

Paper Title:

Amendments to the Tenure of RSV Council Officers

Purpose - for: Decision

Alignment with RSV Strategic Plan:

Develop our capability and reputation for facilitating impactful programs that attract sustained investment so we can have greater impact

Recommendation:

That the Rules of the Royal Society of Victoria be amended to allow Council Officers to fulfil multiple terms of office within the eight-year limit of continuous service to the RSV's Council.

Introduction:

The Society's governing Council has sustained an ambitious strategic agenda for renewal of the State of Victoria's long-lived scientific society, asserting the relevance of our venerable association through identifying and broadly communicating the local transitions required for our State to contribute to a sustainable global civilisation in the 21st century, informed by and promoting a scientifically rigorous evidence base. Council Officers charged with stewarding this transformation require the capacity to build and activate significant networks in government, academia, industry and the community to leverage funding support, activate supportive partnerships and translate strategic goals to operational actions over the span of many years.

Issues for consideration:

The Society's Rules (constitution) currently limit Council Officers to two terms of office within the eight years of continuous service allowable to all Councillors. We seek to remove this limitation to provide our leadership with the ability to continue its strategic work, at the pleasure of the RSV's membership, and lay the groundwork for those who will succeed them in these roles.

The Rule we seek to change is 24 (2), as described below:

"Each Officer shall hold office for two years until the Annual General Meeting next following the last year of office but is eligible for re-election for one more two-year term."

We propose to change this text to read:

"Each Officer shall hold office for two years until the Annual General Meeting next following the last year of office but is eligible for re-election within the terms outlined in Rule 26."

No change is sought for Rule 26, which states:

“(1) Save for the exceptions noted in sub-clause (2), no Council member, in any capacity, shall serve more than an eight-year period of continuous service on the Council. A member can, after a one-year lapse in service on the Council, be elected again to the Council.

(2) A person holding or assuming office as Immediate Past President, who, prior to or after assuming office as Immediate Past President, will have completed eight years of service on Council, shall nevertheless be able to complete their term as Immediate Past President.”

Resources required:

If approved, RSV Secretariat time in updating and republishing the Rules, then advising the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC).

Next steps:

We seek the support of RSV members for the following motion:

Motion:

That the proposed amendments to the Society’s governing Rules as circulated in April 2024 be received and confirmed, subject to any amendments agreed at this meeting, in accordance with Rules 3 and 14.

Moved: Luckins, J.

Seconded: Gell, R.

Attachments:

RSV RULES proposed 2024 (changes tracked)

Proposed Amendments to Rule 24 (2)

For consideration at the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Royal Society of Victoria, 9 May 2024

24 Officers of the Society

- (1) The Officers of the Society, who shall constitute the Executive Committee, shall be:
 - (a) a President;
 - (b) a Vice-President;
 - (c) an Honorary Treasurer
 - (d) an Honorary Secretary.
- (2) Each Officer shall hold office for two years until the Annual General Meeting next following the last year of office but is eligible for re-election within the terms outlined in Rule 26 ~~for one more two year term.~~
- (3) In the event of a casual vacancy (see Rule 27) in any office referred to in Rule 23(1), the Council may appoint one of its members to the vacant office (and in the case of a vacancy in the office of Secretary, this appointment shall be made within 14 days) and the member appointed may continue in office up to and including the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next following the date of the appointment.
- (4) The President acts as Chair of RSV meetings and public spokesperson for all Society matters. The President may formally delegate these functions to other RSV members and/or RSV staff as appropriate.
- (5) The Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for the performance of the duties of Secretary prescribed under the Act, including without limitation the duties of Honorary Secretary set out in these Rules and the lodgement of documents with and giving of notifications to the Registrar of Incorporated Associations, including notification of their appointment as Honorary Secretary, to be given within 14 days of appointment.

- (5) The Chief Executive Officer shall be invited to attend and participate in Executive Meetings as a non-voting member.

26 Length of Service on the Council

- (1) Save for the exceptions noted in sub-clause (2), no Council member, in any capacity, shall serve more than an eight-year period of continuous service on the Council. A member can, after a one-year lapse in service on the Council, be elected again to the Council.
- (2) A person holding or assuming office as Immediate Past President, who, prior to or after assuming office as Immediate Past President, will have completed eight years of service on Council, shall nevertheless be able to complete their term as Immediate Past President.