

CO-OPERATIVES ACT 1997

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[Each Part is numbered from page 1. Subscribers to the Consolidation Service will receive complete replacement Parts incorporating amendments to this Act as they come into force.]

(Reprint No. 1)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CO-OPERATIVES ACT 1997

*This Act is reprinted pursuant to the Acts Republication Act 1967 and incorporates all amendments in force as at **1 July 1999**.*

It should be noted that the Act was not revised (for obsolete references, etc.) by the Commissioner of Statute Revision prior to the publication of this reprint.

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CO-OPERATIVES ACT 1997

being

Co-operatives Act 1997 No. 61 of 1997
[Assented to 7 August 1997]¹

as amended by

Financial Sector Reform (South Australia) Act 1999 No. 33 of 1999 [Assented to 17 June 1999]²

¹ Came into operation 1 December 1997: *Gaz.* 20 November 1997, p. 1326.

² Schedule (item 13) came into operation 1 July 1999: being the date specified under section 3(16) of the *Financial Sector Reform (Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Act (No. 1) 1999* of the Commonwealth as the transfer date for the purposes of that Act.

NOTE:

- Asterisks indicate repeal or deletion of text.
- For the legislative history of the Act see Appendix.

Co-operatives Act 1997

An Act to provide for the formation, registration and management of co-operatives; to amend the Security and Investigation Agents Act 1995; to repeal the Co-operatives Act 1983; and for other purposes.

The Parliament of South Australia enacts as follows:

**PART 1
PRELIMINARY**

DIVISION 1—INTRODUCTORY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the *Co-operatives Act 1997*.

Commencement

2. This Act will come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

Objects of this Act

3. The objects of this Act are—
- (a) to enable the formation, registration and operation of co-operatives; and
 - (b) to promote co-operative philosophy, principles, practices and objectives; and
 - (c) to protect the interests of co-operatives, their members and the public in the operation and activities of co-operatives; and
 - (d) to ensure that the directors of co-operatives are accountable for their actions and decisions to the members of co-operatives; and
 - (e) to encourage and facilitate self-management by co-operatives at all levels; and
 - (f) to encourage the development, integration and strengthening of co-operatives at local, regional, national and international levels by supporting and fostering State and national peak organisations and co-operative instrumentalities.

DIVISION 2—INTERPRETATION

Definitions

4. (1) In this Act—

"**accounting records**" includes—

- (a) invoices, receipts, orders for the payment of money, bills of exchange, cheques, promissory notes, vouchers and other documents of prime entry; and
- (b) documents and records that record those entries; and
- (c) any working papers and other documents that are necessary to explain the methods and calculations by which accounts are made up;

"**accounts**" means profit and loss accounts and balance-sheets and includes statements, reports and notes (other than auditors' reports and directors' reports) attached to or intended to be read with any of those accounts or balance-sheets;

"agreement" means an agreement, arrangement or understanding—

- (a) whether formal or informal or partly formal and partly informal; and
- (b) whether written or oral or partly written and partly oral; and
- (c) whether or not having legal or equitable force and whether or not based on legal or equitable rights;

"alter", in relation to the rules of a co-operative, includes add to, substitute and rescind;

"associate" has the meaning given by Schedule 2;

"association" means an association registered under this Act;

"board" means the board of directors of a co-operative and includes a committee of management of a co-operative;

"Commission" means the Corporate Affairs Commission;

"component co-operative" means a member of an association;

"co-operative" means a body registered under this Act as a co-operative and includes an association or federation;

"debenture" means a document issued by a co-operative that evidences or acknowledges indebtedness of the co-operative in respect of money that is or may be deposited with or lent to the co-operative, whether or not constituting a charge on property of the co-operative and includes a unit of a debenture but does not include—

- (a) a cheque, order for the payment of money or bill of exchange; or
- (b) a promissory note having a face value of not less than \$50 000; or
- (c) any other document of a class that is prescribed as exempt from this definition;

"deed of arrangement" means a deed of arrangement executed under Part 5.3A of the *Corporations Law* as adopted and applying under this Act or such a deed as varied and in force from time to time;

"deposit taking co-operative" means a co-operative that is permitted under section 254 to accept money on deposit;

"director", in relation to a co-operative, includes—

- (a) a person who occupies or acts in the position of a director or member of the board of a co-operative, whether or not the person is called a director and whether or not the person is validly appointed or duly authorised to act in the position; and
- (b) a person in accordance with whose directions or instructions the directors or members of the board of directors of the co-operative are accustomed to act;

"District Court" means the Administrative and Disciplinary Division of the District Court;

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"federation" means a federation registered under this Act;

"foreign co-operative" means a body corporate that is registered, incorporated or formed under, or is subject to, a law in force outside South Australia (including outside Australia), that regulates co-operatives or organisations having attributes the same as or similar to co-operatives but does not include—

- (a) a body incorporated under the *Corporations Law*; or

* * * * *

"inspector" means a person appointed as an inspector under Part 15;

"model rules" means the model rules approved by the Commission under Part 5;

"mortgage" includes a lien, charge or other security over property;

"non-trading co-operative" means a non-trading co-operative within the meaning of section 15;

"officer", in relation to a co-operative, means—

- (a) a director, secretary or employee of the co-operative; or
- (b) a person who is concerned, or takes part, in the management of the co-operative, whether or not as a director; or
- (c) a receiver and manager, appointed under a power contained in an instrument, of property of the co-operative; or
- (d) an administrator of a deed of arrangement executed by the co-operative; or
- (e) a liquidator or provisional liquidator appointed in a voluntary winding up of the co-operative; or
- (f) an administrator of the co-operative appointed under—
 - (i) Part 5.3A of the *Corporations Law* as adopted and applying under this Act; or
 - (ii) Division 5 of Part 12 of this Act; or
 - (iii) a trustee or other person administering a compromise or arrangement made between the co-operative and another person;

"primary activity" has the meaning given by section 114;

"principal executive officer", in relation to a co-operative or a subsidiary of a co-operative, means the principal executive officer of the co-operative or subsidiary for the time being, by whatever name called, and whether or not that officer is a director or the secretary;

"records" includes books, accounts, accounting records, minutes, registers, deeds, writings, documents and other sources of information compiled, recorded or stored in written form or on microfilm, or by electronic process, or in any other manner or by any other means;

"Register" means the register of incorporated co-operatives continued under section 425;

"related", in the context of related bodies corporate, has the meaning given by Schedule 2;

"relevant interest" has the meaning given by Schedule 2;

"rule" means registered rule of a co-operative for the time being in force;

"seal", in relation to a co-operative, means the common seal or official seal;

"share" means share in the share capital of a co-operative;

"subordinated debt" has the meaning given by section 257;

"subsidiary" has the same meaning as in the *Corporations Law*;

"surplus", in relation to a co-operative, means the excess of income over expenditure after making proper allowance for taxation expense, depreciation in value of the property of the co-operative and future contingencies;

"trading co-operative" means a trading co-operative within the meaning of section 14.

(2) In this Act—

- (a) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty; and
- (b) a reference to the exercise of a function includes, in relation to a duty, a reference to the performance of the duty.

Qualified privilege

5. (1) Where this Act provides that a person has qualified privilege in respect of an act, matter or thing, the person, in respect of that act, matter or thing—

- (a) has qualified privilege in proceedings for defamation; or
- (b) is not, in the absence of malice on the person's part, liable to an action for defamation at the suit of any person.

(2) In subsection (1)—

"malice" includes ill-will to the person concerned or any other improper motive.

(3) Neither this section nor a provision of this Act that provides as mentioned in subsection (1) limits or affects any right, privilege or immunity that a person has, apart from this section or such a provision, as defendant in proceedings, or an action, for defamation.

DIVISION 3—THE CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Co-operative principles

6. The co-operative principles are the following principles:

1. Voluntary and open membership

Co-operatives are voluntary organisations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

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2. Democratic member control

Co-operatives are democratic organisations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-operatives at other levels are organised in a democratic manner.

3. Member economic participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and independence

Co-operatives are autonomous, self help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

5. Education, training and information

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

6. Co-operation among co-operatives

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for the community

While focusing on member needs, co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Interpretation to promote co-operative principles

7. In the interpretation of a provision of this Act or the regulations, a construction that would promote co-operative principles is to be preferred to a construction that would not promote co-operative principles.

DIVISION 4—APPLICATION OF CORPORATIONS LAW**Corporations Law applying under its own force**

8. (1) The provisions of the *Corporations Law* (other than the provisions of the *Corporations Law* mentioned in subsection (2)) are excluded from applying under their own force to co-operatives.

(2) However, the following provisions of the *Corporations Law* are not excluded from applying under their own force to a co-operative:

- (a) provisions that relate to any matter that the regulations provide is not to be excluded from the operation of the *Corporations Law*; or
- (b) provisions that relate to the role of a co-operative in the formation of a company; or
- (c) provisions that relate to substantial shareholdings, by or involving a co-operative, in a company; or
- (d) provisions that confer or impose functions on a co-operative as a member, or former member, of a corporation; or
- (e) provisions that relate to dealings by a co-operative in securities of a body corporate, other than securities of the co-operative itself; or
- (f) provisions that confer or impose functions on a co-operative in its dealings with a corporation, not being dealings in securities of the co-operative; or
- (g) provisions that relate to securities of a co-operative, other than shares in, debentures of, or deposits with, a co-operative; or
- (h) provisions relating to the futures industry; or
- (i) provisions relating to participants in the securities industry; or
- (j) provisions relating to the conduct of securities business; or
- (k) provisions relating to dealers' accounts and audit; or
- (l) provisions relating to money and scrip of dealers' clients; or
- (m) provisions relating to registers of interests in securities.

(3) To remove doubt it is declared that subsection (1) does not operate to exclude the operation of Parts 1.2A, 7.11 and 7.12 of the *Corporations Law*, except in relation to shares in, debentures of, or deposits with, a co-operative.

(4) This section does not operate to give rise to any operation of the *Corporations Law*, and does not confer any function under that Law, which that Law would not otherwise have or confer of its own force.

(5) This section has effect despite any provision of the *Corporations (South Australia) Act 1990* or the applicable provisions of South Australia within the meaning of that Act.

Corporations Law adopted by this Act or the regulations

9. (1) The regulations may adopt, with or without specified modifications, a provision of the *Corporations Law* for application in relation to co-operatives.

(2) Any provision of this Act or any regulation that adopts provisions of the *Corporations Law* for application in relation to co-operatives operates to apply those provisions as part of this Act and the adopted provisions are to be read as forming part of this Act.

(3) If a provision of the *Corporations Law* is adopted by any provision of this Act or the regulations, neither the adopted provision nor the adopting provision gives power to the Australian Securities Commission to administer the adopted provision for this Act.

Interpretation of adopted provisions of Corporations Law

10. (1) Provisions of the *Corporations Law* adopted by this Act apply with any modifications that may be necessary or appropriate for the effectual application of the provisions to co-operatives.

(2) Examples of necessary or appropriate modifications are as follows:

- (a) a reference to articles or memorandum of association is to read as a reference to rules;
- (b) a cross-reference to another provision of the *Corporations Law* is, if that cross-reference is not appropriate (because, for example, the provision cross-referred to is not among the provisions applied), to be read as a cross-reference to the equivalent provision of this Act;
- (c) a reference to the *Gazette* is to be read as a reference to the *South Australian Government Gazette*;
- (d) a reference to the Commonwealth is to be read as a reference to South Australia;
- (e) provisions that are not relevant to co-operatives or that are incapable of application to co-operatives are to be ignored;
- (f) modifications directed by the Commission under subsection (3).

(3) The Commission may, by order published in the *Gazette*, give directions as to the modifications that are necessary or desirable for the effectual operation of the adopted provisions of the *Corporations Law*.

(4) Provisions of the *Corporations Law* adopted by or under this Act apply and are to be interpreted as if the definitions of words and expressions and other interpretative provisions contained in the *Corporations Law* formed part of this Act.

(5) This section has effect subject to any specific requirements of provisions of this Act that adopt provisions of the *Corporations Law*.

Implied adoption of regulations and other provisions of Corporations Law

11. (1) When a provision of this Act or the regulations adopts a provision ("**the adopted provision**") of the *Corporations Law* for application in relation to co-operatives, the following provisions are also adopted by force of this section and are to be read as forming part of this Act:

- (a) the provisions of any regulation (an "**adopted regulation**") for the time being in force under the adopted provision;
- (b) any provision of the *Corporations Law* that creates an offence in relation to a contravention of the adopted provision;
- (c) the provisions of Part 9.4B of the *Corporations Law* for the purposes of any provision of the *Corporations Law* adopted by this Act that is a civil penalty provision within the meaning of that Part.

(2) The regulations under this Act may prescribe modifications to any of the provisions adopted by subsection (1) for the purposes of their application under this section, and those provisions apply subject to any such prescribed modifications.

(3) If a provision of the *Corporations Law* or the regulations under that Law adopted under this Act (including under this section) creates an offence and the penalty for that offence is specified in another provision ("**the penalty provision**") of the *Corporations Law* or those regulations, the penalty provision is to be read as forming part of this Act for the purpose of determining the maximum penalty applicable to that offence.

Effect of amendments to adopted provisions of Corporations Law

12. (1) A provision of the *Corporations Law* that is adopted by or under a provision of this Act so applies as in force from time to time.

(2) If a group of provisions of the *Corporations Law* is adopted by or under a provision of this Act (whether by application of a Part or other division of the *Corporations Law* or otherwise), and the *Corporations Law* is amended so as to insert new provisions in that group of provisions, the new provisions form part of the group of provisions so adopted.

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**PART 2
FORMATION**

DIVISION 1—TYPES OF CO-OPERATIVES

Types of co-operatives

13. (1) A body may be registered under this Act as a co-operative.

(2) A co-operative may be either—

(a) a trading co-operative; or

(b) a non-trading co-operative.

Trading co-operatives

14. (1) A trading co-operative must have a share capital.

(2) A trading co-operative is a co-operative that gives returns or distributions on surplus or share capital.

(3) A trading co-operative must have a membership of—

(a) 2 or more co-operatives, in the case of an association; and

(b) 2 or more associations, in the case of a federation; and

(c) 5 or more active members, in the case of any other trading co-operative.

Non-trading co-operatives

15. (1) A non-trading co-operative must not give returns or distributions on surplus or share capital to members other than the nominal value of shares (if any) at winding up.

(2) A non-trading co-operative may or may not have a share capital.

(3) A non-trading co-operative must have a membership of—

(a) 2 or more co-operatives, in the case of an association; and

(b) 2 or more associations, in the case of a federation; and

(c) 5 or more active members, in the case of any other non-trading co-operative.

DIVISION 2—FORMATION MEETING

Formation meeting

16. (1) Before a proposed co-operative (other than an existing body corporate) can be registered, a formation meeting must be held in accordance with this section.

(2) At the formation meeting—

(a) in the case of a proposed trading co-operative, a disclosure statement approved under section 17 must be presented to the meeting; and

- (b) the proposed rules of the co-operative approved under section 18 in respect of the proposed co-operative, and including active membership provisions in accordance with Part 6, must be passed by two-thirds of the proposed members of the proposed co-operative attending the meeting; and
 - (c) the proposed members of the proposed co-operative must sign the application for membership which must be in a form approved by the Commission; and
 - (d) the proposed members must elect the first directors of the proposed co-operative in accordance with the proposed rules; and
 - (e) the proposed members must authorise a person—
 - (i) to apply to the Commission for registration of the proposed co-operative; and
 - (ii) to do any act or thing necessary to have the proposed co-operative registered.
- (3) The formation meeting must be held by—
- (a) not less than 2 suitably qualified co-operatives, in the case of an association; and
 - (b) not less than 2 suitably qualified associations, in the case of a federation; and
 - (c) not less than 5 persons suitably qualified to be members of the proposed co-operative in the case of any other co-operative.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3), a person is suitably qualified to be a member if—
- (a) there are reasonable grounds to believe the person will be an active member of the proposed co-operative; and
 - (b) in the case of a natural person, the person has attained the age of 18; and
 - (c) the person satisfies any other requirements for membership set out in the proposed rules.
- (5) Each co-operative forming a proposed association and each association forming a proposed federation may be represented at the formation meeting by one person.

