

Draft Resolution for Discussion at GM 13 Dec 2025

Proposal to add additional elements to Rule 10 Active Membership Provisions (10.3)

Every member shall participate in at least 3 of 12 monthly working bees each calendar year, verifiable via work claims. Exceptions to working bee participation can be approved by a general meeting, given a valid reason eg. long term chronic illnesses, extensive commitments in other areas of community life.

Every member shall attend at least one General Meeting of the Co-op in a calendar year, verifiable by meeting minutes. Exceptions to meeting attendance can be granted by a general meeting in extenuating circumstances.

Rationale

Active membership of the co-op should include an element of participation in community life, not just paying levies (which is our only current requirement for active membership). The governance of the co-operative, maintenance of community infrastructure and land care of our 1600 acres is a lot of work. Every member of the co-operative benefits from these endeavours and should contribute to the work required. Active participation in community life has a positive impact on social cohesion, while non-participation creates a sense of unfairness and tension within the community.

By having these additional active membership requirements spelt out in our rules, the co-op is clearly signalling what is expected. New members will join with the understanding they are also signing up for working bee and meeting participation, existing members who currently limit their participation will be nudged in the right direction, and shareholders not living on the land or who have nothing to do with co-op, will find it harder to meet these requirements and hopefully be motivated to sell.

Proposal change to Membership cancellations (Rule 26)

If the above additions to active membership are approved the conditions for cancellation of non-active membership (Rule 26 b.ii) will also need to be updated to reflect the changes.

Rationale

It's easy for community members who live on the co-op to meet the proposed new working bee and meeting attendance requirements but harder for those who do not live on the land.

The Co-op will become legally obliged to cancel the shares of non-active members. This creates a mechanism to move non-active members out of the Co-op. The subsequent re-selling of non-active member shares will bring new life to the community, with people who plan to live on the land and participate in community life.

Proposed: James Galletly

Seconded: Erika Costa Schuster