



Crossroads Medieval Co-operative Limited ABN 71 099 126 961

Rights and Responsibilities

This document is a general description of the rights and responsibilities of co-op members. For more complete information, see the source documents.

- **Some rights arise from the NSW government's Co-ops Act, which is amended from time to time.**
- **Some are in our rules, which can be changed by a Special Resolution of members, requiring at least a two-thirds vote.**
- **Some are just policies and customs, which the Board can change, though they are accountable to the members.**

Limited Liability

Crossroads is a non-trading (read 'non-profit') co-operative under the terms of the NSW Co-operatives Act. It has limited liability, so you only risk up to the limit of the shares you commit to (ie if the co-op failed you could theoretically lose all your fully paid shares and any amounts due on unpaid shares).

If the co-op were wound up for any reason, members would be paid back their shares if sufficient money remained after the property was sold. If there was a surplus after that, the money would have to go to a like-minded non-profit group. The SCA comes to mind, but it would depend on the members at the time.

Rights

You get one vote, the same as any other member, as long as you remain 'active' (see obligations). After recent changes to the Co-ops Act, members under the age of 18 cannot vote.

If you resign from the co-op, your shares will be refunded. However, if the co-op would be financially disadvantaged by doing so, the co-op may first issue you with debentures and pay limited interest on the funds. You would normally be repaid within 10 years as per the conditions in the Act.

If you die, your Crossroads shares will be transferred to your Estate and willed wherever you choose. The recipient can apply to take over your membership, or the funds can be converted to debentures and paid out in time.

You are eligible to stand as a director, unless you are under 18 or convicted of certain offences or disqualified by the courts from being a director.

You are eligible to apply to lease areas of the property for private projects. Non-members may also apply, at a higher rate.

As a part-owner of the property, you can have keys cut at your expense, and to make reasonable medieval recreational use of the site. You need to notify a director or our site manager if you go out there, for the property's security and so that we can let you know if the site is otherwise booked.

You get the 'Signpost' newsletter approximately every 6 months.

You get sent a member statement approximately every 6 months, which lists your shareholdings, payments, subs owing, activity status etc.

When the back part of the property is subdivided for residences, you will be eligible to buy a house lot. The lots will be offered to members in the order they joined. Quite a few of the prospective lots are spoken for, which you might think would be a problem for later members, but tastes vary widely and there are plenty of good blocks left with no name tags.

You may participate in members' planning weekends.

You have the right to inspect the Act, the Co-op's Rules, the most recent Annual Report and various official registers at our Registered Office, if you give 24 hours' written notice. In practice these documents are available by arrangement from any director, except some obscure hard-copy registers for which you should approach the Secretary.

You have the right to requisition a Special General Meeting of members, requiring the signatures of at least 20% of the active members of the co-op. This would apply if you wanted members to consider an item rejected by the Board, or to sack a director, etc.

You have the right to have two weeks notice of the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meetings, or three weeks notice if there is a Special Resolution (eg changing the rules) under consideration. You get the audited financial accounts with the notice of meeting.

You have the right to list any item for consideration at the Annual General Meeting by written notice at least 28 days before the meeting. (However, the notice requirement for the AGM is only 14 days, so you may not know in advance when the AGM will be. In practice, any item provided to the Secretary by the time the notice of meeting is issued will be put on the agenda.)

All formal correspondence from the Co-op will be sent to the mailing address listed on your membership form or other address formally notified to the Co-op's Secretary. If the co-op cannot contact you, (eg mail returned), your correspondence will be suspended until you notify the Co-op of your new contact details.

When making payments to the co-op, you are entitled to a receipt. Currently these are often sent with Signpost to save postage cost. Email receipts will be sent where a valid email address is provided. Please contact the treasurer if you do not receive a receipt within 6 months of making a payment.

Responsibilities

You have the obligation to pay an annual subscription, currently \$AUD 88, as one part of remaining an 'active member'. This cannot be increased above \$100 without a special resolution of the co-op. (Alternatively, a lifetime subscription, currently \$AUD 1375, can be taken instead of the annual fee.). Both the annual and lifetime fees include GST.

Until you have paid the initial shares, currently \$AUD 1300, you are required to make regular payments. The Board of Directors of Crossroads requests that a minimum of \$50 per month be paid off the shares, though the rules require, on average, only a minimum of \$25 per month. If at any time you have not paid sufficient amounts towards your outstanding share payments the co-op can charge you interest. Please contact the treasurer to arrange suitable payment details to avoid interest.

Where making electronic payments to the co-op, you are required to notify the treasurer of the date, amount and purpose of the transaction. Otherwise the co-op does not guarantee that the payment will be credited to you or the item(s) you wished it credited to.

You have the obligation to spend at least two hours on a Co-operative activity per calendar year, as the other part of being an 'active member', which can be: attendance at Co-operative general meetings or board meetings, or attending Co-operative functions, or working bees or other labour contributions, or fundraising, or agreed research projects.

If you have a dispute with the Co-op, or with a member on a Co-op issue, you are expected to attempt resolve that issue by direct discussion with the other party. If that fails, internal mediation with one of the directors is required. For unresolved issues, you must submit to the mediation procedures of the NSW Law Society, or failing that the Commercial Arbitration Act.

The Board may fine you up to \$20, or under certain conditions, \$110, for breaches of the Rules. The Board has agreed to levy \$20 fines on people who are late with annual subscription payments.

You are expected to work for the co-op of the co-op and protect the co-op's interests including caring for and protecting property and being courteous to members and guests alike.

The members may by Special Resolution expel you for failing to discharge your obligations to the Co-op, or for conduct detrimental to the Co-op. This has never happened. You can also be required to leave the Co-op after 3 years not being an active member.

You are required to notify the co-op of your current contact details. Please keep us up to date with your email address if you have one.

Joint Members

The Board allows pairs of people to become Joint Members, and will accept applications from groups.

Joint membership is a good way of giving more people a stake in the project, and can help to keep people involved who for whatever reason feel unable to maintain a full membership in their own right. The co-op's rules on joint membership are framed so that we recognise the special value of full membership while encouraging wider participation.

Where a group of people hold a joint membership, only the first-named person on the membership register is entitled to vote. This person is known as the Primary Member. If the primary member is not present and has not issued a proxy, one of the joint members may exercise the vote. If two or more people claim the vote, the person listed first in the membership register has priority.

Any joint member is eligible to stand for election as a director.

The other rights of membership can only officially be exercised by the primary member. In practice, the Co-op has often been willing to extend equivalent conditions to all the joint members, as a courtesy, but members would be extremely sensitive to being taken advantage of. For instance, any of the joint members would be welcome to attend a Co-op planning meeting, but if other members felt that a group sought to dominate discussion, this privilege would be swiftly revoked.

If there is cheaper event entry for members, this would normally only apply to the primary joint member.

Only one copy of Signpost will be sent to the primary joint member. Participation in email groups are available to all joint members.

Please apply to the Secretary for application forms for joint membership.