

## Rule Changes for MEAA Western Australia – Explanatory Note

Your union (MEAA) is registered federally under the *Fair Work Act 2009*. In Western Australia, the MEAA WA Branch is registered under the *Western Australian Industrial Relations Act 1979*. The union needs this registration to approve agreements relating to WA public sector organisations.

Over the past few years, MEAA's federal rules have been altered to the point where the Branch Council positions in the federal and WA rules are no longer the same.

In 2021, the Registrar of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (WA IRC) wrote to MEAA about this misalignment and advised that the MEAA WA Branch was required to alter its rules to align with MEAA's federal rules in order for the Branch's registration to be maintained.

You can find more information about the reasons for these rule changes in the Order issued by the WA Industrial Relations Commission in March 2022 (attached).

The proposed rule changes follow the advice of the Registrar in three important respects:

- (i) The Branch Council positions to be elected in the WA Branch will correspond with those in the union's federal rules;
- (ii) The defunct position of WA Branch Secretary has been removed as no Secretary position is provided in MEAA's federal rules. In most instances, the powers of the Branch Secretary have been transferred to either a presidential office bearer or to the Regional Director; and
- (iii) To ensure that the WA Branch has a proper 'registered officer' under the WA IR Act, the new position of Senior Branch President has been created.

The union – at the WA and national level – has also taken the opportunity to generally update the WA Branch's rules to reflect the fact that the Branch no longer functions in the way it did when it was first registered. For example, membership applications and fees are now centrally managed by the national union to ensure consistency and efficient use of members' funds. Redundant terminology is also being removed.

There will be no practical changes to the way the WA Branch functions or operates arising from these rule changes. There will be no staff changes and no change to office bearers. Union sections remain in place. These changes are about ensuring that the WA MEAA Branch is a registrable trade union under the *WA IR Act*.

If you have any questions about the proposed rule changes, please contact either:

Tiffany Venning, MEAA WA Regional Director at: [tiffany.venning@meaa.org](mailto:tiffany.venning@meaa.org)

Matthew Chesher, MEAA Director, Legal and Policy at: [matthew.chesher@meaa.org](mailto:matthew.chesher@meaa.org)

### Your Rights Concerning Rule Changes

MEAA WA is required under its rules to circulate all proposed rule changes to all members no less than 28 days before the Branch Council meets to consider whether the rule changes will be supported.

You have the right to object to any or all of the proposed rule changes. To object to proposed amendments, you need to inform the Branch no less than 14 days before the Branch Council meets to consider the changes. **This means you will need to communicate your objection to the union c/- [tiffany.venning@meaa.org](mailto:tiffany.venning@meaa.org) no later than 23 November 2022.** Your objection will be circulated to all members of the Branch Council no less than 7 days before it convenes.