33 Business to be conducted at annual general meeting of other level 2 incorporated associations

- 33.1 This Rule applies only if the Association is a level 2 incorporated association to which section 59A of the Act applies.
- 33.2 The following business must be conducted at each annual general meeting of the Association:
- (a) receiving the Association's financial statement, and signed statement, for the last reportable financial year;
 - (b) presenting the financial statement and signed statement to the meeting for adoption;
 - (c) electing members of the Board of Management;
 - (d) appointing an auditor, an accountant or an approved person for the present financial year.

34 Business to be conducted at annual general meeting of other level 3 incorporated associations

- 34.1 This Rule applies only if the Association is a level 3 incorporated association to which section 59B of the Act applies.
- 34.2 The following business must be conducted at each annual general meeting of the Association:
- (a) receiving the Association's financial statement, and signed statement, for the last reportable financial year;
 - (b) presenting the financial statement and signed statement to the meeting for adoption;
 - (c) electing members of the Board of Management.

35 Notice of general meeting

- 35.1 The secretary may call a general meeting of the Association.
- 35.2 The secretary must give at least 14 days' notice of the meeting to each member of the Association.
- 35.3 If the secretary is unable or unwilling to call the meeting, the president must call the meeting.
- 35.4 The Board of Management may decide the way in which the notice must be given.
- 35.5 However, notice of the following meetings must be given in writing:
- (a) a meeting called to hear and decide the appeal of a person against the Board of Management's decision:
 - (i) to reject the person's application for membership of the Association; or

- (ii) to terminate the person's membership of the Association;
 - (b) a meeting called to hear and decide a proposed special resolution of the Association.
- 35.6 A notice of a general meeting must state the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- 35.7 Despite any other provision of these Rules, a notice of meeting may be given to each member of the Association by electronic means including by email to the member's email address recorded in the Association's records.

36 Quorum for, and adjournment of, general meeting

- 36.1 The quorum for a general meeting is at least the number of members elected or appointed to the Board of Management at the close of the Association's last general meeting plus 1.
- 36.2 However, if all members of the Association are members of the Board of Management, the quorum is the total number of members less 1.
- 36.3 No business may be conducted at a general meeting unless there is a quorum of members when the meeting proceeds to business.
- 36.4 For the purposes of this Rule, a member includes a person representing a firm, corporation or unincorporated body which is a member.
- 36.5 If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a general meeting called on the request of members of the Board of Management or the Association, the meeting lapses.
- 36.6 If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a general meeting called other than on the request of members of the Board of Management or the Association:
- (a) the meeting is to be adjourned for at least 7 days; and
 - (b) the Board of Management is to decide the day, time and place of the adjourned meeting.
- 36.7 The chairperson may, with the consent of any meeting at which there is a quorum, and must if directed by the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place.
- 36.8 If a meeting is adjourned under sub-rule 36.6, only the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place may be conducted at the adjourned meeting.
- 36.9 The secretary shall give the members as much notice as practicable of an adjournment but is not required to give notice of the business to be conducted at an adjourned meeting unless a meeting is adjourned for at least 30 days.
- 36.10 If a meeting is adjourned for at least 30 days, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given in the same way notice is given for an original meeting.

37 Procedure at general meeting

- 37.1 A member may take part and vote in a general meeting in person, by proxy, by attorney or by using any technology that reasonably allows the member to hear and take part in discussions as they happen.
- 37.2 A member who participates in a meeting as mentioned in sub-rule 37.1 is taken to be present at the meeting.
- 37.3 At each general meeting:
- (a) the president is to preside as chairperson; and
 - (b) if there is no president or if the president is not present within 15 minutes after the time fixed for the meeting or is unwilling to act, a vice president will preside or if a vice president is not present or is unwilling to act, the members present must elect 1 of their number to be chairperson of the meeting; and
 - (c) the chairperson must conduct the meeting in a proper and orderly way.

