

SOVEREIGN COUNCIL BY-LAWS

By-Laws of the Sovereign Council, No ..

1. Title

The name of the Council is the Sovereign Council, No. .., on the register of the Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Australia.

2. Time and Place of Meeting

The regular meetings of the Council shall be held at the Masonic (Centre, Temple or Hall) (Street), Suburb or Town, in the State of on the (day) of (Months) in each year.

3. Summons for Meeting

The summons for each meeting of the Council shall be sent by the Grand Secretary to be received by the members of the Council at least seven clear days before the date of the meeting. Where due notice of any matter is required by the Regulations or these By-Laws it shall be given by insertion in the summons for the meeting.

4. Election of Office Bearers, Standing Committee and Auditor/s

The Standing Committee shall prepare a list of members it recommends for the election as office bearers and other such members of the Standing Committee. The list shall be sent to each member with the summons calling the ordinary meeting which precedes the Installation meeting. At that ordinary meeting, the members of the Sovereign Council shall elect the office bearers and other such members of the Standing Committee and its auditor or auditors. The members who are declared as elected shall be Installed or Invested, as the case may be at the following meeting in the month of which is the Installation meeting, or as soon as practicable thereafter.

5. Fees and Subscriptions

- a) The Council shall, once in each year, determine what fees and subscriptions shall be payable for the ensuing year and those fees and subscriptions shall be included in the minutes of that meeting. The fees and subscriptions so determined shall include the prescribed fees and dues payable to Supreme Council.
- b) The annual subscription shall be due and payable at the meeting. Each new member shall be presented with a schedule of fees and subscriptions when admitted.
- c) A candidate for Advancement and a Joining, Re-joining or Affiliating member shall be liable to pay only a pro-rata Council annual subscription in regard to the then current year to be calculated with reference to the number of remaining regular meetings of the year including the meeting of his Advancement or acceptance as a member.

6. Financial Year

The financial year of the Council shall close on the day of in each year and audited accounts shall be presented to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter.

7. Bank Account (*insert one of these clauses only, as appropriate* *)

* The Grand Treasurer shall collect all moneys to which the Council is entitled and shall also make all necessary disbursements therefrom, all of which shall be entered by him in accounts kept for the purpose. He shall administer an account in a bank or recognised financial institution, as determined by the Council, in the name of the Sovereign Council, No... into which all moneys received shall be paid. Withdrawals may be made electronically

SOVEREIGN COUNCIL BY-LAWS

or under the signature of any one of a list, approved by the Standing Committee. Whenever practicable, the Grand Treasurer shall be the signatory.

OR

* The Grand Treasurer shall collect all moneys to which the Council is entitled and shall also make all necessary disbursements therefrom, all of which shall be entered by him in accounts kept for the purpose. He shall administer an account in a bank or recognised financial institution, as determined by the Council, in the name of the..... Sovereign Council, No..... into which all moneys received shall be paid. Withdrawals shall be made under the signatures of any two of a list, (recommended to be of at least four signatories) approved by the Standing Committee or, if made electronically, on the authority required by the bank or recognised financial institution. Whenever practicable, the Grand Treasurer shall be one of the two signatories for any transaction.

8. Extraordinary payments

No payment other than for ordinary purposes shall be made from the funds of the Council without the sanction of the Council granted by a resolution for which notice shall be given in the Council summons, except in cases of emergency when the Grand Commander may authorise a payment to an amount not exceeding dollars but he must report the matter to the Council at its next regular meeting.

9. Arrears of Subscriptions

Should a member be months/years in arrears with his subscriptions he shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Council and can only become a member again by regular proposition and ballot. The Council shall require payment of arrears as a condition precedent to his re-acceptance.

10. Honorary Membership

Election to honorary membership, where the member has been proposed in accordance with the Regulations, shall be only by the unanimous vote of the members present at the meeting and voting.

11. Ballot

The decision of the Council shall be by a simple majority by show of hands. Any brother present, and entitled to vote, may demand that a secret ballot be held, conducted in the usual Masonic manner, whereupon two (2) black balls will exclude.

12. Property of Council

All property of the Council is vested in the Grand Commander, Grand Orator, and Wardens for the time being, in trust for the Council and shall be insured against all risks, if appropriate.

13. Amendments of By-Laws

Amendments of these By-Laws can only be made in accordance with the Regulations of Supreme Council.

14. Resignation

Any member wishing to resign from the Council may do so by notice in writing to the Grand Secretary and payment of all sums then due by him to the Council. The notice of resignation shall be placed before the Council at its next regular meeting. A clearance certificate shall be issued if the member is then in good standing in the Council.

SOVEREIGN COUNCIL BY-LAWS

Resignation shall date from the date of the letter of resignation unless otherwise specified therein.

15. Change of residence

A member who has changed his place of abode or other contact details (such as phone, email or mobile number), shall without delay notify the Grand Secretary of his new place of abode or his revised contact details.

16. Regulations of the Supreme Council

These By-Laws and any matter not provided for therein shall be subservient to and must comply with the Regulations of the Supreme Council for Australia, as amended from time to time. Any matter not specifically dealt with in the Regulations shall be referred to the Supreme Council for decision or interpretation.

17. Application of Income and Property

- a) The income and property of the Sovereign Council wheresoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects for which the Sovereign Council is established, namely to cultivate the Degrees of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite from the 19th to 30th, both inclusive, as provided by the Regulations. The Sovereign Council is specifically prohibited by the Regulations from making any distribution whether in money, property or otherwise to its members.
- b) In the event that the Sovereign Council shall at any time be dissolved or wound up or otherwise cease to exist, then its property, assets and funds shall, after payment thereof of the expenses of such dissolution or winding up and of the realisation of any such property and assets and also of all debts and liabilities for which the Sovereign Council shall be responsible, be paid, transferred and made over to the Supreme Council and shall be applied by it as provided by the appropriate Regulation.

Adopted in open Council at the meeting held on 20 ...

..... Grand Commander Grand Secretary
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....., 33° District Commander Date
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Approved and sanctioned by Order of the Supreme Council 33° for Australia

....., 33° Grand Secretary General, H.:E.: Date
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