



## **Constitution of the Australian Political Studies Association Environmental Politics and Policy Research Group**

(as circulated to the APSA EPP membership on 18 December 2025)

### **Article I: Name**

This group shall be known as the Australian Political Studies Association (APSA) Environmental Politics and Policy (EPP) Research Group.

### **Article II: Purposes**

The aim of the EPP Research Group is to support and cultivate the broad field of Australia's environmental politics and policy through a network of researchers and practitioners in the field. The EPP will support members working on domestic policy to global governance, local efforts to global civil society, and empirical research to political theory, as an inclusive group, to address all political aspects of the human/nature relationship, and research to policy interfaces. The EPP will promote an increased awareness among researchers on the environmental politics and policy interface, and inform policy-makers of the potential implications of an enriched approach to environmental and ecological perspectives.

To accomplish these goals, EPP will:

1. Link scholars across the different research and scientific approaches to environmental politics and policy by disseminating information on discipline developments, events, opportunities and research through a range of different communications channels, including EPP seminars, workshops, newsletters, symposia and meetings;
2. Foster political science research, including interdisciplinary and collaborative research, on domestic, international, and comparative environmental studies;
3. Commit to fostering political public discourse to inform policy-makers, encourage knowledge brokering and build the capacity of early and mid-career (EMCR) academics in the field;
4. Champion innovative pedagogical work that seeks to further the teaching of environmental politics and policy in Australia; and
5. Work to strengthen political engagement and communication within environmental debates.

### **Article III: Relationships**

1. The EPP is a specialist group of APSA and adheres to the APSA rules regarding Specialist Groups. In any conflict between this Constitution and the APSA rules, the APSA rules prevail.
2. The EPP will encourage cooperative relations with other organisations within or outside APSA that share its interests, in particular fellow environmental associations in politics and international affairs.

### **Article IV: Membership**

1. Membership of the EPP research group is open to all registered APSA members. Potential members can sign up via the My APSA Account webpage. Any non-member of APSA must, within a reasonable period of time, join APSA, in order to be a member of this group.
2. Members are entitled to attend annual meetings, nominate, vote and sponsor amendments to this constitution.

#### **Article V: Executive Committee**

1. The Executive Officers of the EPP shall be called the Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Committee must include two Co-Convenors, a Treasurer and Secretary and is to be made up of up to seven Executive Officers.
3. Subject to Articles III and VI, each Executive Officer will be elected for a three-year term with one officer elected at each annual meeting to ensure continuity in the management of the EPP. Each Executive Officer may stand for re-election.
4. The membership of the Executive Committee should be diverse, with roles distributed equitably according to geography/seniority/gender/ethnicity/career stage.
5. An Executive Officer may resign before the expiration of their term, in which case the vacancy is filled by an election as stipulated in Article IX.
6. An Executive Officer may be recalled by a petition or vote of two thirds of the members (by email) or two thirds of the members present and voting at the annual meeting.
7. If, through an Executive Officer either resigning or being recalled, the rotation of the election of Executive Officers set out in Section 2 is disrupted the Executive Committee may propose a new three-year rotation of the existing Officers which requires approval by a simple majority of the members present and voting at the annual meeting.
8. Executive Officers must be fully paid-up members of APSA. Any member of the EPP research group can nominate to join the Executive Committee.
9. The Executive Committee shall meet at the APSA annual meeting, and at such other reasonable times and places as the officers shall designate.
10. The Executive Committee shall appoint committees and additional non-executive roles (such as the selection panel and panel chair for the Pete Hay Prizes); enact budgets and dues; set rules and tentative agenda for the annual meeting of members; and conduct the business of the group between the annual meetings of members.

#### **Article VI: Co-Convenors**

The Co-Convenors shall be the official spokespersons of EPP unless the Executive Committee determines otherwise. The Co-Convenors may call meetings (except as provided for in Article V, Section 8) and at least one shall preside at them.

#### **Article VII: The Pete Hay Environmental Politics and Early Career Research Prizes**

The Pete Hay Environmental Politics and Early Career Research Prizes are both presented at APSA Conference, honouring the best published environmental politics paper presented at the previous year's conference (Environmental Politics Prize) and the best full environmental politics paper presented by an early career researcher at the current APSA Conference (Early Career Research Prize). Guidelines for the awarding of and formation of the selection panel for these prizes have been agreed upon by the Executive Committee and can be found on the EPP section of the APSA website.

#### **Article VIII: Annual Meeting of Members**

The annual meeting of members shall be held at the annual APSA Conference and shall conduct the business of the group, as well as carry out any other activity consistent with the purposes of the group. At least one member of the executive committee will attend and chair the meeting.

The annual meeting shall:

1. Receive a report of the activities of the group;
2. Vote to elect executive officer vacancies based on nominations from the membership as provided for in Article IX; and
3. Consult with members to help guide the Executive Committee in developing their work plans for the following year.

#### **Article IX: Nominations and elections**

1. The Executive Committee shall solicit nominations from the group membership by email and present to the membership by email for a vote the names of one or more nominees for each vacant position at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting. Those who have not voted by email may vote in person at the annual meeting.
2. Additional nominations may be made at the annual meeting and shall be eligible for election.
3. In the case of more candidates nominating than available positions, a secret ballot will be held of members to determine the convenors. The electoral system will be agreed upon by the EPP Executive, where more nominations than positions are being contested.
4. Executive Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting, subject to Article V, based on a simple aggregation of the votes by email and at the annual meeting, and shall take office at the close of the meeting.
5. In the case of casual vacancies on the Executive Committee that need to be filled before the next annual meeting is held, nominations will be sought by email to the membership. Voting will be conducted by email, with members having at least two weeks to vote on nominees.

#### **Article X: Amendments**

1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Executive Committee, or by petition of at least five non-executive members.
2. Amendments shall be considered at the annual meeting, and shall be adopted if approved by a simple majority of the members present and voting.
3. Amendments considered urgent may be adopted between annual meetings if approved via email by a simple majority of the membership. These amendments shall form part of the minutes at the next annual meeting.
4. Amendments shall be submitted to APSA officers.