

# Constitution of the Community Champions Party

## Name

The name of the party is **Community Champions**. It was established in 2023 for the purposes of registering a Local Government Political Party under the NSW Electoral Act (2017). The Community Champions party is abbreviated to, also known as, **Kellie Darley Independents**.

## Objectives

The objectives of the Community Champions party are to:

- Amplify the voice and impact of community leaders by endorsing them as candidates in Local Government elections
- Advocate in the best interests of our community and for the greatest public benefit
- Operate with integrity and make transparent, evidence based decisions
- Contribute towards creating a highly liveable, thriving and sustainable city in nature
- Advance policy positions which support families, climate action and social justice
- Engage and inform our community about local government to demystify its workings, keep decision-makers accountable to residents and increase public participation in Council
- Advocate for the principles of open and responsible government
- Identify and develop courageous leaders who reflect the diversity of backgrounds and lived experiences in our community and support them to challenge the status quo
- Work with the community to find and implement solutions to the challenges we face together
- Support elected Community Champions Councillors in their duties

## Membership

Membership is open to anyone who is eligible to be enrolled to vote in elections in NSW and supports the objectives of the Community Champions party. Membership is not open to a person who is a member of another political party registered for elections in NSW.

A person wishing to become a member is to contact the party Management Committee (via [hello@communitychampions.au](mailto:hello@communitychampions.au)) outlining their reasons for wanting to join, with a completed membership declaration form. The Management Committee will then decide to accept or reject the application for membership in a timely fashion and inform the applicant of the outcome, as well as update the register of members of the party. A person shall continue to be a member until such time as they resign their membership (in writing to [hello@communitychampions.au](mailto:hello@communitychampions.au)) or are removed as determined by the Management Committee.

Members of the party shall be entitled to vote on the business of the party at the Annual General Meeting. No membership fee will be charged.

## Annual General Meeting

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held once a year to choose office bearers and the Management Committee. A month's notice will be provided to all members of the AGM.

Decisions will be made at the AGM by majority vote. All members who have been accepted, rejected or removed since the last AGM, will be listed in the AGM papers.

## **Office Bearers**

The AGM shall elect by majority vote:

- A registered officer
- A deputy registered officer
- A secretary

The AGM shall also elect a Management Committee that will consist of all elected representatives of the Community Champions party, as well as many members as the AGM decides. Plus, appoint a Party Agent at the AGM, who will be an office bearer of the party. All office bearers are responsible for ensuring the party complies with the relevant NSW Electoral Act and Electoral Funding Act.

The founding Management Committee will consist of:

- Registered Officer - Clr Kellie Darley
- Deputy Registered Officer - Natalie Ng
- Secretary and Party Agent- Carla Feruglio
- Committee Member - Melissa Brooks

To remove a person from office, or to replace an office bearer who has resigned, an extraordinary meeting of the members will be called, with a minimum of two weeks' notice provided.

## **Management**

The day to day affairs of the Community Champions party will be managed by the Management Committee, via an online group chat and meetings as required. Any changes to this constitution will be drafted by the Management Committee and proposed to the next AGM for member endorsement by majority vote.

## **Candidates for Public Office**

The Management Committee shall have the power to choose candidates to run for Local Government elections in NSW, and be guided by the following criteria.

People wishing to be a candidate for the Community Champions party should:

- Reside in the LGA where they wish to be a Councillor and have a strong connection to the community they seek to represent;
- Be a community leader, through having been a representative of a local group or organisation or acknowledgement of their contribution to the Local Government Area;
- Have demonstrated a commitment to the values of integrity, transparency, community participation and evidence based decision making;
- Be willing to contribute to campaign costs; and
- Be a member of the party.

## **Public Statements**

Public statements made for, or on behalf of, the Community Champions party will only be made by:

- Registered Officer
- Endorsed candidates seeking election at an upcoming Local Government election
- Spokesperson for the Community Champions party appointed by the Registered Officer

## **Correspondence**

The Community Champions party can be contacted on [hello@communitychampions.au](mailto:hello@communitychampions.au). Further information about the Community Champions party can be found at <http://communitychampions.au/>.

## Registered party information required under the *Electoral Act 2017* and the *Local Government Act 1993*:

Please provide written responses in the spaces provided to address the following party information if it is not explicitly outlined in the party's constitution. This information will be published on the NSW Electoral Commission's website with the party's constitution.

(i) the party's objects:

- Amplify the voice and impact of community leaders by endorsing them as candidates in Local Government elections
- Advocate in the best interests of our community and for the greatest public benefit
- Operate with integrity and make transparent, evidence based decisions
- Contribute towards creating a highly liveable, thriving and sustainable city in nature
- Advance policy positions which support families, climate action and social justice
- Engage and inform our community about local government to demystify its workings, keep decision-makers accountable to residents and increase public participation in Council
- Advocate for the principles of open and responsible government
- Identify and develop courageous leaders who reflect the diversity of backgrounds and lived experiences in our community and support them to challenge the status quo
- Work with the community to find and implement solutions to the challenges we face together
- Support elected Community Champions Councillors in their duties

(ii) the procedure for amending the party's written constitution:

Any changes to this constitution will be drafted by the Management Committee and proposed to the next AGM for member endorsement by majority vote (once the party is registered).

(iii) the rules for membership of the party, including the procedure for accepting a person as a member and ending a person's membership:

Membership is open to anyone who is eligible to be enrolled to vote in elections in NSW and supports the objectives of the Community Champions party. Membership is not open to a person who is a member of another political party registered for elections in NSW.

A person wishing to become a member is to contact the party Management Committee (via [hello@communitychampions.au](mailto:hello@communitychampions.au)) outlining their reasons for wanting to join, with a completed membership declaration form. The Management Committee will then decide to accept or reject the application for membership in a timely fashion. A person shall continue to be a member until such time as they resign their membership (in writing to [hello@communitychampions.au](mailto:hello@communitychampions.au)) or are removed as determined by the Management Committee.

Members of the party shall be entitled to vote on the business of the party at the Annual General Meeting. No membership fee will be charged.

(iv) a description of the party structure and of how the party manages its internal affairs:

The party will consist of elected office bearers (registered officer, deputy registered officer and secretary) and Management Committee. These positions will be elected annually at the AGM.

A Party Agent will also be appointed at the AGM and be an office bearer of the party. All office bearers are responsible for ensuring the party complies with the relevant NSW Electoral Act and Electoral Funding Act.

The day to day affairs of the Community Champions party will be managed by the Management Committee, which will consist of all elected representatives of the Community Champions party as well as many members as the AGM decides. The management committee will communicate and make decisions via an online group chat and meetings as required.

(v) the procedure for selecting a person to hold an office in the party and for removing a person from office:

A person will be elected to be an office bearer in the party at the annual AGM, by majority vote of the members in attendance. To remove a person from office, or to replace an office bearer who has resigned, an extraordinary meeting of the members will be called.

(vi) the names of the officers or members of the party responsible for ensuring the party complies with the *Electoral Act 2017* and the *Electoral Funding Act 2018*:

Carla Feruglio will be the party's founding Party Agent and be responsible for ensuring the party complies with the relevant Electoral Act and Electoral Funding Act.

**Please provide clear statements that explicitly outline all of the required information.**