

# ***AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR DEFENCE ENGINEERING***

*A Technical Society of Engineers Australia*

*Furthering The Role Of Engineering In The Defence Of Australia*

## ***CONSTITUTION***

### **1. NAME**

The name of the Society shall be the Australian Society for Defence Engineering, and hereinafter shall be referred to as the Society.

### **2. AFFILIATION**

The Society was established on 1 May 1991 under the name Society of Military Engineering, as a constituent Technical Society under the auspices of Engineers Australia. The Constitution is subject and subordinate to the Royal Charter and Bye-Laws of the Institution. The change of name to the Australian Society for Defence Engineering was approved at a meeting of the National Committee on 21 May 2002.

### **3. AIMS**

**3.1** *The aims of the Society* are to foster the exchange of information relating to the theory and practice of defence engineering, and in particular to:

- a) Act as a learned society embracing all aspects of engineering theory, practice, heritage and training relevant to the defence of Australia, the armed forces and the defence industry.
- b) Inform its members on equipment development and engineering projects within the Australian Defence Force, other armed forces and the defence industry.
- c) Provide a forum for intellectual and fraternal exchange for Society members with a common interest in all aspects of defence engineering including the development of defence engineering and technology.

**3.2** *These aims shall be achieved* by:

- a) The conduct of at least six formal meetings and one site visit per year by each Regional Chapter that address matters of defence engineering covering the broadest possible range of interest.
- b) Publishing a Newsletter of the Society, including articles of interest and value to members of the Society.
- c) Arranging Society functions and appropriate activities which are conducive to the above aims.

**4. PATRONS**

The most senior office in the Australian Defence Force and other distinguished persons may be invited to become patrons.

**5. MEMBERSHIP**

Individual membership shall be open to serving and retired members of the Australian Defence Force, the Defence community and those with an interest in defence engineering. Society members need not necessarily be members of Engineers Australia.

Corporate membership shall be open to organisations with an interest in defence engineering. Corporate members will receive benefits determined from time to time by the National Committee.

**6. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Membership of the Society shall be subject to payment of an annual subscription. The amount of this annual subscription will be determined by the Society's National Committee and shall be payable by 1 July in respect of the following twelve months. An individual's membership will lapse if payment of his or her subscription is more than sixty (60) days overdue.

**7. MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIETY**

**7.1** *Affairs of the Society*

The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a National Committee and subordinate Regional Chapter Committees in areas of Australia where the Society is active. The National Committee shall be the Society's governing body and will report to Engineers Australia in accordance with the Technical Society Guidelines and Regulations.

**7.2 Regional Chapters**

The National Committee may approve the establishment of new Regional Chapters and appoint a person to be a Convenor, pending the election of a Regional Chapter Committee. A request to establish a Regional Chapter must be assessed as viable by the National Committee.

The National Committee may call for a Regional Chapter to be wound up where the level of activity warrants such an action or where there are less than twenty enrolled members.

**8. NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

**8.1 Content of Committee**

The National Committee is to consist of Regional Chapter Chairmen plus up to four coopted members and the most recent past National Chairman willing to serve, as an ex-officio member.

**8.2 Election of Office Bearers**

The Committee members and the ex-officio members will elect the following office bearers:

Chairman  
Deputy Chairman  
Honorary Secretary  
Honorary Treasurer

An office bearer's term of office will be for a period of two years. It is mandatory that the positions of Chairman and Honorary Treasurer are filled by Corporate Members of Engineers Australia.

**8.3 Sub-Committees**

The National Committee may appoint sub-committees for special purposes as and when required.

**8.4 Replacement of Office Bearers**

When an office bearer is unable to perform the duties of his or her office, the Committee shall be empowered to select a replacement.

**8.5 Frequency of Meetings**

The National Committee will meet at least once a year. A quorum of the Committee shall be four members. Any such quorum shall include the Chairman or Deputy Chairman and either the Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer. At all such meetings, each Committee member shall have one vote. In the event of voting resulting in a tie, the Chairman or Acting Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

## 9. REGIONAL CHAPTER COMMITTEES

### 9.1 *Content of Regional Chapter Committees*

A Regional Chapter Committee shall comprise the following Office Bearers:

Chairman  
Deputy Chairman  
Honorary Secretary  
Honorary Treasurer  
At least two Committee members

**Note:** The positions of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer may be filled by one person.

The term of office for positions shall be from one Annual General Meeting to the next Annual General Meeting.

### 9.2 *Regional Chapter Management*

The method of electing Regional Chapter Office Bearers and the modus operandi for the conduct of Chapter activities, including Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings, shall be governed by Chapter Rules. Such Chapter Rules shall be subordinate to this Constitution.

## 10. FINANCE

### 10.1 *Method of finance*

It is a requirement that the conduct of Society activities, at both national level and regional chapter level, be self-financing.

### 10.2 *Source of finance*

The principal income stream for the National Committee will be the payment of annual subscriptions from individual and corporate members. This income stream may be supplemented by Engineers Australia funds in accordance with the Engineers Australia Technical Society Guidelines and Regulations or other arrangements. These subscription monies will be paid into the Society's central bank account/s which will be controlled by the National Committee.

### 10.3 *Allocation of funds*

The National Committee shall allocate the funds paid into the Society's central bank account/s for the conduct of society activities.

**10.4 Signatories**

The National Committee shall determine the signatories and manner of operation of the Society's central bank account/s. There should be a minimum of two signatories for each account, with all financial transactions to be signed by two signatories. The National Committee may make other financial arrangements which it considers to be in the best interests of the Society and which comply with the Technical Society Guidelines and Regulations.

**10.5 Regional Chapter Committee financial arrangements**

Each Regional Chapter of the Society may operate its own bank account/s. Each Chapter Committee shall determine the signatories of its branch account/s with reference to the conditions in **10.4**.

**10.6 Winding up of Regional Chapters**

In the event that a Regional Chapter is wound up, any remaining assets may be transferred to the National Committee.

**11. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES**

The Society shall foster affiliations and/or linkages with kindred associations in Australia and overseas with a view to exchanging information and conducting joint activities.

**12. ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution may be altered only by a two thirds majority of financial members voting in a postal vote.