

INTRODUCTION

Building a Modern Labor Party

Following the extensive consultation process undertaken by the Building A Modern Labor Party Committee, which involved holding 11 consultations across NSW, considering 146 submissions and processing over 500 online surveys, 29 recommendations on reforming the NSW Branch of the ALP were made.

The Rules Committee considered those recommendations that required changes to the rules and is proposing a large number of rules changes to implement these reforms.

These changes include the following:

- Creating an associate membership category called Friends of Labor.
- Changing the order of business at branch meetings to encourage greater discussion and debate.
- Encouraging email use for meeting notices, minutes distribution etc.
- Establishing a New Member Officer in each branch to mentor and assist new members.
- Abolishing the joining fee for new members.
- Requiring concessional members to provide proof of their concessional status.
- Establishing a Platform Committee to oversee the process of debate, consideration and adoption of the Party Platform.
- Establishing Policy Caucuses that are open to all Party members to participate in policy development.
- Abolishing clearance cards and making the transfer process more streamlined.
- Encouraging the Central Policy Branch to meet in rural and regional areas.
- Updating the Public Office Candidates Pledge to include a commitment to members.

One of the major changes is to abolish the existing Standing Policy Committees and replace them with Policy Caucus Executives with the aim of encouraging greater participation of Party members in platform development. The 9 Policy Caucus Executives will each have 15 members and will be open to all Party members. They will meet at least 4 times annually with one event being held in a regional area. This rule change will take effect at the 2009 Annual Conference.

Some agenda items from the 2008 rules report had been deferred for consideration by the Party's Review of Organisational Structure and these were considered in the context of Building A Modern Labor Party.

Platform Review and Platform Committee

In late 2008 the Premier asked the Administrative Committee to set in train a process to revise and update the entire NSW ALP Platform. The Administrative Committee established a small committee to undertake this task. The Committee consisted of Amanda Fazio MLC, Peter Primrose MLC and the two Assistant General Secretaries.

The Committee updated and revamped the Platform into be a document that could be used as the basis for the Party's policies at the next State Election. The draft was given to Policy Committees to review and revise before being put into a standard format and being presented to the Administrative Committee. This process has been very useful and it is proposed to have a Platform Committee to continue the regular review of the Platform and to work with the new Policy Caucus Executives in this regard.

Finance Rules

The rules relating to the Party's finances have been revised to ensure that they reflect contemporary financial management practices. This has included a revision of the role and functions of the Finance Committee.

Union Affiliation Fees

Following a resolution of the administrative Committee, the way in which union affiliation fees are calculated is being revised.

POC Pledge on Campaign Funds and Disclosure

The Public Office Campaign Pledge on Funds and Disclosure has been updated to reflect legislative and administrative changes.

Young Labor

In 2009, as part of the Building a Modern Labor Party process, NSW Young Labor reviewed its structure with the aim of encouraging greater political participation by young people. Young Labor members discussed potential rule changes during a series of consultations across NSW, and at the NSW Young Labor Annual Conference.

In line with these discussions, a revised Young Labor Constitution was developed that offers young people more ways to participate, increases opportunities for young Party members to engage in the broader Labor Party, and improves the transparency and accountability of NSW Young Labor.

AGENDA ITEMS

SECTION A

1. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Union Affiliation Fees – New Rule A.43(a)

A.43(a)

(a) Unions pay affiliation fees each year in advance on their membership in the State as it is defined in the Rules and as decided from time to time by the Administrative Committee, subject to the authority of Annual Conference.

From 1 July 2010 the union affiliation fee shall be indexed annually by increases in the annual March quarter Sydney Consumer Price Index.

Unions shall be notified by 1 May in each year of the proposed change in the affiliation fee.

A form on which to make this return is available from the NSW ALP office.

Recommendation: Adopt.

2. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor eliminate the \$20 joining fee new applicants are required to pay when they apply to join the Party.

Recommendation: Amend Rule A.12(b) to read:

This should be immediately sent to the NSW Branch Office with the correct fee.

3. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor establish an associate membership called a *Friend of Labor*. The aim of this associate membership will be to encourage additional members and shall not be used as an alternative to full membership. The *Friend of Labor* membership fee shall be equivalent to concessional membership of the Party. *Friends of Labor* shall be entitled to receive Party information, publications and attend events, but cannot hold Branch membership, be a delegate to an LGC, SEC or FEC, or to Annual Conference. *Friends of Labor* are not entitled to vote in Party elections or stand for Party positions or public office. As *Friends of Labor* are not Party members, the normal rules regarding eligibility will not apply, however the Administrative Committee shall retain the absolute discretion to reject individual applications to become a *Friend of Labor* or terminate an individual *Friend of Labor* membership. The Administrative Committee should review the effectiveness of *Friends of Labor* 12 months after it is established.

Recommendation: Insert a new Section "Friends of Labor" followed by a new Rule A.18 (Make current Rule A.18 the third paragraph in Rule A.16)

Friends of Labor

Any person fifteen years and over can apply to become a Friend of Labor.

Someone applying to become a Friend of Labor should fill in an application form supplied by the NSW Branch Office and must pay the fee determined by the Administrative Committee from time to time.

Friends of Labor shall be entitled to receive Party information, publications and attend events, but cannot hold Branch membership, be a delegate to a LGC, SEC or FEC, or to Annual Conference.

Friends of Labor are not entitled to vote in Party elections or stand for Party positions or public office. As Friends of Labor are not Party members, the normal rules regarding eligibility will not apply providing they comply with Rule A.8. However the Administrative Committee shall retain the absolute discretion to reject individual applications to become a Friend of Labor or terminate an individual Friend of Labor membership.

4. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor establish a new Branch position to be called a New Member Officer. This position will be elected annually at each Branch AGM. The New Member Officer should not be a member of the Branch Executive. The role of the New Member Officer is to mentor new Branch members and explain how the Branch and other Party Units work. The New Member Officer should be sent monthly Administrative Committee Reports regarding New Members in their Branch area via email. They should organise within the wider community on recruitment of new members and report regularly to the Branch on such recruitment activities.

Recommendation: Amend Rule 1.18(a) to insert after an Assistant Secretary

- **A New Member Officer**

And add the following to the end of the final paragraph:

A member of the Branch Executive other than the President or Secretary can also hold the position of New Member Officer. The role of the New Member Officer is to mentor new Branch members and explain how the Branch and other Party Units work.

5. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor require all applicants/ renewals for concessional membership to provide their healthcare card number or student number and a copy of their card when applying for such concessional membership.

Recommendation: Amend Rule A.12(f) (ii) to read:

Contain a declaration by any applicant or member paying a concessional membership fee that they are entitled to that reduced rate, and indicating the basis on which the entitlement is claimed. The Administrative Committee may by resolution establish levels of documentation required to support a claim of entitlement to the concessional rate and processes to ensure compliance with this rule.

6. RULES COMMITTEE

Delete the following from Rule A.43(d)

However, affiliation figures before 2002 must not be used to determine a union's rolling average.

Recommendation: Adopt.

7. RULES COMMITTEE

Add a new Rule A.43(f)

In the event of an affiliated union being six months in arrears in its affiliation fees to the Party, the Administrative Committee may decide that such affiliated union shall not be entitled to be represented at any Annual Conference or Special Meeting of Annual Conference, until such arrears are paid.

Recommendation: Adopt.

8. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule A.36(a) (ii)

Delete "\$5 per member" and replace with "\$10 per member"

Recommendation: Adopt.

9. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule A.44

Delete "NSW Young Labor Council" and replace with "NSW Young Labor".

Recommendation: Adopt and make any equivalent changes elsewhere in the Rules.

10. BLAXLAND/GLENBROOK BRANCH

Conference seeks an addition to A.36: (d) that the Administrative Committee accept evidence from non members by way of statutory declaration and by presentation to any charges brought against a member under Section A.36.

Recommendation: Reject.

11. SHORTLAND DAY BRANCH

Conference is concerned with the existing "Penalty for contravening Party Rules". The last State Election highlighted a situation of bitterness and division which is still being felt among Branches. If considered necessary, a severe official reprimand or 12 month suspension should be sufficient.

Recommendation: Reject. The existing rules which apply in these circumstances are regarded as adequate.

12. SHORTLAND DAY BRANCH

Conference considers that the existing qualification of 40 years membership to be granted "Life Member" status should be reduced to a more realistic 30 years.

Recommendation: Reject. Please refer to the Report on Building a Modern Labor Party which recommends the implementation of a system to formally recognise the contribution of Party members through certificates to be presented for 5, 10, 20 and 30 years of service.

SECTION B

1. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor develop a new procedure for development and debate of the Platform in the Party. NSW Labor should establish a Platform Committee that has the role of overseeing the review, debate and adoption of the NSW Labor Platform.

The Platform Committee shall comprise a Convenor, a Deputy Convenor, and a Secretary, to be elected at the Annual Conference, 1 SPLP representative, 1 FPLP representative and the Party's Assistant Secretaries.

Whilst the existing capacity for the Annual Conference to amend the Party Platform should be retained, the Platform Committee will work with Party Units to undertake a complete review of the Party Platform once every 4 years and, where possible in the year prior to a State election.

The Platform Committee would begin a process called the *Platform Dialogue*. The *Platform Dialogue* will take 12 months for the Platform Committee to oversee the process of discussion, debate and drafting. The draft Platform would be released to members 2 months before the Annual Conference in a year that the Platform is being debated at Annual Conference. The new draft Platform will be debated and adopted at the Annual Conference that same year. The Final Platform would be taken by the Party to the next election.

Recommendation: Insert a new Rule B.23.

Platform Committee

The Platform Committee is responsible for overseeing the review, debate and drafting of the NSW Labor Platform. It is made up of a Convenor, Deputy Convenor and Secretary, elected by Annual Conference immediately following a NSW General Election and holding office for a four year term; one representative of the SPLP, one representative of the FPLP and the two Assistant General Secretaries.

