



WICEN (Vic.) Inc.

Reg. No. A0020740A

A.B.N. 42 851 605 545

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**Briefing Notes for meeting with WIA VIC DIV (ARV) representatives.
Called at request of WICEN (Vic) Inc.**

Venue ARV 40G Victory Blvd, Ashburton

Date Tuesday 27 July 2011 at 7.30pm

Attendees

- ARV - Keith Proctor (ARV Sec), Jim Linton and Peter Mill
- WICEN (Vic) - Mark Dods, (WICEN (Vic) Inc Sec) and John Brown

The WIA Vic Div (ARV)/ WICEN (Vic) Inc. Relationship

WIA Vic Div/WICEN (Vic) Inc relationship was formalised in 1989 when WICEN (Vic) Inc became an incorporated body and was listed as an emergency response unit under the emergency response plan.

The WICEN (Vic) Inc Rules of Association provides for WICEN (Vic) Inc members to elect a Committee of Management (CoM) of five and for WIA Vic Div to nominate and appoint a further five members of the CoM who (with a Casting Vote) have the voting power to take control of WICEN (Vic) Inc at any time, and/or overrule any decisions of the member elected CoM .

Despite the above, this relationship has worked reasonably well over the years with no need for WIA Vic Div nominees to intervene in WICEN (Vic) Inc management.

WIA Vic Div (ARV) has benefitted from its relationship with WICEN (Vic) Inc through its ability to use the WICEN name to obtain preferred treatment in negotiations regarding repeater site lease arrangements and priority antenna placements on towers. It has also used the WICEN (Vic) Inc name in dealings with the ACMA and when applying for government grants/assistance.

WICEN (Vic) Inc has benefitted from the relationship, through the availability during training activities and activations of the Victorian repeater network, which in the main is licensed and maintained by WIA Vic Div (ARV).

WICEN (Vic) Inc is funded entirely from member contributions and donations from organisations that contract WICEN (Vic) Inc to provide safety and logistic communications for their activities.

Background to the events leading to the motion by WICEN (Vic) Inc members for constitutional change

For a number of years there has been an undercurrent within WICEN (Vic) Inc with an increasing number of members expressing a general discomfort with the WIA Vic Div control clauses in the Rules of Association, however the member elected Committee of Management has been able to 'calm the waters' and defer any moves to formalise the process for changes to the Rules of Association up until recently.

In 2004 the national WIA was formed and the previous state-based WIA divisions either ceased to exist, or in the case of Victoria, became a state based radio group affiliated as a Club with the WIA, and operating under the trading name of Amateur Radio Victoria within the existing company structure. (The company structure was retained mainly to protect and ensure the continuance of existing contracts in the name of WIA Vic Div, most of which related to repeater site leases and access arrangements and property ownership).

After the formation of the national WIA, all the state WICEN bodies were accepted as 'clubs' affiliated with the new WIA. Initially, the WIA appointed a series of National WICEN Coordinators in an attempt to get some standardisation between the various state WICENs, but the diversities of structure and local affiliations made this unworkable and the WIA was forced to re-visit its relationship with WICEN.

The WIAs present policy is **'WICEN is totally independent from the WIA, though many WICEN members are also WIA members. WIA strongly supports the continuing activities of WICEN'**. All the state WICEN groups remain listed on the national WIAs affiliated clubs list.

Once the changed relationship between WIA Vic Div and the new national WIA became clear to WICEN (Vic) Inc members, the relevance and validity of any Rules of Association tie between WICEN (Vic) Inc and WIA Vic Div (ARV) again came into question.

The matter was eventually included as a discussed item at the WICEN (Vic) Inc 2007/8 AGM (held in July 2008) and the CoM was requested to 'pursue the removal of the tie to Amateur Radio Victoria in the Rules of WICEN (Vic) Inc'.

In response to the AGM discussion, the CoM sent a letter to ARV requesting permission to change to rules of association to remove the ties to ARV.

ARV replied in writing. They did not refuse permission to change our rules, but dismissed the reasons put forward, and expressed the hope that "the matter has been adequately aired and is now concluded."

At the September 2010 CoM meeting, the CoM considered a request from members that a Special General Meeting be held to consider a motion to ask the CoM to pursue the removal of ARV from WICEN's rules.

At a Special General Meeting held on 3 November 2010, the following motion was passed unanimously. **'That the WICEN (Vic) Inc Committee of Management seek approval from the Wireless Institute of Australia Victorian Division to remove all reference to the Wireless Institute of Australian Victorian Division from the rules of WICEN (Vic) Inc'**.

Following the Special General Meeting, an informal discussion of the issue with the ARV President was sought by the WICEN(VIC) Inc Secretary via email, but no response was received.

Current proposal

In a letter dated 21 February 2011, WICEN (Vic) Inc. formally requested the board of WIA Vic Div (ARV) to approve the changes to WICEN's Rules of Association listed in the letter.

WICEN (Vic) has offered to complete a Memorandum of Understanding with WIA Vic Div (ARV) regarding the use of the WICEN (Vic) name in relation to repeater site access/maintenance by WIA Vic Div (ARV).

The WICEN (Vic) Inc Committee of Management has endeavoured to identify and overcome any obstacles that might stand in the way of this request being approved by the WIA Vic Div (ARV) board, however if the Board has any other concerns, WICEN (Vic) Inc Committee of Management is sure that these can be resolved.

WICEN (Vic) Inc Committee of Management and members are anxious to resolve this matter as quickly as possible and respectfully recommend that the WIA Vic Div (ARV) Board give favourable consideration to this request.