



David Elliott
Minister for Counter Terrorism
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Veterans Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

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STRENGTHENING AND SUPPORTING THE RSL NSW

All members of the RSL (NSW) will be empowered to vote for their new board of directors as part of representative voting reforms designed to strengthen and support the iconic veterans organisation.

It will replace the current procedure of 352 NSW sub-branches electing members of the State Council, the governing body of the League in NSW, with each sub-branch having one vote.

Amendments to the *Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) Incorporation Act 1935* will replace the State Council with a Board of maximum ten directors elected by individual members.

NSW Minister for Veterans Affairs David Elliott said the voting reform and other changes will strengthen corporate governance and ensure it is accountable to members.

“It has been a challenging time for the RSL NSW, which has long been a highly regarded and respected organisation in our community. For too long the system did not serve the branch members and this reform will ensure power returns to them,” Mr Elliott said.

“It builds on reforms introduced over the past year by RSL NSW State Council and the recommendations of the Bergin Review into the League’s charitable fundraising activities.”

The changes will:

- Establish a board with a minimum of three and maximum of ten directors, including at least one independent director;
- Introduce a representative voting system where each member has one vote;
- Ensure directors disclose any financial interests;
- Regulate remuneration of directors; and
- Ensure RSL tables an annual report to the NSW Parliament.

“This will ensure greater accountability and transparency to members, and will also ensure the Government has greater confidence in its corporate governance,” Mr Elliott said.

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