(a) The Platform Committee will work with Policy Caucuses, Party Units and affiliated unions to undertake a complete review of the Party Platform once every four years and whenever possible in the period leading up to a State Election.

(b) The Platform Committee is to undertake a Platform Dialogue. The Platform Dialogue will take twelve months during which the Platform Committee will oversee the process of discussion, debate and drafting. The draft Platform will be released to members two months before the Annual Conference in a year that the full Platform is being debated at Annual Conference. The new draft Platform will be debated and adopted at the Annual Conference that same year. The Party Platform will be the basis of the policies to be advocated by the Party to the next election.

Note: The Platform Committee will be elected at the 2009 Annual Conference and then again in 2011 for the term set out above.

2. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor increase the participation of Party members in policy development by establishing Policy Caucuses in the Party to replace Policy Committees.

Recommendation: *Delete existing Rule B.23 and replace with B.24 as follows:*

Policy Caucuses

The Administrative Committee will establish Policy Caucuses from time to time. Policy Caucuses will be open to all Party members to participate in the development of NSW Labor's Policy.

(a) Each Policy Caucus will be governed by a fifteen member Caucus Executive which will consist of a Convenor, a Deputy Convenor, a Secretary, one SPLP Representative, one FPLP Representative, and ten ordinary members. The Policy Caucus Executives shall be elected at every second Annual Conference, with the exception of the Parliamentary Representatives, who shall be appointed by the respective Federal and State Parliamentary Caucuses.

(b) Members of the Party who have been members for twelve months can become members of Policy Caucus Executives. No member can serve on more than one Policy Caucus Executive at the same time. The Party's Affirmative Action Rules will apply to Policy Caucus Executive membership and at least one member must be of Young Labor age.

(d) Convenors, Deputy Convenors and Secretaries of Policy Caucus Executives shall hold office for a maximum period of three Conferences. If a Policy Caucus Executive member misses three meetings in a row, their membership automatically lapses.

(f) Policy Caucuses will meet at least four times annually. One event must be in a regional area. Events may be open to the public and interested stakeholders. The aim of the Caucuses is to promote policy discussion and debate within the Party through forums, online discussions, research papers, Branch discussions and the Platform Dialogue.

Note: *Policy Caucus Executives will be elected at the 2009 Annual Conference and then again in 2011 for the term set out above. Any rule changes consequent upon the adoption of this proposal will be enacted.*

3. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That Policy Caucuses will be open to all Party members to participate in the development of NSW Labor's Policy. The Policy Caucus will be governed by a 15 member Caucus Executive. The Caucus Executive will consist of a Convenor, a Deputy Convenor, a Secretary, 1 SPLP Representative, 1 FPLP Representative, and 10 ordinary members. The Policy Caucus Executives shall be elected by the Annual Conference, with the exception of the Parliamentary Representatives, who shall be appointed by the respective Federal and State Parliamentary Caucuses. The Party's Affirmative Action Rules will apply to Caucus Executive membership and at least one member must be of Young Labor age. Members of the Policy Caucus Executives shall hold office for a maximum period of 3 Conferences. If a Policy Caucus Executive member misses 3 meetings in a row, their membership automatically lapses.

Recommendation: *Refer to the new proposed Rule B.24.*

4. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That Policy Caucuses will meet at least four times annually. One event must be in a regional area, and may be open to the public and interested stakeholders. The aim of the Caucuses is to promote policy discussion and debate within the Party through forums, online discussions, research papers, Branch discussions and the *Platform Dialogue*.

Recommendation: *Refer to the new proposed Rule B.24.*

5. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule B.16 (d)

Delete "At least one member of each Machinery Committee must be a woman." and replace with: "The Party's Affirmative Action Rules will apply to membership of machinery committees."

Recommendation: *Adopt.*

6. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule B.17 (iv)

Delete "3 members to be appointed by the Administrative Committee, at least one of the members appointed by the Administrative Committee must be a woman." and replace with "3 members of the Administrative Committee, appointed by the Administrative Committee. At least one of the members appointed by the Administrative Committee must be a woman."

Recommendation: Adopt.

7. RULES COMMITTEE

Amend Rule B.25 by amending (h) and inserting a new (j):

(h) The Convenor, Deputy Convenor and Secretary of each Policy Caucus Executive.

(j) The Convenor, Deputy Convenor and Secretary of the Platform Committee.

Recommendation: Adopt.

8. GERRINGONG GERROA BRANCH

Rule B.26(a) be amended to read:

That 40% of the delegates to State Conference be Union Delegates. All other Delegates should be 60% of the total.

Recommendation: Reject.

9. GERRINGONG GERROA BRANCH

Rule B6... be amended to read

that the State President of the NSW Branch of the ALP is elected by popular vote of branch members as it is in the federal arena. This method has been a resounding success and has proved to be very popular with various nominations from worthy candidates.

Recommendation: Reject. Please refer to the Report on Building a Modern Labor Party which deals with this issue.

10. GOSFORD BRANCH

That the election of the Senior Officers of the State Party (President, Senior & Junior Vice Presidents) be elected in the same manner as are these officers in the Federal Party and their terms of office be as for the Federal Party.

Recommendation: Reject. Please refer to the Report on Building a Modern Labor Party which deals with this issue.

11. KINGS CROSS BRANCH

That the NSW ALP Rules be amended so that local ALP branch members can vote in elections for Party Officers and candidates for public office currently elected at State Conference without

- weakening the nexus between the industrial and political wings of the party, and
- rewarding larger inner city branches at the cost of smaller country and regional branches.

One way of achieving this may be for the NSW ALP Rules to be amended so that local ALP branch members cast votes for all elected party positions and candidates for public office currently elected at state conference instead of the branch members' SEC and FEC conference delegates, while retaining the current union and other conference delegate votes for these positions. In addition, the votes of the branch members in a state/federal electorate would be weighted so that the total number of votes cast by branch members in that state/federal electorate sums to the number of SEC/FEC delegates.

This option could be implemented as follows: in each election for Party Officer or candidate for public office currently elected at State Conference -

- (i) each branch member can casts two votes: one vote for the state electorate in which they live (the SEC vote) and one vote for the federal electorate in which they live (the FEC vote);
- (ii) the SEC votes cast in each state electorate are aggregated and each of the valid votes is equally weighted so that the total number of weighted votes sums to 2 (the number of SEC state conference delegates);

- (iii) the FEC votes cast in each federal electorate are aggregated and each of the valid votes is equally weighted so that the total number of weighted votes sums to 3 (the number of FEC state conference delegates);
- (iv) these weighted votes are then admitted to the scrutiny of the votes;
- (v) branch members can vote by post or by attending a ballot booth. An FEC or SEC in a regional area can decide to hold either a postal ballot or a postal ballot and polling booth ballot.

Recommendation: Reject.

12. KINGS CROSS BRANCH / SYDNEY SEC

That the NSW ALP Rules be amended:

- (i) so that a State Conference Delegate can, at any time during the Annual Conference, appoint one of the Alternate Delegates to take their place for any period of time during the Annual Conference by letter to the General Secretary signed by the Delegate. The Delegate can revoke the appointment of an Alternate Delegate at any time in a similar way.
- (ii) any such appointment or revocation under (i) above must be in accordance with any previously determined appointment of an Alternate Delegate to fill a Delegate's place at Conference as determined by the Secretary of the State/Federal Electorate Council.

Recommendation: Reject. The existing rules and procedures which apply in these circumstances are regarded as adequate.

13. KINGS CROSS BRANCH / SYDNEY SEC

- (a) That all State Conference Delegates be provided with an internet link to the Conference agenda and a hard copy of the agenda on request at least one month before the start of Conference.
- (b) That the State Conference agenda be circulated to all branches at least one month before the start of Conference.

Recommendation: Reject. The current rule B.10(a) requires that rule and platform changes are circulated to all Party Units 4 weeks before conference.

14. KINGS CROSS BRANCH / SYDNEY SEC

That the NSW ALP rules be amended so that the names of the candidates and their branches for all elections at State Conference be provided to all NSW ALP members at least one week before the start of Conference.

Recommendation: Reject. This proposal is not considered to be practical.

15. KINGS CROSS BRANCH

That the NSW ALP Rules be amended so that all persons eligible to vote in a Local Selection Ballot in the City of Sydney be eligible to vote in the election for the candidate for the Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney. A person who is eligible to vote in a Local Selection Ballot in the City of Sydney and is also a State Conference delegate shall be entitled to two votes in the selection of the candidate for the Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney. The votes from the local branch member preselectors shall be weighted so that they collectively have the same value as the total number of votes cast by State Conference Delegates.

Recommendation: Reject.

16. KINGS CROSS BRANCH / SYDNEY SEC

That all Council Candidate positions for the City of Sydney elections be open to a rank and file preselection.

Recommendation: Reject.

17. MT COLAH / BEROWRA BRANCH

That ALP Candidates for the NSW Legislative Council and for the Australian Senate be pre-selected by a similar method to the election of the National ALP President by a postal vote of all Party members in NSW.

Recommendation: Reject.

18. NEWTOWN GOLDEN GROVE BRANCH

The NSW ALP State Conference calls for the NSW Branch of the ALP to ensure that a full rank and file preselection is held for all Councillor positions on the ALP ticket for the upcoming City of Sydney Local Government elections. Further Conference calls for upon the State Branch to immediately commence actions which will change Party Policy/Rules, currently require the Lord Mayoral candidate to be nominated by Conference, to allow for the rank and file preselection of the Lord Mayoral candidate.

Recommendation: Reject.

19. NORTH SYDNEY BRANCH

In the wake of the Electricity Privatisation dispute, Conference observes that Labor's NSW Branch Rules are unclear as to the binding nature or otherwise of Platform and non- Platform resolutions of the NSW Party Conference. Conference urges the Rules Revision Committee to propose changes to the Rules to clarify which resolutions are binding on the State Parliamentary Party and to introduce appropriate sanctions for breach by the Parliamentary Party of binding resolutions.

