

9 May 2017

Dear Board Members,

In my approach as President of the Association and more recently in my temporary role as acting Chairman I have sought to ensure that all actions are legally consistent with our Constitution and By-Laws and with the Corporations Act and relevant ACNC legislation.

I have received further legal advice since my last letter to you to the effect that, notwithstanding the failure to implement strictly the assurance in the minutes of the 2016 AGM that ‘nominations for National Executive Office Bearers for 2017 will be placed in *The Order* next year’, the elections held on 20 April 2017 were valid. This means that Executive members have a legal duty to execute their duties.

I have also received advice that in taking its decision at the Board meeting on 22 April the Board should have asked the Deputy National Chairman to accept the Chair on an interim basis. This was described to me as the normal and correct procedure for the Board to follow. I therefore believe the Deputy National Chairman, John McKellar, should be regarded as interim Chair and I will remain solely as President of the Company. I have advised the Deputy National Chairman and he accepts this advice.

In addition to the requirements of the law, including respecting the Objects in our Constitution and our obligations to all Australians, I believe we all have a vital duty to our Members, to advance their interests and to attract and engage their support and enthusiasm across Australia.

May I also reiterate what many people have told me that the recent National Conference organised by the Queensland Branch was one of the best ever. We are all indebted to John Harden, Mick Davis, Geoff Cowles and all the many members of the organising committee for a top effort by a well led team. We are also greatly indebted to the Chairman of the Foundation Hugh Morgan, Brian O’Keefe and the members of the Foundation Board.

I will ask the Secretary to ensure this message is available to Members on our website.

Warm regards to all,

Philip Flood
President

