



AFANT Special Resolution Paper – November 21, 2024.

Title: Proposed Amendments to the AFANT Constitution
Action: Decide

Background:

- At a meeting of the AFANT Elected Committee on October 24, 2024, it was resolved that the following amendments to the AFANT constitution be put to members for approval at the 2024 AGM on 21 November.
- The amendments are minor and aimed at improving AFANT's financial membership by making the fees more flexible and appropriate for a peak industry body. The last time the fees were adjusted was 2014 and the mechanism for setting fees was introduced in 2006. The AFANT Committee also agreed that should the amendments be adopted, it would increase the annual Principal Membership fee to \$20.
- The third amendment seeks to establish the option for the AFANT Committee to create additional classes of non-voting membership. This is aimed at supporting an increase in overall membership of individuals and businesses, as well as improving AFANT's ability to reach and communicate with the recreational fishing sector.

Amendments Proposed:

1. Annual Membership Fees, **Clause 14(1)** – Replace: “the annual membership fee for Principal [individual], Club Affiliate and Association Members, is the amounts determined from time to time by resolution at a general meeting.” With: “The annual membership fee for Principal and Association Members, is the amounts determined from time to time by the Elected Committee. The annual membership fee for Club Affiliate Members, is the amounts determined from time to time by resolution at a general meeting”.

Explanation:

This will provide the AFANT Committee the discretion to increase the membership fee to a proposed \$20 for the next year, and to have the flexibility to reduce it or discount membership part way through the year to drive membership subscriptions year-round (an issue that has emerged given that all memberships now run from July 1 to June 30 for simpler and cost-effective administration). The setting of Club Affiliate memberships fees will not be affected by this this change.

2. Payment of fee due, **Clause 14(2)** - Replace “Each Principal Member must pay the annual membership fee to the Treasurer on the anniversary of the date the member joined.” With: “Each Principal Member must pay the annual membership fee to the Treasurer in accordance with the term defined in section 12.”

Explanation:

This amendment simply addresses a legacy issue and will resolve existing confusion between sections 12 and 14. Section 12 was updated in 2019 and states “Membership will be renewable annually and shall fall due in the first instance on 1 July 2020 and then 1 July each year thereafter.”

3. Add a new **Clause “9(9) “Other Member”** – a class (or classes) of membership as named and with rights and privileges as defined by the Committee from time to time. Other Member classes must have no voting rights and may have fees as set by the Committee from time to time” under Section 9 “Classes of Membership and Voting Rights.

Explanation: To allow the Committee to broaden non-voting supporter membership within the recreational fishing community (e.g. A “Supporter Membership”), as well as to better tailor non-voting membership to other businesses or organisations that want to support AFANT (for instance, through in-kind contributions, or by offering benefits to AFANT members).

Recommendation / Motion

- **That the AFANT constitution be amended to incorporate the three (3) changes as proposed above**