

# The Committee for Sydney

## Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting



Wednesday, 3 November 2021 at 3.00 pm

Online

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### 1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairman, Michael Rose, welcomed Members to the 2021 Annual General Meeting and acknowledged the Gadigal people, as traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was taking place.

Michael acknowledged that this meeting was unfortunately online this year due to Covid restrictions but was optimistic that future meetings will be in person. The Committee is looking forward to connecting with members and friends again.

He noted that with member support, the Committee's team had grown, building depth and knowledge.

Michael thanked four Board members who have retired from the Committee during the year (Martin Blake, David Rolls, Kate Jordan and Siobhan Toohill) and noted that in line with the Constitutional process, these positions had all been filled by casual vacancy.

Michael introduced the four new Board members, Lisa Chung AM, Doug Ferguson, Samantha Stevens and David Thodey AO.

Michael acknowledged that 2021 had been another challenging year due to the pandemic, and he thanked members for their ongoing commitment to, and support of, the Committee.

### 2. 2021 Highlights

Gabriel Metcalf commented that it had been another big year for the Committee and summarised a number of highlights for 2021, including:

- A strong focus on post-COVID social and economic recovery with the Committee advocating strongly for vaccinations, opening of schools and reducing the over policing of public spaces.
- The success of the Government's response to the pandemic.
- Research highlights with a public statement on Warragamba Dam, and a public statement on fast rail.
- Continuing to work on high streets.
- Policy focus on climate action strategy, which was a response to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on climate change.
- A program to convert vehicle fleet to electric vehicles.
- The launch of two major new events; Sydney Summit and Sydney Awards.

Gabriel noted that while a lot of work happens through one-on-one conversations, the Committee has made some upgrades to public-facing channels:

- a new core, bi-weekly newsletter - the *Sydneysider*

- A new new website.
- New social media strategy, resulting in LinkedIn following doubling between February and October 2021.

Gabriel noted that the Committee has made some important new hires since the last AGM, increasing the team's experience and productivity.

Gabriel gave thanks to our 5 Innovation Fund Partners.

Gabriel thanked the team and Members for their contributions to the success of the Committee in 2021.

### **3. Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the Committee for Sydney Annual General Meeting held on 28 October 2020 were tabled.

#### **Resolved:**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28 October 2020 were approved.

### **4. Membership highlights**

Kevin George, as Chair of the Membership Sub-Committee, outlined a number of Membership highlights for 2021. He noted that:

- At the end of FY21, we had 148 members, which is an increase of 4 members compared to FY20. Today our total member base is 151 organisations.
  - Over the year we welcomed 17 new members.
  - Our membership remains diverse, and we work hard to maintain this.
  - The Committee has five Innovation Fund Partners, soon to grow to six, who support the Committee's research program.
  - A special mention was made to our Global Pathways Partner, which is a new partnership. Together we are working to ensure Sydney remains a leading global city.
  - Thanks was made to our event and briefing sponsors, including our inaugural Sydney Awards.
  - Kevin thanked Andrew Price, Tony Johnston, and his team at EY for their continued support and generosity, giving the Committee a Home at no cost.
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- Results for the 2021 Membership survey were encouraging, with the majority of respondents being delighted with the Committee's research, advocacy and events.

Kevin thanked Members for their support and participation during 2021.

## **5. Finance update**

Michael introduced Doug Ferguson who is the new Chair for the Finance, Audit and Risk Sub-Committee.

Doug Ferguson, as Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Sub-Committee, provided Members with an update on the Committee's financial performance and financial position.

Doug noted that the 2020/21 finances for the Committee remain in a healthy position. Total income for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 was \$2.54m, compared with \$2.57m in FY20. In the same period, expenditure was \$2.51m, which is the same as the year prior.

Doug noted that the Committee's balance sheet is strong with assets less liabilities of \$1.30m.

### **Approval of the Financial Statements**

Doug Ferguson referred to the Financial Statements audited by ESV Group. He noted that the audited results reflected excellent work done by the management team. He also noted the great contribution made by the Committee's Accountants, Accounting for Good.

Doug asked if there were any questions in relation to the financial accounts and, there being no questions, he moved that the Audited Financial Statements for the Committee for Sydney for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 be adopted.

### **Resolved:**

That the Audited Financial Statements of the Committee for Sydney for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 were adopted.

### **Tabling of Certificate of Insurance and Form A12**

Michael Rose tabled the Certificate of Currency of the Committee's Public Liability Policy and the Committee's Annual Summary of Financial Affairs to be lodged with the NSW Department of Fair Trading. These were noted by the meeting.

## **6. Election of the Executive Committee**

Sue Horlin noted that, pursuant to the Committee's Rules, the terms of Members of the EC expired at this meeting and that new appointments were required. It was noted that the Chair and Deputy Chair roles were re-elected last year and therefore remain on to serve our second appointed year.

Sue noted that she could confirm that we received no more nominations than positions available by the required date, and nominations are in order. As such, there is no need for a ballot in relation to

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these positions.

I declare that the following Executive Committee members are thus duly re-elected:

1. Virginia Briggs, MinterEllison
2. Attila Brungs, UTS
3. Lisa Chung
4. Doug Ferguson, KPMG
5. Susan Ferrier, NAB
6. Kevin George, DEXUS
7. Nicholas Gray, News Corp
8. Simon Kennedy, McKinsey & Company
9. Lyn Lewis-Smith, BESydney
10. Larry McGrath, John Holland Group
11. James Rosenwax, AECOM
12. Sam Stevens, Origin Energy
13. David Thodey
14. Gabrielle Trainor AO
15. Brian Tyson, SEC Newgate Australia

Congratulations to all Executive Committee Members.

## **7. Any other business**

Sue Horlin noted that this brings an end to our official proceeding today and opened to any other business to be raised.

No other business was required.

## **8. Closure**

Michael Rose thanked the management team, Members of the EC, and Taskforce Chairs for their contributions to the success of the Committee in 2021 despite it being another difficult year.

Michael commented that we look forward to seeing you in person at our 2022 events and can't wait to get everyone back in the room to talk about Sydney and the opportunities that we can offer.

Thanks so much for joining us today.

There being no further business Michael Rose declared that the 2021 AGM meeting closed at 4.42 pm.

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