Nomination for Council membership

Established in the 19th century, The Royal Society of New South Wales is one of the oldest learned societies in the Southern Hemisphere and has been a leader in Australian intellectual life. The Society is an independent organisation that creates and disseminates knowledge across a broad spectrum of disciplines – science, art, literature and philosophy. Its purpose is to investigate, elaborate, inform and influence the public discourse on the highly complex problems the world faces in the 21st century, particularly those that impact NSW and Australia.

The Council is the governing body of the Society. Membership of the Council is determined by election in which all Members, Fellows and Distinguished Fellows are qualified to vote. The election is held each year prior to the Annual General Meeting. The relevant Rules (16 and 18) relating to the Council and elections are printed on subsequent pages for your information. Council members are expected to participate in all aspects of the Society’s activities and contribute to its success.

**Key** **Election Dates**

The 2025 Council election timetable is as follows:

* Monday, 10 February – nominations open at 12 noon (AEDT)
* Friday 28 February – nominations close at 5.00pm (AEDT)
* Monday 10 March – voting (if required) opens at 12 noon (AEDT)
* Monday 31 March – voting closes at 12 noon (AEST)
* Announcement of election results at the AGM on Wednesday 2 April.

**The terms of all Councillors appointed at this election are for two (2) years, that is, until the 2027 Annual General Meeting.**

**Nomination Requirements**

Any financial Member or Fellow who qualifies under the Rules of the Society may be nominated for those positions open for election.

**Note**: It is a requirement of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission for directors of corporations to have a Director ID. A nomination form cannot be accepted without a Director ID.

Nominations for Council membership must be both nominated and seconded by two financial Members, Fellows or Distinguished Fellows of the Society. The nomination must be accepted by the nominee and submitted by the nominator. Nominations will only be accepted using the attached Council Nomination Form. Nominations must include a nominee statement (no more than 250 words), outlining your qualifications, experience and the contribution you expect to make to the Society, if elected. The statement will be made available on the Society’s website.

**Completed Council Nomination Forms, containing the signatures of nominator, seconder and nominee, together the nominee statement and a JPG image of the candidate, must be sent by e-mail to the secretary at** **secretary@royalsoc.org.au**

**by 5.00pm (AEDT) on Friday 28 February 2025.**

Should it be impractical or unduly difficult for the nominee, the nominator, and the seconder to complete the information on a single form, it is acceptable for the nominator and the seconder to provide separate certifications using this form (it must include the name of the nominee) to the Secretary at secretary@royalsoc.org.au.

Dr Donald Hector AM FRSN

Secretary

Council Nomination Form – 2025

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NAME OF NOMINEE** (please print or type)………………………………………………………………………….…… | **COUNCIL POSITION** (please print or type)……………………………………………………………………………… |
| **NOMINATOR** (please print or type)………………………………………………………………………….…… | **SECONDER** (please print or type)………………………………………………………………………….… |
| Signed………………………………………………………………………….……Date: / /2025 | Signed………………………………………………………………………………Date: / /2025 |
| I, ………………………………………………………………………………hereby accept nomination and, if elected, consent to act as a director of the Royal Society of New South Wales. I acknowledge that it is a requirement of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission for directors to have a Director ID. My director ID is: ………………………………………………………………………………Beyond attending Council meetings, I undertake to participate in the Society’s activities wherever possible.………………………………………………………………………………Nominee signatureDate: / /2025 |
| **NOMINEE STATEMENT**Qualifications, experience and the contribution you expect to make to the Society, if elected (max. 250 words. This must be machine-readable, not hand-printed): |

**Note**:

**Nominee statements must be provided in machine readable form (i.e., as a Microsoft Word document, PDF, or plain text), together with a JPG image of sufficient resolution suitable for cropping to head and shoulders format**. The nominee statement may be submitted separately if convenient. The completed nomination form, nominee statement and the JPG image file must be submitted by email to the Secretary at secretary@royalsoc.org.au.