Further if Non-Platform Resolutions are to be binding, Conference suggests that at least 70% majority of Conference Delegates should be necessary. In that event we suggest the 4-week notice period in Rule B10 is unnecessary.

Recommendation: Reject. Please refer to the Report on Building a Modern Labor Party which considered this issue. Additionally a comprehensive review of the Party Platform has been undertaken, in consultation with Policy Committees, and a new Platform is being presented to the 2009 Conference.

20. NORTH SYDNEY BRANCH

Conference notes that at the time when the Lemma Government first made its decision to partly privatise the electricity industry, the Party's NSW Platform, on one interpretation did not preclude such a decision and on another interpretation it did.

We further note that the controversy over the legitimacy of that decision has gravely damaged the NSW Branch.

Our view is that this controversy would not have occurred if the Platform of the Branch was taken more seriously by the NSW Parliamentary Labor Party, affiliated Unions and the Administrative Committee.

In particular if the Parliamentary Caucus had a key role in drafting and amending the Platform, it would be more likely to "own" it and feel bound by it.

The Platform would also be more likely to express consensus views if the Platform was paid serious attention by other than the Policy Committees.

To that end, the Branch recommends that every 3 years, the Parliamentary Caucus should be given the task of preparing a new draft State Platform in consultation with the Policy Committees. That re-draft should then be submitted to Annual Conference and it should be the sole business of that year's Conference. The Rules should be amended accordingly.

Recommendation: Reject. Please refer to the Report on Building a Modern Labor Party which considered this issue. Additionally a comprehensive review of the Party Platform has been undertaken, in consultation with Policy Committees, and a new Platform is being presented to the 2009 Conference.

21. SYDNEY SEC

Preselection of City of Sydney candidates

That all persons eligible to vote in a local selection ballot in the City of Sydney be eligible to vote in the election for candidate for the Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney. A person who is eligible to vote in a local selection ballot in the City of Sydney and is also a conference delegate shall be entitled to two votes in the selection of the candidate for the Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney. The votes from the local branch members preselectors shall be weighted so that they collectively have the same value as the total number of votes cast by State Conference delegates.

Recommendation: Reject.

22. SYDNEY SEC

Direct election of party officers and candidates for public office

The 2007 Conference rejected the direct election of NSW General Secretary, NSW ALP President, the Administrative Committee and other internal and external (candidates for public office) positions, on the basis that it would mean that affiliated trade unions would be disenfranchised and that big inner-city branches would dominate the elections.

This, however, fails to relate to the principle of local members being able to vote in elections.

It is entirely possible for local ALP members to vote in elections as well as affiliated trade unions while still retaining the weighting of votes, as happens at conference. In addition, you can have local ALP members voting in the elections without big inner-city branches dominating.

To achieve this, I suggest that the local members of the ALP directly vote in elections before conference and that their votes be weighted as they effectively are at conference instead of FEC and SEC delegates voting in elections at conference.

Recommendation— Direct election of party officers and candidates for public office:

That the NSW ALP rules be amended so that local ALP branch members cast votes instead of the FEC and SEC state conference delegates for all elected positions and candidates for political office currently elected at state conference, in the following way:

- (i) for each election, each branch member casts two votes: one vote for the state electorate in which they reside (the SEC vote) and one vote for the federal electorate in which they reside (the FEC vote);
- (ii) the SEC votes cast in each state electorate are aggregated and each of the valid votes is equally weighted so that the total number of weighted votes sums to 2 (the number of SEC state conference delegates);
- (iii) the FEC votes cast in each federal electorate are aggregated and each of the valid votes is equally weighted so that the total number of weighted votes sums to 3 (the number of FEC state conference delegates);
- (iv) these weighted votes are then admitted to the scrutiny of the votes;
- (v) branch members can vote by post or by attending a ballot booth. An FEC or SEC in a regional area can decide to hold either a postal ballot or a postal ballot and ballot booth ballot.

Recommendation: Reject. Please refer to the Report on Building a Modern Labor Party which deals with this issue.

SECTION D

1. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor establish a more representative Administrative Committee, with the following Party Units to be represented on the Administrative Committee, and have voting rights:

Women's Forum

Young Labor

Country Labor

The Platform Committee

Recommendation: Amend Rule D.2(a)(i) to read:

Twenty five members elected by the Annual Conference, including at least 1 member of NSW Young Labor, at least 1 member of Country Labor, and at least 1 member of the Women's Forum. (To ensure that this result is achieved a process the same as that specified in Schedule F.11 will apply.)

Delete Rule D.2(a) (iv).

2. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule D.6

Insert a new Rule D.6(a) as follows:

"The Administrative Committee will, in the management of the finances of the Party between Annual Conferences, be assisted by the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee shall:

- (i) Assist the Administrative Committee in the preparation of budgets and consideration of any proposals affecting the finance of the Party;
- (ii) Assist the Administrative Committee to ensure that the Party's management accounts and the accounts presented at the Annual Conference give a true and fair view of the Party's finances;
- (iii) Assist the Administrative Committee to ensure the Party's statutory accounts are completed in accordance with the Party's legal obligations; and
- (iv) Assist the Administrative Committee to maintain appropriate controls over the finances of the Party.

Insert a new Rule D.6(b) as follows:

For this purpose, the Finance Committee shall:

- (i) Assist the Party Officers to develop annual budgets for the Party and make recommendations to the Administrative Committee about the adoption of those budgets;
- (ii) Advise the Administrative Committee in accordance with terms of reference given by it in relation to any proposals affecting the finance of the Party;
- (iii) Assist the Party Officers to develop the accounts for the Party to be presented at each Annual Conference and make recommendations to the Administrative Committee about the adoption of those accounts;
- (iv) Assist the Party Officers to develop the statutory accounts for the Party in accordance with the Party's legal obligations and make recommendations to the Administrative Committee about the adoption of those accounts;
- (v) Report to each meeting of the Administrative Committee on the Party's finances in the format directed by the Administrative Committee; and
- (vi) Report to the Administrative Committee in relation to the appropriate controls over the finances of the Party."

Renumber remainder of Rule D.6

Recommendation: Adopt.

SECTION G

1. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule G.3 (a) (ii)

Delete "Reading and confirmation of minutes." And replace with 'Confirmation of minutes.'

Recommendation: Adopt.

2. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule G.3 (b)

Delete

Recommendation: Adopt.

3. SYDNEY SEC

Directly electing FEC and SEC state conference delegates and alternate delegates

While FEC state conference delegates can be voted on by local branch members, the default is that the FEC selects them itself or it decides that local members should elect them. It may be more democratic for the default option being that all branch members residing in an SEC or an FEC vote for that electorate council's state conference delegates and alternates, unless the SEC/FEC decides by a 3/4 majority (say) to conduct the vote itself. Proportional representation should be used to elect the delegates.

Recommendation:

That the NSW ALP rules be amended so that elections for FEC and SEC state conference delegates and alternate delegates be voted on by local branch members residing within the FEC/SEC unless the FEC/SEC decides by a 75% vote that they be elected at the FEC/SEC AGM. The election of the delegates and their alternates is to be conducted by proportional representation.

The Rules currently allow FECs to decide to allow local members to vote in elections for state conference delegates. The biggest issue with this is practically organising it, but it should be possible to do.

That FEC state conference delegates and alternate delegates be elected by a rank and file ballot in accordance with Rule B.30(c).

Recommendation: Reject.

4. ERMINGTON BRANCH (2008)

Conference conveys their support of measures such as FEC Forums and Regional Assemblies that provide an occasional alternative to local Branch meetings.

There was some discussion of the possibility of incentives for Branch amalgamations. Several members were concerned about the impact of Branch amalgamations on the retention of members.

Members felt that smaller branches create individual responsibility amongst members to attend. There was also a view that large meetings are not conducive to effective discussion and might disadvantage members less likely to participate.

Recommendation: Please refer to the Report on Building a Modern Labor Party which considered this issue.

5. MARRICKVILLE EAST BRANCH (2008)

Conference asks the State Branch Rules Committee to examine the provisions of Rule G18 - FEC Forums. Conference strongly supports the concept of the Forums and wishes to see it retained in the Rules. The current Rule is far too prescriptive and honoured in the breach rather than the observance. A "one-size-fits-all" approach is unwarranted in such a matter. For example, it would have been impossible for any FEC to hold a Forum meeting all the requirements of this Rule in November, 2007.

To allow flexibility, this Branch believes that the Rule should contain minimalist provisions such as:

- A requirement to hold two forums a year, dates to be set by the FEC;
- A requirement that all Party members in the electorate be invited;
- Speakers to be determined by the FEC;
- Format to be determined by the FEC.

Recommendation: Please refer to the Report on Building a Modern Labor Party which considered this issue.

6. RANDWICK NORTH BRANCH (2008)

We were naturally disappointed to learn that our branch's motion calling for a rule change has been rejected in the Rules Revision report. The motion called for a change to the rules to require that ballots for electorate conference delegates in composite branches are to be confined to branch members living within that electorate council.

The reason given for rejection was that branch secretaries would be overburdened with work determining who lives in which electorate council. As the secretary receives a branch list from head office saying which federal and state electorates members reside in the exercise is not very difficult. You should only be able to vote for delegates to the electorate council in which you reside.

We feel sure the committee didn't adequately consider the motion before making that recommendation to conference and ask that it be reconsidered at the next Conference.

Recommendation: Reject.

SECTION H

1. ADAMSTOWN BRANCH

That Conference amend Rule H.11 (a) to clarify Delegate entitlements to Local Government Committees for Branches which are composite in respect of Local Government Areas. For example, 4 branch members or less in a Local Government Area – no Delegate; 5-9 members – one Delegate; 10 or greater members – two Delegates. This is similar to Electorate Council entitlements for Composite Branches.

