

RSL Victoria

106th Annual Conference

11 September 2021

A G E N D A

Annual General Meeting of RSL Victoria Inc

Item	Time	Topic	Presenter	Ref
	08:00	Delegation Registration		

Annual General Meeting of RSL Vic Inc

1	10:00	Opening of AGM	Chair	
2	10:20	State President Report	State President	
3	10:40	State Branch Financial Report	State Honorary Treasurer & CFO	
4	11:10	Acting CEO Address	Acting CEO	
5	11:30	Break		
6	11:45	Policy Remits	Chair	Annex B
7	12:45	Lunch		
8	13:30	Rule Remits	Chair	Annex C
9	14:30	Return of Election	Returning Officer	
10	14:45	Close of AGM	Chair	

ITEM 1 – OPENING OF AGM

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Chairman will acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we meet.

'I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Elders of other communities who may be here today. I also wish to acknowledge all First Nation people who have served or are serving in the Australian Defence force'.

Pledge of Allegiance

The RSL Pledge of Allegiance will be given by group recitation led by the Chairman:

"I (name of member) do hereby swear allegiance to the Commonwealth of Australia and its people and do hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Constitution of the Returned & Services League of Australia".

Message of Loyalty

The Chairman will move that the following Message of Loyalty be sent to our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, to be conveyed through Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria:

"We, the delegates of the 106th Annual State Conference of the Victorian Branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia, assembled in Victoria tender to Your Majesty in warmest affection, our expressions of continued loyalty to the Throne, and our hope that Your Majesty and family will be blessed with unbounded health and happiness, now and in the years ahead".

Special Motion to Conference

Pursuant to Rule 7.2 (b) (7) of the RSL Victoria State Branch Rules, the RSL Victoria State Executive has the power to "determine any questions for which these rules [the RSL Victoria State Branch Rules] do not provide, subject to the decision being reviewed by the Annual Conference or an Extraordinary Conference". The RSL Victoria State Branch Rules do not provide for a situation in which the voting process for the State Branch elections are disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated Government imposed lockdowns.

The State Executive commends a motion to be put to the 2021 State Annual Conference that pursuant to Rule 7.2 (b) (7) of the RSL Victoria State Branch Rules that RSL Victoria accepts and endorses the validity of all votes [“Ballots”] cast at Ordinary General Meetings [“OGMs”] of RSL Sub-Branches for the election of 2021 Branch officers where these OGM’s were conducted on or before 13 July 2021”.

State Executive -

Minutes of the 105th RSL Annual State Conference

The Chairman will move that the Minutes of the 105th RSL Annual State Conference, as circulated, be received and adopted.

ITEM 2 – STATE PRESIDENTS REPORT

President’s Report

The President will make an address to the Annual Conference on the achievements and highlights of the State Branch in 2020 and move the following motion:

That the 2020 Annual Report, as circulated, be received and adopted.

That all retiring members of the State Executive be acknowledged for their time and commitment to veterans and the League.

ITEM 3 – STATE BRANCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statements

The State Honorary Treasurer will give the Treasurer’s Report for 2020 with supporting remarks from the Chief Financial Officer and move the following motion:

That the 2020 Financial Statements, as circulated, be received and adopted.

Appointment of Auditor

The State Honorary Treasurer will move the following motion:

That Grant Thornton be re-appointed as Auditor for the 2021 Financial Year.

Branch Officer Honorariums

The Chair will request the chair of the State Executive Risk, Audit and Governance Sub-Committee to temporarily assume the role of meeting chair for this item who will then present a motion to the members on Branch Officer Honorariums.

ITEM 4 – ACTING CEO ADDRESS

Current and Planned Strategic Initiatives

The Acting Chief Executive Officer will provide a presentation on the operations and achievements of the Branch in 2020 and provide an update on the current status of initiatives.

ITEM 5 – BREAK

The Chair will adjourn the meeting for a 15 minute break

ITEM 6 – POLICY REMITS

The following policy remits will be proposed and debated. These remits require a simple majority to be passed. See Annex B for detail on each remit.

Remit No	Topic	Moved By	Remit Detail
1	That RSL National Act to Represent Veterans	Hawthorn	Annex B – Remit 1 of 3
2	Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act, 2004 (MRCA)	Hawthorn	Annex B – Remit 2 of 3
3	RSL Victoria Membership Card	Hawthorn	Annex B – Remit 3 of 3

ITEM 7 – LUNCH

There will be a break for lunch.

