



## **Australia China Business Council, NSW Branch**

### **Executive Committee & Election of Office Holders**

#### **Background**

The NSW ACBC Executive Committee had a lengthy discussion at its meeting on 15 July 2015 regarding the composition of the Executive Committee under Agenda Item 6f. The Executive Committee comprises 22 people. The ACBC Constitution requires each branch to elect a President and Treasurer and allows each branch to then determine how many additional people should be elected/ appointed to the Executive Committee and their titles.

The current committee includes:

President  
Treasurer  
7 Vice Presidents  
13 Members

The 16 members of the Executive Meeting present of 15 July 2015 discussed a range of issues relating to the structure of the Executive Committee and election process and there was strong support for the following principles:

- The current Executive Committee is too big and needs to be reduced
- The number of Vice Presidents should be reduced
- There needs to be a limit on the terms of members and we need to encourage new people to nominate for the Executive Committee
- We must avoid the issues which arose last year in relation to the election of office holders
- We need to have a process which both maintains continuity and brings in new people
- The NSW Branch nominee to the National Board should be the NSW President

#### **Resolutions**

Following the discussions the Executive Committee resolved as follows:

##### **1. Structure of Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall comprise 11 persons:

President  
Treasurer  
9 Members from which 2 shall be appointed as Vice Presidents

##### **2. Term of Office**

There be a policy that members of the Executive Committee shall not serve more than three consecutive years

**3. Vice Presidents**

There will be two Vice Presidents appointed by the Executive Committee at the first meeting of the Executive Committee following the election of Office Holders from those elected to the Executive Committee.

The appointment of Vice Presidents from those elected to the Executive Committee shall unless there is unanimous agreement of the Executive Committee be the two persons who received the most votes on their election to the Executive Committee who are willing to be appointed a Vice President.

**4. Nominee to National ACBC Board**

The NSW Branch Nominee to the National Board shall be the NSW President

**5. Election Process**

The CEO will issue a notice calling for nominations from members for the position of President, Treasurer and 9 members of the NSW Executive Committee at the next NSW AGM.

In the event that nominations exceed the number of positions available a ballot will be conducted by the CEO.

Should a ballot be required each nominee will be invited to submit a brief statement not exceeding 200 words to be distributed to all members entitled to vote.

It was agreed that current members of the Executive Committee will not engage in campaigning for themselves or others.

The resolutions as set out above were agreed to by all present with one exception.

The concern expressed by the person who could not support the resolutions was that this process would favour current members of the committee and the process would not achieve the objective of securing new members for the Executive Committee. There was no suggestion as to how this concern could be resolved other than have adopted the limitation on holding office for a maximum of three consecutive years there would over time be a change in office holders.

There was discussion as to whether these resolutions should proceed in the absence of six members of the Executive Committee but it was resolved the resolutions should proceed as:

- notice of the issue was given in the Agenda for the meeting
- there was clearly overwhelming support for the principles and the proposed resolutions.

The resolutions are therefore binding and if any member wishes to re-visit the resolved there would have to be an application to rescind the resolutions. If any person not present wishes to rescind the resolution they need to secure a seconder for a motion to rescind and give me notice of such a motion no later than 5 pm Friday 17 July 2015 and I will then call for a vote by email.

**6. Other Matters**

I confirm my advice to the meeting that whilst I am prepared to nominate (unless the majority of the Executive Committee do not wish me to do so) for the position of President and if elected this will be my last term.

It is vital that we avoid the dramas last year if we are to encourage new faces to put their names forward.

Jim Harrowell  
15 July 2015