

ABGC's Rules Now Changed

The Australian Banana Growers' Council Inc. (ABGC) Rules have now been modified. ABGC's Annual General Meeting in December resolved to make the changes and they have now been approved and registered by the Office of Fair Trading, as required under Queensland's Associations Incorporations Act.

The main change to the Rules was to enable one or two "Additional" Directors, who are not banana growers to be on the Board, with the aim of making it possible to increase the diversity of skills on the Board. The Board is not currently intending to engage someone. This was put in place as a future option. At various times in ABGC's future it may be difficult to foresee the skills set that are needed and therefore this provision now provides that scope.

The new Rules retain the current State-based composition of Directors. However three related changes were made:

- Rule 9.3 (c) increased the number of Directors who are required for a Board meeting to be convened to five and deleted the need for these to be from any two States.
- Similarly, Rule 9.5 increased the number of Directors from four to five as the required Board quorum and abolished the requirement for these to be from at least two States.
- The change at Rule 9.10 likewise abolished the need for a Board decision to include a vote in favour by a non-Queensland Director.

These changes recognised the changed demographic of banana production and ABGC membership, while increasing the number of Directors required to transact business.

There were other minor changes such as the shortened name for the entity is now 'ABGC' and 'Chairman' has been replaced with 'Chairperson.'

The above is a summary of the main changes. Details can be found in the ABGC's Rules and in the Explanatory Notes, provided to Members prior to the AGM. Both are on our web site www.abgc.org.au

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