



## CONSTITUTION FOR P.A.C.T

### **Aims**

1. The aims of the Movement shall be:-
  - a) To raise awareness of the issues associated with climate change and the peaking of global oil supplies, encouraging Penrith to loosely adopt the Transition Model in order to unleash the collective genius of the local community.
  - b) To reduce carbon emissions by at least 80% by 2050 (in response to climate change).
  - c) To increase community resilience significantly (in response to peak oil).
  - d) Actively to work with other stakeholders to achieve (a) to (c) above.

Detailed objectives, designed to ensure delivery of these aims, will be developed by the various sub groups and approved by the Steering Group.

### **Powers**

2. In furtherance of the said aims, the Movement shall have the power to do all such lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said aims.

### **Membership**

3. a) The Movement welcomes the involvement of all residents of Penrith and the surrounding areas and there is no requirement for interested participants to be members of the Movement. However membership does confer the following rights
  - Voting rights at the AGM and associated meetings
  - Copies of newsletters and other correspondence
  - Opportunity to be elected to the Steering Group

Membership also accepts the responsibility of helping to finance the association by paying the agreed membership fee.

- b) Membership shall be open to all persons over sixteen living or working in the area of benefit who accept the rules of the Movement, regardless of race, sex, disability, politics, religion or sexual preference.
- c) All applicants for membership must pay any entrance fee, as determined from time to time by the Steering Group, and their application shall be considered at the first available Steering Group meeting. The Steering Group may set an annual membership fee.
- d) A member shall cease to be a member if:-
  - i) S/he dies
  - ii) S/he resigns
  - iii) S/he is expelled from membership in accordance with rule 3(e).
- e) The Steering Group shall have the right to expel any member who is in breach of rules or any bye-laws enacted by the Steering Group or who defrauds the Movement. The member has the right to put his or her case to the Steering Group, to be informed of the reason/s for expulsion and to appeal to a Meeting of members.

### **Members Meetings**

- 4. a) An Annual General Meeting shall be held at least once in each calendar year to consider the following business:-
  - i) The report of the Steering Group for the previous year.
  - ii) The annual accounts.
  - iii) The appointment of auditors (who must not be Steering Group members).
  - iv) The election of the Steering Group.

All members should be given 14 days clear notice of the AGM either in person or by public display at all places of business of the Movement.
- b) All other business shall be transacted at Special Members' Meetings. Such meetings will be called at the request of the Steering Group or at the written request of five members of the Movement. Notice must be given as in rule 4 (a).
- c) Each member has one vote and all decisions are to be carried by a simple majority of those present and voting, except that amendments to the constitution and dissolution of the Movement require a two thirds majority of those present and voting. Proxy votes are not allowed.
- e) The quorum for Members' Meetings is five members or ten per cent of the membership, whichever is the greater. If a quorum is not present for an AGM, then the meeting will be adjourned for a period not exceeding seven days at which reconstituted meeting the quorum will be five members.

### **The Steering Group**

5. a) The Steering Group shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Movement. The Steering Group shall comprise of not less than five and not more than twenty members.
- b) The Steering Group should meet at least four times a year. At least one week's notice should be given to each member. The quorum shall be one third or two members of the Steering Group whichever is the greater.
- c) In order to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of the Movement the Steering Group shall have the power to:-
- i) Enact secondary rules or bye-laws within the framework of these rules.
  - ii) Constitute such sub-committees as may be necessary.
  - iii) Co-opt up to three further members, who shall retire at the next subsequent AGM.
- d) No Steering Group member may speak or vote on any matter in which s/he is directly or indirectly financially interested and must declare such an interest to the Steering Group.

### **Application of Surplus**

6. The income and property of the Movement shall be applied solely toward the promotion of the objects of the Movement and no portion shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to members of the Movement, provided that nothing shall prevent the payment in good faith to any member or officer of the Movement in respect of reasonable expenses on behalf of the Movement.

### **Dissolution**

7. In the event of the dissolution of the Movement, any remaining assets shall not be distributed among the members of the Movement, but shall be distributed to other local organisations having similar objectives to the Movement or to other bodies having social or charitable objectives.

**NOTE** In clause 4a) iii, the auditors need not be professional auditors but some person/s independent of the Steering Group.