

1895, 1975, 2000 and the “Pink Book”

In 1895, the Institution of Surveyors, Victoria, was created by a Memorandum of Association as a company limited by guarantee, incorporated pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Act 1890. The memorandum notes that the Institution was established for the “advancement and elevation of Surveying and Civil Engineering as professions in Victoria”.

In 1975, the current version of the Articles of Association, otherwise known as the “Pink Book”, based on the colour of the cover, was adopted at an Extraordinary General Meeting. The Articles of Association use language which is very gender specific, the document refers to Acts of Parliament which have been or soon will be superseded, and does not include any reference to the Graduate and Affiliate grades of membership of the Institution.

In 2000 it is appropriate that the current version of the Articles of Association is modernised. The primary motivation, as identified by Committee, is that the Annual General Meeting must be held in December, and this does not allow the Institution to submit mandatory annual reports to government authorities in a timely manner. The Institution has been fined a small amount annually in recent years for late submissions to ASIC. Further, the Institution financial year is stated as October 1 to September 30 and this should be amended to be aligned with the universally adopted July 1 to June 30 financial year.

The generic changes made to the revised Articles of Association are as follows:

- All gender specific references have been altered.
- All references to specific Acts of Parliament have been generalised.
- The Graduate and Affiliate grades of membership have been added.
- The timing of Ordinary and Annual General Meetings is now at the discretion of the Committee.
- The Institution financial year is now the same as the standard financial year.

In contrast, the Memorandum of Association is now an historic document that should retain its original flavour, so it has been corrected to reflect the original name of The Victorian Institute of Surveyors. A preamble has been added to outline the changes in name and the historic nature of the document.

Other major changes and issues, identified by the Article number, are as follows:

1. The definition of Corporate Members also now includes Graduate and Associate grades to afford them full rights and responsibilities of membership.
23. The percentage of Fellows that limits further nominations has been changed from the odd figure of 16 and 2/3 to a straightforward 20 per cent.
24. The process of nomination and approval of Fellows now commences with an assessment by Executive and requires only a vote, rather than a postal vote, of Committee members.
28. This Article needs to be revised and the issue is currently being reviewed by The Institution of Surveyors, Australia. Appropriate changes proposed by ISA will be reflected by a future change here.
30. Subscriptions now become due on July 1 of each year.
35. The cut-off date for non-payment of subscriptions is now October 15 of each year.
- 37 and 38. The changes allows the Executive to operate the financial affairs of the Institution in a more timely manner, whilst still being subject to ratification by the Committee.