

“Your Northern Beaches Independent Team”



CONSTITUTION

1. PREAMBLE

"Your Northern Beaches Independent Team (Your Northern Beaches)" is based on the principles of representative democracy and transparent Government.

Your Northern Beaches will strive to give the community a strong, independent voice at the most critical level of Government. We will endeavour to make politicians and Government departments accountable to the community with none of the usual rhetoric, deceit and power plays.

Its members will maintain their independence and will work in a spirit of cooperation to achieve the aims of the party and maintain the passion for real democracy.

2. AIMS

1. To **ENDORSE** candidates for Local Government Elections in the Northern Beaches Council area.
2. To **PROTECT** our beaches, parklands and natural assets from inappropriate development and the potential impacts of climate change.
3. To **COMMIT** the Northern Beaches Council to best environmental practice.
4. To **CONTINUE** the practice of assessing DAs using a Development Assessment Panel model, thereby excluding Councillors from a decision-making role in the DA process.
5. To **MAINTAIN** Council services and **IMPROVE** necessary infrastructure.
6. To **WORK** alongside and support local business.
7. To **SUPPORT** our local schools.
8. To **UPGRADE** our sporting facilities.
9. To **ENHANCE** the role of community groups.
10. To **ENCOURAGE good** residential and commercial development in harmony with the surrounding environment.
11. To never **REQUIRE** a membership fee to Your Northern Beaches.
12. To **ENCOURAGE** diversity of opinion amongst all members.
13. To **PROVIDE** a forum of discussion for the youth of our community who would otherwise be excluded from the broader debate.
14. To **CONTRIBUTE** to the big ideas that shape our community.
15. To **ENGAGE** our electorate on local issues.
16. To never **TAKE** ourselves too seriously and lose sight of the bigger picture.
17. To **ERADICATE** spin and to be all about substance and transparency.
18. To **OFFER** a **GENUINE** alternative to the major political parties.
19. To **STRIVE** to be a family friendly party by actively promoting the ideals of the work / life balance.
20. To **KEEP** it simple.

3. MEMBERSHIP

(a) New Membership

Those wishing to become a member of ***Your Northern Beaches*** are required to complete the ***Your Northern Beaches*** membership form.

Members must be over the age of 16 years. ***Your Northern Beaches*** acknowledges that the legal voting age is 18 but we encourage the youth of our community to contribute actively to our aims and objectives. There is no residential criteria for membership. All applications are to be endorsed by the Party Secretary.

(b) Termination of Membership

1. If a member wishes to leave the party at any time, they shall notify the Party Secretary in writing and they will be immediately removed from the register of party membership.
2. If the party wishes to terminate the membership of any individual member then the process of this will be that:
 - (i) the party secretary is notified in writing of the proposed termination and the reasons why the member should be dismissed;
 - (ii) the affected member will be given the opportunity to respond and mediation will be offered as first recourse;
 - (iii) the executive* will then meet to discuss and determine the matter.

*(*The executive consisting of the Party secretary, the Registered Officer, and the party treasurer/agent.)*

(c) Voting Rights for Members

To vote at party meetings, a member must have been registered with the party for a continuous period of 1 month leading up to the meeting .

4. PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Your Northern Beaches will aim to have a minimum of 3 (three) candidates available for election in each of the five wards of the Northern Beaches Council area. In certain circumstances it may be determined to be appropriate to run more than three candidates in each ward.

In the event of a directly elected Mayor model being adopted, ***Your Northern Beaches*** will aim to run at least one candidate for Mayor of the Northern Beaches. In certain circumstances it may be determined to be appropriate to run more than one candidate to be elected as Mayor of the Northern Beaches.

All candidates representing ***Your Northern Beaches*** must have been a member of ***Your Northern Beaches*** for a continuous period of at least 2 weeks leading up to the time of their nomination.

5. CANDIDATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Decisions regarding determination of candidates and numbers of candidates in each ward and candidates for Mayor to contest an election will be made by the Candidate Selection Committee (CSC).

The CSC will consist of the three office bearers of the party and two non-office bearing party members. The CSC will be chaired by the Party Secretary. In the event of a tied election the chairperson will take a deciding vote.

The membership of the CSC will be determined at the party's AGM or at an Extra Ordinary Meeting of the party which has been called for that specific purpose.

