



Constitution of Toowoomba First Nations Allies

Australian Business Number (ABN) 66 180 343 635
An unincorporated association

Acknowledgement of Country

Toowoomba First Nations Allies acknowledges the Giabal and Jarowair peoples of the Western Wakka Wakka nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, meet, and work. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all First Nations peoples.

1. Name

The name of the association is Toowoomba First Nations Allies ("the Association").

2. Objects

The objects of the Association are to:

- a. promote truth-telling toward a closer and more cohesive Australian community,
- b. promote and support learning about First Nations histories and endeavours among members and the public,
- c. engage in, and seek to strengthen, relationships among members, First Nations persons and groups, the Toowoomba community, and the broader community,
- d. advocate for the advancement of the First Nations peoples of Australia, and
- e. offer support to First Nations persons and groups.

3. Not-for-Profit

The assets and income of the Association shall be applied solely in furtherance of its above-mentioned objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the Association except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Association.

4. Membership

- a. Membership is open to any person who supports the objects of the Association.
- b. Members agree to abide by this Constitution and decisions made by the Association.
- c. The Secretary shall maintain a register of members which shall contain a member's name, contact details, date of admission to membership, and date of cessation of membership.
- d. The committee may refuse or revoke membership if a member acts contrary to the objects of the Association, following the dispute resolution procedure in Section 12.
- e. The Association may set an annual membership fee at a general meeting.
- f. The due date for payment of the membership fee shall be determined by the committee.
- g. If a member fails to pay the fee within one month of the due date, their membership may be suspended until the fee is paid, unless the committee determines to waive or extend payment due to special circumstances.

5. Financial Year

The financial year of the Association is 1 July to 30 June.

6. Meetings

- a. The Association shall meet regularly, at least four times per year.
- b. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held once each calendar year, no later than 30 November.
- c. At the AGM:
 - i. the President and Treasurer shall report on activities and finances, and
 - ii. office-bearers and committee members shall be elected.

7. Committee

- a. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a committee elected at the AGM.
- b. The committee shall comprise:
 - i. President
 - ii. Vice-President
 - iii. Secretary
 - iv. Treasurer, and



Toowoomba First Nations Allies

Listening – Learning – Connecting

- v. Two (2) General Committee Members
- c. The term of office is until the next AGM. Office-bearers may be re-elected.
- d. A quorum for committee meetings is four (4) members who may be present using telecommunications software provided that all present can communicate.
- e. Committee decisions shall be made by consensus where possible, or by majority vote.
- f. The committee may allow circular resolutions on which members vote in writing, including by email or other electronic communication.

8. Duties of Office-Bearers

- a. President: Chairs meetings and represents the Association publicly.
- b. Vice-President: Assists the President and acts in place of the President when the President is unavailable.
- c. Secretary: Maintains records, meeting minutes, and the membership register.
- d. Treasurer: Manages financial records, reports at meetings, and oversees banking.

9. Subcommittees and Working Groups

- a. The committee may establish subcommittees or working groups to focus on specific activities or issues.
- b. These groups may include non-committee members and shall report back to the committee.
- c. Subcommittees must act in accordance with the Association's objects and this Constitution.

10. Finances

- a. The Association may open a bank account in its name.
- b. All income and expenditure must be recorded and reported to members.
- c. Any two committee members may authorise payments.
- d. The Treasurer shall prepare a financial report for presentation at the AGM.

11. Cultural Protocols and Consultation

- a. The Association acknowledges the sovereignty and enduring cultures of First Nations peoples.
- b. The Association commits to respectful engagement, listening, and learning from First Nations Elders and representatives.
- c. Where appropriate, the Association will:
 - i. seek guidance from First Nations Elders, leaders, or organisations,
 - ii. respect cultural knowledge, protocols, and practices, and
 - iii. provide opportunities for First Nations voices to lead or co-lead relevant activities or discussions.

12. Dispute Resolution

- a. If a dispute arises between members or between a member and the committee, the parties should first attempt to resolve it informally.
- b. If unresolved, the matter shall be referred to an independent mediator agreed to by the parties.
- c. The mediator's role is to assist in reaching a resolution; the mediator has no decision-making power.
- d. If the dispute is not resolved through mediation, it may be addressed at a general meeting, provided all parties are given a fair opportunity to speak.

13. Dissolution

In the event of the Association being dissolved, the amount that remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to another organisation with similar purposes which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.

14. Amendment of Constitution

This Constitution may be amended at a general meeting with the agreement of two-thirds of the members present, provided that at least 14 days' notice has been given of the proposed changes.