Recommendation: Reject. The existing rules are considered to be adequate.

2. SYDNEY SEC

That the NSW ALP Rules be amended so that the number of Delegates elected from each Branch to the relevant Local Government Committee is on the same pro-rata basis as the number of Delegates the Branch elects to the relevant SEC.

Recommendation: Reject. The existing rules are considered to be adequate.

SECTION I

1. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor develop a new procedure for the conduct of Branch meetings with a focus on policy discussion and debate. The new process should be:

- i. Confirmation of meeting minutes (minutes should not be read but provided electronically or in hard copy prior to the meeting)
- ii. New Members
- iii. Policy discussion/dialogue with Policy Caucuses
- iv. Correspondence
- v. Accounts
- vi. Reports
- vii. Items for Electoral Councils, Assemblies
- viii. General Business

Recommendation: Amend Rule I.11 (a) to read:

Unless a Branch has resolved to suspend standing orders or normal branch business to hold a general discussion, training, policy forum or social event, the business at Branch meetings is carried out in the following order:

- i. ***Confirmation of meeting minutes, which can be read or provided electronically or in hard copy prior to the meeting)***
- ii. ***New Members***
- iii. ***Policy discussion/dialogue with Policy Caucuses***
- iv. ***Correspondence***
- v. ***Accounts***
- vi. ***Reports***
- vii. ***Motions which have been provided in writing to the meeting***
- viii. ***General Business***

2. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor allow Branches to regularly suspend normal Branch business to hold training, policy forums and social events.

Recommendation: Refer to proposed change to Rule I.11(a).

3. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor encourage Branch, LGC, SEC and FEC Secretaries to send notices of meetings and minutes via email, rather than ordinary post.

Recommendation:

Amend Rule I.10(b) to read:

The Secretary must let each Branch member know the time, date and place of meetings and may send this advice by email.

Amend Rule I.11(b) to read:

The minutes of the previous meeting may be circulated to branch members by email rather than posted, and must be available for inspection at the meeting prior to confirmation. This must be given priority at each ordinary Branch meeting.

4. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor abolish Branch Credentials Committees. New Branch members should be welcomed and received at their first meeting, with their membership commencing at the next meeting they attend (provided they are Party members). Any challenges to a new member's credentials to join a branch must be directed to the General Secretary, who will make a

determination within one week of receipt of the challenge. The General Secretary's ruling may be challenged at the NSW Labor Credentials Committee.

Recommendation: Replace existing Rule 1.22 with the following:

(a) When a person applies to join or transfer into the Branch, the Secretary should ensure that the person is eligible to join the Branch and should note how many people are applying to join at each Branch meeting.

(b) Any challenges to the eligibility of a person to join the Branch must be referred in writing to the General Secretary who will make a determination within one week of receiving the referral. The determination of the General Secretary may be challenged in writing in accordance with Rule A.34.

Consequently amend Rule A.34 to read:

Any member whose local branch membership is refused, and any member who considers that an application for local branch membership should have been refused, can appeal to the Administrative Committee. When the Administrative Committee has considered the appeal it can direct the branch to allow the member to join, or rescind the acceptance of the application.

5. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor allow Branch transfers to occur online. The transferring member should notify the Party Office of the Branch they are transferring to. The Party Office would then notify the appropriate Branch Secretaries of the transfer via email or ordinary mail. The Party Office would make the necessary changes to central Party records.

Recommendation: Amend Rule 1.8 to read:

Members leaving a branch can become members of another branch or can be transferred interstate by notifying their transfer on the ALP (NSW Branch) website or in writing to the General Secretary.

(i) The Party Office will acknowledge the transfer and advise the member's former branch and their new branch. The transfer must be completed before a member can apply to join their new branch.

(ii) Membership of the new branch begins at the meeting which follows the meeting at which the member has lodged their acknowledgement of the transfer with the Branch Secretary, as long as the applicant's second meeting is within four calendar months of the meeting at which they applied.

(iii) In the case of interstate transfers, the advice will be sent from the ALP Office to the state secretary of the interstate branch.

6. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor hold meetings of the Central Policy Branch in rural and regional areas.

Recommendation: Amend Rule 1.28(a) to read:

The Central Policy Branch will meet monthly and hold meetings in both the Central Business District and from time to time in other areas, including rural and regional areas. Each meeting shall focus on one policy issue.

7. LEICHHARDT BRANCH

That the Branch Executive of each Branch create a mechanism with which to audit records of its Branch on an annual basis, to: verify and report that the Branch has performed all functions required to sustain registration as a branch, to ensure that new members to a branch cannot be unpleasantly surprised by the effects of past mismanagement over which they had no control: inform members of the branch that do not meet criteria for registration of any failing, along with advice to the branch to allow its active membership to take the required steps to qualify for registration within a reasonable time frame. That the branch executive provide written report to the branch on the outcome of the audit and that the report be accepted as a true and accurate record unless challenged within 6 months.

Recommendation: Reject. This proposal is not considered to be practical given the voluntary nature of the positions of Branch officials.

8. SYDNEY SEC

Transferring membership between branches made much simpler (Having a piece of paper stamped by head office etc seems ridiculous)

Recommendation: Please refer to the Report on Building a Modern Labor Party which recommends a change in this regard.

9. TOONGABBIE BRANCH

That Annual Conference alters the NSW Branch ALP Rules to allow Life Members automatic renewal of their Branch Membership. The suggested change would involve the addition of a new clause (g) to Rule I.7 reading:

(g) Life Members automatically maintain their membership of their Branch and do not need to meet the conditions of Section (a) above.

As a consequence, this change would also ensure that Life Members would automatically be entitled to a vote in their Branch.

Argument for the changes included:

- There appears to be an anomaly in the Rules in that while Life Members have automatic pre-selection rights, they do not have automatic Branch voting rights.
- Rule I.19 (d) requires Life Members to renew their Branch membership each year in order to have a vote in Branch elections, i.e. attend one meeting between December and 1 March.
- Our Branch believed that whilst this was not an onerous task it could be difficult due to the age of many Life Members.
- It also believed that given their service to the Party and to their Branch, that Life Membership should provide automatic Branch membership as part of that benefit.
- The benefit was to apply to their current Branch. If a Life Member wanted to change Branches they would need to follow normal processes.
- By applying this rule it could mean that a Life Member could miss a membership year and not be forced to re-apply to join the Branch, something that can be difficult to explain to a Life Member.

Recommendation: Reject. The current rules allow for members to renew their branch membership if they are not able to attend a meeting between December and March and this is considered to be adequate.

10. SYDNEY FEC (2008)

Conference raises concern about the potential impact of the establishment of the new Central Policy Branch on the efficacy and operation of local branches. Conference recognises the need to attract more members into active participation but note that many branches are very active. Conference believes that there is a danger that the CPB will act against branch development and that it needs to be integrated with the branch structure rather than be in competition with the branches.

In formulating the detailed rules associated with the implementation of the new policy, and to mitigate against the loss of local, grass roots participation, Conference asks that the Administrative Committee consider the following:

- Members of the CPB should be nominated through local branches, NOT merely approved by Head Office.
- Members of the CPB should NOT be eligible to vote in the Rank and File preselections unless they have attended a minimum number of local branch meetings as set out in the current rules governing eligibility to vote in pre-selections.
- Members of the CPB must be required to assist their local branches in election campaigns.
- Policy ideas put forward by the local branches must be given equal weight to those put forward by the CPB in the Development of State and Federal Policy.

Conference notes that this new rule was introduced with little or no time for its consideration by branches, SECs, LGCs and FECs and proposes that special forums be established to enable

grass roots discussion on the policy before it is finally implemented, and that the new policy be properly publicised.

Recommendation: Reject. Some members had concerns about the establishment of the Central Policy Branch which have been proven to be unfounded. The Central Policy Branch has been operating very successfully since its inception.

11. MEREWETHER BRANCH

Conference writes to the General Secretary to propose the formation of a Central Policy Branch in the Hunter region.

Recommendation: Reject. Please refer to the proposed rule change to allow the Central Policy Branch to meet in rural and regional areas.

12. ABBOTSFORD BRANCH

Conference calls upon the NSW ALP to amend the Party Rules to allow for the establishment of Electronic Branches ("e-Branches") whereby groups of ALP members are able to join, attend and participate in branch meetings which are conducted on-line. Furthermore, that the NSW ALP investigates the potential for e-Branch members to participate in rank and file preselection ballots.

Recommendation: Reject. Please refer to the Report on Building a Modern Labor Party which did not support such proposals.

SECTION K

1. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule K.2

Delete Rule K.2 and replace with:

"K.2 (a) After they have been elected the trustees hold assets and property on behalf of the NSW Branch. NSW Branch monies are banked in the names of the trustees. NSW Branch monies are to be used for political, industrial and local government work and the efficient running of the Party offices

(b) A payment exceeding the sum of \$1000 may only be made from the bank by:

- (i) a cheque signed by one or more of the trustees and also signed by the General Secretary; or
- (ii) an electronic transfer of funds specifically approved by one or more of the trustees and by the General Secretary.

(c) A payment not exceeding the sum of \$1000 may be made from the bank:

- (i) by a cheque signed by the General Secretary and one Assistant General Secretary or;
- (ii) an electronic transfer of funds approved by the General Secretary and one Assistant General Secretary.

(d) Money cannot be withdrawn from the bank except by cheque or electronic transfer in accordance with this rule. Money cannot be withdrawn from the bank by cash withdrawal (excluding petty cash withdrawals), ATM withdrawals or transfers, telephone banking withdrawals or transfers.