DIVISION 3—APPROVAL OF DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND RULES

Approval of disclosure statement

17. (1) A draft disclosure statement of a proposed trading co-operative must be submitted to the Commission at least 28 days (or such shorter period as the Commission may allow in a particular case) before the formation meeting is due to be held.

(2) The disclosure statement must contain the information necessary to ensure that prospective members are adequately informed of the nature and extent of a person's financial involvement or liability as a member of the co-operative including so far as applicable—

- (a) the estimated costs of formation; and
- (b) the nature of the proposed membership of the co-operative; and
- (c) the rights and liabilities attaching to shares in the proposed co-operative (including the capital required for the co-operative); and

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- (d) the projected income and expenditure of the co-operative for its first year of operation; and
- (e) information about any contracts required to be entered into by the co-operative; and
- (f) any other information that the Commission directs.

(3) The disclosure statement must not include a statement purporting to be made by an expert or to be based on a statement made by an expert unless—

- (a) the expert has given, and has not withdrawn, the expert's written consent to the submission of the disclosure statement with the statement included in the form and context in which it is included; and
- (b) there appears in the disclosure statement a statement that the expert has given, and has not withdrawn, the expert's consent.

(4) The Commission may—

- (a) approve the draft statement as submitted; or
- (b) approve a different statement to that submitted; or
- (c) refuse to approve the statement.

(5) Approval may be given at any time before the formation meeting is held.

(6) Subject to subsection (7), the Commission approves of a disclosure statement by giving notice of the approval of the statement to the person who submitted the draft statement to the Commission.

(7) The Commission is to be considered to have approved the disclosure statement as submitted to the Commission unless at least 5 days before the formation meeting is due to be held—

- (a) the Commission gives notice of approval of a different disclosure statement; or
- (b) the Commission gives notice to the person who submitted the draft statement that the Commission is still considering the matter; or
- (c) the Commission gives notice of refusal to approve the disclosure statement.

(8) A notice under this section must be in writing.

Approval of rules

18. (1) A draft of the rules proposed for the co-operative (including active membership provisions in accordance with Part 6) must be submitted to the Commission at least 28 days (or such shorter period as the Commission may allow in a particular case) before the formation meeting is due to be held.

(2) The proposed rules must—

- (a) be in accordance with section 102; and
- (b) be in a form that may reasonably be approved; and

- (c) if the rules contain any alterations of the model rules, be accompanied by a statement setting out the alterations and the reasons for the alterations.

(3) If the rules do not make provision for any matter included in the model rules, the Commission may approve the relevant provisions of the model rules as rules of the co-operative.

(4) The Commission may—

- (a) approve the rules as submitted; or
- (b) approve different rules to those submitted; or
- (c) refuse to approve the rules.

(5) The Commission approves of the rules by giving written notice of the approval of the rules to the person who submitted the draft rules to the Commission.

(6) The Commission must give written notice of the refusal to approve the rules to the person who submitted the rules to the Commission.

DIVISION 4—REGISTRATION OF PROPOSED CO-OPERATIVE

Application for registration of proposed co-operative

19. (1) An application for registration of a proposed co-operative (other than an existing body corporate) must—

- (a) be made in the form approved by the Commission; and
- (b) be accompanied by the prescribed fee; and
- (c) be signed by—
 - (i) at least 2 directors in the case of an association or federation; and
 - (ii) at least 5 suitably qualified members, including 2 directors elected at the formation meeting, in the case of any other proposed co-operative; and
- (d) be accompanied by—
 - (i) 2 copies of the proposed rules signed and certified by the persons who acted as chairperson and secretary at the formation meeting; and
 - (ii) in the case of a proposed trading co-operative, a copy of the disclosure statement presented to the formation meeting signed and certified by the persons who acted as chairperson and secretary at the formation meeting; and
 - (iii) a statement listing the name, address, occupation and place and date of birth of each director; and
 - (iv) any other particulars that the Commission may require in a particular case.

(2) The application must be lodged with the Commission within 2 months after closure of the formation meeting for the proposed co-operative or within such extended period as the Commission may allow.

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Registration of co-operative

20. (1) When an application is made under this Division for registration of a proposed co-operative, the Commission must register the co-operative and its rules if satisfied that the requirements for registration of the co-operative have been met.

(2) The requirements for registration of a co-operative under this Division are as follows:

- (a) the proposed rules of the proposed co-operative must be the rules approved by the Commission under section 18; and
- (b) the name of the proposed co-operative—
 - (i) must comply with the requirements of this Act; and
 - (ii) must not be such as is likely to be confused with the name of any other body corporate or any registered business name; and
 - (iii) must not be undesirable as a name for a registered co-operative; and
 - (iv) must conform with any direction of the Minister relating to the names of registered co-operatives; and
- (c) the other requirements of this Act and the regulations must have been complied with in respect of the proposed co-operative and compliance must be likely to continue; and
- (d) the proposed co-operative must be designed to function in accordance with the co-operative principles or, if it is not designed to function entirely in accordance with the co-operative principles, the Commission must be satisfied that there are special reasons why the co-operative should be registered under this Act; and
- (e) there must be no reasonable cause for refusing registration of the proposed co-operative.

(3) If the Commission is not satisfied that the requirements for registration of the co-operative have been met the Commission may refuse to register the co-operative and its rules.

Incorporation and certificate of registration

21. (1) The incorporation of the co-operative takes effect upon the registration of the co-operative.

(2) On the registration of the co-operative, the Commission must issue a certificate of registration.

DIVISION 5—REGISTRATION OF AN EXISTING BODY CORPORATE**Existing body corporate can be registered**

22. A body corporate (other than a co-operative deemed to be registered under this Act) may apply to the Commission to be registered as a co-operative under this Act, if before or after the commencement of this Act, the body corporate was—

- (a) incorporated or registered or deemed to be registered under the *Corporations Law* of South Australia; or
- (b) incorporated or registered under any other Act relating to the incorporation or registration of bodies corporate.

Formation meeting

23. (1) Before applying for registration as a co-operative the body corporate must pass a special resolution in accordance with its articles of association or rules approving of—

- (a) the proposed registration; and
 - (b) any alterations of its existing memorandum and articles of association or rules necessary to enable the body corporate to comply with this Act.
- (2) At the meeting to pass the special resolution—
- (a) the proposed rules of the proposed co-operative approved under section 18, and including active membership provisions in accordance with Part 6, must also be passed by special resolution; and
 - (b) in the case of a proposed trading co-operative, a disclosure statement approved under section 17 must be presented to the meeting.

Application for registration

24. An application for registration must—

- (a) be in the form approved by the Commission; and
- (b) be accompanied by the prescribed fee; and
- (c) be accompanied by—
 - (i) a declaration in writing signed by the directors or the committee of management of the body corporate stating that at a meeting of the directors or committee they formed the opinion that the body corporate will be able to pay its debts as they fall due; and
 - (ii) a report in the form approved by the Commission as to the affairs of the body corporate and showing its assets and liabilities, made up to the latest practicable date before the application; and
 - (iii) a copy of the memorandum and articles of association or rules of the body corporate in force at the date of the application; and
 - (iv) 2 copies of the proposed rules of the co-operative, as provided for by the special resolution; and
 - (v) in the case of a proposed trading co-operative, a copy of the disclosure statement presented to the meeting held under section 23 and signed and certified by the directors or committee of management of the body corporate; and
 - (vi) a list containing the name, address, occupation and place and date of birth of each director; and
 - (vii) evidence to the satisfaction of the Commission of the incorporation of the existing body corporate; and
 - (viii) any other particulars that the Commission may require in a particular case.

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Requirements for registration

25. (1) When an application is made for registration of a co-operative under this Division, the Commission must register the body corporate as a co-operative under this Act and register its rules under this Act if the Commission is satisfied that the requirements for registration of the co-operative have been met.

(2) The requirements for registration of a co-operative under this Division are as follows:

- (a) the proposed rules of the proposed co-operative must be the rules approved by the Commission under section 18; and
- (b) the name of the proposed co-operative—
 - (i) must comply with the requirements of this Act; and
 - (ii) must not be such as is likely to be confused with the name of any other body corporate or any registered business name; and
 - (iii) must not be undesirable as a name for a registered co-operative; and
 - (iv) must conform with any direction of the Minister relating to the names of registered co-operatives; and
- (c) the other requirements of this Act and the regulations must have been complied with in respect of the proposed co-operative and compliance must be likely to continue; and
- (d) there must be no reasonable cause for refusing registration of the proposed co-operative.

(3) If the Commission is not satisfied that the requirements for registration of the co-operative have been met the Commission may refuse to register the co-operative and its rules.

(4) If the Commission has determined under this section to register a body corporate under this Act, the body corporate must notify the authority responsible for registering the body corporate under the law under which it was previously registered of that determination.

(5) Despite anything to the contrary in this Division, the registration of a body corporate as a co-operative does not take effect until the body corporate ceases to be registered under the law under which it was previously registered.

(6) The body corporate must notify the Commission in writing within 7 days after ceasing to be registered under that other law.

Certificate of registration

26. (1) On the registration of the body corporate as a co-operative the Commission must—

- (a) issue a certificate of registration; and
- (b) publish notice of the issue of the certificate in the *Gazette*.

(2) The corporate name of a body corporate registered as a co-operative is the name approved by the Commission, as specified in the certificate of registration issued by the Commission.

Effect of registration

27. (1) The body corporate is to be taken to be incorporated under this Act on its registration.

(2) Except as expressly provided in this Act or the regulations, the registration and incorporation of the body corporate as a co-operative does not prejudice any right of a member in respect of any shares held at the time of registration and incorporation.

(3) The change of registration and incorporation does not affect the identity of the body corporate which is deemed to be the same body after registration as a co-operative as it was before and no act, matter or thing is affected by the change.

DIVISION 6—CONVERSION OF CO-OPERATIVE

Conversion of co-operative

28. (1) A co-operative may, by alteration of its rules, convert from—

- (a) a co-operative with share capital to a co-operative without share capital or vice versa; or
- (b) a trading co-operative to a non-trading co-operative or vice versa.

(2) An alteration of the rules for the conversion of a co-operative must be approved by special resolution passed by means of a special postal ballot.

DIVISION 7—APPEALS

Appeal against refusal to approve disclosure statement

29. The person who submitted a draft disclosure statement to the Commission under this Act may appeal to the District Court against—

- (a) a decision of the Commission to refuse to approve the statement; or
- (b) a failure of the Commission to approve the statement.

Appeal against refusal to approve draft rules

30. The person who submitted draft rules to the Commission under this Act may appeal to the District Court against—

- (a) a decision of the Commission to refuse to approve the rules; or
- (b) a failure of the Commission to approve the rules.

Appeal against refusal to register

31. The applicants for registration of a proposed co-operative under this Part may appeal to the District Court against—

- (a) a decision of the Commission to refuse to register the co-operative; or
- (b) a failure of the Commission to register the co-operative.

Commission to comply with Court determination

32. The Commission must comply with a determination of the District Court on an appeal under this Division.

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DIVISION 8—GENERAL

Stamp duty exemption for certain co-operatives

33. (1) This section applies to a co-operative that—

- (a) has as its primary activity the providing of any community service or benefit; and
- (b) was, before it was incorporated under this Act, an unincorporated club, association or body operating to provide sporting or recreational facilities for its members and not carried on for the pecuniary profit of its members.

(2) An instrument transferring to a co-operative to which this section applies any property which was, immediately before the co-operative was incorporated, held by or on behalf of the unincorporated club, association or body is not chargeable with stamp duty.

Acceptance of money by proposed co-operative

34. (1) A proposed co-operative or any person on its behalf or otherwise which accepts any money for the proposed co-operative before the proposed co-operative is registered must hold that money on trust until the co-operative is registered.

(2) If a co-operative is not registered within the period of 3 months after the acceptance of any money under subsection (1), the proposed co-operative or the person who accepted the money on its behalf must refund the money to the person who paid it.

Maximum penalty: \$6 000.

Issue of duplicate certificate

35. The Commission must issue a duplicate certificate of registration—

- (a) if the Commission is satisfied that the original certificate is lost or destroyed; and
- (b) on payment of the prescribed fee.

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**PART 3
LEGAL CAPACITY AND POWERS**

DIVISION 1—GENERAL POWERS

Effect of incorporation

36. As a body corporate, a co-operative—

- (a) has perpetual succession; and
- (b) has a common seal; and
- (c) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
- (d) subject to this Act, is capable of taking, purchasing, leasing, holding, selling and disposing of real and personal property; and
- (e) may do and suffer all acts and things that bodies corporate may by law do and suffer and which are necessary or expedient.

Power to form companies and enter into joint ventures

37. Without limiting any other provision of this Act, a co-operative has power—

- (a) to form or participate in the formation of a body corporate or unit trust;
- (b) to acquire interests in and sell or otherwise dispose of interests in bodies corporate, unit trusts and joint ventures;
- (c) to form or enter into a partnership, joint venture or other association with other persons or bodies.

DIVISION 2—DOCTRINE OF ULTRA VIRES ABOLISHED

Interpretation

38. In this Division—

- (a) a reference to the doing of an act by a co-operative includes a reference to the making of an agreement by the co-operative and a reference to a transfer of property to or by the co-operative; and
- (b) a reference to legal capacity includes a reference to powers.

Doctrine of ultra vires abolished

39. (1) The objects of this Division are—

- (a) to provide that the doctrine of *ultra vires* does not apply to co-operatives; and
- (b) without affecting the validity of a co-operative's dealings with others, to ensure that the co-operative's officers and members give effect to the provisions of the co-operative's rules relating to the primary activities or powers of the co-operative.

(2) This Division is to be construed and have effect in accordance with subsection (1).

Legal capacity

40. (1) A co-operative has, both within and outside the State, the legal capacity of a natural person.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), a co-operative has, both within and outside the State, power—

- (a) to issue and allot fully or partly paid shares in the co-operative; and
- (b) to issue debentures of the co-operative; and
- (c) to distribute any of the property of the co-operative among the members, in kind or otherwise; and
- (d) to give security by charging uncalled capital; and
- (e) to grant a charge on property of the co-operative; and
- (f) to procure the co-operative to be registered or recognised as a body corporate in any place outside the State; and
- (g) to do any other act that it is authorised to do by any other law (including a law of a place outside the State).

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) have effect in relation to a co-operative—

- (a) subject to this Act and the regulations but despite section 41(2); and
- (b) if the co-operative's rules contain an express or implied restriction on, or an express or implied prohibition of, the exercise by the co-operative of any of its powers, despite that restriction or prohibition; and
- (c) if the rules of the co-operative contain a provision stating the objects of the co-operative, despite that fact.

(4) The fact that the doing of an act by a co-operative would not be, or is not, in its best interests does not affect its legal capacity to do the act.

Restrictions on co-operatives in rules

41. (1) A co-operative's rules may contain an express restriction on, or an express prohibition of, the exercise by the co-operative of a power of the co-operative.

(2) A co-operative contravenes this section if—

- (a) it exercises a power contrary to an express restriction on, or an express prohibition of, the exercise of that power, being a restriction or prohibition contained in the co-operative's rules; or
- (b) the rules of the co-operative contain a provision stating the objects of the co-operative and the co-operative does an act otherwise than in pursuance of those objects.