ITEM 8 – RULE REMITS

The following remits that seek to amend the Branch Rules will be proposed and debated. These remits are special resolutions and therefore require a 75% majority to be passed. See Annex C for detail on each remit.

Remit No	Topic	Moved By	Remit Detail
1	Eligibility for State Honorary Treasurer	State President	Annex C – Remit 1 of 4
2	State Executive Governance Charter	State President	Annex C – Remit 2 of 4
3	Voting for the State Executive	Hawthorn	Annex C - Remit 3 of 4
4	Terms of Office of the State Executive	Hawthorn	Annex C – Remit 4 of 4

ITEM 9 – RETURN OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

Victorian Branch Elections

The Returning Officer will announce the results of the elections for the Branch Officer positions of State Senior Vice President and State Vice President for 2021-2023.

The returning officer will move the following motion:

That the Returning Officer be granted permission to destroy the ballot papers.

ITEM 10 – CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Vote of Thanks

The Chairman, on behalf of the delegates to the 106th Annual State Conference of the RSL Victorian Branch, will move a vote of thanks to those who contributed to the success of the Conference.

Date & Location – 2022 Annual State Conference

The chair will move the following motion:

That the 107th Annual State Conference of the RSL Victorian Branch be held in July 2022 at a time and venue to be determined.

Closure of Conference

The Chair will declare the 106th Annual State Conference of the RSL Victorian Branch closed.

ATTACHMENTS AND ENCLOSURES

- Annex A – Meeting Instructions and Standing Orders
- Annex B – Policy Remits 1 to 3
 - [Remit 1 of 3](#)
 - [Remit 2 of 3](#)
 - [Remit 3 of 3](#)
- Annex C – Rule Remits 1 to 4
 - [Remit 1 of 4](#)
 - [Remit 2 of 4](#)
 - [Remit 3 of 4](#)
 - [Remit 4 of 4](#)
- Enclosure 1 – Draft Minutes of the 2020 Annual Conference
- Enclosure 2 – 2020 Audited Financial Statements

ANNEX A - MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

Annual Conference Procedure

Agenda

All Sub-Branches shall receive a copy of the Agenda and the Annual Report of the Branch. Only the items included on the Agenda may be discussed without leave of the Chair and only where the Chair deems such a discussion to be in the League's interest.

Quorum

One 1/4 of the number of Delegates who have registered to be present shall be a quorum at Conference.

Delegates

Delegates must register their intention to attend via the registration link provided to Sub-Branch Secretaries. Registrations will not be accepted after the 27th August 2021 [Rule 8.4(g)]. Delegates must be in attendance before the start of the Conference, late delegates will not be admitted entry into the State Conference once proceedings have begun.

Identification of Delegates

A Delegate must either present to the microphone in the room or use the 'raise your hand function' if joining remotely and await recognition by the chair to speak. The delegate shall announce their full name and Sub-Branch (e.g. John Citizen, Melbourne Sub-Branch) each time they speak. Anyone that does not follow this process shall not be permitted to address the Conference.

Delegates who have transferred their right to speak or vote on a subject to a proxy Delegate shall not be entitled to address the Conference or vote.

Agenda Discussion

Delegates are asked to deal with items as they appear on the Agenda Paper. If a delegate seeks to have their agenda item dealt with out of turn because of an emergency, they are to seek the permission of the Chair and other delegates, to do so.

Discussion Confined to Motions

Subject to the Chair's right to permit discussion upon any matter they deem of importance to the meeting, no discussion shall take place except on a motion or amendment moved and seconded.

Delegates Cannot Voice Personal Grievances

No delegate may voice their personal grievance to the Conference, except where the Chair is informed beforehand of their desire to do so and approves of the personal details being furnished.

Speakers Time Limit

Unless otherwise resolved by Conference, the mover shall be limited to five minutes, the seconder to three minutes, and speakers on the motion to three minutes each.

A member seconding a motion or amendment without remark is not to be held to have spoken thereon.

When a motion or an amendment is moved and seconded, debate may ensue;

- not more than two speakers shall speak in succession either for or against any question and if, at the conclusion of the second speaker's remarks and upon a call from the Chairperson, no Member rises to speak on the opposite side, the motion or amendment shall, after the mover of the motion has replied, at once be put to the vote.
- A member who has spoken to a question may again be heard to explain himself in regard to something material in part of his speech which the chairperson agrees may have been misquoted or misunderstood, but such member must not introduce any new matter or interrupt a member who may be speaking, and no debatable matter must be brought forward or debate arise upon such explanation.

