

## **Voting on proposed Constitutional amendments at the 2016 PHANZA AGM**

### *General procedure*

The Committee cannot impose a procedure for voting on the proposed amendments to the PHANZA Constitution. However, we propose the following approach, and hope members attending the AGM will accept it.

- Voting should be clause by clause, unless a member asks for a separate vote on a particular sub-clause. So, for example, the whole of the proposed amendments to clause 6 will be subject to a single vote; but a member can ask for a separate vote on clause 6(b).
- As much as possible, we ask members to simply vote to accept or reject the proposed amendments. Some small tweaks to the wording of proposed amendments could be made at the AGM, but we strongly discourage major changes to the amendments. The proposed amendments have been subject to two rounds of consultation with members, and have been notified to all members. It would be unfair and undesirable if completely new wording were to emerge from the AGM.
- Taking these first two points into account, we suggest that if you sympathise with the objective of a particular amendment but have significant concerns about the wording, you vote against it. Likewise, if you agree with one part of a proposed amendment to a particular clause or sub-clause but disagree with another part, we suggest that you vote against it. If a particular amendment is defeated but there seems to be a reasonable level of support for what it is trying to achieve, the Committee can look again at the amendment and propose a different approach to achieving the objective at a future AGM.

The amendments to a particular clause (or sub-clause, if particular sub-clauses are voted on) will be carried if at least two-thirds of those attending the meeting (including those exercising a vote by proxy) vote in favour of the amendments.

### *Proxy voting*

The current wording of the Constitution is clear that amendments can be passed only by two-thirds of members *attending* the AGM. In the Committee's view, this does not allow for votes by electronic means – something we propose to change if the amendments to clause 10 are accepted. However, we think the meaning of 'attending' can be stretched to include members who vote by proxy, since their proxy will be in attendance at the meeting.

If you are unable to attend the AGM, and there is another member attending the AGM who you would like to cast your vote, please contact that person to see if he or she is willing to be your proxy. In addition, if you will be voting by proxy, please inform the PHANZA Secretary ([secretary@phanza.org.nz](mailto:secretary@phanza.org.nz)) that you have authorised that person to be your proxy.

If you do not know anyone who will be attending the AGM, but would like to exercise a proxy vote, please contact the Secretary, and the Committee will assign someone to be your proxy. That person will not be a Committee member, since it is the Committee that is proposing the amendments.

If you are exercising a proxy vote, it is your responsibility to inform your proxy about how you want your vote to be cast.