

**Digital Rights Watch Inc.
Annual General Meeting
MINUTES**

Date and time: 1-2pm, Monday 10th April 2017

Location: Virtual only (<https://meet.jit.si/DigitalRightsWatch>)

Attending: Tim Norton (Chair), Nic Suzor, Suzy Wood, Amy Gray, Leanne O'Donnell, James Clark.

Apologies: Serina McDuff, Rick Chen, Lizzie O'Shea, Chris Berg, David Paris.

Business of the meeting:

1. Elections to the Board

Nominations had been received to fill the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and ordinary members.

As one member has nominated for each position, the Chairperson declared each position filled by its respective nominee in accordance with clause 52(2) and 53(3) of the Constitution of the Association. Accordingly, the Chairperson declares the following elections:

Tim Singleton Norton: Chair

Nic Suzor: Deputy Chair

Amy Gray: Secretary

Serina McDuff: ordinary member

Rick Chen: ordinary member

Tom Sulston: ordinary member

Lizzie O'Shea: ordinary member

The board recognises and thanks the work of outgoing board members Suzy Wood, Nick Jaffe and Chris Berg.

The new board will convene shortly to discuss and plan for the year ahead.

2. Reporting on work of the organisation in previous year:

Chair tabled and spoke to document: [Digital Rights Watch 2016 Annual Report](#)

First year of operations has been difficult to prove the financial viability of the organisation. Several unsuccessful pitches to philanthropic organisations and individuals, both here and overseas.

Board took a decision mid-year to shift focus away from securing funds and instead increase output of reports, submissions, media and campaigns.

This will be used to go back to potential funders and prove the work we do as an example for future funding pitches - both for core funding as well as project based.

We have secured strong partnerships with domestic organisations and institutions (QUT, Deakin, Thoughtworks, HRLC, Amnesty) as well as international (Access Now, Fight for the Future, Article 19) that have enabled us to have greater reach and impact than we would ever have achieved on our own.

3. Future workplan of organisation

Chair and Deputy Chair updated members on future workload and plans for the organisation:

- Strategic focus on financial sustainability for Digital Rights Watch
- Explore legal action to challenge mandatory data retention regime (currently under scope in partnership with the HLRC)
- Operate a watchdog on social media platforms ability to protect freedom of speech
- Expand our outreach operations to reach more audiences and empower them to understand and protect their digital rights
- Work with local and global partners to create educational resources for Australian markets
- Provide regular public policy updates
- Create a forum that helps coordinate the work of digital rights advocates in Australia (potentially could be a good source of sponsor funding)

4. Questions

Members opportunity to ask any questions or clarifications from the DRW board.

Question about connecting up with existing litigation efforts around privacy and how DRW could support - agreement that we should seek these out wherever possible

Meeting closed at 2:33pm