(3) An officer of a co-operative who is involved in a contravention by the co-operative of this section also contravenes this section.

(4) A person who contravenes this section is not guilty of an offence.

Co-operatives Act 1997

Results of contravention of restriction in rules

42. (1) The exercise of a power or the doing of an act in contravention of section 41 is not invalid merely because of the contravention.

(2) An act of an officer of a co-operative is not invalid merely because, by doing the act, the officer contravenes section 41.

(3) The fact that the exercise of a power or the doing of an act contravenes or would contravene section 41 may be asserted or relied on only in—

- (a) a prosecution of a person for an offence against this Act; or
- (b) an application for an order under Division 5 of Part 4; or
- (c) an application for an injunction under section 447 to restrain the co-operative from entering into an agreement; or
- (d) proceedings, other than an application for an injunction, by the co-operative, or by a member of the co-operative, against the present or former officers of the co-operative; or
- (e) an application by the Commission or by a member of the co-operative for the winding up of the co-operative.

(4) If, but for subsection (3), a court would have power under section 447 to grant, on the application of a person, an injunction restraining a co-operative or an officer of a co-operative from engaging in particular conduct constituting a contravention of section 41, the court may, on the application of that person, order the co-operative or the officer to pay damages to that person or any other person.

DIVISION 3—PERSONS HAVING DEALINGS WITH CO-OPERATIVES**Assumptions entitled to be made**

43. (1) A person is entitled to make the assumptions in section 44 in relation to—

- (a) dealings with a co-operative; and
- (b) dealings with a person who has, or purports to have, directly or indirectly acquired title to property from a co-operative.

(2) If a person is entitled to assume a matter, the co-operative or anyone referred to in subsection (1)(b) is not entitled to assert in proceedings in relation to the dealings that the matter is incorrect.

Assumptions

44. (1) **Rules complied with:** A person may assume that the co-operative's rules have been complied with.

(2) **Director or officer:** A person may assume that anyone who appears, from information provided by the co-operative that is available to the public from the Commission, to be a director or officer of the co-operative—

- (a) has been duly appointed; and

- (b) has authority to exercise the powers and perform the duties customarily exercised or performed by a director or that kind of officer of a similar co-operative.

(3) **Officer or agent:** A person may assume that anyone who is held out by the co-operative to be an officer or agent of the co-operative—

- (a) has been duly appointed; and
- (b) has authority to exercise the powers and to perform the duties customarily exercised or performed by that kind of officer or agent of a similar co-operative.

(4) **Officer or agent with authority to warrant that document is genuine or true copy:** A person may assume that anyone who is, or may be assumed to be, an officer or agent of the co-operative who has authority to issue a document or a certified copy of a document on its behalf also has authority to warrant that the document is genuine or is a true copy.

(5) **Document duly executed:** A person may assume that a document has been duly executed by the co-operative if it is signed by two people, one of whom is, or may be assumed to be, a director of the co-operative, and the other is, or may be assumed to be, a director or officer of the co-operative.

(6) **Document duly sealed:** A person may assume that a document has been duly sealed by the co-operative if it bears what appears to be an impression of the co-operative's seal and the sealing of the document appears to be witnessed by two people, one of whom is, or may be assumed to be, a director of the co-operative, and the other is, or may be assumed to be, a director or officer of the co-operative.

(7) **Proper performance of duties:** A person may assume that the officers and agents of the co-operative properly perform their duties to the co-operative.

Person who knows or ought to know is not entitled to make assumptions

45. This Division does not entitle a person to make an assumption, and does not prevent an assertion being made in relation to an assumption, if—

- (a) the person has actual knowledge that the assumption is not correct; or
- (b) the person's connection or relationship with the co-operative is such that the person ought to know that the assumption is not correct.

Lodgment of documents not to constitute constructive knowledge

46. (1) A person is not to be considered to have knowledge of a co-operative's rules, any of the contents of a co-operative's rules, a document, the contents of a document, or any particulars, merely because of either or both of the following:

- (a) the rules, the document or the particulars have been lodged with the Commission;
- (b) the rules, the document or the particulars are referred to in any other document that has been lodged with the Commission, or lodged with a person under a previous law corresponding to a provision of this Act.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to a document, or in relation to the contents of a document, that has been lodged under Division 2 of Part 10 or with a person under a previous law corresponding to that Division to the extent that the document relates to a charge that is registrable under that Division or law.

Co-operatives Act 1997

(3) Despite subsection (1), a member of a co-operative is to be considered to have knowledge of the rules of the co-operative.

Effect of fraud

47. (1) A person's entitlement under this Division to make an assumption is not affected merely by the fact that any person—

- (a) has acted or is acting fraudulently in relation to the dealing or acquisition or purported acquisition of title to property to which the assumption relates; or
- (b) has forged a document that appears to have been sealed on behalf of a co-operative.

(2) A person is not entitled to make an assumption if the person has actual knowledge of the fraudulent action or forgery referred to in subsection (1).

**DIVISION 4—AUTHENTICATION AND EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS AND
CONFIRMATION OF CONTRACTS****Common seal**

48. A document or proceeding requiring authentication by a co-operative may be authenticated under the common seal of the co-operative.

Official seal

49. (1) A co-operative may, if authorised by its rules, have, for use in place of its common seal outside the State where its common seal is kept, one or more official seals, each of which must be a facsimile of the common seal of the co-operative with the addition on its face of the name of every place where it is to be used.

(2) The person affixing such an official seal must, in writing signed by the person, certify on the instrument to which it is affixed the date on which and the place at which it is affixed.

(3) A document sealed with such an official seal is to be considered to be sealed with the common seal of the co-operative.

Authentication need not be under seal

50. A document or proceeding requiring authentication by a co-operative may be authenticated by the signature of two people, one of whom is a director of the co-operative and one of whom is a director or an officer of the co-operative and need not be authenticated under the seal of the co-operative.

Co-operative may authorise person to execute deed

51. (1) A co-operative may, by writing under its common seal, empower a person, either generally or in respect of a specified matter or specified matters, as its agent or attorney to execute deeds on its behalf.

(2) A deed signed by such an agent or attorney on behalf of the co-operative and under the seal of the agent or attorney, or under the appropriate official seal of the co-operative, binds the co-operative and has effect as if it were under the common seal of the co-operative.

(3) The authority of such an agent or attorney, as between the co-operative and a person dealing with the agent or attorney, continues during the period, if any, mentioned in the instrument conferring the authority or, if no period is so mentioned, until notice of the revocation or termination of the authority of the agent or attorney has been given to the person dealing with the agent or attorney.

Execution under seal

52. A contract or other document executed, or purporting to have been executed, under the seal of a co-operative is not invalid merely because a person attesting the affixing of the seal was in any way, whether directly or indirectly, interested in that contract or other document or in the matter to which that contract or other document relates.

Contractual formalities

53. (1) So far as concerns the formalities of making, varying or discharging a contract, a person acting under the express or implied authority of a co-operative may make, vary or discharge a contract in the name of, or on behalf of, the co-operative as if that contract were made, varied or discharged by a natural person.

(2) The making, varying or discharging of a contract in accordance with subsection (1) is effectual in law and binds the co-operative and other parties to the contract.

(3) This section does not prevent a co-operative from making, varying or discharging a contract under its seal.

Other requirements as to consent or sanction not affected

54. This Division does not affect the operation of a law that requires some consent or sanction to be obtained, or some procedure to be complied with, in relation to the making, varying or discharging of a contract.

Transitional

55. This Division does not apply in relation to the making, varying or discharging of a contract before the commencement of this section, but applies otherwise in relation to a co-operative whether it gives its authority before, on or after that commencement.

DIVISION 5—PRE-REGISTRATION CONTRACTS

Contracts before registration

56. (1) If a person enters into, or purports to enter into, a contract on behalf of, or for the benefit of, a proposed co-operative, the co-operative becomes bound by the contract and entitled to its benefit if the co-operative, or a co-operative that is reasonably identifiable with it, is registered and ratifies the contract—

- (a) within a reasonable period after the contract is entered into; or
- (b) within any period agreed to by the parties to the contract.

(2) The person is released from any liability under the pre-registration contract if the co-operative enters into another contract in substitution for it—

- (a) within a reasonable period after the pre-registration contract is entered into; or
- (b) within any period agreed to by the parties to the pre-registration contract.

(3) The person is liable to pay damages to each other party to the pre-registration contract if a co-operative is not registered, or a co-operative is registered but does not ratify the contract or enter into a substitute for it—

- (a) within a reasonable period after the contract is entered into; or
- (b) within the period agreed to by the parties to the contract.

Co-operatives Act 1997

(4) The maximum amount of damages the person is liable to pay to a party is the amount the co-operative would be liable to pay to the party if the co-operative had been registered and had ratified the contract and then completely failed to perform it.

(5) If proceedings are brought to recover damages under subsection (3) because the co-operative is registered but does not ratify the pre-registration contract or enter into a substitute for it, the court may do anything that it thinks just in the circumstances, including ordering the co-operative—

- (a) to pay all or part of the damages that the person is liable to pay;
- (b) to transfer property that the co-operative received because of the contract to a party to the contract;
- (c) to pay an amount to a party to the contract.

(6) If the co-operative ratifies the pre-registration contract but fails to perform all or part of it, the court may order the person to pay all or part of the damages that the co-operative is ordered to pay.

Persons may be released from liability but is not entitled to indemnity

57. (1) Any of the parties to the pre-registration contract may release the person who entered into, or purported to enter into, the contract from any liability in relation to that contract.

(2) The release must be in writing.

(3) The party giving the release is not entitled to recover damages under section 56 from the person.

(4) Despite any rule of law or equity, the person does not have any right of indemnity against the co-operative in respect of the person's liability under this Division even if the person was acting, or purporting to act, as trustee for the co-operative.

This Division replaces other rights and liabilities

58. This Division replaces any rights or liabilities anyone would otherwise have in relation to the pre-registration contract.

Co-operatives Act 1997

**PART 4
MEMBERSHIP**

DIVISION 1—GENERAL

Becoming a member

59. (1) On the registration of a co-operative, the persons who signed the application for registration become members of the co-operative.

(2) Other persons may be admitted as members of the co-operative as provided by its rules.

(3) A person under the age of 18 may be admitted as a member of the co-operative unless the rules of the co-operative otherwise provide.

(4) A body corporate is not (merely because it is a body corporate) disqualified from being a member of a co-operative unless the co-operative's rules provide that bodies corporate are disqualified from being members.

(5) If 2 or more co-operatives merge, the members of the merged co-operative are—

- (a) the members of the merging co-operatives; and
- (b) other persons admitted as members of the merged co-operative in accordance with its rules.

Members of associations

60. (1) The members of an association are—

- (a) the component co-operatives by which the association is formed; and
- (b) any other co-operative, admitted to membership in accordance with the rules of the association; and
- (c) any other body corporate or other body admitted to membership in accordance with subsection (2).

(2) A body corporate or other body (not being a co-operative) may be admitted to membership of the association as a component co-operative if—

- (a) it is incorporated or registered under any other law, whether or not a law of South Australia; and
- (b) in the opinion of the board of the association, it is designed to function in accordance with co-operative principles; and
- (c) it is eligible to be admitted to membership in accordance with the rules of the association.

Members of federations

61. (1) The members of a federation of associations are—

- (a) the associations by which the federation is formed; and
- (b) any other associations admitted to membership in accordance with the rules of the federation; and

- (c) any bodies corporate admitted to membership in accordance with subsection (2).

(2) If the Commission certifies that there is no association to which a particular body corporate could conveniently or appropriately be admitted to membership, the body corporate may be admitted to membership of a federation.

Qualifications for membership

62. (1) A person is not qualified to be admitted to membership of a co-operative unless—

- (a) there are reasonable grounds for believing that the person will be an active member of the co-operative; and
- (b) the person is otherwise eligible under the rules of the co-operative.

(2) The rules of a co-operative must contain provisions that—

- (a) impose a duty on all persons who become members to be active members; and
- (b) explain the consequences of failing to be or ceasing to be an active member.

Membership may be joint

63. Membership of a co-operative may be individual and, unless the rules of the co-operative provide otherwise, may be joint.

Members under 18 years of age

64. (1) A member of a co-operative is not entitled to avoid any obligation or liability as a member under any contract, deed or other document entered into as a member on any ground relating to minority.

(2) A person under the age of 18 years is not competent to hold any office in a co-operative.

(3) A member of a co-operative who is under 18 years of age is not entitled to vote.

(4) This section applies only to natural persons.

Representatives of bodies corporate

65. (1) If a body corporate is a member of a co-operative, it may by instrument served on the co-operative appoint a person to represent it in respect of its membership.

(2) A body corporate must not appoint a person to represent the body corporate as a member of a co-operative, if he or she is currently a member of the co-operative or a representative of another body corporate member.

Maximum penalty: \$1 000.

(3) The power to appoint a representative is subject to any restriction imposed by the rules of the co-operative as to the entitlement of a person to represent a body corporate.

(4) A person is not qualified to be appointed the representative of a company that is not a listed corporation (within the meaning of the *Corporations Law*) unless the person is an officer, member or employee of the company.

Co-operatives Act 1997

Notification of shareholders and shareholdings

66. On the request of the board of directors of the co-operative, a body corporate which is a member of the co-operative must make available for inspection by the board of directors of the co-operative—

- (a) a list of the names of all the shareholders of that body corporate and the number of shares held by each shareholder; or
- (b) in the case of a body corporate without share capital, a list of the members of the body corporate.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

Circumstances in which membership ceases—all co-operatives

67. (1) A person ceases to be a member of a co-operative in each of the following circumstances and as otherwise provided by this Act:

- (a) if the member's membership is cancelled under Part 6;
- (b) if the member is expelled or resigns in accordance with the rules of the co-operative;
- (c) if—
 - (i) the member becomes bankrupt; or
 - (ii) the member's property becomes subject to control under the law relating to bankruptcy,unless provision is made to the contrary in the rules of the co-operative;
- (d) on death;
- (e) if the contract of membership is rescinded on the ground of misrepresentation or mistake;
- (f) in the case of a member that is a body corporate, if the body is dissolved.

(2) On the death of a member, the member's estate remains liable as the member until the member's personal representative or some other person is registered in the member's place.

Additional circumstances in which membership ceases—co-operatives with share capital

68. In the case of a co-operative that has a share capital, in addition to those circumstances in section 67, a member ceases to be a member if—

- (a) the member's share is transferred to another person in accordance with the rules of the co-operative, and the transferee is registered as holder in his or her place; or
- (b) the member's share is forfeited in accordance with this Act or the rules of the co-operative; or
- (c) the member's share is sold by the co-operative under a power conferred by the rules of the co-operative, and the purchaser is registered as holder in his or her place; or
- (d) the member's share is purchased by the co-operative in accordance with this Act; or

- (e) the amount paid up on the member's shares is repaid to the member in accordance with the rules of the co-operative.

Carrying on business with too few members

69. (1) If a co-operative continues to carry on business for more than 28 days after the number of members is reduced below the minimum number of members allowed, every person who is a director of the co-operative during the time when it so continues to carry on business and who knows it is carrying on business with fewer than the minimum number of members allowed is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$2 000.

(2) Each person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) is also liable to satisfy all obligations of the co-operative incurred after the 28 days referred to in subsection (1), and may be sued without any other member being joined in the action.

(3) The minimum number of members allowed is—

- (a) for an association or federation—2; or
- (b) for any other co-operative—5.

(4) The Commission may, by order, extend and further extend in a particular case the period of 28 days referred to in subsection (1).

(5) An application for an extension must be made—

- (a) in a form approved by the Commission; and
- (b) before the period to be extended expires.

