



Dolphin Sands Community Association Membership & Values Statement

At our AGM in May, we changed the name of the association to more accurately reflect our membership—residents as well as ratepayers. Since the association began in the late 1990s, there's been an accepted understanding of two types of members:

1. Everyone covered by rule 4(1) of the Rules of the Association (the Constitution)
2. Financial members. Financial members are vital to the longevity of the association. Only financial members are able to vote at association meetings.

Nevertheless, this is a long-standing convention rather than clearly stated in the rules. As such, we may look at further amendments to the Constitution to clarify this (recent events in federal politics have highlighted that conventions are not always sufficient).

There have also been some suggestions that the association should only provide services for financial members. These discussions have led us to reflect on our values and check that we're acting in ways that best serve our members. After some consideration, we wish to clarify our ethos:

- Community trumps financial membership of the association. Every member of the community is valued and is more important to us than their financial membership of the association. We recognise that there are many ways that people contribute to the community. Some people join the association (which we very much appreciate). Others contribute in other ways—helping their neighbours, picking up rubbish, writing letters of support, donating money, volunteering in the broader community etc. We aim for equity rather than creating two 'classes' of community members. This benefits all of us, including our financial members, by building goodwill and community spirit.
- The local environment trumps financial membership of the association. Positive environmental outcomes are far more important to us than whether a particular property is currently owned by someone who is a financial member of the association or not. For example, we help any interested community members revegetate after bushfire. We also help any interested community members prepare their property for bushfire and/or deal with environmental weeds. Bushfire preparation, weed control and supporting the dune ecosystem benefits all of us, including our financial members.
- Funds from grants will continue to be used to support all relevant community members, regardless of their financial membership of the association. While this practice is driven by our values, it's also pragmatic. The reality is that grant applications would be extremely unlikely to be successful if we had an exclusive approach. In other words, our financial members would miss out on grant opportunities. The same applies for our highly successful

crowdfunding after the 2019 bushfire. The idea of crowdfunding for some community members and not others is unethical and, for us, unconscionable. As would be leaving some community members off our SMS emergency messaging service or withholding information from particular community members.

- Many of our activities are user-pays, eg Bin Springs, Landscaping Seminar, Aboriginal History Seminar and water testing. We will continue to facilitate these activities for all interested community members. Having more participants often leads to a lower overall cost which benefits all of us.

Having audited our practices and considered our values, we are pleased to conclude that our inclusive ethos is not only ethically sound, but also clearly benefits all community members, including our financial members.