(e) A record must be kept of each payment by cheque or electronic transfer, containing:

- (i) the date and number of the payment,
- (ii) the amount paid,
- (iii) the name and number of the account to which the amount was paid and relevant BSB number,
- (iv) details clearly identifying the name of the person on whose behalf the payment was made and the matter reference,
- (v) details clearly identifying the ledger account to be debited,
- (vi) particulars sufficient to identify the purpose for which the payment was made.

Recommendation: Adopt.

2. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule K.9 (b)

Delete

Recommendation: Adopt.

3. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule K.12

Delete "When a bank account has been opened the Secretary must inform the Administrative Committee. The Secretary must also provide the Administrative Committee with the names, titles and specimen signatures of the members authorized to run the account."

And replace with "When a bank account has been opened the Secretary must inform the General Secretary. The Secretary must also provide the General Secretary with the names, titles and specimen signatures of the members authorized to run the account."

Recommendation: Adopt.

4. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule K.13

Delete "any three Branch Officials" and replace with "any two Branch Officials."

Recommendation: Adopt.

5. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule K.14 (c)

Delete "By 15 September each year" and replace with "By 31 July each year."

Recommendation: Adopt.

SECTION L

1. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule L.1

Delete "posted to each Party member six times a year" and replaced with "provided to each Party member quarterly"

Recommendation: Adopt.

2. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule L.2

Delete whole rule and replace with "The journal will contain matters considered relevant by the Administrative Committee including notices of meetings of Annual Conference and Regional Assemblies."

Recommendation: Adopt.

3. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule L.3

Delete and replace with "The NSW Branch is the only Party entity to have the right to establish a home page, website, or blog representing the Party. Other Party units or groups of members must request permission of the Administrative Committee to establish a home page, website, or blog representing the Party. The Administrative Committee can approve such sites and their content."

Recommendation: Adopt.

SECTION M

1. RULES COMMITTEE

Amend Rule M.7 by deleting M.7(a)(ii).

Recommendation: Adopt.

SECTION N

1. CESSNOCK DAY BRANCH

The Administrative Committee provide a minimum of 8 weeks notice to Branches and Party Units for the call & close of nominations for Local Government Elections.

Recommendation: Note.

2. HUME FEC

No Party member shall be eligible to stand for Party Pre-selection who is an employee of the ALP, a Minister or an MP or a Trade Union except where a union official was drawn from the ranks of the workforce covered. Such persons shall remain ineligible to be preselected until five years after they have ceased such employment.

Recommendation: Reject.

3. KATOOMBA BRANCH

That the period set by the NSW ALP for nominations to public office (ie Local Council, State Parliament and Federal Parliament) be a minimum of 5 weeks, so that all branches can discuss nominations at an ordinary branch meeting.

Recommendation: Note.

4. KATOOMBA BRANCH

That if a Candidate for Public Office (i.e. Local Council, State Parliament and Federal Parliament) withdraws his or her nomination before the time when nominations have closed with the relevant electoral commission, the NSW ALP reopen the nomination and preselection process, so that people who may wish to nominate can do so.

Recommendation: The Party supports rank and file preselections. However in the circumstances outlined it may not always be practical given the time frames required to hold a rank and file preselection.

5. KINGS CROSS BRANCH

Conference calls for the review the 20 per cent preselection loading for female candidates, and that consideration be given if not to removing the loading, at least to replacing a general loading with one targeted at areas of female under-representation.

Recommendation: Reject.

6. KINGS CROSS BRANCH

That proportional representation be used to elect candidates in all local selection ballots where more than one candidate is to be elected.

Recommendation: Reject.

7. KINGS CROSS BRANCH

That the NSW ALP Rules be amended so that there is pre-poll voting in local selection ballots for Local Government public office.

Recommendation: Reject.

8. KINGS CROSS BRANCH

That NSW ALP Rules be amended so that the order of all candidate names on preselection ballots for local selection ballots be chosen by lot, that all candidates be given at least two working days notice of the time and place for the drawing of the names by lot and that candidates be permitted to attend or send scrutineers to watch the drawing of the names by lot.

Recommendation: Reject. The current rule, Schedule G.1(a), deals with this matter.

9. LIVERPOOL BRANCH/ LIVERPOOL SEC

Conference calls on the abolition of Rule N41, on the following grounds: -

- i. The Rule is unworkable, as admitted by the General Secretary at the time of the 2008 City Council preselections.
- ii. The Rule has never been used in a preselection ballot

- iii. The Rule relates to electorate Fowler as it existed in 1998 and is thus several Redistributions out of date.
- iv. The Rule is fundamentally discriminatory against Party Members in conferences area.

Recommendation: Reject.

10. OATLEY LUGARNO BRANCH

Conference respectfully requests the removal of the N 40 Rule for State and Local Government Elections.

Since these levels of Government are fixed terms and there are no snap elections, there is ample time to conduct pre-selection ballots and hence no need for reliance on the N40 Rule.

Recommendation: Reject.

11. SHORTLAND DAY BRANCH

Conference is concerned that so many are ignored in the pre-selection of candidates of their choice for Public Office.

Currently, the pre-selection process reduces eligible members to mere presence on Polling Day.

Section "N" of the Rules must be reviewed and simplified so as to involve more Branch Members.

Recommendation: Reject.

12. SYDNEY SEC

That the eligibility conditions for ALP members to vote in a local selection ballot be changed so that persons:

- who have claimed to have transferred from one branch to a new branch, and
- who would be eligible to vote in a local selection ballot if the relevant completed certificate of clearance could be presented to the Returning Officer, are eligible to vote in the local selection ballot if the minutes of the new branch record that the person was admitted to membership of the branch.

Recommendation: Please refer to the Report on Building a Modern Labor Party which recommends a change in this regard.

13. SYDNEY SEC

Order of names on preselection ballots be chosen by lot in front of candidates or their scrutineers

That the order of all candidate names on preselection ballots be chosen by lot and that all candidates be told of the time and place for the drawing of the lot and that candidates be permitted to attend or send scrutineers to watch the drawing of the names.

e.g. that a new Rule N.23A be inserted as follows:

N.23A The order that the names of the candidates in a local selection ballot appear on the ballot papers in a local selection ballot shall be decided by lot. The Deputy Returning Officer shall organise the drawing of the names randomly and fairly from a container. All candidates shall be invited to attend the drawing of the names and shall be given at least three days notice. Candidates can appoint a scrutineer to attend the drawing of the names by lot. The Deputy Returning Officer shall inform each candidate and the General Returning Officer of the order of the names drawn from the container and this shall be the order in which the names appear on the ballot sheets.

Recommendation: The current rule, Schedule G.1(a), deals with this matter.

14. SYDNEY SEC

Prepoll voting in local govt preselections

That prepoll voting in local selection ballots for Local Government public office take place for all such local selection ballots e.g. by amending the NSW ALP Rules as follows.

Recommendation: Reject.

15. SYDNEY SEC

That Rule N.26(c) be amended to read:

Prepoll voting for State and Federal lower house seats and elected Local Government positions will be available for two hour periods each day at the ALP Office for the first three days in the week preceding the ballot. The times and dates will be determined by the Administrative Committee when setting the preselection timetables.

Recommendation: Reject.

16. SYDNEY SEC

Change to the ALP NSW Rules so that Electorate Councils can arrange a candidates forum for preselection (the rules don't currently specify that electorate councils can do this)

That a new Rule N.16(d) be inserted as follows:

In a contested selection ballot for public office the relevant Federal Electorate Council, State Electorate Council or Local Government Committee may arrange a candidates forum for all ALP members within the Federal, State or Local electorate. The forum shall be held after the close of nominations and all candidates shall be invited to attend. All candidates must be invited to address the forum, may be asked to answer questions and must be given approximately equal time.

Recommendation: Reject. The current Rule N.16 does not preclude electorate councils holding candidate forums.

17. SYDNEY SEC

Requirement for union membership (if there is such a union) for voting in a preselection

That the eligibility conditions of ALP members to vote in a local selection ballot not include membership of a union if there is a union which the member can join.

That Rule N.17(b) be deleted.

Recommendation: Reject.

18. SYDNEY SEC

Requirement for union membership (if there is such a union) to be a candidate for public office

That the eligibility conditions for persons to be selected and endorsed as a candidate for public office be changed so that paid-up membership of a trade union, if eligible, is not required. That Rule N.11(a) be changed accordingly and N.11(f) be deleted accordingly.

Recommendation: Reject.

19. ALSTONVILLE BRANCH (2008 Country Conference Decision)

Conference proposes the following addition to Rule N.17(f) immediately following the word "applicable"

"and provided they are branch members in accordance with Party Rules"

Reasons:

It is through Rule A11(a) that a Party member can become a Life Member & it is through the provision of Rule N.17(f) that a Life Member receives an automatic right to a pre-selection vote without the requirement of party involvement or activity or even enduring support for the Party.

Rule N.17 sets out what a branch member (presumably an actively involved member) must do to "earn" a right to a pre-selection vote. Such right can also travel with a branch member upon transfer to another branch [N.17 (g)].

A right to a pre-selection vote is jealousy guarded & sought by involved party activists!

Therefore what of the Life Member who is no longer an activist & even possibly disinterested? Doesn't remain in contact with Head Office, is not a branch member, yet can be called upon to vote at a pre-selection in his/ her electorate? What branch is entitled to "claim" that pre-selection vote?

Further Life Members are not required to pay an annual membership fee & surely this implies party activity by the Life Member for it to be of any benefit to the Life Member.

By amending the rule in accordance with the proposal a branch:

- Receives the long experience of the Life Member.
- Has the expertise & benefit of party experience of the Life Member.
- Has a committed worker.
- Party Head Office can keep up to date data on the Life Member through branch returns.

- Party Head Office can readily identify – as can the branch – the Life Member’s electorate vote entitlement.

Being a Life Member is a privilege (& free) & being a branch member is not onerous. Adoption of this proposal will benefit both the Party & its branches.

Recommendation: Reject.