Addressing the Chair

On all questions, and during all discussion, the member speaking shall stand and address the meeting through the Chair.

Respect to Chair

Members must resume their seats upon the chairperson rising to speak, and any member refusing to so resume their seat must be liable to immediate suspension by the chairperson.

Suspension of order of business

The motion by two members supported by a two thirds majority vote of members present, may suspend the order of business provided the suspension is limited to the purpose for which it was granted.

Motions

- Amendments to Rules of the Victorian Branch RSL

A motion to alter any of the Branch Rules shall be moved at Conference only where the same has been submitted from a Sub-Branch, the State President and/or State Executive in accordance with the rules.

No such motion shall be dealt with by Conference unless notice thereof shall have been given in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, approved for inclusion by the Agenda Committee and full details have been forwarded to each Sub-Branch no later than 21 days prior to the Conference.

A motion to alter any of the Rules, must be in the proper form and carried by a three quarters majority of Delegates present and entitled to vote at the conference.

- Other Motions

No motion shall be dealt with by Conference unless notice thereof shall have been given in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, approved for inclusion by the Agenda Committee and full details have been forwarded to each Sub-Branch no later than 28 days prior to the Conference.

A simple majority of votes of Delegates present and entitled to vote is all that is required to carry such resolutions.

Motion not seconded

A motion not seconded is not to be debated and no entry of the motion is to be made in the minutes.

Motions discharged from agenda

A motion may, by permission of the chairperson, be superseded at any time by another motion "That it be discharged from the notice paper", "That the question be adjourned", "That the question be now put", "That the next business be proceeded with" or "That the meeting be adjourned".

No member who has spoken to the main question will be permitted to so move.

Amendments to Motions

Only one amendment, which must be relevant to the question to which it is proposed to be made, shall be entertained at the one time. If the amendment be carried it shall be before the substantive motion, the original motion lapsing, and there shall be no necessity to put the original motion to the meeting.

An Amendment proposed but not seconded, shall not be entertained nor entered into the Minutes. Whether an amendment is carried or not, other amendments may be submitted, one at a time, to be decided in like manner until the subject is finally disposed of. No Member shall propose or second more than one amendment.

Amendments to special resolutions shall not be entertained that substantially changes the motion from that provided in the notice.

Amendments lost

In the case of all amendments being lost, the chairperson is to put the original motion to discussion and vote.

Points of Order

A point of order may be raised by a Member. Immediately a point of order is raised, current discussion will cease, and the Chairperson will determine the question and no discussion on a point will be permitted. (Points of correction such as that a speaker is not stating the truth are not points of order).

A point of order shall deal only with the conduct or procedure of the debate and the Member shall state their point without irrelevant details, The Member must establish that-

- They are speaking outside the question, or
- They are transgressing a Rule of the Branch, or
- They are infringing Standing Order or acting contrary to the general custom of debate.

Motion for “Question to be Put”

A motion “that the question be now put” may be moved at any stage of a debate and shall be put immediately without discussion. No member who has spoken to the motion or any amendment shall be permitted to move or second such a motion.

If lost, the debate shall continue. If carried, the mover shall have the right to reply, and the motion or amendment as the case may be, shall be put to the meeting without further discussion.

Delegate – Voting

As the Annual Conference will be held online, voting will take the following form

- Online via the web-based voting platform. One (1) registered Delegate per Sub-Branch will be required log into the platform and will cast the required vote on behalf of their members. Each vote will be weighted, i.e.: if the Sub-Branch has four (4) entitled Delegates, the vote cast will register as four (4) votes in the system.

Delegate – Absence

In the absence of a delegate from a Sub-Branch which has submitted an item on the agenda, the Chair may allow any delegate to move such item.

Disagree with Ruling

The ruling of the Chairperson upon any question under the Standing Orders or on points of order or explanation shall be final, unless challenged by at least one fifth of those present, and two thirds of the members present vote against such ruling.

Upon the submission of a motion “That the Chairperson’s ruling be disagreed with” the Chairperson forthwith shall leave the Chair. The Senior Vice-President present shall take the Chair or if none present a chairperson appointed by the meeting. The motion shall then resume the Chair and debate on the original question shall proceed.

Penalty for breaches of decorum

A member violating any of these standing orders may be suspended by the chairperson for the currency of the meeting.