**Extract from the Rules of the Royal Society of NSW**

**16. The Council of the Society**

1. The Business, Properties and Affairs of the Society shall be managed by the Council of the Society which shall consist of Members or Fellows of the Society elected at or prior to the Annual General Meeting each year and Members or Fellows appointed in accordance with Rule 18(d).
2. Any financial Member or Fellow who is not disqualified by the Rules of the Society may be nominated for any position on the Council. Such a nomination, signed by two Members or Fellows of the Society and counter-signed by the nominee, shall be notified to the Secretary according to the deadline (announced at the Ordinary General Meeting in December of the previous year, but no later than the fifteenth day of February each year.
3. The following elected office-bearers and ordinary Council members together with the appointed members shall form the duly elected Council and shall constitute the Council:
4. the President
5. the Vice-President
6. the immediate Past President, if available, and only for the first year after leaving the role of President
7. the Secretary
8. the Treasurer
9. the Librarian
10. the Webmaster
11. the Chairperson of each of the Branches or another representative that the Branch may nominate and
12. six elected Members or Fellows.
13. two appointed Members or Fellows
14. When a member stands for election in several of the above offices, that person shall be deemed elected to the first office considered for election in the order given above, if successful, and shall by deemed ineligible for subsequent offices.
15. The declaration of the result of the election of Council Members shall be the last item of formal Business at the Annual General Meeting. The newly elected Council shall remain in office until the declaration of the results of the office bearers at the next relevant Annual General Meeting.
16. The Council may at its absolute discretion remove an office-bearer or ordinary member of the Council if Council is satisfied by Special Resolution that the person is not fit to hold office, provided 21 days’ notice of a motion for that purpose is given by the person moving the motion.

**18. Election of and appointment to the Council**

1. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and Webmaster and the ordinary Members or Fellows elected to Council shall be elected for a period of two years.
2. At the first election under these Rules, the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and Webmaster shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for a period of two years. One half or, if an uneven number, the number immediately above half of the ordinary Council members shall be elected at that Annual General Meeting for a period of two years based on the number of votes cast for them in the election, and the balance for a period of one year.
3. Thereafter, at each Annual General Meeting, there shall be an election for the vacant Council elected member positions for a period of two years.
4. (i) One Member or Fellow shall be appointed, based on Council requirements at the time, at the first or second meeting of Council following an Annual General Meeting. Such an appointment shall be approved by Council which will in turn inform members at the next Ordinary General Meeting.

(ii) In both the first and second year in which Councillors are appointed, one Councillor shall be appointed by Council and hold office until the second Annual General Meeting after appointment. Thereafter, following each Annual General Meeting, one Councillor shall be appointed by Council.

1. The representative of any Branch on the Council shall be chosen by that Branch at each Annual General Meeting of the Branch.
2. All positions shall be honorary unless determined by resolution of the Council.
3. Any financial member or Distinguished Fellow of the Society shall be eligible for nomination for any position on the Council of the Society except that no member shall be eligible for nomination:
	1. as President if the member has served as President for the whole of the preceding four years
	2. as a member of the Council if that person has served for an aggregate of fifteen years, unless that person is currently serving as President or immediate Past President or
	3. unless that person is permitted to serve beyond the aggregate of fifteen years by a Special Resolution of the Society.
4. A Returning Officer (not a Council Member) shall be appointed by the Council, where a ballot is required:
	1. The Treasurer shall provide the Returning Officer with a list of financial Members and Fellows.
	2. The Council shall authorise the use of such electronic voting system that it considers appropriate provided such system establishes a random order for candidates rather than alphabetical. Voting papers setting out the motion(s) and/or ballot(s) shall be made available to all eligible financial members at the time that the electronic voting site is opened for voting. The vote shall be valid if at least thirty (30) valid votes are received by the close of the voting period, which shall be twenty-one (21) days.
	3. In the event that there is an equality of votes in any election, there shall be a further ballot conducted according to Rule 18(g)(ii) after which, if there is a further equality of votes, the name of the successful candidate will be drawn out of a hat by the Returning Officer.
5. The Council shall inform the Membership of the result, including the number of votes for each person elected, on the Society’s website and in the next issue of the Society’s newsletter.
6. No ballot for the election of Council Members shall be valid unless forty (40) Members or Fellows at least record their votes.
7. Any vacant Office Bearer or Council position may be filled for the balance of the term by election at a Council Meeting. Members or Fellows of the Society shall be notified of the result at the first Ordinary General Meeting following such action.