



2020
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Explanatory Memorandum

Items of business requested by Members



Special Resolutions

Special Resolution #6 - That the constitution be amended to add a section between 8.9 and 8.10 that states: "A director may not seek re-election if they have served a consecutive term greater than six years, or have been elected at three elections, whichever is the lesser amount of time.

Proposer and Seconder: Brandon Bear and Steph Sands

Board Response: The Board does not have a particular stand.

Special Resolution #7 - That the constitution be amended to insert a section after Section 7.12(o) that states: During the election of Directors, proxy votes will not be counted. Each person present at the meeting shall be entitled to one vote, unless the person has previously voted under the provisions of section 7.12(l)

Proposer and Seconder: Brandon Bear and Steph Sands

Board Response: The Board does not have a particular stand.

Special Resolution #8 - That this meeting approves the changes to schedule 2 of the constitution of Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras to reflect the wording to the Australian Electoral Commission's proportional representation voting system as outlined in the AEC's Model Rules Guide for the conduct of elections for office (AEC 1129).

[Current Schedule](#) | [Proposed Schedule](#).

Proposer and Seconder: Liz Dods and Brandon Bear

Board Response: The Board supports the amendment as it aims to clarify and simplify Schedule 2 of the Constitution of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras without materially changing the voting system.

Ordinary Resolutions



1. In accordance with clause 3.4 of the Company's constitution, the Board has proposed that the Members consider and, if thought fit, pass the following as an ordinary resolution:

"That the persons contained in the attached document titled ['78ers for Life Membership at the 2020 Annual General Meeting'](#) be granted life membership in the Company, noting that upon approval of the Members that these persons shall be entered on the Register as life members and shall not be required to pay membership fees in accordance with the Company's constitution."

Proposer and Seconder: Diane Minnis and Matt Akersten

Board's statement in response:

The Board APPROVES the adoption of Ordinary Resolution #1

The Board supports the conferral of Life Membership upon the members of our community with the longest connection to Mardi Gras, the 78ers, and to the recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

2. That Mardi Gras' 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award winner Teresa Leggett be granted life membership in the Company, noting that upon approval of the Members that she shall be entered on the Register as life members and shall not be required to pay membership fees in accordance with the Company's constitution."

Proposer and Seconder: Matt Akersten and Jesse Matheson

Board's statement in response:

The Board APPROVES the adoption of Ordinary Resolution #2

The Board supports the conferral of Life Membership upon Teresa recognising her contributions to SGLMG.



3. This meeting requests the Board to bar the NSW Police, the Australian Federal Police, the Police Association, and any other associated organisations from having floats in the 2020 Mardi Gras Parade and all future parades.

This is in recognition of the immense violence perpetrated by the police and corrective services towards First Nations communities who are over-policed and over-incarcerated, particularly LGBTQIA+ First Nations people who do not feel safe and are excluded as a result of police and corrective service's participation in the parade.

Proposer and Seconder: Keith Quayle and Lungol Wekina

Board's statement in response:

The Board OPPOSES the adoption of Ordinary Resolution #3

The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade has throughout its history been a symbol of love and protest showing the world what we can achieve when we bring together our diverse community and work together.

The Board acknowledges the historic difficulties between the NSW Police and the LGBTQIA+ community and acknowledges the ongoing difficulties experienced by LGBTQIA+ and First Nations people as expressed in the proposed motion, in particular in light of the Black Lives Matter movement and international events in 2020.

We also acknowledge the significant work that NSW Police has done in developing stronger relationships with SGLMG and the community through NSW, through programs such as the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) program and the signing of the Mardi Gras Police Accord, which will soon undergo community review and consultation.

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras does not believe that excluding individuals or groups from events is a useful or effective course of action to achieve social justice outcomes.

At the 2018 and 2019 Annual General Meeting of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, a majority of the membership voted AGAINST motions to remove the Police and related associations from the Parade as a show of commitment to Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras' intrinsic value of inclusion.

It is the view of the Board that these two decisions previously made by the membership should be accepted and respected.