A member refusing to retract any expression deemed by the chairperson to be offensive is to be suspended until a retraction is made.

Recording Devices

No recording devices are permitted to be used during the Conference by anyone in attendance for the purpose of recording (either audio or visual) and part of the Conference.

Copyright

RSL Victoria’s 106th Annual State Conference AGM 2021 Live streams and recordings of Ordinary and Special Council Meetings and any other public forums and meetings authorised by RSL Victoria remain the property of RSL Victoria and are protected by the Copyright Act.

Access to live streams and recordings of RSL Victoria 106th Annual State Conference AGM 2021 is provided for personal and non-commercial use. Video, images and audio must not be altered, reproduced or republished without the permission of RSL Victoria.

Media

Any media presence at Conference is at the discretion of the Chair and must be pre-registered. Media are reminded of copyright rules identified above.

Disclaimer

Live streaming allows members to watch and listen to the meeting in real time, giving them greater access to RSL Victoria decision making and debate and encouraging openness and transparency. Every care is taken to maintain privacy and attendees are advised that they may be recorded.

RSL Victoria does not accept any responsibility or liability for any loss, damage, cost or expense that may be incurred as a result of viewing, using or relying on information or statements provided in the live streaming or recording of the RSL Victoria 106th Annual State Conference .

Whilst RSL Victoria will make every effort to ensure that live streaming is available, it takes no responsibility for, and cannot be held liable for technical issues beyond its control. Technical issues may include, but are not limited to, the availability of the internet connection, device failure or malfunction, unavailability of social media platforms or power outages.

ANNEX B - POLICY REMITS

POLICY REMIT 1 OF 3 | HAWTHORN

That the State Branch adopt the following policy position, that RSL Victoria lobby RSL National to act to represent veterans by:

- a. Stridently and publicly lobbying the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to meet its stated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for processing veterans' claims, and continue to stridently and publicly lobby DVA until those KPIs are met; and
- b. Communicating their actions, advocacy and the outcomes to RSL membership publicly via metropolitan and regional news, email, letter, and social media.

Rationale -

a. **Delays in the Processing of Veterans' claims**

Senator Jacqui Lambie has found that current waiting times for the processing of claims by DVA has ballooned to 18 months. This is despite DVA stating that there is a maximum time frame of 90 days to process these claims. This is unacceptable to all veterans. DVA fails to consistently meet its mandated KPIs for the processing of veterans' claims. The Department has blamed delays – which inflict unnecessary emotional and financial hardship on many veterans – on the 2020 bushfires, COVID-19, and an increased number of claims submissions. Many organisations – public, private and government – have been adversely affected by the challenges 2020 has brought, the most significant being the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, this pandemic has lessened neither the number of veterans in need nor the importance of timely support to those veterans in need. During the pandemic, Local, State and Commonwealth Governments have developed and implemented innovative solutions to meet the public's needs in a timely and effective manner. Two very powerful examples of the Commonwealth Government's commitment to supporting those in need are: the swift response in providing financial support to large numbers of unemployed Australians; and the deployment of members of the Australian Defence Force to support the protection of state and national borders. The members of RSL Victoria expect DVA to meet its responsibilities to the veteran community in a similarly positive and effective manner. In particular, the Members of RSL Victoria, expect DVA to implement practices to meet its KPIs for processing of veterans' claims and calls on RSL National to remind the Department that its responsibility to veterans has in no way diminished.

b. **Communication with RSL Membership**

The RSL (formally the RSSILA) understood the power of effective communication from its inception in 1916. State and National level Executives communicated regularly and openly with their members through the nation's newspapers. Representations to local and Federal government, along with their outcomes, were reported actively to membership in an open and transparent manner: veterans remained informed of the League's goals, actions, successes, and failures. However, newspaper reportage served a more nuanced purpose: it demonstrated to all veterans – members and non- members alike – the intrinsic worth of RSL membership. The concessions, pensions, and entitlements that the League negotiated – and then fought to protect – were for all returned men. In the 1930s, with the economic effect of the Great Depression tightening its grip on Australia, RSL membership surged as veterans acknowledged the League's efforts to support them. Communication served as a powerful tool for recruitment and these numbers were exceeded only with the advent of WWII and the addition of a new generation of servicemen. An audit of newspaper reportage reveals the RSL National's voice began to disappear from the nation's press in the 1990s. In recent years, the National Executive speaks only sporadically to its membership, leading to disappointment, suspicion, and anger among veterans. Members of RSL Victoria expect RSL National will begin to communicate regularly with veterans

through regional and metropolitan news and social media, informing them of its actions and the outcomes of its efforts to support the veteran community.

