



MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

January 2019

WELCOME TO GOOLAWAH CO-OPERATIVE

Goolawah Co-operative is a rural land sharing community established in 2000. Our members reflect the wider community and contribute their philosophies, interests and skills. To learn about this 'special place' and to download an interactive Membership Application visit www.goolawah.org. The Flowchart (opposite page) provides an overview of the application process.

A member may buy a share as opportunities arise. Members have a right to occupy a home improvement site of 1.2 acres, which are grouped together in several 'hamlets'.

The Co-operative owns all the land on behalf of its members. Please be aware you are not buying freehold land. You are buying a share in a co-operative with entitlements plus any improvements on your allocated site eg. dwelling, dam, gardens, sheds.

The Co-operative has Development Consent under SEPP15 planning legislation for rural land-sharing, which requires it to be your principal place of residence. Individual dwelling development is subject to Council approval.

To help you learn about us and decide if you would like to join:

- Carefully consider the website information about the Co-operative, membership and costs.
- Visit the land, talk to members, observe community meetings and attend social events.
- Read 'Creating a Life Together' by Diana Leafe Christian (or view YouTubes).

During your stay please abide by our **Code of Conduct** and **By-Laws.**, and take the time to **read through the RULES** carefully (see website).

Meet 15 members (one per site) and note what you learnt

Code of Conduct

The aim of this code is to ensure that Goolawah Co-operative is a safe and pleasant place to live and visit. This document outlines the rights and responsibilities of members and visitors.

Rights

Members and visitors have a right to:

- Feel safe within the Goolawah Co-operative
- Be treated with respect and integrity
- Have a right to speak and be heard

Responsibilities

- Accept and observe Goolawah's rules, policies, by-laws, community decisions and legislation.
- Behave in a manner that does not endanger the health and safety of themselves or others.
- Behave with courtesy and consideration for others. Violence, bullying, verbal intimidation, harassment and offensive behavior will not be tolerated.
- Be engaged and informed on all of Goolawah's activities.
- Respect property of the community, members and visitors.
- Respect the environment including land, fauna and flora.

Any breach of the Code of Conduct may result in further action.

Supporting documents: Complaint Management Policy and Procedure, and Complaint Form (20.1.18)

By-Laws

By-Laws According To Rule 9 of Goolawah Co-operative Ltd

BEHAVIOUR

1. All members shall abide by the co-operative's Code of Conduct.
2. A Director will act as a first port of call for disputes and complaints, and facilitate the resolution by guiding the member/s through Rule 22 Disputes and Mediation or the Complaint Management Policy and Procedure.
3. Members and their visitors are not to drive faster than 20km in residential areas and 40km in non-residential areas on the co-operative and on both access roads of Nevertire and Illa Langi.
4. 'Off roading' or 'bush bashing' is not allowed on the Co-operative.
5. Noise emitting machinery (petrol or diesel) or generators can only be used on the co-operative between 7.30am & 6pm during daylight savings, and between 8:30am & 4pm at other times. All motors must be adequately muffled to a normal quiet standard and other machinery must operate in an acceptable quiet manner at all times.
6. Members or visitors are not to go onto another member's home improvement site without that member's permission.

ENVIRONMENT

7. Cats, dogs or firearms are not allowed on the co-operative.
8. All cloven-footed animals are banned from the co-operative. Other introduced species are banned from community land, and anyone wishing to run these on their site must submit a plan of management, with regard to soil/air/water quality, noise abatement and permanent containment, to a general meeting for approval.

Complete Step One of Membership Application and submit completed forms.

Complete Step Two of Membership Application which includes:

A) Stay for 2 weeks at the co-operative and meet a minimum of 15 community members.

B) Attend 2 Co-operative meetings.

C) Provide 3 referees as a character reference.

D) Identity and National Crime Check (Identity Check Form is retained if your application is successful).

1. After one week stay: Meeting with you, your Membership Guide, another membership committee member and a community member.
2. After two weeks stay: Review meeting to discuss your application (applicant does not attend this meeting).
3. Final meeting with you, your Membership Guide, another committee member and a community member.

No objections raised at review meeting.

Objections raised at the review meeting (discuss with applicant).

General Meeting - 2/3 majority vote required for membership

Second Review Meeting

A 2/3 majority vote is then required to effect a share transfer and formal ratification of membership

Applicant reconsiders /may choose to withdraw

16. All members who build dams must consult with and obtain agreement from neighbours and the community prior to construction. A detailed plan must be submitted at a meeting including location, size and vegetation removal. If the dam is not constructed within twelve months the plans must be re-submitted.
17. All members who build a structure or a plant tree/s creating shade on their neighbour's site must consult with and obtain agreement from their neighbour prior to building or planting.
18. Members and potential members wishing to use community land, including individual sites, for private enterprise must submit a detailed proposal to a general meeting.

GOVERNANCE

19. All Directors and Office Holders shall abide by the Delegation Manual for Directors and Office Holders, which includes General Matters, Policies & Procedures, Legal Matters, Complaints Management, Insurances, Banking Receipts & Payments, and Roads & Other Public Works.
20. All members and potential members shall comply with the Membership and Guest Policies.
21. All members shall comply with the Finance Policy.
22. Co-operative machinery shall be used only by active members, and in accordance with the Tractor and Machinery Policy.

9. The decision to remove any native trees >100mm on the co-operative is to be made by ordinary resolution at a General Meeting and must comply with current legislation. For guidance of removal of trees on a member's site refer the flowchart on the website.
10. Herbicides, pesticides and non-biodegradable detergents and products are not to be used on the co-operative without permission from a meeting.
11. A member intending to use any of the co-operative's natural resources, must present a written management plan to a general meeting for approval, to ensure that all resources are managed in a sustainable and equitable fashion.
12. Members may take trailer loads of sand from the designated sand mining area, without need for approval. Larger amounts are subject to approval at a general meeting. Sand is not to be removed from the co-operative.
13. All members shall comply with the Fire Action and Land Management Plans.

DEVELOPMENT

14. All members shall comply with Council's Development Consent Condition and the State Environmental Planning Policy No. 15- Rural Land Sharing Communities (SEPP15), which includes making the co-operative your 'Principal Place of Residence' (refer to co-operative's website – DA Goolawah).
15. Before any occupation or development takes place on individual sites, a Council Development Application must be submitted and approved (refer to co-operative's website – DA Members). This will include an approved grey water system and a dry composting toilet. No pit toilets are to be dug on the co-operative. Functioning home built designs shall comply with NSW Department of Health regulations.