The case for the resolution	The case against the resolution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organisation highlights the impact of Police responses to marginalised communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The motion excludes a number of members of our community from participating in our parade. The motion has little to do with the governance of the organisation. The motion seeks to expand the purpose and vision of the organisation beyond that which has been developed in the Constitution and Strategic Plan. Mardi Gras already has ongoing discussions about issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community with the police.



4. This meeting requests the Board to:

- i) Condemn the violent and brutal treatment of asylum seekers and refugees by the Australian government and the particular impact on LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers and refugees.
- ii) Condemn the role Qantas play in deporting asylum seekers on behalf of the Australian government.
- iii) Terminate sponsorship with Qantas on the basis of their violation of the human right to seek asylum and deportation of asylum seekers back to danger.

Proposer and Seconder: Momo Newberry and Bridget Harilaou

Board's statement in response:

The Board OPPOSES the adoption of Ordinary Resolution #4

QANTAS will not be a sponsor for Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in 2021 due to the economic impacts of COVID-19. We understand QANTAS has pulled all of its sponsorships due to the economic impacts of COVID-19.

At the 2018 and 2019 Annual General Meeting of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, a majority of the membership voted AGAINST motions to condemn Qantas and terminate their sponsorship.

It is the view of the Board that these two decisions previously made by the membership should be accepted and respected.

Further, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is currently undertaking consultation with the community for its Ethical Charter which will serve as a compass for our Board and operations to make decisions in relation to sponsorship and partnerships that are aligned with our vision, values, principles and promises.

It would be premature and disrespectful to the Ethical Charter consultation process currently open to members of the community to make a decision on this matter at this time.

The case for the resolution	The case against the resolution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation makes a public affirmation of our long-standing commitment to human rights. • The organisation sends a message to its partners about the issues outlined by the members proposing the motions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motion seeks to direct the voice of SGLMG without consideration, community consultation or a risk management framework. • SGLMG already has ongoing discussions about issues facing the LGBTIQ+ community with its partners. • SGLMG is currently consulting on an Ethical Charter in relation to partners and sponsors and this motion seeks to circumvent that process • SGLMG has seen significant benefits flow on to community through its ongoing partnerships. • QANTAS will not be a sponsor for SGLMG in 2021 due to the economic impacts of COVID-19.



5. This meeting requests the Board to:

- i) Acknowledge Scott Morrison's role as a No campaigner, supporter of gay conversion therapy, his comments about 'gender whisperers', his cruelty toward refugees (many of whom are LGBTIQ+) and his attempts to implement a Religious Freedoms Bill mean that he and any party he leads are homophobic and transphobic.
- ii) Acknowledge it is not in accordance with Mardi Gras' principles that Morrison or his government be promoted at our parade or any Mardi Gras event.
- iii) Formally disinvite Scott Morrison from attending any Mardi Gras events in 2021.
- iv) The Liberal float is removed from Mardi Gras Parade in 2021 and future parades.
- v) Formally disinvite Gladys Berejiklian from attending any Mardi Gras events in 2021.

Proposer and Seconder: Evan Gray and Charlie Murphy

Board's statement in response:

The Board OPPOSES the adoption of Ordinary Resolution #5

The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade has throughout its history been a symbol of love and protest showing the world what we can achieve when we bring together our diverse community and work together.

The Office of the Prime Minister and the Office of the Premier are not invited to SGLMG events by SGLMG. SGLMG does not provide preferential treatment to any political parties at the Parade or other Festival event. All members of our communities and allies are welcome to march in the Parade.

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras does not believe that excluding individuals or groups from events is a useful or effective course of action to achieve social justice outcomes.

At the 2018 and 2019 Annual General Meeting of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, a majority of the membership voted AGAINST similar motions to disinvite Scott Morrison and remove the Liberal float from the Parade.

It is the view of the Board that these two decisions previously made by the membership should be accepted and respected.

The case for the resolution	The case against the resolution
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The organisation demonstrates the desire of some members to block attendance of a public office and the individuals within that office.• That banning the Prime Minister and NSW Premier may send a message to the government about the political issues outlined by the members proposing the motions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The motion excludes a number of members of our community from participating in our Parade.• The motion goes against our intrinsic value of inclusion.