DIVISION 2—RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF MEMBERS

Rights of membership not exercisable until registered etc.

70. (1) A member of a co-operative is not entitled to exercise any rights of membership until—

- (a) the member's name appears in the register of members; and
- (b) the member has made any payment to the co-operative in respect of membership or acquired any share or interest that is provided in the rules of the co-operative.

(2) The board of a co-operative must ensure that the name of a person admitted to membership is recorded in the register of members within 28 days after the person is admitted to membership.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

Liability of members to co-operative

71. (1) A member of a co-operative is not, as such a member, under any personal liability to the co-operative, except as provided by this section.

(2) A member of a co-operative with a share capital is liable to the co-operative for the amount, if any, unpaid on the shares held by the member together with any charges payable by the member to the co-operative as required by the rules of the co-operative.

Co-operatives Act 1997

(3) A member of a co-operative without a share capital is liable to the co-operative for any charges payable by the member to the co-operative as required by the rules of the co-operative.

Co-operative to provide information to person intending to become a member

72. (1) The board of a co-operative must provide each person intending to become a member of the co-operative with—

- (a) a consolidated copy of the rules of the co-operative; and
- (b) a copy of all special resolutions applicable to the member passed by the members of the co-operative, except special resolutions providing for an alteration of the rules of the co-operative; and
- (c) a copy of the last annual report of the co-operative under section 244.

(2) The board of a non-trading co-operative or, with the consent of the Commission, the board of a trading co-operative may comply with subsection (1) by—

- (a) giving the person intending to become a member notice that the documents referred to in that subsection may be inspected by the person at the registered office of the co-operative; and
- (b) making those documents available for inspection.

Entry fees and regular subscriptions

73. (1) The rules of a co-operative may—

- (a) require the payment by members of entry fees and regular subscriptions; and
- (b) provide for the repayment of those fees and subscriptions on a person ceasing to be a member.

(2) A co-operative must give to any person intending to become a member written notice of any entry fees or regular subscriptions payable by a member to the co-operative.

(3) A person who becomes a member of the co-operative is not liable to pay any entry fees or regular subscriptions except—

- (a) those fees or subscriptions of which the person was given written notice before becoming a member; and
- (b) any regular subscriptions that may be imposed by any subsequent alteration of the rules and of which the member has been given notice.

Members etc. may be required to deal with co-operative

74. (1) The rules of a co-operative may contain provisions that require a member to have any specified dealings with the co-operative for a fixed period and to enter into a contract for that purpose.

(2) A co-operative may, if authorised by its rules, make a contract with a member containing provisions that require the member to have any specified dealings with the co-operative for a fixed period.

(3) In particular, the provisions of the rules or a contract may require a member—

- (a) to sell products through or to the co-operative; or
- (b) to obtain supplies or services through or from the co-operative; or
- (c) to pay to the co-operative specified sums as liquidated damages for any failure to comply with a requirement authorised by this section.

(4) Any sum so required to be paid to the co-operative as liquidated damages is, for the purposes of section 76, to be considered to be a debt due from the member to the co-operative.

(5) A contract authorised by this section is binding on the co-operative and all other parties even though but for this Act the contract would be invalid as being in restraint of trade.

(6) Rules authorised by this section are authorised even though, but for this section, the rules might be invalid as being in restraint of trade.

Fines payable by members

75. (1) A co-operative may impose a fine on a member for any infringement of the rules of the co-operative if the rules of the co-operative so provide.

(2) A fine imposed under subsection (1) must not exceed the maximum fine fixed by the rules in accordance with section 102.

(3) A fine must not be imposed unless—

- (a) notice of intention to impose the fine and the reason for it has been given to the member; and
- (b) the member has been given a reasonable opportunity to appear before the board in person (with or without witnesses), or to send to the board a written statement, for the purpose of showing cause why the fine should not be imposed.

(4) The co-operative may set off the whole or any part of the fine against any money due to the member in respect of any produce delivered by the member to the co-operative, but no part of the fine is to be set off against any advance due to the member from the co-operative in accordance with the rules against produce so delivered.

Charge and set-off of co-operative

76. (1) A co-operative has, in respect of any debt due from a member or former member to the co-operative, a charge on each of the following:

- (a) the share or interest in the capital and the credit balance and deposits of the member or former member;
- (b) any rebate, bonus, dividend or interest payable to the member or former member;
- (c) any entry fees and regular subscriptions required to be repaid to a member when the member ceases to be a member.

(2) The co-operative may set off any amount paid on account of that share or other thing, or any amount credited or payable to the member or former member, in or towards payment of the debt.

Co-operatives Act 1997

(3) The charge created by this section may be enforced by the appropriation by the co-operative of the thing that is subject to the charge, but only after at least 7 days notice has been given to the member or former member.

(4) Any share in respect of which capital has been so appropriated must be cancelled.

Repayment of shares on expulsion

77. (1) When a member is expelled from a co-operative in accordance with its rules, the co-operative must repay to the member the amount paid up on the shares held by the member at the date of expulsion, less any amount owed by the member to the co-operative at the date of expulsion under the rules of the co-operative or any contract or otherwise.

(2) If the balance sheet of the co-operative last issued before the expulsion of a member of the co-operative disclosed a loss or deficiency, there must be a proportionate reduction in the capital to be repaid to the member.

(3) That reduction must be by an amount that bears to the amount of the loss or deficiency so disclosed the same proportion as the number of shares held by the member bore to the total number of shares held by all members of the co-operative as at the date of expulsion of the member.

(4) Payment of any amount due to a member under this section must be made at the time determined by the board of the co-operative, but not later than 12 months after the date of expulsion.

(5) Shares in respect of which capital has been repaid must be cancelled.

DIVISION 3—DEATH OF MEMBER**Meaning of "interest"**

78. For the purposes of this Division, a deceased member's "**interest**" in a co-operative includes—

- (a) the member's membership;
- (b) any credit balance due to the member;
- (c) any loan from or to or deposit with the co-operative;
- (d) any surplus arising on the sale by the co-operative as mortgagee of any property mortgaged by the deceased to the co-operative.

Transfer of share or interest on death of member

79. Subject to section 168, on the death of a member, the board must transfer the deceased member's share or interest in the co-operative to—

- (a) the personal representative of the deceased member; or
- (b) the person that the deceased's personal representative specifies in an application made to the co-operative within 3 months after the death of the member.

Transfer of small shareholdings and interests on death

80. (1) If the total value of a deceased member's shares or interest in a co-operative is less than \$10 000 (or such other amount as may be prescribed), the board may, on the basis of such evidence as it considers sufficient, transfer the shares or interest in accordance with whichever of the following paragraphs is appropriate:

- (a) if the member or person dies testate, to the person who appears to the board to be entitled to the shares or interest under the will of the deceased member or person;
- (b) if the member or person dies intestate, to any person who appears to the board to be entitled to obtain a grant of administration of the estate of the deceased and that person must then hold the shares or interest on the same trusts as if he or she had obtained that grant.

(2) A transfer must not be made under this section after evidence has been produced to the co-operative of the grant of letters of administration of the estate, or probate of the will, of the deceased member.

(3) In this section the "**transfer**" of an interest includes the payment of money.

Value of shares and interests

81. The value of the shares or interest of a deceased member must be determined for the purposes of this Division in accordance with the rules of the co-operative.

Co-operative protected

82. Any transfer of property made by the board of a co-operative in accordance with this Division is valid and effectual against any demand made on the co-operative by any other person.

DIVISION 4—DISPUTES INVOLVING MEMBERS

Grievance procedure

83. (1) The rules of a co-operative must set out a grievance procedure for dealing with any dispute under the rules between—

- (a) a member and another member; or
- (b) a member and the co-operative.

(2) A member may appoint any person to act on behalf of the member in the grievance procedure.

(3) The grievance procedure must allow for natural justice to be applied.

(4) In this section and section 84 "**member**" includes any person who was a member not more than 6 months before the dispute occurred.

Application to Supreme Court

84. (1) The Supreme Court may, on the application of a member or the co-operative, make an order declaring and enforcing—

- (a) the rights or obligations of members of the co-operative between themselves; or
- (b) the rights or obligations of the co-operative and any member between themselves.

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(2) An order may be made under this section whether or not a right of a proprietary nature is involved and whether or not the applicant has an interest in the property of the co-operative.

(3) The Supreme Court may refuse to make an order on the application or may make an order for costs against a party, whether successful or not, if it is of the opinion that—

- (a) the issue raised in the application is trivial; or
- (b) having regard to the importance of the issue, the nature of the co-operative, any other available method of resolving the issue, the costs involved, lapse of time, acquiescence or any other relevant circumstance, it was unreasonable to make the application; or
- (c) the unreasonable or improper conduct of a party—
 - (i) has been responsible for the making of the application; or
 - (ii) has added to the cost of the proceedings.

DIVISION 5—OPPRESSIVE CONDUCT OF AFFAIRS

Interpretation

85. In this Division, a reference to a member of a co-operative includes, in the case of a co-operative that has a share capital, a reference to a person to whom a share in the co-operative has been transmitted by will or by operation of law.

Application of Division

86. This Division does not apply in respect of anything done under or for the purposes of Part 6.

Who may apply for court order?

87. The Commission or the following persons may apply to the Supreme Court for an order under this Division:

- (a) a member who believes that the affairs of the co-operative are being conducted in a manner that is oppressive or unfairly prejudicial to, or unfairly discriminatory against, a member, or in a manner that is contrary to the interests of the members as a whole;
- (b) a member who believes that an act or omission, or a proposed act or omission, by or on behalf of the co-operative, or a resolution, or a proposed resolution, of a class of members, was or would be oppressive or unfairly prejudicial to, or unfairly discriminatory against, a member or was or would be contrary to the interests of the members as a whole.

Orders that the Supreme Court may make

88. On application under this Division, the Supreme Court may make any order that it thinks fit including (without being limited to) one or more of the following orders:

- (a) an order that the Commission appoint an administrator of the co-operative;
- (b) an order that the co-operative be wound up;
- (c) an order for regulating the conduct of affairs of the co-operative in the future;
- (d) an order for the repayment of the member's shares in accordance with the provisions of this Act for repayment of share capital;

- (e) an order for the purchase of the shares of any member by the co-operative and for the reduction accordingly of the co-operative's capital;
- (f) an order directing the co-operative to institute, prosecute, defend or discontinue specified proceedings, or authorising a member or members of the co-operative to institute, prosecute, defend or discontinue specified proceedings in the name and on behalf of the co-operative;
- (g) an order appointing a receiver or a receiver and manager of property of the co-operative;
- (h) an order restraining a person from engaging in specified conduct or from doing a specified act or thing;
- (i) an order directing a co-operative to become registered as a company under the *Corporations Law* of South Australia;
- (j) an order requiring a person to do a specified act or thing;
- (k) an order as to costs.

Basis on which Supreme Court makes orders

89. The Supreme Court may make an order under this Division if it is of the opinion—

- (a) that the affairs of a co-operative are being conducted in a manner that is—
 - (i) oppressive or unfairly prejudicial to, or unfairly discriminatory against, a member (the "**oppressed member**"), whether or not in the capacity of a member; or
 - (ii) contrary to the interests of the members as a whole; or
- (b) that an act or omission, or a proposed act or omission, by or on behalf of a co-operative, or a resolution, or a proposed resolution, of a class of members of a co-operative, was or would be—
 - (i) oppressive or unfairly prejudicial to, or unfairly discriminatory against, a member (the "**oppressed member**"), whether or not in the capacity of a member; or
 - (ii) contrary to the interests of the members as a whole.

Winding up need not be ordered if oppressed members prejudiced

90. The Supreme Court need not make an order under this Division for the winding up of a co-operative if it is of the opinion that the winding up of the co-operative would unfairly prejudice an oppressed member.

Application of winding up provisions

91. If an order that a co-operative be wound up is made under this Division, the provisions of this Act relating to the winding up of co-operatives apply, with any changes that are necessary, as if the order had been made or an application duly filed in the Supreme Court by the co-operative.

Co-operatives Act 1997

Changes to rules

92. If an order under this Division makes any alteration to the rules of a co-operative—

- (a) the alteration has effect as if it had been duly made by special resolution of the co-operative; and
- (b) the co-operative must not (despite any other provisions of this Act) without the leave of the Supreme Court make any further alteration to the rules inconsistent with the provisions of the order.

Copy of order to be lodged with Commission

93. An applicant for an order under this Division must lodge an office copy of the order with the Commission within 14 days after it is made.

Maximum penalty: \$1 000.

**DIVISION 6—PROCEEDINGS ON BEHALF OF A CO-OPERATIVE BY MEMBERS
AND OTHERS**

Bringing, or intervening in, proceedings on behalf of a co-operative

94. (1) The Commission or the following persons may bring proceedings on behalf of a co-operative, or intervene in any proceedings to which a co-operative is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the co-operative for those proceedings, or for a particular step in those proceedings, (for example, compromising or settling them):

- (a) a member, former member, or person entitled to be registered as a member, of the co-operative or of a related body corporate; or
- (b) an officer or former officer of the co-operative; or
- (c) a person acting with leave granted under section 95.

(2) Proceedings brought on behalf of a co-operative may be brought in the co-operative's name.

Applying for and granting leave

95. (1) The Commission or a person referred to in section 94(1)(a) may apply to the Supreme Court for leave to bring, or to intervene in, proceedings.

(2) The Supreme Court may grant the application if it is satisfied that—

- (a) it is probable that the co-operative will not itself bring the proceedings, or properly take responsibility for them, or for the step in them; and
- (b) the applicant is acting in good faith; and
- (c) it is in the best interests of the co-operative that the applicant be granted leave; and
- (d) if the applicant is applying for leave to bring proceedings, there is a serious question to be tried; and
- (e) either—
 - (i) at least 14 days before making the application, the applicant gave written notice to the co-operative of the intention to apply for leave and of the reasons for applying; or

- (ii) it is appropriate to grant leave even if subparagraph (i) is not satisfied.

Substitution of another person for the person granted leave

96. (1) The Commission or any of the following persons may apply to the Supreme Court for an order that they be substituted for a person to whom leave has been granted under section 95:

- (a) a member, former member, or person entitled to be registered as a member, of the co-operative or a related body corporate; or
- (b) an officer, or former officer, of the co-operative.

(2) The application may be made whether or not the other person has already brought the proceedings or made the intervention.

(3) The Supreme Court may make the order if it is satisfied that—

- (a) the applicant is acting in good faith; and
- (b) in all the circumstances, it is appropriate to make the order.

(4) An order substituting one person for another person has the effect that—

- (a) the grant of leave is taken to have been made in favour of the substituted person; and
- (b) if the other person has already brought the proceedings or intervened, the substituted person is taken to have brought those proceedings or to have made that intervention.

Effect of ratification by members

97. (1) A ratification or approval of conduct by members of a co-operative—

- (a) does not prevent a person from bringing or intervening in proceedings with leave under section 95 or from applying for leave under that section; and
- (b) does not have the effect that proceedings brought or intervened in with leave under section 95 must be determined in favour of the defendant, or that an application for leave under that section must be refused.

(2) The Supreme Court may take into account a ratification or an approval of the conduct by members of a co-operative in deciding what order or judgment (including as to damages) to make in proceedings brought or intervened in with leave under section 95 or in relation to an application for leave under that section.

(3) In taking a ratification or approval into account under subsection (2), the Supreme Court may have regard to—

- (a) how well-informed about the conduct the members were when deciding whether to ratify or approve the conduct; and
- (b) whether the members who ratified or approved the conduct were acting for proper purposes.

Leave to continue, compromise or settle proceedings brought, or intervened in, with leave

98. Proceedings brought or intervened in with leave must not be discontinued, compromised or settled without the leave of the Supreme Court.

