

# The “Stop Selling Australia Party”

## CONSTITUTION

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## **1. NAME AND STANDING**

1.1 The name of the Party is "Stop Selling Australia Party"

1.2 This constitution identifies the principles governing the conduct of the Party's affairs and the bodies responsible for implementing them.

1.3 All other Party documents are subordinate to this constitution.

1.4 This constitution can be changed only by a special resolution, which is supported by two-thirds majority of such members of the Party as, being entitled to do so by membership of the National Executive Committee, vote in a Party ballot in accordance with this constitution.

## **2. DEFINITIONS**

In this constitution, unless some other meaning is clearly intended:

“Act” means the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918

“AEC” means the Australian Electoral Commission

“AGM” means Annual General Meeting

“Body” means a committee or officer of the “ Stop Selling Australia Party”

“Branch” means the organisation of a group of members of the Party within a State or Territory of Australia who conduct meetings at their local level;

“Elected Public Office” means an elected position in a State, Territory or Federal parliament or other institutional authority;

“Majority” means more than half of the persons voting;

“Member” means a person who is enrolled as a member of the Party at a State, Territory or National level;

“Party” means the national organisation;

“Party ballot” means a ballot open to all members of the Party who are qualified under this constitution;

“Policy” means a public statement by the Party for and on behalf of the members and endorsed candidates and the Parliamentary representatives of the Party on matters of general and/or specific concern to the people of Australia, which statement shall take the form of a declaration, opinion and/or pledge and shall be determined according to the provisions of this constitution;

“Political Party” means an organisation or group of people active in political affairs related to achieving the election of persons to any State, Territory or Federal Parliament;

“Preselection” means the endorsement by the Party, in accordance with the relevant constitutional provisions, of a person to stand as a candidate of the Party for elected public office;

“Quorum” means the minimum number of party members required for a meeting where voting on party issues is involved.

### **3. PARTY BELIEFS AND OBJECTIVES**

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Party policies shall be based upon the following fundamental Party belief that it is the responsibility of Government to provide and ensure all individuals have:

Equal rights & equal opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, disability, sexuality, social status or religion.

Freedom of choice, of speech & expression, of religion, of information.

3.1.4 A right to privacy.

3.1.5 Access to a social safety net for members of society that struggle to maintain an acceptable standard of living due to circumstances beyond their control.

3.1.6 Access to quality free effectively funded Primary and Secondary Public education.

3.1.7 Access to quality affordable healthcare and medical facilities, regardless of financial means.

3.1.8 Access to affordable, habitable housing with security of tenure.

3.1.9 Efficient and effectively funded and maintained Public works & transport infrastructure

3.1.10 Effectively funded Police, Fire and Ambulance services.

3.1.11 Safe & secure communities

3.2 Party policies shall be based on the following Party objectives:

3.2.1 Ensure a level of funding and support for the arts & artists that reflects the value & importance of music & art in our culture & society and the broad ranging benefits it provides individuals & communities.

3.2.2 Ensure an ecologically sustainable society for young & future generations and promote policies that endeavour to cultivate a greater social appreciation of our natural resources and environment.

3.2.3 Ensure the protection and sustainability of our Terrestrial and Marine biodiversity.

3.2.4 Enact policy and promote initiatives to mitigate Climate Change and encourage a change in societies philosophy and behaviour in relation to energy usage.

3.2.5 Support and promote policies & programs for Indigenous Australians which provide opportunities for education, employment, health & economic independence equal to those available to all non-Indigenous Australians and to recognise Indigenous Australians in the Australian Constitution and on the Australian Flag.

3.2.10 Support our Agricultural industry and our farmers. Encourage greater Australian investment in our Agricultural industry & related assets and continue to strengthen our export market and ensure a degree of food security for our nation.

3.2.16 Endorse Party candidates for Local, State and Federal elections.

#### **4. MEMBERSHIP**

4.1 Membership of the Party is open to any person who is not expressly excluded from membership, is not a member of another Australian political party, and is prepared to comply with this constitution; provided that the Party may reject an application on the ground that its acceptance would be against the Party's interests.

4.2 The National Executive Committee shall set a membership fee, which may change without notice from time-to-time and may be set at zero.

4.3 A member may resign at any time from the Party at any time by notice in writing.

4.4 The National Executive Committee may expel from the Party any person who:

(a) While a member of the Party, retains or accepts membership in another political party;

(b) Who the executive decides by simple majority has acted against the interests of the Party.

4.5 each member shall be bound, except as otherwise specified by or determined under the Constitution or Regulations, to:

(a) Uphold and comply with the Party's Constitution and any Regulations, which may be made by the National Executive Committee or the relevant Divisional governing body.