SECTION Q

1. RULES COMMITTEE

Rule Q.1 (f)

Delete “Labor Council of NSW” and replace with “Unions NSW”

Recommendation: Adopt and make any equivalent changes elsewhere in the Rules.

SCHEDULE C.1

1. BUILDING A MODERN LABOR PARTY

That NSW Labor develop a *Commitment to Our Members* pledge that elected representatives make in nominating for public office. This pledge will include a commitment to communicate with members and attend Party events where practicable.

Recommendation: Amend Schedule C.1 Public Office Candidate Pledge to read:
I hereby pledge myself to comply with the Rules of the Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch) and without in any way limiting the generality of the foregoing, pledge myself:

- 1. As a condition of membership to comply with Rule A.9(a) and Rule P.3 of the said Rules (as determined and altered from time to time by Annual Conference).***
- 2. If returned to Parliament, on all occasions to do my utmost to ensure the carrying out of the principles embodied in the Labor Platform and on all such questions, especially on questions affecting the fate of a Government, to vote as a majority of the Labor Party may decide at a Caucus meeting. I acknowledge that, if appointed to the Legislative Council of NSW I am appointed to carry out Labor’s policy to reform the Legislative Council of NSW.***
- 3. To support and to be in attendance to vote fully and loyally, without equivocation, for whatever measure or measures are placed before the Legislative Council of NSW by the Labor Government in the form submitted by the said Government without any amendment, alteration or addition, unless such amendment, alteration or addition shall be accepted by the Government.***
- 4. That if elected to Local Government Office I will fully and loyally support the Party’s policy on all matters.***
- 5. At all times to conduct myself in Local Government public office in the best interests and solidarity of the Party.***
- 6. To support the Party by communicating on a regular basis with the membership of the Party and wherever possible to support Party activities and events of which I am informed.***

SCHEDULE C.2

1. RULES COMMITTEE

Public Office Candidate’s Pledge on Campaign Funds and Disclosure

Insert after current text:

I acknowledge that, as a candidate for public office, and if I should be elected, as a Member of Parliament or Councillor, the management and disclosure of income and expenditure for my

campaign is governed by the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cth) and/or the *Election Funding and Disclosures Act 1981* (NSW).

I pledge that, in my capacity as a candidate, and, if applicable, as a Member of Parliament or Councillor, I will comply with my responsibilities under the aforementioned Acts, and will establish adequate controls to ensure that my campaign team complies with its responsibilities under the aforementioned Acts.

Recommendation: Adopt.

SCHEDULE G

1. KINGS CROSS BRANCH

That the NSW ALP Rules be amended so that the method of proportional representation is used to determine the elected candidates in all elections for state conference delegates and alternate delegates.

Recommendation: Reject.

2. SYDNEY SEC

Proportional representation for all Branch and electorate council elections unless all voters agree to use the existing system.

That the NSW ALP Rules be amended so that the method of proportional representation is used to count the votes for all elections to branch and electorate council positions unless all voters present agree to use the existing system.

Recommendation: Reject.

3. SYDNEY SEC

Proportional Representation for choosing candidates for public office

That proportional representation be used in counting the results of local selection ballots where more than one candidate is to be elected.

Recommendation: Reject.

4. SYDNEY SEC

Electing FEC and SEC state conference delegates using proportional representation

The electoral system for delegates to Annual Conference from FECs and SECs is a winner-take-all system: any majority group on the Electorate Council can win all delegate positions (3 for an FEC, and 2 for an SEC). This happened at the SEC AGM in April this year.

In addition, the multiple position elections (2 or 3 Vice-Presidents and 2 Auditors) at FECs and SECs also operates under this system. This promotes a negative winner-take-all culture.

Recommendation:

That the NSW ALP rules be amended so that elections for multiple positions at FECs and SECs (including Annual Conference delegates) be conducted using proportional representation unless all members at the meeting eligible to vote unanimously agree to use the current system.

Recommendation: Reject.

SCHEDULE I

1. OATLEY LUGARNO BRANCH

That ALP Branches be entitled to elect Young Labor Conference Delegates. This will help encourage young Party members to attend and get involved with their local branches.

Recommendation: Reject.

2. NSW YOUNG LABOR

Conference strongly supports the Building a Modern Labor process being undertaken by the NSW Labor Party.

In line with this process, Young Labor has consulted with members and key stakeholders with the aim of identifying ways to improve the organisation. Specific areas examined have included

how to improve engagement and recruitment of young people, university students and young union activists.

Young Labor calls on Conference to support the implementation of Rule Changes in line with the suggestions raised by members during consultation. This includes:

- Direct engagement with Labor activists on campus.
- Young Labor Associations based on regions to increase meeting sizes.
- Members of the Young Labor Executive elected by local Young Labor members to represent their interests.
- Introduction of Trade Union Liaison Officer(s) to broaden engagement with the Union Movement.
- Regular forums for Young Labor members to debate policy.
- Formalise the Young Labor Policy Committees and open up participation to all members.
- Simplify the process of joining a Young Labor Association.
- Introducing a body to deal with Young Labor disputes, credentialing and other administrative items.
- Improving communication regarding Young Labor events including more accessible and timely notice for Young Labor Association meetings.
- Giving Young Labor a stronger voice within the NSW ALP including Committees and Electorate Councils.
- A Country Young Labor structure which suits the needs of rural and regional members seeking to participate in Young Labor and the ALP.

Young Labor has endorsed these reforms and called for the Elected Officers and Executive of Young Labor to prepare a detailed proposal for implementing these changes.

To facilitate this process and ensure consultation with Young Labor members in drafting these changes, a Young Labor Reform Committee shall be established. The Committee shall be chaired by the President and be open to all Young Labor members.

The proposed Rules Changes shall be made available to all Young Labor members to provide feedback and suggestions prior to their submission to the 2009 NSW ALP State Conference.

Recommendation: Delete current Schedule I (Young Labor Council) and replace with the following:

Schedule I

NSW Young Labor

Part One: Purpose

1. Objectives

- (a) To advocate progressive policies within the Labor Movement by way of Party and public meetings, pamphlets and papers.
- (b) To support the objectives and platform of the Party and in doing so educate members of Young Labor, trade unions and other Party bodies.

- (c) To provide a voice for young people both within the Party and in the general community.
- (d) To assist in the election to public office of endorsed Labor candidates at a national, state and local level.
- (e) To promote and adopt mechanisms which encourage the participation of women in Young Labor and the wider Party.
- (f) To publish material of any kind, whether written, audio or visual, that may assist in achieving the above objectives.
- (g) To be the co-ordinating body of Young Labor in NSW.
- (h) To advise the Party on matters of policy and the views of young people.
- (i) To undertake any other duties referred to it by the NSW Branch Annual Conference or Administrative Committee.

Part Two: Membership

2. Age

- (a) To be a member of and be eligible for election to a position in Young Labor, a person must:
 - (i) Be a member of the Australian Labor (NSW Branch); and
 - (ii) Not have attained the age of 26 years as at 1 January in the year of their membership or election.
- (b) Any member of, or person elected to a position in, Young Labor who attains the age of 27 years in the ensuing 12 months shall be eligible to retain office until the next Annual Conference.
- (c) Each month, following NSW Branch Administrative Committee, the General Secretary shall send the Young Labor Secretary and Young Labor Assistant Secretaries a complete list of names, addresses, ticket numbers, categories of membership and membership fees paid relating to Party members satisfying the criteria in subsection (a).

Part Three: Conferences

3. Conferences

- (a) Young Labor shall hold an Annual Conference each year in metropolitan Sydney.
- (b) Young Labor shall hold a Rural and Regional Conference every second year outside of Sydney.
- (c) Young Labor may hold a Policy Conference once per year in Western Sydney.
- (d) Prior to 31 December in each year the NSW Branch Administrative Committee shall, in consultation with the Executive, set dates for the next year's conference(s).
- (e) Conference shall consider agenda items submitted by Young Labor Associations, Branches, affiliated trade unions, NSW Branch Annual Conference, NSW Branch Administrative Committee and other Party Units.
- (f) A Conference may only take place when a quorum of at least forty (40) delegates are present.
- (g) A Young Labor Association or affiliated trade union shall pay a fee for each of its Delegates to Conference, Rural and Regional Conference and Policy Conference, the fee being determined by the NSW Branch Administrative Committee in consultation with the Executive.
- (h) Alternate Delegates shall be entitled to attend Conference and take part in the business of Conference without the right to vote unless acting as a full delegate.
- (i) Conference delegates are to be notified at least seven (7) days in advance of the agenda items and proposed order of business of a Conference.
- (j) Any Policy Caucus report must be presented to the Executive at least seven (7) days in advance of Conference in order for it to be placed on the agenda.

4. Annual Conference

Powers

- (a) The NSW Young Labor Annual Conference is the principal policy-making and governing body of Young Labor in NSW. Annual Conference has the power:

- (i) To make and propose policy on behalf of NSW Young Labor.
- (ii) To receive and consider reports from the Executive and Policy Caucuses.
- (iii) To elect:
 - 1. General Members of the Executive;
 - 2. Such standing committees as the Executive may determine from time to time;
 - 3. Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the NSW Branch Annual Conference;
 - 4. Delegates and Alternate Delegates to NSW ALP Country Conference;
 - 5. Delegates and Alternate Delegates to Australian Young Labor National Conference; and
 - 6. Such other officials as the Executive may determine from time to time.
- (b) Annual Conference elections shall be conducted as outlined in Schedule F and by the requirements of the NSW Branch rules on affirmative action.

Delegates

- (c) Annual Conference is made up of delegates as follows:
 - (i) Each Young Labor Association shall be entitled to elect one delegate for each full State electorate included in its boundaries.
 - (ii) The Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary of each Policy Caucus shall be a delegate.
 - (iii) Each Young Labor University Network shall be entitled to elect three (3) delegates.
 - (iv) At least 40% of the delegates to Annual Conference must be union delegates. All other delegates are approximately 60% of the total.
 - (v) The procedure for determining trade union representation at Annual Conference shall be, subject to this Schedule, the same procedure used for determining trade union representation at the NSW Branch Annual Conference.