6. "YOUR NORTHERN BEACHES" MEMBERS ELECTED TO COUNCIL

Members of *Your Northern Beaches* who are elected to Council are encouraged to vote independently and will at no time be forced to vote according to party lines or rules (commonly known as block voting).

7. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

(A) Office Bearers:

Annual General Meetings will be held at which time party members will elect an executive consisting of the following:

- Party Secretary (to oversee the policy and procedure of the party)
- Registered Officer (As the liaison officer with the NSW Electoral Commission)
- Party Treasurer - also known as the Party Agent - (Self-explanatory)

Nominations for the above positions are to be made and seconded by party members and submitted to *Your Northern Beaches's* administration officer at the time of the Annual General Meeting.

Voting for the executive positions is not compulsory but is always encouraged.

A nominee shall be considered elected for any of the executive positions if 50% + 1 of those members voting at the AGM vote in favour of their appointment.

In the event that more than two members have been nominated, successive rounds of voting will be used to eliminate the lowest polling candidate in each round until only 2 candidates are left.

When only two candidates are being voted on, if neither candidate reaches 50% + 1 of those members voting at the AGM, (ie. in the event of a tied vote), then the Chair will provide a casting vote.

All three executive positions must be held by three separate individuals.

7. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (continued....)

(B) Meeting Requirements:

1. At least 1 week's notice must be given for notifying members of the time, date, location and agenda for the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
2. All other meetings will occur as required with reasonable notice given by the Party Secretary.
3. Regular gatherings of friends and like-minded individuals either in person or online will be actively supported and encouraged.
4. If 20% of the registered members or the executive wish to call an Extra Ordinary Meeting of the party (EOM) they can make a written submission to the Party Secretary who must then call such a meeting within a reasonable timeframe of receiving the submission.
5. A legitimate quorum for a meeting is 5 members of which at least 2 must be members of the executive.
6. An item at a meeting is considered to be passed / adopted if a minimum of 70% of voting members present vote in favour of the item.
7. Proxy votes will not be accepted.
8. Attendance via remote weblink will be permitted for all registered members. Voting can only take place for eligible members in physical attendance at the meeting.

8. PROCEDURES FOR AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

Any changes to the **Your Northern Beaches** constitution must be processed in the following manner:

1. Suggestions for amendments to the constitution can be made by any member of the party.
2. Suggestions for amendments to the constitution must be made in writing to the Party Secretary.
3. The Party Secretary must then convey the suggested amendments to other members of the Executive in a timely manner.

(continued....)

8. PROCEDURES FOR AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION *(continued....)*

4. (a) If the Executive approve of the suggested amendments, the proposed changes should be included on the agenda of an EOM or the AGM which must take place within a reasonable period.

(b) If the Executive do not approve of the suggested changes, then the member of the party who has suggested them has the right to call an Extra Ordinary Meeting (in accordance with the provisions above).

Any changes from the preceding 12 months must be notified to members when the notice of the AGM is sent out each year.

A copy of any revised Constitution must be forwarded to the Electoral Commission for their records.

9. PROCEDURES FOR WINDING UP PARTY

A unanimous vote of the executive following written notice of intent to all registered members.

Registered party information required under the *Electoral Act 2017* and the *Local Government Act 1993*:

Please provide written responses in the spaces provided to address the following party information if it is not explicitly outlined in the party's constitution. This information will be published on the NSW Electoral Commission's website with the party's constitution.

(i) the party's objects:

N.A

(ii) the procedure for amending the party's written constitution:

N.A

(iii) the rules for membership of the party, including the procedure for accepting a person as a member and ending a person's membership:

N.A

(iv) a description of the party structure and of how the party manages its internal affairs:

N.A

(v) the procedure for selecting a person to hold an office in the party and for removing a person from office:

If 20% or more of the registered members of the party wish to remove a person from office, they must write to the Executive to call an Extra Ordinary Meeting for the purpose of holding a vote to replace that individual. This is consistent with Section 7(B)4 of the constitution.

(vi) the names of the officers or members of the party responsible for ensuring the party complies with the *Electoral Act 2017* and the *Electoral Funding Act 2018*:

The individual responsible for ensuring the party complies with the Electoral Act 2017 is the Registered Party Officer. (Penelope Philpott as at 12/11/2023)

The individual responsible for ensuring the party complies with the Electoral Funding Act 2018 is the Party Agent/Treasurer. (Paul Grattan as at 12/11/2023)

Please provide clear statements that explicitly outline all of the required information.