(b) Uphold and comply with decisions made by ballot of the members of the Party, or the member's division or branch.

4.6 Any decision of a body or involving the membership may be communicated by electronic means as approved by the National Executive Committee.

4.7 Members must not act against the interests of the Party.

4.8 A member who holds Party office or the Party's endorsement as a candidate for public office must carry out the responsibilities of the position in the Party's interests.

## **5. NATIONAL ORGANISATION AND OFFICE BEARERS**

National Executive Committee shall comprise the following Office Bearers:

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

5.1 The President is responsible for leading the Party, the proper conduct of Party actions and observance of the Constitution. The President may also act as the Registered Officer or may appoint a Registered Officer.

5.2 The Vice-President will assist the President and may perform the duties of the President when required. The Vice-President may also be the Deputy Registered Officer in accordance with the Act.

5.3 The Secretary is responsible for the day to day administration of the Party, member communications and all correspondence with AEC on Party matters. The National Secretary will fulfil the duties of Secretary in accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.

5.4 The Treasurer is responsible for the accounts and financial affairs of the Party. The National Treasurer will fulfil the duties of Party Agent in accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.

5.5 The Executive Committee members may be co-opted from time to time for other duties and responsibilities as determined by the National Executive Committee. Should a vacancy arise for any reason in the National Executive Committee other members may fulfil the duties of the position as directed until the election of a new member.

5.6 Elections for the National Executive Committee Office Bearers are to be conducted at the Annual General Meeting of the Party.

5.6.1 Office Bearers shall hold the position for one (3) years and shall be eligible for re-election.

5.6.2 Office Bearer positions shall be open to all members. Notice of intention to stand for election must be given no less than 28 days prior to the AGM.

5.6.3 The election of Office Bearers shall be by Party ballot. The quorum shall be all members present at the AGM. Election shall be by majority vote.

5.7 The Annual General Meeting shall be held between the 1st March and 31st May on a date decided by the National Executive Committee. Members shall be given no less than 28 days' notice of the date, time and location of the meeting. All members may attend the AGM.

5.8 The National Executive Committee shall conduct a meeting a minimum of 2 times per year and may call a meeting at any time. Members shall be given no less than 7 days' notice of the meetings.

5.11 The quorum for voting purposes of the National Executive Committee shall be all four (4) Office Bearers and five (5) general members.

## **6. STATE AND TERRITORY BRANCHES**

6.1 State and Territory branches, or Sub-Branches, shall be established as necessary.



6.2 Sub-Branches are subject to establishment and dissolution by the National Executive committee.

6.3 Sub-Branch Committees will retain the same structure as the National Executive Committee.

6.4 Sub-Branches shall operate independently but promote Party policies and act in accordance with the Constitution at all times.

6.5 Elections for positions on Sub-Branch Committees shall be conducted at the Annual General Meeting.

## **7. POLICY FORMULATION**

7.1 Policy formulation shall be open to participation by all members, which may be conducted by electronic means, but final determination shall be by the National Executive Committee.

## **8. FUNDING**

8.1 The party shall abide by all relevant laws including electoral and association laws in seeking donations and public funding.

## **9. PARLIAMENTARY AND OTHER REPRESENTATION**

9.1 No member may stand as an endorsed candidate for election to a Federal or State Parliament, local government or other institution without the approval of the National Executive Committee, though Divisions may select candidates for that approval.

9.2 The National Executive Committee has the final authority to decide whether the Party stands candidates in specific electorates. This includes by-elections;

9.3 The National Executive Committee will select candidates in other States and Territories and may do so at any time up to the close of nominations.

9.4 The National Executive Committee can withdraw endorsement at any time up to the election date.

9.5 Pre-selected candidates and elected representatives must promote the policies and aims of the Party.

## **10. USE OF PARTY FUNDS**

The Party is a non-profit organisation and accordingly the following provisions shall apply:

10.1 The income and property of the Party derived or acquired shall be applied solely towards the working and promotion of the aims and policy objectives of the Party as set forth in this Constitution.

## **11. CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

11.1 In the event of conflict within the Party, not resolved by this Constitution or any existing rules, the President will act as mediator. If this mediation is not successful the matter will be resolved by a motion put to a vote of the National Executive Committee.

## **12. DISSOLUTION**

12.1 The Party may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a three quarters majority of members elect to dissolve and a minimum of half of current full members who participate in that ballot the National Executive Committee who cast their votes in a voluntary ballot.

Dissolution will be effective within 28 days of a result in favour of dissolution.

12.2 If upon dissolution of the Party all debts and liabilities have been fully paid and there remains funds and or assets belonging to the Party then the remainder of those funds or assets will be distributed to any organisation with similar objectives, policies and principals as set out in this constitution.