5. Rural and Regional Conference

Powers

- (a) The NSW Young Labor Rural and Regional Conference shall decide policy on areas of concern to young people residing outside of Sydney.
- (b) Decisions of Rural and Regional Conference shall be referred to Annual Conference and/or Policy Conference.

Delegates

- (c) The Rural and Regional Conference shall consist of:
 - (i) Eight (8) delegates from each Young Labor Association in Rural and Regional NSW;
 - (ii) Members of the Executive and Policy Caucuses as non-voting delegates; and
 - (iii) Delegates from affiliated trade unions, provided that they live outside of Sydney.
- (d) There shall be thirty (30) delegates from affiliated trade unions to Rural and Regional Conference. The size of a union's delegation to the Rural and Regional Conference shall be directly proportional to its membership.
- (e) The definition of "Rural and Regional" shall be the definition used by the NSW Branch Administrative Committee following recommendation by the NSW Young Labor Executive.

6. Policy Conference

Powers

- (a) The Policy Conference shall have policy-making powers equal to Annual Conference.
- (b) The Policy Conference shall not have the power to elect the Officials and Delegates in 4(a)(iii). This power shall rest solely with the Annual Conference.

Delegates

- (c) The Policy Conference shall consist of the delegates to the most recent Annual Conference.

Part Four: Management and Administration

7. Executive

Powers

- (a) The NSW Young Labor Executive is responsible for the management and administration of Young Labor in NSW in between Annual Conferences.
- (b) The Executive shall adopt procedures to facilitate the business of Young Labor.
- (c) The Executive shall be the only body to issue Charters and determine boundaries for Young Labor Associations and Young Labor University Networks, subject to the approval of the NSW Branch Administrative Committee.

Membership

- (d) The Executive shall consist of:
 - (i) The President;
 - (ii) The Senior Vice-President;
 - (iii) Two (2) Junior Vice-Presidents;
 - (iv) The Secretary/Treasurer;
 - (v) Two (2) Assistant Secretaries;
 - (vi) Seven (7) general members; and
 - (vii) One representative from each Young Labor Association.
 Positions (i) to (v) shall be the Young Labor Officers.
- (e) Any member of the Executive who is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without the permission of the Executive shall cease to be a member of the Executive.

Meetings

- (f) A meeting of the Executive can only take place when a quorum of a majority of members is present. If a majority of members is not present after thirty minutes the meeting will not take place.
- (g) The Executive must meet at least once within any three month period.

8. Young Labor Review Committee

Powers

- (a) The Young Labor Review Committee deals with issues relating to:
 - (i) Credentials;
 - (ii) Disputes; and
 - (iii) Any matters referred to it by the Executive, except that the Executive cannot refer matters that are within the purview of the Young Labor Policy Platform, Rules and Agendas Committee.

Membership

- (b) The Young Labor Review Committee shall consist of members appointed by the Party Officers from time to time.

Meetings

- (c) The Young Labor Review Committee will meet from time to time as required.
- (d) Decisions of the Young Labor Review Committee are subject to and can be superseded by any decision of the relevant NSW Branch ALP Machinery Committee.
- (e) Where a decision of the Young Labor Review Committee is inconsistent with a decision of the relevant NSW Branch ALP Machinery Committee, the decision of the relevant NSW Branch ALP Machinery Committee shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

9. Young Labor Policy Platform, Rules and Agendas Committee

Powers

- (a) The Young Labor Policy Platform, Rules and Agendas Committee may:
 - (i) Review all agenda items submitted for Annual Conference, Policy Conference, and Rural and Regional Conference;
 - (ii) Accept submissions from any Party member, Young Labor Association, affiliated trade union or other Party Unit regarding the determination of recommendations; and
 - (iii) Determine recommendations on agenda items.
- (b) The Committee will state the reasons for its decisions.

Membership

- (c) The Young Labor Policy Platform, Rules and Agendas Committee shall consist of the Young Labor Officers.

Meetings

- (d) The Young Labor Policy Platform, Rules and Agendas Committee will meet from time to time as required.

Part Five: Branches

10. Young Labor Associations – Procedure

Operation

- (a) Young Labor Associations (YLAs) shall be branches of NSW Young Labor, and shall seek to fulfil the objectives of Young Labor at a local level.
- (b) Except as provided in this Schedule, the rules and procedures of the Party concerning Branches shall apply to YLAs in respect of registration, transferring, credentialing, notice, meetings (including the annual meeting), elections, executive, officers and other matters.

Membership

- (c) The membership of a YLA shall consist of those Party members who have been admitted to a YLA by registration.
- (d) YLA members and those wanting to register with a YLA must:
 - (i) Satisfy the criteria in 2(a); and
 - (ii) Live within the boundaries of the YLA.
- (e) A new member of the Party who satisfies the criteria in 10(d) will be informed about his/her YLA. The Secretary of the local YLA is told when a new member satisfying the criteria in 10(d) joins the Party.

Meetings

- (f) The YLA Secretary shall:
 - (i) Notify each YLA member by circular of the time, date and venue of a YLA meeting at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting; and
 - (ii) Notify the Young Labor Secretary at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting of the time, date and venue of a YLA meeting.
- (g) The Young Labor Secretary shall:
 - (i) Include notice of the meeting in the Young Labor Journal; and
 - (ii) Where possible, notify persons satisfying the criteria in 10(d) by circular or the Young Labor website.
- (h) YLAs can send correspondence to any FEC, SEC or LGC within the boundaries of the YLA.
- (i) If a meeting has not been called in the previous three (3) months, the Executive may call a meeting of the YLA.

AGMs

- (j) YLAs shall hold an Annual General Meeting prior to June 30 each year.
- (k) The Young Labor Review Committee may appoint a representative to act as the Returning Officer for the Annual General Meeting.
- (l) At its Annual General Meeting, a YLA shall elect:
 - (i) Office Bearers of the YLA;
 - (ii) Delegates and Alternate Delegates to Young Labor Conference;
 - (iii) The YLA Representative to the Young Labor Executive; and
 - (iv) One (1) non-voting delegate to each FEC, SEC and LGC within the boundaries of the YLA. These delegates are elected by all members who can vote in the YLA but must themselves live in the electorate for which they are elected.

11. Young Labor Associations – Formation

- (a) To form a YLA the following procedures shall be followed:
 - (i) An application shall made to the Secretary of Young Labor at least one month in advance of the intended formation meeting by three members of the Party

- fulfilling 10(d). The Young Labor Executive or Officers shall appoint a representative to chair the formation meeting. The boundaries in the application shall be based on specific State electorates which shall be named.
- (ii) A formation meeting should be called and advertised in the official journal of the Party, Young Labor Journal or a local newspaper. At least two (2) week's notice of the meeting shall be given in the advertisement.
 - (iii) At least one month's notice of the formation meeting shall be given to the General Secretary and to the Secretary of the State Electorate Council(s) within the proposed boundaries.
 - (iv) The Officers shall appoint a representative to act as Returning Officer and credential the intending members at the formation and charter meetings.
 - (v) The assembled formation meeting consisting of at least fifteen (15) eligible persons shall accept the platform and constitution of the Party and Young Labor and resolve to establish a YLA.
 - (vi) The meeting should then elect a President (for the time being) and a Secretary (for the time being).
 - (vii) The President and Secretary should fill in the Form of Declaration and send it to the Young Labor Secretary. A copy should also be sent to the General Secretary.
- (b) The Executive representative at the formation meeting shall report to the Young Labor Executive the:
 - (i) Date and place of the formation meeting; and
 - (ii) List of eligible members present at the formation meeting.
 - (c) If a proposed YLA satisfies the criteria in subsection (a), the Executive shall recommend to the NSW Branch Administrative Committee that the YLA be issued with a Charter. The Executive shall recommend to the NSW Branch Administrative Committee the boundaries to be set for the YLA based on State electorate boundaries.
 - (d) The NSW Branch Administrative Committee may decide, at its absolute discretion, to grant, alter or withdraw the Charter of any or all YLAs.

12. Young Labor Council

Purpose

- (a) The purpose of the Young Labor Council (Council) is to facilitate policy development and discussion between Conferences.

Membership

- (b) Any Party member who satisfies the criteria in 2(a) may:
 - (i) Attend the Council; and
 - (ii) Register as a voting delegate.
- (c) The Executive, Policy Caucus Officers, and Delegates to the most recent Young Labor Annual Conference, shall be registered voting delegates of every Council meeting.
- (d) Other eligible members seeking to be voting delegates:
 - (i) Must attend two Council meetings within a three month period;
 - (ii) Are eligible to vote at the second meeting referred to in subsection (i); and
 - (iii) Must attend a Council meeting every membership year and sign the attendance book in order to retain their status as a voting delegate.
- (e) Only delegates registered under subsections (c) or (d) may vote on motions.
- (f) Members of affiliated trade unions satisfying the criteria in 2(a) may attend the Council as non-voting delegates.
- (g) The Executive or Officers may, at their discretion, permit persons satisfying the criteria in 2(a) to attend as observers.

Meetings

- (h) The Council will hold meetings in both the Sydney Central Business District and other areas. Each meeting shall focus on one policy issue or area.
- (i) A Council meeting is only deemed to take place if a quorum of fifteen (15) voting delegates, including five (5) members of the Executive, is present. If a quorum is not established after 30 minutes the meeting is deemed not to have taken place. The quorum must be maintained at all times during the period in which the attendance book is open for signature.