Co-operatives Act 1997

General powers of the Supreme Court

99. (1) The Supreme Court may make any orders, and give any directions, that it thinks just in relation to proceedings brought or intervened in with leave, or in relation to an application for leave, including—

- (a) interim orders; and
- (b) directions about the conduct of the proceedings, including requiring mediation; and
- (c) an order directing the co-operative, or an officer of the co-operative, to do, or not to do, any act; and
- (d) an order appointing an independent person to investigate, and report to the Supreme Court, on—
 - (i) the financial affairs of the co-operative; or
 - (ii) the facts or circumstances that gave rise to that cause of action the subject of the proceedings; or
 - (iii) the costs incurred in the proceedings and the person granted leave.

(2) A person appointed by the Supreme Court under subsection (1)(d) is entitled, on giving reasonable notice to the co-operative, to inspect and make copies of any books of the co-operative for any purpose connected with their appointment.

Power of Supreme Court to make costs order

100. At any time, the Supreme Court may, in relation to proceedings brought or intervened in with leave under section 95 or an application for leave under that section, make any orders it thinks just about the costs of the person who applied for or was granted leave, of the co-operative or of any other party to the proceedings or application, including an order requiring indemnification for costs.

Co-operatives Act 1997

**PART 5
RULES**

Effect of rules

101. (1) The rules of a co-operative have the effect of a contract under seal—

- (a) between the co-operative and each member; and
- (b) between the co-operative and each director, the principal executive officer and the secretary of the co-operative; and
- (c) between a member and each other member.

(2) Under the contract, each of those persons agrees to observe and perform the provisions of the rules as in force for the time being so far as those provisions are applicable to that person.

Content of rules

102. (1) The rules of a co-operative must set out or otherwise make provision for the matters specified in Schedule 1.

(2) The rules must be divided into paragraphs numbered consecutively.

(3) The rules may state the objects of the co-operative.

(4) The rules may incorporate any provision of the model rules approved under section 105.

(5) The rules may provide for the imposition of a fine on a member for any infringement of the rules.

(6) If the rules provide for the imposition of a fine, the rules must specify the maximum fine that may be imposed on a member.

(7) The maximum fine fixed by the rules must not exceed any amount that may be prescribed as the maximum fine.

(8) The rules may contain other provisions not inconsistent with this Act or the regulations.

Purchase and inspection of copy of rules

103. (1) Any member is entitled to obtain from a co-operative a copy of its rules on payment of the amount required by the rules of the co-operative or, if the rules do not prescribe an amount, on payment of \$5.

(2) The amount required by the rules must not exceed the prescribed fee for obtaining a copy of the rules from the Commission.

(3) Any person is entitled to obtain from the Commission a copy of the rules of a co-operative on payment of the prescribed fee.

False copies of rules

104. (1) A person who gives to a member of a co-operative or to a person intending or applying to become a member of a co-operative a copy of any rules or any alterations of rules, other than those which have been duly registered, representing that they are binding on the members of the co-operative is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$1 000.

(2) A person who alters any of the rules of a co-operative after they have been registered and circulates them representing that they have been duly registered when they have not been is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$1 000.

Model rules

105. (1) The Commission may, by notice published in the *Gazette*, approve model rules for co-operatives or for any class of co-operatives and alter or repeal the model rules from time to time.

(2) The model rules may make provision for anything for which the rules of a co-operative may make provision.

(3) If the model rules provide for a matter and the rules of a co-operative of the class to which the model rules apply do not provide for that matter, the provision of the model rules relating to that matter is deemed to be included in the rules of the co-operative.

Rules can only be altered in accordance with this Act

106. The rules of a co-operative cannot be altered except in accordance with this Act.

Approval of alteration of rules

107. (1) A proposed alteration of the rules must be approved by the Commission before the resolution altering the rules is passed by a co-operative or the board of a co-operative.

(2) A draft of the proposed alteration must be submitted to the Commission at least 28 days (or such shorter period as the Commission may allow in a particular case) before—

(a) the notice of the proposed special resolution altering the rules is given to the members by the co-operative; or

(b) the resolution is passed by the board of the co-operative.

(3) The proposed alteration must—

(a) be in accordance with section 102; and

(b) be in a form that may reasonably be approved; and

(c) be accompanied by a statement setting out the reasons for the alteration.

(4) The Commission may—

(a) approve the alteration as submitted; or

(b) approve a different alteration to that submitted; or

(c) refuse to approve the alteration.

(5) The Commission approves of the alteration by giving written notice of the approval of the alteration to the person who submitted the alteration to the Commission.

(6) The Commission must give written notice of the refusal to approve the alteration to the person who submitted the alteration to the Commission.

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Alteration by special resolution

108. The rules of a co-operative must be altered by special resolution unless otherwise specified in this Act.

Alteration by resolution of board

109. (1) The rules of a co-operative may be altered by a resolution passed by the board if the alteration does no more than give effect to a requirement, restriction or prohibition imposed by or under the authority of this Act.

(2) If the rules of a co-operative are altered pursuant to this section, the co-operative must cause the alteration to be notified in writing to its members as soon as practicable after the alteration takes effect and in any event not later than the date on which notice is given to the members of the next annual general meeting of the co-operative after the alteration takes effect.

Alteration does not take effect until registered

110. (1) An alteration of the rules of a co-operative does not take effect unless and until it is registered by the Commission.

(2) An application for registration of an alteration must—

- (a) be made in a form approved by the Commission; and
- (b) be made within 28 days, or such other period as may be prescribed, after the alteration is made; and
- (c) be accompanied by a consolidated copy of the rules of the co-operative, including the alteration.

(3) The Commission must register the alteration unless—

- (a) the Commission is satisfied that the alteration is contrary to this Act or the regulations; or
- (b) the Commission has other reasonable cause to refuse to register the alteration.

(4) A certificate of registration of any alteration of the rules of a co-operative given by the Commission is, in favour of any person advancing money to the co-operative on the faith of the certificate or in favour of any guarantor of that advance, conclusive evidence that the alteration in the rules was duly made.

Appeal against refusal to approve alteration

111. A co-operative may appeal to the District Court against—

- (a) a decision of the Commission to refuse to approve an alteration of its rules; or
- (b) a failure of the Commission to approve an alteration of its rules.

Appeal against refusal to register alteration

112. A co-operative may appeal to the District Court against—

- (a) a decision of the Commission to refuse to register an alteration of its rules; or
- (b) a failure of the Commission to register an alteration of its rules.

Commission to comply with Court determination

113. The Commission must comply with a determination of the District Court on an appeal under this Part.

Co-operatives Act 1997

**PART 6
ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP****DIVISION 1—DEFINITIONS****Primary activity—meaning**

114. A primary activity of a co-operative is an activity specified in the rules of the co-operative as a primary activity of the co-operative.

What is active membership?

115. For the purposes of this Act, a member of a co-operative is an active member of the co-operative if the member—

- (a) utilises or supports an activity of, or maintains a relationship or an arrangement with, the co-operative, in connection with the carrying on of a primary activity of the co-operative, in the manner and to the extent which the rules of the co-operative provide is sufficient to establish active membership; or
- (b) maintains any other relationship or arrangement with the co-operative in connection with the carrying on of a primary activity of the co-operative that the regulations provide is sufficient to establish active membership.

What are active membership provisions and resolutions?

116. (1) Active membership provisions in the rules of a co-operative are provisions in the rules that specify—

- (a) which of the activities of the co-operative are the primary activities of the co-operative; and
- (b) the manner in which and the extent to which a member of the co-operative is required to utilise or support an activity of, or maintain a relationship or an arrangement with, the co-operative, in connection with the carrying on of a primary activity of the co-operative, in order to establish active membership of the co-operative.

(2) An active membership resolution is a resolution that would, if given effect to, make or amend active membership provisions in the rules of a co-operative.

DIVISION 2—RULES TO CONTAIN ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP PROVISIONS**Number of primary activities required**

117. A co-operative must have at least one primary activity.

Rules to contain active membership provisions

118. The board of a co-operative must ensure that the rules of the co-operative contain active membership provisions in accordance with this Part.

Factors and considerations for determining primary activities

119. (1) The board of a co-operative must ensure that the relevant factors and considerations are taken into account in determining—

- (a) which of the activities of a co-operative are its primary activities;
- (b) the manner and extent to which a member is required to utilise or support an activity of, or maintain a relationship or an arrangement with, a co-operative, in connection with the carrying on of a primary activity of the co-operative, in order to establish active membership of the co-operative.

(2) The relevant factors and considerations are—

- (a) the primary activity or (if more than one) the primary activities taken together must constitute the basic purpose for which the co-operative exists and a significant contribution to the business of the co-operative; and
- (b) the manner and extent of required utilisation, support, relationship or arrangement should be reasonable when considered in relation to the activities of the co-operative as a whole; and
- (c) any other factors and considerations that are prescribed.

(3) The regulations may—

- (a) provide for the matters to be taken into account in determining whether an activity makes or activities make a significant contribution to the business of the co-operative; and
- (b) specify minimum percentages of turnover, minimum amounts of income or minimum amounts of business necessary to constitute that significant contribution.

(4) Factors and considerations may be prescribed so as to apply to co-operatives generally, to a specified class of co-operatives or to a specified individual co-operative.

(5) Nothing in this section limits the right of active members other than the board of the co-operative to propose an active membership resolution.

Active membership provisions—trading co-operatives

120. The only active membership provisions that may be contained in the rules of a trading co-operative are—

- (a) provisions requiring a member to utilise an activity of the co-operative in connection with the carrying on of a primary activity specified in the provisions to establish active membership; and
- (b) any other active membership provisions that the Commission may approve.

Regular subscription—active membership of non-trading co-operative

121. (1) Active membership provisions for a non-trading co-operative may include provision that the payment of a regular subscription by a member of the co-operative, to be applied in connection with a primary activity of the co-operative, is sufficient to establish active membership of the co-operative.

(2) A member of a co-operative who would, on payment of such a subscription, be an active member of a co-operative is to be considered to be an active member until the subscription is due and payable.

DIVISION 3—ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTIONS

Notice of meeting

122. (1) At least 21 days notice must be given to members of a co-operative of a meeting at which an active membership resolution is to be proposed.

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(2) The notice must, in addition to the other matters required to be specified—

- (a) specify whether the member is eligible to vote on the resolution; and
- (b) specify the full text of the proposed resolution; and
- (c) contain a copy of section 126.

(3) If the notice to a member states that he or she is not eligible to vote on a resolution, the member may, after endeavouring to settle the matter with the co-operative, apply to the Commission for a determination as to the member's eligibility.

(4) The Commission may determine the matter, on the information available to the Commission, by direction in writing to the co-operative and the member.

(5) The Commission's determination as to eligibility has effect but only if given before the meeting concerned is due to be held.

Eligibility to vote on active membership resolution

123. The only members of a co-operative who are eligible to vote on an active membership resolution when the rules do not contain active membership provisions are those members who would be active members if the resolution had already taken effect.

Eligibility of directors to vote on proposal at board meeting

124. If the board of a co-operative is meeting to consider a proposal to submit an active membership resolution to a meeting of the co-operative—

- (a) subject to paragraph (b), a director is only eligible to vote on that proposal if he or she would be eligible to vote on the resolution at the meeting of the co-operative; or
- (b) if less than 2 directors (whether or not they are present at the meeting of the board of directors) would be eligible to vote on the resolution at the meeting of the co-operative, all the directors are eligible to vote on that proposal at the meeting of the board of directors.

Other entitlements of members not affected

125. A provision of this Division that renders a member of a co-operative ineligible to vote on a resolution does not affect any other right, entitlement, obligation or duty of the member as a member.

DIVISION 4—CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF INACTIVE MEMBERS**Cancellation of membership of inactive member**

126. (1) The board of a co-operative must declare the membership of a member cancelled if—

- (a) the whereabouts of the member are not presently known to the co-operative and have not been known to the co-operative for at least the required period before that time; or
- (b) the member is not presently an active member of the co-operative and has not been an active member of the co-operative at any time during the required period immediately before that time.

(2) This section applies to a member only if he or she was a member of the co-operative throughout the required period.

(3) The question of whether a member was an active member at a particular time in the past is to be determined as if the active membership provisions concerned had been in force at that time.

(4) The board's declaration under this section has the effect of cancelling the membership concerned.

(5) A person may apply to the Supreme Court for an order under section 132 in respect of the cancellation of the person's membership under this section.

(6) In this section—

"the required period", in relation to a co-operative, means—

- (a) 3 years; or
- (b) if a shorter period is provided for in the rules of the co-operative, that shorter period.

Share to be forfeited if membership cancelled

127. (1) If a co-operative has a share capital, the board of the co-operative must declare the shares of a member to be forfeited at the same time as the member's membership is cancelled under section 126.

(2) The board's declaration has the effect of forfeiting the shares concerned.

(3) Nothing in this section affects the operation of section 133.

Failure to cancel membership—offence by director

128. If the board of a co-operative fails to cancel the membership of a member as required by this Part, a director of the co-operative who did not use all due diligence to prevent that failure is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$2 000.

Deferral of forfeiture by board

129. (1) The board of a co-operative may by resolution defer cancellation of a member's membership for a period of up to 12 months—

- (a) if the board has reasonable grounds to believe that the member has ceased to be an active member due to unusual circumstances which prevent the member fulfilling his or her active membership obligations; or
- (b) if—
 - (i) the board thinks that during that period an active membership resolution may be put to the members of the co-operative; and
 - (ii) the effect of the resolution would be relevant to the question of whether the member is an active member.

(2) The board of the co-operative must review the resolution to defer before the end of the deferral period to determine if a further resolution should be made under subsection (1).

Cancellation of membership prohibited in certain circumstances

130. Unless the regulations otherwise provide, the board of a co-operative must not declare the membership of a member to be cancelled under this Part—

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- (a) if the co-operative is insolvent; or
- (b) if the co-operative is under administration under Part 5.3A of the *Corporations Law* as adopted and applying under this Act; or
- (c) if a compromise or an arrangement is being administered in respect of the co-operative; or
- (d) if the co-operative is in the course of being wound up; or
- (e) if an appointment of a receiver (whether or not a receiver and manager) of any property of the co-operative is in force; or
- (f) if the co-operative has, for the purposes of being registered as a company under the *Corporations Law*, filed with the Commission a copy of the entry made in the minute book of the co-operative under section 194; or
- (g) in such other circumstances as may be prescribed.

Notice of intention to cancel membership

131. (1) The board of a co-operative must ensure that not less than 28 days notice of its intention to declare the membership of a member to be cancelled is given to the member.

(2) Notice is not required to be given under this section if—

- (a) the member's whereabouts are unknown to the co-operative; and
- (b) the amount required to be repaid to the member in respect of the cancelled membership (whether by reason of the cancellation of shares or otherwise) does not exceed \$50.

Order of Supreme Court against cancellation

132. (1) If the Supreme Court is satisfied in a particular case that the cancellation of a member's membership under section 126 was or would be unreasonable, the Supreme Court may by order direct that the membership should not have been cancelled or should not be cancelled.

(2) While an order is in force under this section—

- (a) the membership concerned is not required to be cancelled and any shareholding of the member is not required to be forfeited; and
- (b) the person whose membership was cancelled is entitled to be reinstated as a member of the co-operative with all the rights and entitlements (including any shareholding) attaching to or arising from the former membership.

(3) Reinstatement of a member under this section is to be effected in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court.

Repayment of amounts due in respect of cancelled membership

133. (1) If the membership of a member of a co-operative is cancelled under this Part, the co-operative must, within 12 months after the date of cancellation—

- (a) repay to the former member the amount due to the member in respect of that cancellation; or

- (b) apply that amount in accordance with subsection (2) if—
 - (i) the board is of the opinion that repayment would adversely affect the financial position of the co-operative; or
 - (ii) the board and the former member so agree.