6. This meeting requests the Board to:

- i) Stand openly in support and solidarity with the #BlackLivesMatter movement.
- ii) Support the Defund, Disarm, Dismantle framework in relation to the police and prisons.
- iii) Condemn the police and corrective services for all Aboriginal deaths in custody.
- iv) Call on the State and Federal government to release all prisoners on remand, remove monetary bail, defund all private prisons and detention centres, and ultimately abolish all prisons.
- v) Call on the State and Federal government to abolish the sniffer dog program, establish independent commissions for police misconduct to prevent any current or former police officers investigating themselves, end the presence of the riot squad at protests and ultimately abolish the police.
- vi) Release the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to the policing of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival 2018 to the public

Proposer and Seconder: Hayden Moon and Bridget Harilaou

Board's statement in response:

The Board OPPOSES the adoption of Ordinary Resolution #6

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras stands openly in support and solidarity with the #BlackLivesMatter movement and has proudly promoted a number of events and articles about the movement on its social media.

The rest of the motion sits outside the remit of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and Mardi Gras Arts.

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras has recently released the Mardi Gras Police Accord which will soon undergo community review and consultation.

The case for the resolution	The case against the resolution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation again shows support for the #BlackLivesMatter movement. • The organisation calls on Police to review internal processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motion has little to do with the governance of the organisation. • Mardi Gras already has ongoing discussions about issues facing the LGBTIQ+ community with the police. • The motion seeks to expand the purpose and vision of the organisation beyond that which has been developed in the Constitution and Strategic Plan.



7. This meeting requests the Board to

- i) Condemn ANZ for their continued investment in the destruction of the planet.
- ii) Cause Mardi Gras to divest from ANZ and all sponsors with investments in fossil fuels.
- iii) Recognise that global climate change is disproportionately affecting the worlds’ most marginalised and vulnerable communities, including Queer and Trans communities of colour in pacific islands, indigenous communities whose lands are under threat and the economically and socially disempowered.
- iv) Encourages all members, workers and community supporters to attend, promote and support the next Global Climate Strike and its advocacy for systemic action on climate change.

Proposer and Seconder: Lungol Wekina and Alex Bouchet

Board’s statement in response:

The Board OPPOSES the adoption of Ordinary Resolution #7

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is deeply committed to human rights, freedom, equality and the environment and works closely with its partners like ANZ to achieve better outcomes for our entire LGBTIQ+ community.

At the 2018 and 2019 Annual General Meeting of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, a majority of the membership voted AGAINST motions to condemn ANZ and terminate their sponsorship.

It is the view of the Board that these two decisions previously made by the membership should be accepted and respected.

Further, the Board is currently undergoing consultation for its Ethical Charter which will serve as a compass for our Board and operations to make decisions in relation to sponsorship and partnerships that are aligned with our vision, values, principles and promises.

It would be premature and disrespectful to the Ethical Charter consultation process currently open to members of the community to make a decision on this matter at this time.

The case for the resolution	The case against the resolution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation makes a public affirmation of our long-standing commitment to human rights. • The organisation sends a message to its partners about the issues outlined by the members proposing the motions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motion seeks to direct the voice of SGLMG without consideration, community consultation or a risk management framework. • SGLMG already has ongoing discussions about issues facing the LGBTIQ+ community with its partners. • SGLMG is currently consulting on an Ethical Charter in relation to partners and sponsors and this motion seeks to circumvent that process. • SGLMG has seen significant benefits flow on to community through its ongoing partnerships.



8. This meeting requests the Board to

- i) Acknowledge that people from a lower socio-economic background deserve to be able to access Mardi Gras membership in order to diversify the membership and be accessible LGBTQIA+ folks who come from an economically disadvantaged position in our community.
- ii) Create a concession, student or unwaged membership tier priced at \$10, separate from the current membership that contains consumer benefits, that allows them to participate in the democratic processes of Mardi Gras.
- iii) Return the Australian resident price for Mardi Gras membership from \$50 back to \$20 in order for more people to be able to join and increase membership generally across the organisation.
- iv) Introduce a staggered pay as you go option that allows people to pay their share of membership fees quarterly so as to reduce upfront costs.