There has been zero news, statements, or updates to the RSL National website, and extremely limited social media since March 2019. This, coupled with the recent comments by RSL National President Greg Melick appear to show RSL National is not in touch with the members they are meant to represent. This not the standard of communication members deserve. Our RSL forebears battled hard to gain the entitlements we currently have. It is RSL Nationals responsibility to continue that fight and represent all veterans, especially in regard to DVA. RSL National must hold DVA accountable, speak on behalf of their members, and represent the membership in all areas. This will ensure all are achieving best practice. This has a dual purpose in not only ensuring veterans gain the support and help they so richly deserve, but also demonstrates the value of RSL membership to members and non-members alike.

POLICY REMIT 2 OF 3 | HAWTHORN

That the State Branch adopt the following policy position, that an amendment be made to the Combined Transitional Provisional Act MRCA 2004: “Part-3 Persons who have both VEA/DRCA and MRCA injuries and diseases”, be amended to: “Part-3 Persons who have VEA or DRCA injuries and diseases” and added under 13 (1) c. A person who has a war-caused or defence injury or disease under the DRCA makes application for assessment under the MRCA.

Rationale -

Many of our most disadvantaged and disabled veterans are solely covered by The Defence Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2017 (DRCA). Their benefits and entitlements are dramatically different to those covered by MRCA and VEA.

They are not entitled to;

- A health care card.
- Centre link benefits.
- Gold card or
- Gold card embossed TPI
- Discounts and concessions

Recommendation from the productivity commission included rolling up all DRCA veterans under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA). While covered solely under DRCA, these veterans are remaining our most disadvantaged disabled veterans.

Our motion is for RSL Victoria to advocate to fix this issue by a simple amendment to the Combined Transitional Provisional Act (MRCA 2004) (CTPA) which will initiate, by the request of the veteran to be tested, under the MRCA for Gold Card and Special Rate Disability Pension for TPI embossing.

This will result in the fixing of a simple fault without waiting for the long slow process of the legislative review committee or the implementation of recommendation of the Royal Commissioner.

REMIT 3 OF 3 | HAWTHORN

That the State Branch adopt the following policy position:

That the RSL Victoria Membership Card issued to League Members shall contain no marketing of any type relating to commercial operations. That new membership cards contain phone number for Open Arms, and MilVet that are beneficial to members.

Rationale –

Membership of the league encourages those to partake in the camaraderie and friendship that can be found therein. Many of our fellow members have strong ethical and moral issues with gaming and this may cause them to avoid membership or visiting. Any sort of advertising for commercial operations should not be done through membership of the league.

ANNEX C - RULE REMITS

RULE REMIT 1 OF 4 | STATE PRESIDENT

That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that the eligibility for State Honorary Treasurer is aligned with the requirements for other Branch Officers, save and except for the additional requirement to be an active member of a recognised Professional Accounting Association.

Rules affected

- Rule 9.4

Delete existing Rule 9.4(b)

Replace with:

A Member is eligible to be the State Honorary Treasurer if they:

- meet the requirements set out in Rule 9.4(a); and
- are an active member of a recognised Professional Accounting Association.

Rationale -

The Branch rules were amended at the 2020 Annual Conference to change the eligibility of the State Executive for all roles other than for the State Honorary Treasurer. A separate motion proposed at the same Annual Conference to remove the role of Treasurer was defeated. This has led to anomaly in the rules whereby the State Honorary Treasurer has retained the previous set of onerous eligibility requirements. This remit seeks to address that anomaly and align the State Honorary Treasurer requirements to other State Executive roles other than the additional need for financial expertise.

RULE REMIT 2 OF 4 | STATE PRESIDENT

That the Rules of the Branch be amended to move the framework governing meetings of the State Executive from the State Branch Rules to a State Branch Bylaw.

Rules affected

- Rule 7.6

Delete existing Rule 7.6 in its entirety

Replace with new Rule 7.6:

- a) Meetings of the State Executive shall be conducted in accordance with Branch Bylaw 17.

Rationale -

The State Executive developed a board charter following engagement with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) in 2019 as an agreed improvement measure that would see the State Executive operate more like a board than a committee of management. Contemporary corporate governance practice sees the meetings and the general operation of Boards governed under such board charters.