(2) The amount due may be applied as follows:

- (a) if the co-operative is a deposit-taking co-operative, the co-operative may apply the amount as a deposit by the former member with the co-operative (subject to the requirements of section 134 as to interest on the deposit);
- (b) the co-operative may allot or issue debentures of the co-operative to the former member in satisfaction of the amount;
- (c) the co-operative may appropriate the amount due as a donation to the co-operative, but only if the former member consents in writing to the donation.

(3) The amount due to a former member in respect of the cancellation of membership includes any amount paid up in respect of shares forfeited as a result of the cancellation of membership.

(4) If the former member is subsequently readmitted to membership, any amount held by the co-operative under this section must, if the member so requests, be applied towards the cost of admission to membership (including any subscription for share capital).

Interest on deposits and debentures

134. (1) This section applies when the amount due to a former member under section 133 is applied as a deposit with the co-operative or the co-operative allots or issues debentures to the former member in satisfaction of the amount.

(2) The deposit or debenture bears interest during any period—

- (a) in the case of a co-operative with share capital—
 - (i) at the rate (or, if there is more than one rate, at the higher or highest rate) of dividend payable in respect of that period on the share capital of the co-operative; or
 - (ii) if the rate of dividend payable in respect of that period has not been determined, at the rate (or the higher or highest rate) payable in respect of the immediately preceding period for which a rate has been determined; or
 - (iii) if a rate of dividend has never been determined in respect of the share capital of the co-operative, at the rate that the board of the co-operative considers reasonable; or
- (b) in the case of a co-operative without share capital, at the rate that the board of the co-operative considers reasonable; or
- (c) if the rules provide for a rate to be payable that is higher than the rate applicable under paragraph (a) or (b), at that higher rate.

(3) A former member may agree to the rate of interest being less than that which would otherwise be payable under this section and may agree to no interest being paid.

(4) The provisions of Part 7.12 of the *Corporations Law* adopted under section 133 of this Act do not apply to an allotment or issue of debentures under this section.

Repayment of deposits and debentures

135. (1) A deposit or debenture to which an amount due to a former member is transferred under this Division is to be repaid to the former member as soon as repayment would not, in the opinion of the board, adversely affect the financial position of the co-operative.

(2) The deposit or debenture must in any case be repaid within 10 years (or within any shorter period that the rules of the co-operative may require) after cancellation of the member's membership.

Register of cancelled memberships

136. A co-operative must keep a register, in a form approved by the Commission, specifying the prescribed particulars of persons whose membership has been cancelled under this Part.

DIVISION 5—ENTITLEMENTS OF FORMER MEMBERS OF TRADING CO-OPERATIVES

Application of Division

137. This Division only applies to trading co-operatives.

Former shareholders to be regarded as shareholders for certain purposes

138. (1) Even though a person's shares in a co-operative have been forfeited under this Part, the person is to be regarded as the holder of shares in the co-operative (the same in all respects as those that were forfeited) for the following purposes:

- (a) the entitlements of a shareholder in respect of the purchase of shares in the co-operative pursuant to an offer described in section 285(1)(a), (b) or (c) or the purchase of all the shares in the co-operative, if the offer or purchase occurs within 5 years after the person's shares were forfeited;
- (b) the entitlement of a shareholder when the co-operative becomes registered as a company if the relevant special resolution under section 302 is passed within 5 years after the person's shares were forfeited;
- (c) the entitlement of a shareholder to a distribution of surplus in a winding-up of the co-operative that commences within 5 years after the person's shares were forfeited.

(2) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply in respect of—

- (a) an offer described in section 285(1)(a) or (c) that is made by another co-operative; or
- (b) the purchase of all the shares in the co-operative by another co-operative.

(3) Subsection (1)(c) does not apply if the winding up is for the purposes of a merger under Division 1 of Part 12.

(4) For the removal of doubt, it is declared that the entitlement under subsection (1)(a) of a person whose shares have been forfeited does not include an entitlement to vote on any matter.

(5) This section does not apply to a forfeited shareholding in a co-operative if section 139 operates to require that forfeited shareholding to be regarded as a forfeited shareholding in another co-operative.

Entitlements of former shareholders on mergers etc.

139. (1) This section applies when a person's shares in a co-operative ("**the original co-operative**") are forfeited under this Part and within 5 years after that forfeiture—

- (a) the original co-operative becomes a subsidiary of another co-operative ("**the new co-operative**"); or
- (b) another co-operative ("**the new co-operative**") is created as a result of a merger under Division 1 of Part 12 involving the original co-operative; or
- (c) the engagements of the original co-operative are transferred to another co-operative ("**the new co-operative**") under Division 1 of Part 12.

(2) A person referred to in subsection (1) is, for the purposes of the operation of section 138 (and the further operation of this section) to be regarded as having held shares in the new co-operative and as having had those shares in the new co-operative forfeited under this Part when the person's shares in the original co-operative were forfeited.

(3) The extent of the forfeited shareholding in the new co-operative is determined as follows:

- (a) if the entitlement of active members of the original co-operative in the circumstances concerned is solely an entitlement to be allotted shares in the new co-operative, the forfeited shareholding in the new co-operative is the shareholding to which the person would have been entitled had the person's shares in the original co-operative not been forfeited;
- (b) in any other case, the forfeited shareholding in the new co-operative is the shareholding that is the same in all respects as the forfeited shareholding in the original co-operative.

(4) The determination under subsection (3)(a) of the person's shareholding in the new co-operative must be made—

- (a) solely on the basis of the person's shareholding in the original co-operative when the shares were forfeited or (in a further operation of this section in respect of the person) when the person was first to be regarded as having a forfeited shareholding in the original co-operative; and
- (b) without regard to any additional shareholding in the original co-operative to which the person would have become entitled had the shares not been forfeited (whether as a result of any bonus share issue or otherwise).

Set-off of amounts repaid etc. on forfeited shares

140. (1) If a person has an entitlement because of the operation of section 139, the entitlement operates to extinguish any liability of the co-operative—

- (a) to repay to the person under section 133 any amount in respect of the forfeited shares concerned; or
- (b) in respect of a deposit held by the co-operative, or debentures allotted or issued to the person, under section 133 in respect of the forfeited shares concerned (except a liability to pay interest that is due but unpaid).

(2) If an amount has been repaid to a person under section 133 or 135, the amount repaid is to be set-off against any entitlement of the person under section 138 in respect of the forfeited shares concerned.

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(3) If the amount repaid cannot be set-off against the entitlement because the entitlement is not, or is only partly, an entitlement to money, the entitlement is lost unless the person pays to the co-operative the amount repaid to the person and does so within the period required under subsection (4).

(4) If the circumstances specified in subsection (3) arise, the co-operative concerned must—

- (a) give written notice of the matter by post to the person concerned at the person's address last known to the co-operative, specifying a period of not less than 28 days after the notice is given during which any amount repaid must be paid to the co-operative; and
- (b) publish a general notice to that effect in a newspaper circulating generally in the district in which the registered office of the co-operative is situated.

Entitlement to distribution from reserves

141. A person whose membership of a co-operative has been cancelled under this Part is to be considered to still be a member for the purposes of any distribution from reserves of the co-operative that takes place within 5 years after the person's membership was cancelled.

Commission may exempt co-operatives from provisions

142. The Commission may, by order, exempt a specified co-operative or a co-operative that is a member of a specified class of co-operatives from all or specified provisions of this Division.

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**PART 7
SHARES**

DIVISION 1—NATURE OF SHARES

Nature of shares in co-operative

143. (1) A share or other interest in a co-operative—

- (a) is personal property;
- (b) is transferable or transmissible as provided by this Act and the rules of the co-operative;
- (c) is, subject to the rules of the co-operative, capable of devolution by will or by operation of law.

(2) Subject to subsection (1)—

- (a) the laws applicable to ownership of and dealing with personal property apply to a share or other interest of a member in a co-operative as they apply to other property; and
- (b) equitable interests in respect of a share or other interest of a member in a co-operative may be created, dealt with and enforced as in the case of other personal property.

DIVISION 2—DISCLOSURE

Disclosures to members

144. (1) In addition to any information required under Part 4 to be provided, the board of a trading co-operative must provide a member of the co-operative with a disclosure statement before shares are issued to the member.

(2) The disclosure statement must contain—

- (a) a statement of the rights and liabilities attaching to shares; and
- (b) a copy of the last annual report of the co-operative under section 244; and
- (c) any other relevant information concerning the financial position and prospects of the co-operative if there has been a significant change since the date of the last annual report; and
- (d) any other information that the Commission directs.

DIVISION 3—ISSUE OF SHARES

Shares—general

145. (1) The share capital of a co-operative varies in amount according to the nominal value of shares from time to time subscribed.

(2) Shares are to be of a fixed amount which is to be specified in the rules of the co-operative.

(3) A co-operative may have more than one class of shares provided the shareholding and the rights of shareholders comply with the co-operative principles.

(4) Subject to this Part and Part 4, shares must not be issued to a non-member.

Minimum paid-up amount

146. (1) A share must not be allotted unless at least 10 per cent of the nominal value of the share has been paid.

(2) Any balance unpaid in respect of shares at the time of allotment must be paid in a manner specified in the rules or permitted by this Act.

(3) This section does not apply to a bonus share issued under section 151 or 268.

Shares not to be issued at a discount

147. A co-operative must not issue shares at a discount.

Issue of shares at a premium

148. (1) A trading co-operative may issue shares at a premium.

(2) A premium may be in the form of cash or other valuable consideration.

(3) If a trading co-operative issues shares for which it receives a premium, a sum equal to the aggregate amount or value of the premiums on those shares must be transferred to a share premium account.

(4) The share premium account is to be regarded as paid up share capital of the trading co-operative and may be applied in any one or more of the following ways:

- (a) in paying up unissued shares to be issued to members of the co-operative as fully paid bonus shares;
- (b) in paying up in whole or in part the balance unpaid on shares previously issued to members of the co-operative;
- (c) in the payment of dividends, if those dividends are satisfied by the issue of shares to members of the co-operative;
- (d) in writing off the preliminary expenses of the co-operative;
- (e) in providing for the premium payable on redemption of shares or debentures.

Joint ownership of shares

149. A share may be held by 2 or more persons jointly, unless the rules of the co-operative provide otherwise.

Members may be required to take up additional shares

150. (1) If authorised by the rules of the co-operative, the board of a trading co-operative may require a member to take up or subscribe for additional shares in accordance with a proposal approved by a special resolution of the co-operative.

(2) The board of a trading co-operative may deduct amounts in payment for additional shares from money due to members in respect of dealings with the co-operative, in accordance with a proposal approved by a special resolution of the co-operative.

(3) Any proposal to require a member to take up or subscribe for additional shares must—

- (a) be accompanied by a disclosure statement, approved by the Commission, that explains the purpose for which the funds raised by the issue of the additional shares are to be used; and

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- (b) clearly show the total number of additional shares to be issued and the basis on which the shares are to be apportioned amongst members; and
 - (c) be accompanied by a statement informing the member that the member may inform the board by notice on or before the date specified in the statement (being a date before the passing of the special resolution) that the member resigns on the passing of the special resolution.
- (4) Any proposal to deduct amounts in payment for additional shares from money due to members in respect of their dealings with the trading co-operative must clearly show—
- (a) the basis on which the deductions are to be made; and
 - (b) the time and manner of making those deductions.
- (5) A proposal approved under this section is binding on—
- (a) all members of the trading co-operative at the date of the passing of the special resolution other than a member who has given a notice of resignation in accordance with subsection (3)(c); and
 - (b) all persons who become members of the trading co-operative after that date and before the total number of shares to be issued pursuant to the proposal has been issued.
- (6) Sections 17 (except subsection (2)) and 29 apply to the approval of a disclosure statement under this section with any necessary modifications and in particular as if any reference in section 17 to the holding of a formation meeting were a reference to the special resolution.

Bonus share issues

151. (1) In addition to section 268, the rules of a trading co-operative may authorise the issue of bonus shares to members of the co-operative if the assets of the co-operative—

- (a) have been sold at a profit; or
- (b) have been re-valued at a greater value than that disclosed prior to the revaluation in the books of the co-operative.

(2) This section does not apply if the assets were acquired for resale at a profit.

Restrictions on bonus shares

152. Bonus shares under section 151 may be issued in accordance with the rules of the co-operative, subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) each issue must have been approved by a special resolution of the co-operative;
- (b) they are to be issued as fully paid up shares with no payment required to be made by a member of the co-operative to whom they are issued;
- (c) they are to be issued only in respect of shares of the same class of shares that are fully paid up as at the date of issue of the bonus shares;
- (d) the total nominal value of bonus shares issued by a co-operative during any 12 month period must not exceed 20 per cent or such other percentage as may be prescribed of the nominal value of the issued share capital of the co-operative immediately before the date of issue of the bonus shares.

Notice in respect of bonus shares

153. Notice of the meeting or postal ballot at which a resolution is to be proposed as a special resolution for the purpose of approving a bonus share issue must be accompanied by—

- (a) a statement of the value of the assets concerned as disclosed in the books of the co-operative before the sale or revaluation; and
- (b) if the issue arises from, or partly from, a sale of assets, a statement of the price for which the assets were sold; and
- (c) if the issue arises from, or partly from, a revaluation of assets, a certificate of value of the assets, being a certificate furnished in respect of a valuation made not more than 12 months before the date of the notice by a prescribed person or a person having prescribed qualifications; and
- (d) particulars of acquisitions of shares in the co-operative made during the 3 years immediately preceding the date of the notice by or on behalf of each of its directors and his or her spouse and the father, mother, children, brothers and sisters of each such director and spouse; and
- (e) a certificate signed by 2 directors of the co-operative stating that to the best of their knowledge and belief the issue of bonus shares would not be imprudent and that no circumstances are known to them as to why the issue should not take place.

DIVISION 4—BENEFICIAL AND NON-BENEFICIAL INTERESTS IN SHARES

Notice of non-beneficial ownership at time of transfer

154. (1) If it may reasonably be expected (having regard to all relevant circumstances) that on registration of a transfer of shares the transferee will hold some or all of the shares non-beneficially, the instrument of transfer must include a non-beneficial ownership notice.

(2) A non-beneficial ownership notice is a notice that—

- (a) contains a statement to the effect that, on registration of the transfer, the transferee will hold particular shares non-beneficially; and
- (b) sets out particulars of those shares; and
- (c) is signed by or on behalf of the transferee.

(3) A transferee must ensure that this section is complied with when an instrument of transfer of shares is lodged by or on behalf of the transferee with the co-operative for registration of the transfer.

Maximum penalty: \$1 000 or imprisonment for 3 months, or both.

(4) An offence under this section does not affect the validity of the registration of a transfer of shares.

Notice of non-beneficial ownership not notified at time of transfer

155. (1) If on the registration of an instrument of transfer of shares the transferee holds non-beneficially any of the shares transferred, notice of that fact must be given to the co-operative.

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(2) The notice must—

- (a) set out the name and address of the transferee; and
- (b) contain a statement to the effect that, as from registration of the transfer, the transferee holds the shares non-beneficially; and
- (c) set out particulars of those shares; and
- (d) be signed by or on behalf of the transferee.

(3) The notice must be given within 14 days after the registration of the transfer (even if before the end of that 14 days the transferee begins to hold any of the relevant shares beneficially).

(4) The transferee of the shares must ensure that this section is complied with.

Maximum penalty: \$1 000 or imprisonment for 3 months, or both.