38 Voting at general meeting

- 38.1 At a general meeting, each question, matter or resolution, other than a special resolution relating to amending the Rules, must be decided by a majority of votes of the members present.
- 38.2 Each member present and eligible to vote is entitled to 1 vote only and, if the votes are equal, the chairperson has a casting vote as well as a primary vote.
- 38.3 A member is not entitled to vote at a general meeting if the member's annual subscription is in arrears at the date of the meeting.
- 38.4 The method of voting is to be decided by the Board of Management.
- 38.5 However, if at least 40% of the members present demand a secret ballot, voting must be by secret ballot.
- 38.6 If a secret ballot is held, the chairperson must appoint 2 members to conduct the secret ballot in the way the chairperson decides.
- 38.7 The result of a secret ballot as declared by the chairperson is taken to be a resolution of the meeting at which the ballot was held.

39 Special general meeting

- 39.1 The secretary must call a special general meeting by giving each member of the Association notice of the meeting within 14 days after:
- (a) being directed to call the meeting by the Board of Management; or
 - (b) being given a written request signed by:
 - (i) at least 33% of the number of members of the Board of Management when the request is signed; or

- (ii) at least the number of ordinary members of the Association equal to double the number of members of the Association on the Board of Management when the request is signed plus 1; or
 - (c) being given a written notice of an intention to appeal against the decision of the Board of Management:
 - (i) to reject an application for membership; or
 - (ii) to terminate a person's membership.
- 39.2 A request mentioned in sub-rule 39.1(b) must state:
- (a) why the special general meeting is being called; and
 - (b) the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- 39.3 A special general meeting must be held within 3 months after the secretary:
- (a) is directed to call the meeting by the Board of Management; or
 - (b) is given the written request mentioned in sub-rule 39.1(b); or
 - (c) is given the written notice of an intention to appeal mentioned in sub-rule 29.1(c).
- 39.4 If the secretary is unable or unwilling to call the special meeting, the president must call the meeting.

40 Proxies

- 40.1 An instrument appointing a proxy must be in writing and be in the following or similar form:

Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce Inc: I, _____ of _____, being a member of the Association, appoint _____ of as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the (annual) general meeting of the association, to be held on ___ day of _____ 20__ and at any adjournment of the meeting.

Signed this ___ day of _____ 20__ .

Signature

- 40.2 The instrument appointing a proxy must:
- (a) if the appointor is an individual: be signed by the appointor or the appointor's attorney properly authorised in writing; or
 - (b) if the appointor is a corporation:
 - (i) be under seal; or

(ii) be signed by a properly authorised officer or attorney of the corporation.

- 40.3 A proxy may be a member of the Association or another person.
- 40.4 The instrument appointing a proxy is taken to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a secret ballot.
- 40.5 Each instrument appointing a proxy must be given to the secretary before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote.
- 40.6 Unless otherwise instructed by the appointor, the proxy may vote as the proxy considers appropriate.
- 40.7 If a member wants a proxy to vote for or against a resolution, the instrument appointing the proxy must be in the following or similar form:

Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce Inc: I, _____ of _____, being a member of the Association, appoint _____ of as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the (annual) general meeting of the association, to be held on ___ day of _____ 20__ and at any adjournment of the meeting.

Signed this ___ day of _____ 20__ .

Signature

*This form is to be used *in favour of/*against [strike out whichever is not wanted] the following resolutions: [List relevant resolutions]*

41 Minutes of general meetings

- 41.1 The secretary must ensure full and accurate minutes of all questions, matters, resolutions and other proceedings of each general meeting are entered in a minute book.
- 41.2 To ensure the accuracy of the minutes:
- (a) the minutes of each general meeting must be signed by the chairperson of the meeting, or the chairperson of the next general meeting, verifying their accuracy; and
 - (b) the minutes of each annual general meeting must be signed by the chairperson of the meeting, or the chairperson of the next meeting of the association that is a general meeting or annual general meeting, verifying their accuracy.

- 41.3 If asked by a member of the Association, the secretary must, within 28 days after the request is made:
- (a) make the minute book for a particular general meeting available for inspection by the member at a mutually agreed time and place; and
 - (b) give the member copies of the minutes of the meeting.
- 41.4 The Association may require the member to pay the reasonable costs of providing copies of the minutes.

42 By-laws

- 42.1 The Board of Management may make, amend or repeal by-laws, not inconsistent with these Rules, for the internal management of the Association.
- 42.2 A by-law may be set aside by a vote of members at a general meeting of the Association.