The purpose of this remit is to incorporate the board charter into the rules as a bylaw. This will enable the charter to be amended from time to time to keep pace with changes in best practice board governance. Having the charter within a bylaw makes rule 7.6 obsolete in its current form. Rule 7.6 would be retained to highlight that the governance of the State Executive is covered under the bylaw.

RULE REMIT 3 OF 4 | HAWTHORN

That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that each Life or Service Member directly casts a vote for the election of the State Executive.

Rules affected

- **10.3(d), (e), (f), (g) and (h), 13.9B (b)**

Delete existing Rule 10.3(d), (e), (f), (g) and (h)

Replace with:

- d) *A ballot paper for each Branch Officer listing the nominees as drawn by the Returning Officer (names drawn from a suitable container for the order of the ballot paper) and a copy of the nominee's League record provided under Rule 10.2(d) must be sent to every Member of the Branch at their postal, facsimile or electronic transmission address contained in the register of members at least forty two days prior to the Annual Conference.*
- e) *A Member is entitled to vote once for each Branch Officer election.*
- 1) *A Member may vote using one of the following means:*
 - i. *by returning their ballot to the Returning Officer by post; or*
 - ii. *by returning their ballot electronically to the Returning Officer by way of an online vote.*
 - 2) *A reference to a Member in this Rule means a Life Member, Life Subscriber or a Service Member of the Branch who has paid the Minimum Subscription Fee by 30 April immediately preceding the Annual Conference.*
- f) *The preferential method of voting is to be used.*
- g) *A number must be placed opposite each name to indicate the order of preference for each nominee.*
- h) *The ballot paper must be returned to the Returning Officer as per the instructions provided with the ballot paper and must reach the Returning Officer at least forty-eight hours prior to the Annual Conference.*

Delete existing Rule 13.9B(b)

Replace with:

- b) *One such Ordinary General Meeting shall be held within sixty days immediately preceding the Annual Conference under the Branch Constitution to instruct the Sub-Branch delegates to the Annual Conference on how to vote on matters listed in the Agenda for the Annual Conference.*

Rationale –

The current system of delegate voting is no longer best practice and is outdated. Members of the league deserve to have their individual voices heard, and this remit will ensure that RSL Victoria is a democratic and representative ESO into the future.

This change has already occurred in RSL NSW and has been successful in increasing the democratic nature of electing branch officers. Their example in this is one for us to follow.

We propose a remit that the election of Branch officers should occur on the basis of "One member, One Vote"

RULE REMIT 4 OF 4 | HAWTHORN

That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that members of the State Executive are elected for a term of 3 years instead of 2 years and to introduce term limits whereby a member of the State Executive can serve a maximum of 4 terms consecutively.

Rules affected

- Rule 7.4, Rule 7.5, Rule 9.1

Rule 7.4(b)

- Delete the word “two”
- Replace with the word “three”

Delete existing Rule 9.1(c)

Replace with:

- c) *A Branch Officer is to hold office until the closure of the Annual Conference three years after their election.*

Add new Rule 7.5(e) and (f)

- e) *Subject to Rule 7.4(e), a member of the State Executive who holds office pursuant to Rule 7.4(a)(2) and (3) is not permitted to hold office for more than four consecutive terms.*
- f) *Any terms served prior to the 2021 Annual Conference shall not be counted towards the term limits set out in Rule 7.5(e).*

Add new Rule 9.1(f) and (g)

- f) *Subject to Rule 9.1(e), a Branch Officer is not permitted to hold office for more than four consecutive terms.*
- g) *Any terms served prior to the 2021 Annual Conference shall not be counted towards the term limits set out in Rule 9.1(f).*

Rationale -

Benjamin Franklin best summed up the benefit of term limits more than 200 years ago when he said, “*Rulers are the servants, and the people their superiors... for the former to return among the latter does not degrade, but promote them*”.

Term limits ensure good governance and a greater connection between the voters and leadership. Meritocracy is therefore encouraged and “rule through seniority” negated. Introducing term limits will encourage healthy competition, succession planning, and a minimisation of upheaval during transition. For an organisation like RSL Victoria to remain at the cutting edge of ESOs, term limits will encourage competition, new ideas, and robust debate, while minimising bureaucracy and staleness.

RSL Victoria is a leading organisation within ESOs, and there is an abundance of diverse leadership within our ranks that will gain opportunity through introducing term limits