Proposer and Seconder: Harpreet Dillon Kaur and Momo Newberry

Board's statement in response:

The Board OPPOSES the adoption of Ordinary Resolution #8

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras values diversity across its 3000+ membership and both understands and acknowledges the financial hardships faced by those in our community.

Like any membership-based not-for-profit charity, members' dues support the ongoing operations of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras helping us to keep the cost of our events low (or free) and grow our annual festival program of queer arts and culture to the benefit of the community.

We are thankful to all members who are willing to support us in this way.

The Board currently provides free life memberships to 78ers and lifetime achievement award winners.

The Board may waive the fees of any applicant at its discretion and just as it was communicated to members for the last two years in respect of a similar motion. We encourage community members who are experiencing financial hardship to contact membership to discuss options for inclusion in the membership.

At the 2018 and 2019 Annual General Meeting of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, a majority of the membership voted AGAINST motions similar motions to lower the cost of membership.

It is the view of the Board that these two decisions previously made by the membership should be accepted and respected.

The case for the resolution	The case against the resolution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential increase in membership. • Potential diversification of membership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motion seeks to wind back a successful membership strategy that was developed in consultation with community. • 78ers are currently provided with few Lifetime Membership. • Lowering the costs of membership would restrict the benefits Mardi Gras could deliver to all members. • Membership has continued to increase and diversify over the years despite an increase in the cost of membership due to continued engagement and the value provided to members.



9. This meeting requests the Board to

- i) Condemn Star Casino for their damaging business in the gambling industry, to communities with high rates of addiction and financial hardship
- ii) Terminate sponsorship with Star Casino and all sponsors who have a pattern of exploiting the COVID-19 economic recession for executive and shareholder benefit at the expense of workers

Proposer and Seconder: Alex Bouchet and Lachlan Monsted

Board's statement in response:

The Board OPPOSES the adoption of Ordinary Resolution #9

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is deeply committed to the health and wellbeing of people within our community and continues to have an open dialogue with its partners about issues impacting our community.

Further, the Board is currently undergoing consultation for its Ethical Charter which will serve as a compass for our Board and operations to make decisions in relation to sponsorship and partnerships that are aligned with our vision, values, principles and promises.

It would be premature and disrespectful to the Ethical Charter consultation process currently open to members of the community to make a decision on this matter at this time. The second part of this motion is also undefined and broad. If you think you may have a problem controlling your gambling behaviour, please call Gambling Help on 1800 858 858.

The case for the resolution	The case against the resolution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation makes a public statement against gambling. • The organisation sends a message to its partners about the issues outlined by the members proposing the motions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motion seeks to direct the voice of SGLMG without consideration, community consultation or a risk management framework. • SGLMG already has ongoing discussions about issues facing the LGBTIQ+ community with its partners. • SGLMG is currently consulting on an Ethical Charter in relation to partners and sponsors and this motion seeks to circumvent that process. • SGLMG has seen significant benefits flow on to community through its ongoing partnerships.



10. This meeting requests the Board to

- i) Make all Board meetings open - members can attend and all minutes and Board Packs are made freely available to members.
- ii) Recognise that the proposed constitutional changes are anti-democratic and suppress the ability of members to democratically participate in the organisation.
- iii) Provide greater transparency into all decision-making, specifically follow-up processes and report-backs on the results of motions passed at AGMs.

Proposer and Seconder: Amber Loomis and Jonno Revanche

Board's statement in response:

The Board OPPOSES the adoption of Ordinary Resolution #10

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is an ASIC registered company and is governed as a public company is expected to be governed.

The organisation complies with the ACNC Standard 2 Accountability to members through the AGM.

The case for the resolution	The case against the resolution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would increase transparency of board meetings and decision making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is impracticable for any organisation and more than likely undesirable. • Would hamper the ability for board members to speak freely without fear of public persecution. • Would provide membership with documents not meant for public viewing that could breach confidentiality, privacy and contract laws, risk the organisation's ability to operate and the safety of patrons.