43 Alteration of Rules

- 43.1 Subject to the Act, these Rules may be amended, repealed or added to by a special resolution carried at a general meeting by no less than 75% of those attending the meeting.
- 43.2 However an amendment, repeal or addition is valid only if it is registered by the chief executive.

44 Common seal

- 44.1 The Board of Management must ensure the Association has a common seal.
- 44.2 The common seal must be:
- (a) kept securely by the Board of Management; and
 - (b) used only under the authority of the Board of Management.
- 44.3 Each instrument to which the seal is attached must be signed by either the president, deputy president, a vice-president of the Board and countersigned by the secretary or treasurer.

45 Funds and accounts

- 45.1 The funds of the Association must be kept in an account in the name of the Association in a financial institution decided by the Board of Management.
- 45.2 Records and accounts must be kept in the English language showing full and accurate particulars of the financial affairs of the Association.
- 45.3 All amounts must be deposited in the financial institution account as soon as practicable after receipt.
- 45.4 A payment by the Association of \$50 or more must be made by cheque or electronic funds transfer.

- 45.5 If a payment of \$50 or more is made by cheque, or electronic funds transfer the transaction or cheque must be signed or authorised by any 2 of the following:
- (a) the president;
 - (b) any of the two vice presidents;
 - (c) the secretary;
 - (d) the treasurer;
 - (e) any 1 of 3 other members of the Association who have been authorised by the Board of Management to sign cheques or authorise transactions issued by the association.
- 45.6 However, 1 of the persons who signs the cheque or authorises the electronic funds transfer must be the president, a vice president or the secretary or the treasurer.
- 45.7 Cheques, other than cheques for wages, allowances or petty cash recoupment, must be crossed not negotiable.
- 45.8 A separate ledger for the petty cash account must be kept, and the Board of Management may decide the amount of petty cash to be kept in the petty cash account.
- 45.9 All expenditure must be approved or ratified at a Board of Management meeting.

46 General financial matters

- 46.1 On behalf of the Board of Management, the treasurer must, as soon as practicable after the end date of each financial year, ensure a financial statement for its last reportable financial year is prepared.
- 46.2 The income and property of the Association must be used solely in promoting the Association's objects and exercising the Association's powers.

47 Documents

- 47.1 The Board of Management must ensure the safe custody of books, documents, instruments of title and securities of the association.

48 Financial Year

- 48.1 The end date of the Association's financial year is 30 June in each year.

49 Distribution of surplus assets to another entity

- 49.1 This rule applies if the Association:
- (a) is wound-up under part 10 of the Act; and
 - (b) has surplus assets.
- 49.2 The surplus assets must not be distributed among the members of the Association.

- 49.3 The surplus assets must be given to another entity:
- (a) having objects similar to the Association's objects; and
 - (b) the rules of which prohibit the distribution of the entity's income and assets to its members
 - (c) In this rule: **surplus assets** see section 92(3) of the Act.

50 Notices

- 50.1 A notice, request, consent or other communication (“**communication**”) to be given must be in writing addressed:
- (a) If to be served on the Association; in accordance with the particulars for the Association recorded at the Office of Fair Trading or its successor;
 - (b) If to be served on a member; at the address given by the member in its membership application or to another address notified in writing by that member to the Association.
- 50.2 A communication must be delivered by hand or pre-paid post, or sent by facsimile or sent by email. A communication will be deemed to be received:
- (a) if hand delivered before 4pm on a business day, on that day otherwise on the next following business day;
 - (b) if posted, on the second business day after posting;
 - (c) if sent by facsimile before 4pm on a business day, on that day otherwise on the next following business day provided that the sender receives an acknowledgment report;
 - (d) if sent by email before 4pm on a business day, on that day otherwise on the next following business day.
- 50.3 The onus of proving receipt is on the sender. Such proof may be by read receipt, a direct written acknowledgement by the recipient and the like. A delivery receipt is only indicative without further evidence. An “undeliverable” notification renders service ineffective.
- 50.4 A notice required to be signed must be by way of a scanned handwritten signature. A typed signature is insufficient. A digital signature is not sufficient unless the Management Committee has passed a bylaw pursuant to Rule 25 allowing the use of digital signatures.
- 50.5 The term “**business day**” bears its normal meaning as defined by the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954* (Qld).