(5) This section does not apply in respect of any shares for which particulars were set out in a non-beneficial ownership notice under section 154 included in the instrument of transfer.

Registration as beneficial owner of shares notified as non-beneficially transferred

156. (1) If an instrument of transfer of shares lodged with a co-operative includes a non-beneficial ownership notice under section 154 in respect of particular shares but on registration of the transfer the transferee holds some or all of those shares beneficially, notice of that fact must be given to the co-operative.

(2) The notice must—

- (a) set out the name and address of the transferee; and
- (b) contain a statement to the effect that, as from registration of the transfer, the transferee holds the relevant shares beneficially; and
- (c) set out particulars of the shares held beneficially; and
- (d) be signed by or on behalf of the transferee.

(3) The notice must be given within 14 days after the registration of the transfer (even if before the end of that 14 days the transferee begins to hold any of the relevant shares non-beneficially).

(4) The transferee of the shares must ensure that this section is complied with.

Maximum penalty: \$1 000 or imprisonment for 3 months, or both.

Notification of change in nature of shareholding

157. (1) A person must notify the co-operative in accordance with this section of the change in the person's shareholding in the co-operative if the person—

- (a) commences to hold any shares beneficially that the person currently holds non-beneficially; or

- (b) commences to hold any shares non-beneficially that the person currently holds beneficially.

Maximum penalty: \$1 000 or imprisonment for 3 months, or both.

(2) The notice must—

- (a) set out the name and address of the person; and
- (b) contain a statement to the effect that, as from the time of the change, the person holds the shares beneficially or non-beneficially (as appropriate); and
- (c) specify the time of the change and set out particulars of the shares affected; and
- (d) be signed by or on behalf of the person.

(3) The notice must be given within 14 days after the change (even if before the end of that 14 days another such change affecting any of the shares occurs).

Presumption of awareness

158. (1) For the purposes of this Division, a person is, unless the contrary is established, to be presumed to have been aware at a particular time of a circumstance of which an employee or agent of the person was aware at that time.

(2) Subsection (1) only applies if the employee or agent has duties or acts in relation to the transfer to, or ownership by, the person of a share or shares in the co-operative concerned.

Presumption that shares held non-beneficially

159. (1) A person is deemed to hold particular shares non-beneficially if the person—

- (a) holds the shares in a capacity other than that of sole beneficial owner; or
- (b) without limiting paragraph (a), holds the shares as trustee for, as nominee for, or otherwise on behalf of or on account of, another person.

(2) A person is deemed to hold shares beneficially at a particular time unless the person holds the shares non-beneficially at that time.

Noting of beneficial and non-beneficial interests in registers of members

160. (1) The register of members kept by a co-operative must contain a statement of the shares that each member holds beneficially and of the shares that each member holds non-beneficially.

(2) In determining for the purposes of an entry in the register whether a member of a co-operative holds shares beneficially or non-beneficially, regard is to be had only to the following information:

- (a) information contained in a non-beneficial ownership notice under section 154 included in an instrument of transfer registered by the co-operative;
- (b) information contained in a notice given to the co-operative under any other provision of this Division.

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Registration as trustee etc. on death of owner of shares

161. (1) A trustee, executor or administrator of the estate of a dead person who was the registered holder of a share in a co-operative may be registered as the holder of that share as trustee, executor or administrator of that estate.

(2) A trustee, executor or administrator of the estate of a dead person who was entitled in equity to a share in a co-operative may, with the consent of the co-operative and of the registered holder of that share, be registered as the holder of that share as trustee, executor or administrator of that estate.

Registration as administrator of estate on incapacity of shareholder

162. (1) This section applies to a person ("**the appointed person**") who is appointed under a law of a State or Territory relating to the administration of the estates of persons who, through mental or physical infirmity, are incapable of managing their affairs, to administer the estate of another person ("**the incapable person**").

(2) If the incapable person is the registered holder of a share in a co-operative, the appointed person may be registered as the holder of that share as administrator of the estate of the incapable person.

(3) If the incapable person is entitled in equity to a share in a co-operative, the appointed person may, with the consent of the co-operative and of the registered holder of that share, be registered as the holder of the share as administrator of the estate of the incapable person.

Registration as Official Trustee in Bankruptcy

163. (1) This section applies when a share in a co-operative that is the property of a bankrupt vests by force of the *Bankruptcy Act 1966* of the Commonwealth in the Official Trustee in Bankruptcy.

(2) If the bankrupt is the registered holder of the share, the Official Trustee may be registered as the holder of that share as the Official Trustee in Bankruptcy.

(3) If the bankrupt is entitled in equity to the share, the Official Trustee may, with the consent of the co-operative and of the registered holder of the share, be registered as the holder of that share as the Official Trustee in Bankruptcy.

Liabilities of persons registered as trustee or administrator

164. (1) A person registered under section 161, 162 or 163 is, while so registered, subject to the same liabilities in respect of the share as those to which the person would have been subject if the share had remained, or had been, registered in the name of the dead person, the incapable person or the bankrupt.

(2) The person registered is subject to no other liabilities in respect of the share.

Notice of trusts in register of members

165. Shares held by a trustee in respect of a particular trust may, with the consent of the co-operative, be marked in the register of members in such a way as to identify the shares as being held in respect of the trust.

No notice of trust as provided by this Division

166. Except as provided in this Division—

- (a) no notice of a trust, whether express, implied or constructive, is to be entered on a register or be receivable by the Commission; and

- (b) no liabilities are affected by anything done under this Division; and
- (c) nothing done under this Division affects a co-operative with notice of a trust.

DIVISION 5—SALE OR TRANSFER OF SHARES

Sale or transfer of shares

167. (1) A share in a co-operative cannot be sold or transferred except—

- (a) in accordance with Division 3 of Part 4 and section 168, on the death of a member; or
- (b) to a person appointed to administer the estate of a shareholder under a law relating to the administration of the estates of persons who, through mental or physical infirmity, are incapable of managing their affairs; or
- (c) with the consent of the board, to any person if there are reasonable grounds for believing that the person will be an active member of the co-operative.

(2) A share in a co-operative cannot be sold or transferred except in accordance with the rules of the co-operative.

Transfer on death of member

168. (1) On the death of a member, the member's share in the co-operative cannot be transferred to a person other than an administrator or executor except with the consent of the board of the co-operative.

(2) The board may only give its consent under subsection (1) if there are reasonable grounds for believing that the person will be an active member of the co-operative.

Restriction on total shareholding

169. The board of a co-operative must not consent under section 167 or 168 to the sale or transfer of a share if as a result of the sale or transfer the nominal value of the shares held by the purchaser or transferee would exceed—

- (a) 20 per cent of the nominal value of the share capital of the co-operative; or
- (b) if a lower percentage is specified in the rules of the co-operative, that lower percentage of the nominal value of the share capital of the co-operative.

Transfer not effective until registered

170. A transferor of a share remains the holder of the share until the transfer is registered and the name of the transferee is entered in the register of members in respect of the share.

DIVISION 6—RE-PURCHASE OF SHARES

Purchase and repayment of shares

171. (1) The rules of a co-operative may authorise the co-operative to—

- (a) purchase any share of a member in the co-operative at the request of the member; and
- (b) repay to a member, with the member's consent, the whole or any part of the amount paid up on any share held by the member when the sum repaid is not required for the activities of the co-operative.

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(2) The amount paid by a co-operative under this section in purchasing shares or repaying any amount paid up on shares, or both, in any financial year of the co-operative must not exceed the sum of—

- (a) 5 per cent of the nominal value of the issued share capital of the co-operative immediately before the commencement of that financial year; and
- (b) the amount of any additional share capital of the co-operative subscribed for during that year.

(3) The members of a co-operative may by special resolution exempt a co-operative from the operation of subsection (2) in respect of a particular financial year, either unconditionally or subject to conditions.

(4) The amount paid for a share when it is repurchased may be an amount determined by the board that is less than the nominal value of the share but only—

- (a) if the books of the co-operative disclose that the amount paid is the net shareholder's equity per share in the undertaking of the co-operative; or
- (b) in accordance with the rules of the co-operative.

(5) This section does not apply if the member has resigned or has been expelled from the co-operative or the member's membership has been otherwise cancelled.

Deposit or debentures in lieu of payment when share repurchased

172. (1) If a co-operative repurchases a share of a member, the co-operative may instead of paying the purchase price to the member—

- (a) in the case of a deposit-taking co-operative, apply the amount as an interest bearing deposit by the member with the co-operative; or
- (b) allot or issue debentures of the co-operative to the member in satisfaction of the amount.

(2) Subsection (1) applies only—

- (a) if the board is of the opinion that payment of the repurchase price would adversely affect the financial position of the co-operative; or
- (b) if the board and the member so agree.

(3) The deposit or debenture bears interest during any period—

- (a) in the case of a co-operative with share capital—
 - (i) at the rate (or, if there is more than one rate, at the higher or highest rate) of dividend payable in respect of that period on the share capital of the co-operative; or
 - (ii) if the rate of dividend payable in respect of that period has not been determined, at the rate (or the higher or highest rate) payable in respect of the immediately preceding period for which a rate has been determined; or
 - (iii) if a rate of dividend has never been determined in respect of the share capital of the co-operative, at the rate that the board of the co-operative considers reasonable; or

- (b) in the case of a co-operative without share capital, at the rate that the board of the co-operative considers reasonable; or
- (c) if the rules provide for a rate to be payable that is higher than the rate applicable under paragraph (a) or (b), at that higher rate.

(4) The deposit or debenture must be repaid to the member as soon as repayment would not, in the opinion of the board, adversely affect the financial position of the co-operative.

(5) The deposit or debenture must in any case be repaid within 10 years (or within any shorter period that the rules of the co-operative may require) after the repurchase of the shares concerned.

Cancellation of shares

173. A co-operative must cancel any share purchased by or forfeited to the co-operative in accordance with this Act or the rules of the co-operative.

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**PART 8
VOTING**

DIVISION 1—VOTING ENTITLEMENTS

Application of Part

174. This Part applies to all voting whether at meetings or in ballots (including postal ballots).

Voting

175. (1) The right to vote attaches to membership and not shareholding.

(2) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4), each member has only one vote at a meeting of the co-operative.

(3) If its rules so provide, a member of an association or federation may have the number of votes up to 5 at a general meeting that is specified in the rules.

(4) If the rules so provide, the chairperson has a second vote at a board meeting.

(5) In the case of joint membership—

(a) the joint members have only one vote between them; and

(b) that vote may be exercised (subject to the grant of a proxy or power of attorney) only by the joint member determined in accordance with the rules.

Voting by proxy

176. (1) If the rules so provide, voting may be by proxy at a general meeting.

(2) The instrument of proxy may specify the manner in which a proxy is to vote in respect of a particular resolution.

(3) The proxy must vote in the manner authorised by an instrument of proxy referred to in subsection (2).

(4) A person must not act as a proxy unless he or she—

(a) is an active member of the co-operative; or

(b) in the case of an association or a federation, is entitled to represent a component co-operative or association of the association or federation on the association or federation.

(5) A person must not act as proxy for more than 10 persons (or any lesser number of persons specified in the rules of the co-operative) on any one occasion.

(6) Subsection (5) does not apply if the proxy acts under an instrument of proxy referred to in subsection (2).

Restriction on voting entitlement under power of attorney

177. A person is not entitled to exercise, under a power of attorney, the power of a member of the co-operative to vote if the person has that power in respect of another member of the co-operative under another power of attorney.

Restriction on voting by representatives of bodies corporate

178. A person is not entitled to exercise, as the representative of a body corporate, the power of a body corporate member of the co-operative to vote if the person has that power as the representative of another body corporate member of the co-operative.

Inactive members not entitled to vote

179. A member is not entitled to vote if the member is not an active member of the co-operative.

Control of the right to vote

180. (1) A person must not directly or indirectly control the exercise of the right to vote of a member.

Maximum penalty: \$6 000 or imprisonment for 6 months, or both.

(2) If a person controls the exercise of the right to vote of a member at a meeting of a co-operative—

- (a) the vote of that member; and
- (b) the vote of that person, if that person is a member,

are invalid.

(3) Nothing in this section prevents the exercise of a vote by means of a proxy or power of attorney.

Effect of relevant share and voting interests on voting rights

181. (1) A member of a co-operative is not entitled to vote if another person (whether or not a member of the co-operative) has a relevant interest in any share held by the member or in the right to vote of the member.

(2) A member who is not entitled to vote because of this section may apply to the Commission to review of the matter.

(3) The Commission may order that the member is entitled to vote if the Commission is satisfied in the circumstances of the case that loss of the right to vote would be unjust or unreasonable, and the order of the Commission has effect accordingly.

Rights of representatives to vote

182. A person appointed as provided by this Act to represent a member of a co-operative, association or federation—

- (a) is entitled to receive notice of all meetings in the same manner as the member represented; and
- (b) is entitled to exercise the same rights to vote as the member represented; and
- (c) is eligible to be elected to the board of directors if the member represented holds the qualifications required for holding office as a director (other than any relating to age).

Other rights and duties of members not affected by ineligibility to vote

183. A provision of this Act that disentitles a member of a co-operative to vote (either generally or in relation to a particular matter) does not affect any other right, entitlement, obligation or duty of the member as a member.

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Vote of disentitled member to be disregarded

184. Any vote cast by or on behalf of a member of a co-operative when not entitled to vote must be disregarded.

DIVISION 2—RESOLUTIONS**Decisions to be by ordinary resolution**

185. Except as otherwise provided in this Act or by the rules of the co-operative, every question for decision by a co-operative must be determined by ordinary resolution.

Ordinary resolutions

186. An ordinary resolution is a resolution of a co-operative which is passed by a simple majority at a general meeting of the co-operative or in a postal ballot of members.

Special resolutions

187. (1) A special resolution is a resolution of a co-operative which is passed—

- (a) by a two-thirds majority at a general meeting of members; or
- (b) by a two-thirds majority in a postal ballot (other than a special postal ballot) of members; or
- (c) by a three-quarters majority in a special postal ballot of members.

(2) A special resolution may be passed by a postal ballot only if the rules of the co-operative so permit or this Act requires the special resolution to be passed by postal ballot (including a special postal ballot).

(3) A resolution is not to be considered to have been passed as a special resolution unless not less than 21 days notice has been given to the members of the co-operative specifying—

- (a) the intention to propose the special resolution; and
- (b) the reasons for the making of the special resolution; and
- (c) the effect of the special resolution being passed.

(4) A co-operative must give at least 28 days notice to the Commission of a proposed special resolution before giving notice to the members of the proposed special resolution.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(5) A failure to give notice to the Commission under subsection (4) does not affect the validity of the resolution.

How majority obtained is ascertained

188. (1) A resolution is passed by a particular majority at a meeting if that majority of the members of the co-operative who, being entitled to do so, vote in person or (if proxies are allowed) by proxy at the meeting vote in favour of the resolution.

(2) A resolution is passed by a particular majority in a postal ballot if that majority of the members of the co-operative who, being entitled to do so, cast formal votes in the postal ballot vote in favour of the resolution.

Disallowance by Commission

189. The Commission may disallow a proposed special resolution before it is passed by written notice to the co-operative if the Commission is of the opinion that the effect of the special resolution if passed would be in contravention of this Act or the regulations or any other law.

Declaration of passing of special resolution

190. (1) At a meeting of a co-operative for the purpose of passing a special resolution, a declaration by the chairperson of the meeting that the resolution has been passed as a special resolution is conclusive evidence of that fact.

(2) A declaration by the returning officer for a postal ballot to pass a special resolution that the resolution has been passed as a special resolution is conclusive evidence of that fact.

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply if a poll is taken at the meeting of the co-operative.

Effect of special resolution

191. (1) Subject to subsection (2), a special resolution has effect from the date that it is passed.

