

R U L E S O F

.....
ECOMART NORTHERN RIVERS CO-OP LTD
.....

A Non-Trading Co-operative without Share Capital
REGISTERED UNDER THE CO-OPERATIVES ACT 1992 (N.S.W.)

REGISTRY OF CO-OPERATIVES & ASSOCIATIONS

154 Russell Street
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(Code: Model/NT/NS: 05/2006)

General statement on rules and their legal effect

These rules have the effect of a contract under seal between the co-operative and each of its members, as well as between a member and each of the other members. Each member, office-bearer, and director must agree to observe and perform the requirements of the rules applicable to them.

The rules should be read in conjunction with the current provisions in the *Co-operatives Act 1992 (NSW)* and the Regulation to that Act. The Act and the Regulation are available for inspection at the registered office of the co-operative and can be accessed by members, prospective members and the public.

The Schedules provide information specific to the co-operative and are linked to the rules. The rules and Schedules should be read together.

In the application of a rule, the interpretation that would best achieve the purpose of the rule and the objects of the co-operative, as well as co-operative principles, is to be used in preference to any other interpretation.

Schedule 1

Part 1 - Name of co-operative

[Rule 1.3](#)

The name of the co-operative is:

ECOMART NORTHERN RIVERS CO-OP LTD

Part 2 - Objects

[Rule 1.4](#)

The objects of the co-operative are:

- 1. To build strong connections between local producers of goods and consumers, in order to promote economic viability, social justice and ecological sustainability in the Northern Rivers region.**
- 2. Enable Northern Rivers consumers, Northern Rivers-owned retail outlets, institutions, food processors and restaurants who are members of the co-op to purchase local produce and goods with minimal distribution fees.**
- 3. Allow producers to determine the price of their goods and assist them in marketing their products or services locally, and regionally.**
- 4. Promote urban agriculture and home-based enterprises.**
- 5. Encourage and assist in the formation of additional local distribution centres and/or regional cooperatives with compatible aims.**

Part 3 - Active membership provision

[Rule 2](#)

The primary activity(ies) of the co-operative is/are:

- 1. To provide and maintain an internet based facility assisting co-op members to buy and sell locally produced goods, and to provide extensive product and enterprise information.**
- 2. To facilitate the distribution and payment of goods with minimal distribution fees related to the distance goods are transported.**
- 3. To procure a range of goods for sale to co-op members that cannot be supplied by the co-op members.**

In order to establish active membership of the co-operative a member must:

**Have bought or sold goods through the co-operative at least once per calendar year and;
Pay annual subscription fee.**

Part 4 – Member qualifications

[Rule 3.1](#)

The qualifications for membership of the co-operative are:

A natural person over the age of 18 years or an enterprise represented by a designated person over the age of 18 years.

Part 5 – Period of inactivity prior to cancellation

[Rule 5.1\(a\)](#)

The period of inactivity prior to cancellation is:

Eighteen (18) months.

Schedule 2

Schedule of fees

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Annual subscription (maximum): | \$200 | Rule 7.2(a) |
| Entrance fee (maximum): | \$100 | Rule 7.1(a) |
| Maximum fine: | \$20 | Rule 8 |
| Transfer of debentures: | \$100 | Rule 16(e) |

Schedule 3

Part 1 – Requisition of general meetings

[Rule 20.2](#)

The required percentage of members to requisition a general meeting is:

Twenty (20) percent of the active membership.

Part 2 - Quorum at general meetings

[Rule 21.2\(a\)](#)

The number of members required for a quorum is:

six (6) members

Schedule 4

Part 1 - Number of directors, composition of the board and term of office of directors

[Rule 11.1\(a\)](#)

The number of directors of the co-operative is:

Three (3) directors

The positions on the board shall consist of:

President

Treasurer

Secretary

The term of office of a director is:

A period of one (1) year. A retiring director shall be eligible for re-election, subject to the person holding the qualification specified in Rule 11.2, except if the retiring director has held the position for three (3) consecutive years at the time of the annual general meeting.

Part 2 – Qualifications of independent directors

[Rule 11.2\(d\)](#)

The qualifications of independent directors are:

A natural person over 18 years of age.

Part 3 - Retirement of directors

[Rule 11.7\(a\)](#)

The directors shall retire as follows:

All directors shall retire at the annual general meeting.

Schedule 5 - Changes to the model rules

No changes to the model rules.