



Thursday, 18 July 2024

Meetings and Documents review
c/- Better Business Communications Unit
Market Conduct and Digital Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
Parkes ACT 2600

By email: meetingsanddocumentsview@treasury.gov.au

Dear Dr Austin,

Statutory Review of the Meetings and Documents Amendments

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Statutory Review. Our experience, and that of our members, indicates that the amendments relating to the conduct of company and registered scheme meetings have proven successful. More information about CA ANZ can be found at Appendix A.

Importantly, the amendments allow broad, equal participation by our members in company meetings irrespective of their geographical location. Equally, our members who convene meetings, such as registered liquidators, value the option for participants to attend meetings virtually, rather than travel, often significant, distances to attend a short meeting. In the same way, the ability to sign documents by electronic means has removed significant barriers to timely completion of critical documents.

Likewise, the flexibility to choose to provide electronic or hard copies of documents relevant to a meeting can streamline the provision of documents. While we support a digital-first approach, we acknowledge the importance of an individual's right to elect how they receive documents, and that the sender must take reasonable steps to comply. This ensures those with minimal technology literacy are treated equally with those that utilise technology day-to-day. We have not received any feedback that indicates such elections are not being met.

The adoption of these amendments indicates the readiness of entities in Australia to embrace the benefits offered by technology and the effectiveness of doing so. Accordingly, we reiterate our call for government departments and agencies to identify any remaining statutory documents that still require wet signatures and consider how they can be converted to a digital form.

For example, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission [Form RA01 Notification to register, change details of or cease as an agent](#). This must be downloaded and printed, completed and signed, and filed by the agent. ASIC only require a digital copy of the signed form. We suggest this is better managed by electronic lodgement followed by an electronic notice to effected parties of the change.

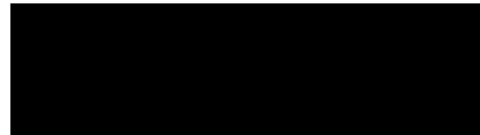
We strongly support the meetings and documents amendments and consider they have modernised statutory meetings and document execution by harnessing the benefits of technological change. We anticipate that the success of these amendments, as indicated by the statistics provided in the consultation paper, will also advance more businesses modernising their constitutions to benefit from these amendments.

If you would like to discuss the effect of these amendments in more detail, please contact Karen McWilliams at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Simon Grant FCA
Group Executive
Advocacy and International Development



Karen McWilliams FCA
Sustainability and Business Reform Leader
Advocacy

Appendix A

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ) represents more than 139,000 financial professionals, supporting them to build value and make a difference to the businesses, organisations and communities in which they work and live.

Around the world, Chartered Accountants are known for their integrity, financial skills, adaptability and the rigour of their professional education and training.

CA ANZ promotes the Chartered Accountant (CA) designation and high ethical standards, delivers world-class services and life-long education to members and advocates for the public good. We protect the reputation of the designation by ensuring members continue to comply with a code of ethics, backed by a robust discipline process. We also monitor Chartered Accountants who offer services directly to the public.

Our flagship CA Program, the pathway to becoming a Chartered Accountant, combines rigorous education with practical experience. Ongoing professional development helps members shape business decisions and remain relevant in a changing world.

We actively engage with governments, regulators and standard-setters on behalf of members and the profession to advocate in the public interest. Our thought leadership promotes prosperity in Australia and New Zealand.

Our support of the profession extends to affiliations with international accounting organisations.

We are a member of the International Federation of Accountants and are connected globally through Chartered Accountants Worldwide and the Global Accounting Alliance. Chartered Accountants Worldwide brings together members of 13 chartered accounting institutes to create a community of more than 1.8 million Chartered Accountants and students in more than 190 countries. CA ANZ is a founding member of the Global Accounting Alliance which is made up of 10 leading accounting bodies that together promote quality services, share information and collaborate on important international issues.

We also have a strategic alliance with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. The alliance represents more than 870,000 current and next generation accounting professionals across 179 countries and is one of the largest accounting alliances in the world providing the full range of accounting qualification.