- (j) The Young Labor Officers shall be the Officers of the Council.
- (k) Policy Caucuses can organise forums and policy discussions that may be considered meetings of the Council.
- (l) The Council does not hold an Annual General Meeting, elect office bearers, send delegates to conferences or electorate councils, or have special meetings.
- (m) The Council shall meet at least once within any six week period.
- (n) The Executive shall adopt procedures to facilitate the business of the Council.
- (o) Decisions of the Council shall be referred to Annual Conference, Policy Conference and/or Rural and Regional Conference.

13. Policy Caucuses

Operation

- (a) Annual Conference may elect Policy Caucus(es) from time to time.
- (b) The Executive determines and may alter the areas of responsibility for each Policy Caucus.
- (c) The Executive cannot increase the number of Policy Caucuses without the permission of the Annual Conference, Policy Conference, NSW Branch Administrative Committee or NSW Branch Annual Conference.
- (d) Decisions of Policy Caucuses shall be referred to Annual Conference, Policy Conference and/or Rural and Regional Conference.

Membership

- (e) The Officers of each Policy Caucus shall be elected by Annual Conference and include a:
 - (i) Chair and Deputy Chair, to be elected in a single ballot; and
 - (ii) Secretary.
- (f) Any Party member who satisfies the criteria in 2(a) may:
 - (i) Attend a Policy Caucus; and
 - (ii) Register as a voting delegate.
- (g) The Executive shall be registered voting delegates of every Policy Caucus.
- (h) The Officers of each Policy Caucus shall be registered voting delegates of the Policy Caucus for which they are an Officer.
- (i) Other eligible members seeking to be voting delegates:
 - (i) Must attend two meetings of the Policy Caucus at which they wish to vote within a three month period;
 - (ii) Are eligible to vote at the second meeting referred to in subsection (i); and
 - (iii) Must attend a meeting of the Policy Caucus at which they wish to vote every membership year and sign the attendance book in order to retain their status as a voting delegate.
- (j) Only delegates registered under subsections (g), (h) or (i) may vote on motions.
- (k) Members of affiliated trade unions satisfying the criteria in 2(a) may attend a Policy Caucus as non-voting delegates.

Meetings

- (l) The Policy Caucus Secretary shall:
 - (i) Notify each Policy Caucus member by circular of the time, date and venue of a Policy Caucus meeting at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting; and
 - (ii) Notify the Young Labor Secretary at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting of the time, date and venue of a Policy Caucus meeting.
- (m) The Young Labor Secretary shall:
 - (i) Include notice of the meeting in the Young Labor Journal; and
 - (ii) Where possible, provide notice on the Young Labor website.
- (n) An official meeting of any Policy Caucus can only take place when at least seven (7) delegates are present.
- (o) A Policy Caucus may hold a public meeting, but before doing so, it must obtain the approval of the Executive.
- (p) Decisions of a Policy Caucus shall be referred to Annual Conference, Policy Conference and/or Rural and Regional Conference.

- (q) Reports of Policy Caucuses are presented to Annual Conference and Policy Conference by the person who is Chair of each Caucus.
- (r) Policy Caucuses prepare reports which are printed and circulated to YLAs and affiliated trade unions as soon as practicable.

14. Young Labor University Networks – Procedure

Operation

- (a) Young Labor University Networks (University Networks) shall be branches of NSW Young Labor and shall seek to fulfil the objectives of Young Labor at a university and campus level.
- (b) Except as provided in this Schedule, the rules and procedures of the Party concerning Branches shall apply to University Networks in respect of registration, transferring, credentialing, notice, meetings (including the annual meeting), elections, executive, officers and other matters.

Membership

- (c) The membership of a University Network shall consist of those Party members who have been admitted to a University Network by registration.
- (d) University Network members and those wanting to register with a University Network must:
 - (i) Be an enrolled student and/or employee of the University covered by a University Network; and
 - (ii) Satisfy the criteria in 2(a).

Meetings

- (e) The University Network Secretary shall:
 - (i) Notify each University Network member by circular of the time, date and venue of a University Network meeting at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting; and
 - (ii) Notify the Young Labor Secretary at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting of the time, date and venue of a University Network meeting.
- (f) The Young Labor Secretary shall:
 - (i) Include notice of the meeting in the Young Labor Journal;
 - (ii) Where possible, notify persons satisfying the criteria in 14(d) by circular or the Young Labor website.

AGMs

- (g) University Networks shall hold an Annual General Meeting prior to June 30 each year.
- (h) The Young Labor Review Committee may appoint a representative to act as the Returning Officer for the Annual General Meeting.
- (i) At its Annual General Meeting, a University Network shall elect:
 - (i) Office Bearers of the University Network; and
 - (ii) Delegates and Alternate Delegates to Young Labor Conference.

15. Young Labor University Networks – Formation

- (a) To form a University Network the following procedures shall be followed:
 - (i) An application shall made to the Secretary of Young Labor at least one month in advance of the intended formation meeting by three members of the Party fulfilling 14(d). The Young Labor Executive or Officers shall appoint a representative to chair the formation meeting. The application must name the University proposed to be covered by the University Network.
 - (ii) A formation meeting should be called and advertised in the official journal of the Party, Young Labor Journal or a local newspaper. At least two (2) week's notice of the meeting shall be given in the advertisement.
 - (iii) At least one month's notice of the formation meeting shall be given to the General Secretary.
 - (iv) The Officers shall appoint a representative to act as Returning Officer and credential the intending members at the formation and charter meetings.

- (v) The assembled formation meeting consisting of at least fifteen (15) eligible persons shall accept the platform and constitution of the Party and Young Labor and resolve to establish a University Network.
- (vi) The meeting should then elect a President (for the time being) and a Secretary (for the time being).
- (vii) The President and Secretary should fill in the Form of Declaration and send it to the Young Labor Secretary. A copy should also be sent to the General Secretary.
- (b) The Executive Representative at the formation meeting shall report to the Young Labor Executive the:
 - (i) Date and place of the formation meeting; and
 - (ii) List of eligible members present at the formation meeting.
- (c) If a proposed University Network satisfies the procedure in subsection (a), the Executive shall then consider the application for formation. The Executive may decide to recommend to the NSW Branch Administrative Committee that the University Network be issued with a charter, or not to recommend it be issued with a Charter, at its absolute discretion.
- (d) The NSW Branch Administrative Committee may decide, at its absolute discretion, to grant, alter or withdraw the Charter of any or all Young Labor University Networks.

Part Six: Communications

16. Young Labor Journal

- (a) NSW Young Labor shall circulate a journal once per week where this is practicable.
- (b) As well as any matters decided by the Executive, the Journal will contain notice of meetings of:
 - (i) Annual Conference, Policy Conference or Rural and Regional Conference;
 - (ii) YLAs;
 - (iii) Young Labor Council;
 - (iv) Policy Caucuses; and
 - (v) University Networks

17. Young Labor Website

- (a) NSW Young Labor may, with the approval of the Party Officers, establish a Home Page / Website or online interface representing NSW Young Labor, provided this material is consistent with Party Rules and Policy.

Part Seven: Miscellaneous

18. Miscellaneous

- (a) NSW Young Labor shall be under the control and direction of the NSW Branch Administrative Committee and shall be responsible to that body.
- (b) All Branches referred to in Part Five shall be under the control and direction of the Executive.
- (c) Before 1 July in each year the General Secretary gives to each YLA a part of the membership fees for their registered membership. The amount shall be set, from time to time, by the NSW Branch Administrative Committee.
- (d) The Young Labor President and/or Secretary shall be the only persons to make public statements, subject to the following:
 - (i) The statement is authorised by the Executive; and
 - (ii) The statement is not in contravention of Party Policy.
- (e) All media statements, publications and campaign activities undertaken by Committees referred to in Part Four and Branches referred to in Part Five shall require permission from the Officers or Executive, and advance notification shall be given to the Young Labor Secretary of any such statements, publications or activities.
- (f) Any member of the Executive or the NSW Branch Administrative Committee may attend and speak at Conferences of Young Labor and meetings of YLAs, Young Labor Council, Policy Caucuses or University Networks, but shall not vote unless a delegate to that Conference or Party unit.

- (g) Unless otherwise expressly stated in this Schedule, the Rules of the Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch) shall apply in matters concerning NSW Young Labor.

19. Alteration of Schedule

- (a) This Schedule may only be altered by the NSW Branch Annual Conference or the NSW Branch Administrative Committee.
- (b) By-laws may be set from time to time by the Executive for ratification by the NSW Branch Administrative Committee providing these by-laws do not contravene or contradict any rules in this Schedule.
- (c) Young Labor may propose an alteration to this Schedule if the proposed alteration receives the approval of Annual Conference and is circulated at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the Annual Conference to delegates, YLAs, University Networks and affiliated trade unions.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. AMWU

Amendment to Party Platform

Basic Principles of the Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)

D Membership and Organisation

That a new (fifth) dot point be added:

On all matters, members of the State Parliamentary Caucus; including members of Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet cannot be bound to any position that is contrary to the Party Platform and Policy as determined by the most recent State Party Conference.

All members of the State Parliamentary Caucus, including all members of Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet, shall be bound by the Party Platform and Policy as determined by the most recent State Party Conference.

Recommendation: The Basic Principles of the Australian Labor Party are determined at the national level and it is not possible for any State or Territory Branch to vary these.

2. MID MOUNTAINS BRANCH

That the ALP develop an Ethical Code of Conduct that acknowledges and pursues the representative basis of all our ALP members, particularly Ministers, and that this reflects the Party Platform and the principles of the ALP.

Recommendation: The NSW and Federal Parliaments have codes of conducts for MPs and the Party expects all Labor MPs to comply fully with these.

3. SYDNEY SEC

Conference is of the opinion that all branch members be strongly encouraged to increase engagement with local residents to further grass roots support in the future. Secondly, we feel strongly that factions should be eliminated. Finally, the primary responsibility of elected Members of Parliament should be to the electorate they represent.

Recommendation: Please refer to the Report on Building a Modern Labor Party which deals with this issue.