

Date: 19 February 2021

Purpose

Engaging in the political process is a core activity for industry associations. QRC members expect the QRC to advocate for and influence policy outcomes that are in the best interests of the Queensland resources industry. The purpose of this policy is to set out the approach and general expectations of the QRC in relation to engaging in the political process in Australia. This Policy will be reviewed by the Board at least annually.

Scope

This policy applies to all QRC, directors, officers and employees as well as contractors/consultants working for QRC.

Expectations

1. Advocacy
 - a) The QRC **engages** in direct and evidence-based advocacy or communication campaigns on public policy positions that are material for our industry.
 - b) The QRC **does not** favour any political party, group or individual.
 - c) The QRC **does not** seek to intervene in the electoral process by directly campaigning for or against any particular political party, group or individual.
 - d) The QRC **is empowered** to protect the industry's interests and respond to others who are against it or seek to deliberately undermine or damage our industry.
 - e) The QRC **is empowered** to conduct policy or issues-based communication campaigns.
 - f) The QRC **represents the views** of the industry as determined by the QRC Board of Directors.
2. Working with Government
The QRC:
 - Complies with all applicable laws and regulations;
 - Does not engage in any conduct that is corrupt, dishonest or illegal; and
 - Ensures that any information shared with governments is accurate and appropriate for disclosure.
3. Political Contributions
 - a) The QRC **may make** contributions to political parties and political candidates. All QRC contributions must be approved by the CEO. Contributions are made on a non-partisan basis.
 - b) The QRC **does not** make cash donations.
 - c) The QRC complies with all legislative and reporting requirements for political contributions.
4. Conflict of Interest
The QRC manages any potential or actual conflicts of interest through its procedures.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Principle	What Does it Mean
3.1 Advocacy	
a) The QRC engages in direct and evidence-based advocacy or communication campaigns on public policy positions that are material for our industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QRC will continue to engage /advocate with all stakeholders armed with a robust fact base, analysis or position based on collective expertise from the membership. - QRC runs campaigns but they need to be based or originate from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Public policy issues that impact or are related to our industry.</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Broadly those that will impact the financial, regulatory or reputation of the industry. 2. <u>Seek to reinforce the value of our sector to the broader community and key stakeholders.</u> - This includes advertising or communications that promote the sector and highlight performance from across the membership.
b) The QRC does not favour any political party, group or individual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QRC is apolitical in the way it engages. - QRC does not seek to publicly “aid” or “endorse” any particular political party, group or individual.
c) The QRC does not seek to intervene in the electoral process by directly campaigning for or against any particular political party, group or individual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QRC does not promote or seek to influence the outcome of an election or localised electoral race (individual electorate seat). - QRC does not <u>proactively campaign</u> for or against a political party, group or individual.
d) The QRC is empowered to protect the industry's interests and respond to others who are against it or seek to deliberately undermine or damage our industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QRC publicly corrects misinformation from political parties, NGOs and activists. - QRC has a role and responsibility to respond to NGO or activist campaigns aimed at our sector.

<p>e) The QRC is empowered to conduct policy or issues-based communication campaigns.</p>	<p>See Above</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For clarity this includes QRC campaigns around unfavorable government or political party policies.
<p>f) The QRC represents the views of the industry as determined by the QRC Board of Directors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QRC Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership is broad given the sectors covered (coal, minerals, gas, energy and contractors) and the nature of its member companies (explorers, developers, producers and contractors). - Members vary in sizes from small - medium companies to global companies, both listed and privately owned companies and members having diversified or single commodity interests. - The Board reflects this diversity with directors appointed to represent various classes of members, based on commodity type (eg gas, coal, minerals) and size of company as well as exploration and resource contractors. - This design means that the Board is representative of all member interests and directors bring diversity of membership interests to the Board table. - Directors, while being employees/directors of member companies, are required to discharge their director's duties by making decisions that are in the best interests of the association. This is not the same as voting for what their company's interests are. - Directors when determining what is in the best interests of the Association, should consider the impacts or needs of members including particular classes of members. - The QRC Board considers input from its members and various working committees in developing its public positions on issues. - The QRC Board including the CEO approves the final public position on policy issues. - QRC Board makes decisions on a "majority" rules basis and this needs to be respected by all members.

Principle	What Does it Mean
3.2 Working with Government	
a) The QRC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complies with all applicable laws and regulations - Does not engage in any conduct that is corrupt, dishonest or illegal - Ensures that any information shared with governments is accurate and appropriate for disclosure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QRC staff should comply with a code of conduct. - Any real or potential conflicts of interest amongst QRC staff or consultants / contractors should be identified and noted how these will be resolved or managed. - QRC is subject to the same Queensland Electoral Commission (QEC) rules and those around the lobbyist register.
Principle	What Does it Mean
3.3 Political Contributions	
a) The QRC may make contributions to political parties and political candidates. All QRC contributions must be approved by the CEO. Contributions are made on a non-partisan basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribution in this context means provision of information, access to industry resources or attendance at business related events. - This should not preclude participation in political party conferences or events where they require purchase of tickets to attend and the main objective is direct engagement on policy issues. - Contributions must be approved as per the QRC's financial delegation policy. - Contributions will be made on an apolitical basis.
a) The QRC does not make cash donations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As stated – no cash donations
c) The QRC complies with all legislative and reporting requirements for political contributions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As per the QEC

ENDS