(2) A special resolution relating to any of the following has no effect until it is registered:

- (a) the removal of an auditor;
- (b) the expulsion of a member;
- (c) any matter for which a special resolution is required to be passed by special postal ballot.

Lodgment of special resolution

192. (1) A co-operative must lodge 2 copies of each special resolution passed by the co-operative with the Commission in accordance with this section for registration.

(2) The copies must—

- (a) be lodged within 28 days after the passing of a special resolution or such further period as the Commission allows; and
- (b) be signed by a director and the secretary of the co-operative; and
- (c) be accompanied by the prescribed lodgment fee.

(3) A co-operative and any officer of the co-operative that knowingly fails to lodge the required copies in accordance with this section is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$2 000.

(4) This section and section 193 do not apply to a special resolution altering the rules of a co-operative.

Decision of Commission on application to register special resolution

193. (1) If the Commission is satisfied that the co-operative has complied with the provisions of this Act and the regulations, and that the resolution is not contrary to this Act or the regulations, the Commission must register the resolution.

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(2) If the Commission is of the opinion that the effect of a special resolution lodged for registration would be in contravention of this Act or the regulations or the Commission has other reasonable cause to refuse to register the special resolution, the Commission may—

- (a) refuse to register the special resolution; and
- (b) give written notice to the co-operative that the special resolution—
 - (i) has no effect, in the case of a special resolution referred to in section 191(2); and
 - (ii) has no effect as from the date that it was passed, in any other case.

(3) A certificate of registration of a special resolution given by the Commission is, in favour of any person advancing money to the co-operative on the faith of the certificate or in favour of any guarantor of that advance, conclusive evidence that the resolution was duly passed.

DIVISION 3—POSTAL BALLOTS**Postal ballots**

194. (1) A postal ballot may be held as provided by the rules of a co-operative and must be conducted in accordance with the regulations.

(2) On the declaration by the returning officer of the result of the ballot, the secretary of the co-operative must make an entry in the minute book of the co-operative showing—

- (a) the number of formal votes cast in favour of the proposal concerned; and
- (b) the number of formal votes cast against the proposal; and
- (c) the number of informal votes cast.

Special postal ballots

195. (1) A special postal ballot is a postal ballot that is conducted as required by this section.

(2) The ballot must not be held less than 21 days after notice of the ballot is given to members so as to enable sufficient time for a meeting to discuss the proposal that is the subject of the ballot to be convened and held (whether by the board or on the requisition of members).

(3) The co-operative must send to each member (along with any other material required to be sent in connection with the postal ballot) a disclosure statement approved by the Commission and containing information concerning—

- (a) the financial position of the co-operative; and
- (b) the interests of the directors of the co-operative in the proposal with which the ballot is concerned, including any interests of the directors in another organisation concerned in the proposal; and
- (c) any compensation or consideration to be paid to officers or members of the co-operative in connection with the proposal; and
- (d) such other matters as the Commission directs.

(4) If the Commission so requires, the statement is to be accompanied by a report made by an independent person approved by the Commission concerning any matters that the Commission directs.

(5) Sections 17 (except subsection (2)) and 29 apply to the approval of a disclosure statement under this section with any necessary modifications and in particular as if any reference in section 17 to the holding of a formation meeting were a reference to the notice of the special postal ballot.

When is a special postal ballot required?

196. In addition to any requirement of this Act, the rules of a co-operative must require a special postal ballot to be conducted for the purpose of passing a special resolution in relation to any of the following matters relating to a co-operative:

- (a) conversion of—
 - (i) a share capital co-operative to a non-share capital co-operative or vice versa; or
 - (ii) a trading co-operative to a non-trading co-operative or vice versa;
- (b) transfer of incorporation;
- (c) an acquisition or disposal of assets referred to in section 270;
- (d) the maximum permissible level of share interest in the co-operative;
- (e) takeover;
- (f) merger;
- (g) transfer of engagements;
- (h) members' voluntary winding up.

Holding of postal ballot on requisition

197. (1) The board of a co-operative must conduct a postal ballot (including a special postal ballot) for the purpose of the passing of a special resolution on the written requisition of such number of members who together are able to cast at least 20 per cent (or any lesser percentage specified in the rules of the co-operative) of the total number of votes able to be cast at a meeting of the co-operative.

(2) A member is not entitled to be a requisitioning member unless the member is an active member.

(3) The following provisions apply to a requisition for a postal ballot:

- (a) it must specify—
 - (i) the proposed special resolution to be voted on; and
 - (ii) the reasons for the making of the special resolution; and
 - (iii) the effect of the special resolution being passed;

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- (b) it must be signed by the requisitioning members (and may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more of the requisitioning members);
- (c) it must be served on the co-operative by being lodged at the registered office of the co-operative.

(4) The postal ballot must be conducted as soon as practicable and in any case must be conducted within 2 months after the requisition is served.

(5) If the special resolution for which the requisitioned postal ballot is conducted is not passed, the co-operative may recover the expenses of the postal ballot from the members who requisitioned the postal ballot as a debt due to the co-operative.

Expenses involved in postal ballots on requisition

198. (1) All reasonable expenses incurred by a co-operative in and in connection with preparing for and holding a special postal ballot are to be considered to constitute the "**expenses of the postal ballot**" for the purposes of section 197.

(2) Those expenses include (but are not limited to) the following expenses:

- (a) the cost of obtaining expert advice (including legal and financial advice) and of commissioning expert reports;
- (b) costs attributable to the use of staff of the co-operative in connection with preparing for and holding the ballot;
- (c) the cost of producing, printing and posting the ballot papers and other material associated with the ballot.

DIVISION 4—MEETINGS**Annual general meetings**

199. (1) The first annual general meeting of a co-operative must be held at any time within 19 months after the incorporation of the co-operative.

(2) The second or any subsequent annual general meeting of a co-operative must be held within—

- (a) 5 months after the close of the financial year of the co-operative; or
- (b) any further time that may be allowed by the Commission or is prescribed.

Special general meetings

200. A special general meeting of a co-operative may be convened at any time by the board of directors.

Notice of meetings

201. The board must give each member at least 14 days notice of each general meeting.

Quorum of meetings

202. (1) The quorum for a meeting of a co-operative must be specified in the rules.

(2) An item of business must not be transacted at a meeting of a co-operative unless a quorum of members entitled to vote is present during the transaction of that item.

Decision at meetings

203. (1) A question for decision at a general meeting must be determined by a majority of members present in person at the meeting and voting, but this is subject to any other provisions of this Act and to the rules of the co-operative.

(2) Unless a poll is demanded by at least 5 members, a question for decision at a general meeting must be determined by a show of hands.

(3) In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chairperson of the meeting at which the show of hands takes place or at which the poll is demanded may exercise a second or casting vote if the rules so provide.

Convening of general meeting on requisition

204. (1) The board of a co-operative must convene a general meeting of the co-operative on the written requisition of such number of members who together are able to cast at least 20 per cent (or any lesser percentage specified in the rules of the co-operative) of the total number of votes able to be cast at a meeting of the co-operative.

(2) A member is not entitled to be a requisitioning member unless the member is an active member.

(3) The following provisions apply to a requisition for a general meeting:

- (a) it must state the objects of the meeting;
- (b) it must be signed by the requisitioning members (and may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more of the requisitioning members);
- (c) it must be served on the co-operative by being lodged at the registered office of the co-operative.

(4) The meeting must be convened and held as soon as practicable and in any case must be held within 2 months after the requisition is served.

(5) If the board does not convene the meeting within 21 days after the requisition is served, the following provisions apply:

- (a) the requisitioning members (or any of them representing at least half their aggregate voting rights) may convene the meeting in the same manner as nearly as possible as meetings are convened by the board;
- (b) for that purpose they may request the co-operative to supply a written statement setting out the names and addresses of the persons entitled when the requisition was served to receive notice of general meetings of the co-operative;
- (c) the board must send the requested statement to the requisitioning members within 7 days after the request for the statement is made;
- (d) the meeting convened by the requisitioning members must be held not later than 3 months after the requisition is served;
- (e) any reasonable expenses incurred by the requisitioning members because of the board's failure to convene the meeting must be paid by the co-operative;

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- (f) any amount required to be paid by the co-operative under paragraph (e) must be retained by the co-operative out of any money due from the co-operative by way of fees or other remuneration in respect of their services to such of the directors as were in default.

Minutes

205. (1) Minutes of each general meeting, board meeting and subcommittee meeting must be entered in the appropriate records and confirmed at and signed by the chairperson of the next succeeding meeting.

(2) The minutes of each general meeting must be available for inspection by members.

(3) The rules may provide that the minutes of board meetings and subcommittee meetings be available for inspection by members.

(4) Minutes must be kept in the English language.

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**PART 9
MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF CO-OPERATIVES****DIVISION 1—THE BOARD****Board of directors**

206. (1) Subject to this Act and the rules of the co-operative, the business of a co-operative must be managed by a board of directors.

(2) The board of directors may exercise all the powers of the co-operative that are not, by this Act or the rules of the co-operative, required to be exercised by the co-operative in general meeting.

(3) The acts of a director are valid despite any defect that may afterwards be discovered in his or her appointment or qualification.

Election of directors

207. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2), (3) and (4), the directors of a co-operative are to be elected in the manner specified in the rules of the co-operative.

(2) The first directors of—

(a) a co-operative formed under this Act are to be elected at its formation meeting; and

(b) a co-operative which was a body corporate incorporated under another Act are to be the directors in office at the date of registration under this Act.

(3) If so authorised by the rules of the co-operative, a board of directors may appoint a person to fill a casual vacancy in the office of a director until the next annual general meeting.

(4) A motion approving or nominating for election 2 or more persons as directors by a single resolution must not be made at a meeting of a co-operative unless a resolution that it be so made has first been agreed to by the meeting without any vote being given against it.

(5) If a resolution is passed following a motion in contravention of subsection (4)—

(a) the resolution is void;

(b) there is no provision for the automatic re-election of retiring directors in default of another election.

(6) This section does not apply to a resolution altering the rules to prevent the election of 2 or more directors by ballot.

(7) A nomination for election or appointment to the office of a director must provide details of the qualifications and experience of the person nominated.

(8) Except as specified in this Act or in the rules of a co-operative, a director is eligible for re-election at the expiration of his or her term of office.

Qualification of directors

208. (1) A person is not qualified to be a director of a co-operative unless he or she is—

(a) a member of the co-operative or a representative of a body corporate that is a member of the co-operative ("**member director**"); or

- (b) an employee of the co-operative or a person qualified as provided by the rules ("independent director").

(2) A person may only be elected or appointed as an independent director if there are at least 3 member directors appointed for each independent director.

Disqualified persons

209. (1) A person must not act as a director or directly or indirectly take part in or be concerned with the management of a co-operative if the person—

- (a) is the auditor of the co-operative or a partner, employee or employer of the auditor; or
- (b) has been convicted, whether before or after the commencement of this section, within or outside South Australia—
 - (i) on indictment of an offence in connection with the promotion, formation or management of a body corporate; or
 - (ii) of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty punishable on conviction by imprisonment for a period of not less than 3 months; or
 - (iii) of any offence under section 232, 590, 591, 592, 704, 705 or 996 of the *Corporations Law* of South Australia or under any provision of a law in force in another State or in a Territory that corresponds with any of those sections; or
 - (iv) of any offence under any provision of a previous law of South Australia or another State or Territory, with which any of the provisions referred to in subparagraph (iii) corresponds,

within a period of 5 years after the conviction or, if sentenced to imprisonment, after his or her release from prison, except with the leave of the Supreme Court.

Maximum penalty: \$24 000 or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

(2) A person must not act as a director or directly or indirectly take part in or be concerned with the management of a co-operative if the person—

- (a) has been convicted of any offence under this Act, within a period of 5 years after the conviction, except with leave of the Supreme Court; or
- (b) is prohibited from being a director of a company under section 599 of the *Corporations Law* of South Australia; or
- (c) is an insolvent under administration (as defined in the *Corporations Law*); or
- (d) is prohibited from managing a corporation by an order under section 1317EA of the *Corporations Law*, as adopted under this Act.

Maximum penalty: \$24 000 or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

(3) In any proceeding for an offence against subsection (1), a certificate by a prescribed authority stating that a person was released from prison on a specified date is, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, proof that that person was released from prison on that date.

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(4) A person who intends to apply for leave of the Supreme Court must give the Commission at least 21 days notice of his or her intention.

(5) The Supreme Court may grant leave subject to any condition or limitation it considers appropriate.

(6) A person must comply with any condition or limitation subject to which leave is granted.

Maximum penalty: \$24 000 or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

(7) On the application of the Commission the Supreme Court may revoke its leave.

(8) Subject to this section, section 599 of the *Corporations Law* of South Australia is adopted as far as is applicable to co-operatives and applies with any modifications that are necessary and any other modifications that are prescribed.

Meeting of the board of directors

210. (1) Meetings of the board of directors must be held at least once every 3 months and may be held as often as may be necessary.

(2) A meeting of the board of directors may be called by a director giving notice individually to every other director.

(3) A meeting of the board of directors may be called or held using any technology consented to by the board. The consent may be a standing one.

(4) A quorum of a meeting of the board of directors is 50 per cent of the number of directors or such greater number of the directors as is specified in the rules.

(5) The chairperson of the board may be elected either by the board or at a general meeting of the co-operative, and is to be elected, hold office, and retire, and may be removed from office, as provided by the rules of the co-operative.

Transaction of business outside meetings

211. (1) The board of a co-operative may, if it thinks fit, transact any of its business by the circulation of papers among all of the directors of the board.

(2) A resolution in writing approved in writing by a majority of the directors of the board is to be taken to be a decision of the board.

(3) Separate copies of a resolution may be distributed for signing by the directors if the wording of the resolution and approval is identical in each copy.

(4) For the purpose of the approval of a resolution under this section, the chairperson of the board and each director of the board have the same voting rights as they have at an ordinary meeting of the board.

(5) The resolution is approved when the last director required for the majority signs.

(6) A resolution approved under this section must be recorded in the minutes of the meetings of the board.

(7) Papers may be circulated among directors of the board for the purposes of this section by facsimile or other transmission of the information in the papers concerned.

Deputy directors

212. (1) In the absence of a director from a meeting of the board, a person appointed by the board in accordance with the rules of the co-operative concerned to act as a deputy for that director may act in the place of that director.

(2) The rules of the co-operative may include provisions regulating the term of office, vacation of or removal from office, and remuneration of a deputy.

Delegation by board

213. (1) If the rules of a co-operative so provide, the board may, by resolution, delegate the exercise of such of the board's functions (other than this power of delegation) as are specified in the resolution—

- (a) to a director; or
- (b) to a committee of 2 or more directors; or
- (c) to a committee of members of the co-operative; or
- (d) to a committee of members of the co-operative and other persons if members comprise the majority of persons on the committee.

(2) The co-operative or the board may, by resolution, revoke wholly or in part a delegation under this section.

(3) A function, the exercise of which has been delegated under this section, may be exercised from time to time in accordance with the terms of the delegation while the delegation remains unrevoked.

(4) A delegation under this section may be made subject to conditions or limitations as to the exercise of any of the functions delegated, or as to time or circumstance.

(5) Despite any delegation under this section, the board may continue to exercise all or any of the functions delegated.

Removal from and vacation of office

214. (1) The directors hold office and must retire, and may be removed from office, as provided by the rules of the co-operative.

(2) A director vacates office in the circumstances (if any) provided in the rules of the co-operative and in any of the following cases:

- (a) if the director is disqualified from being a director as provided by section 209;
- (b) if the director absents himself or herself from 3 consecutive ordinary meetings of the board without its leave;
- (c) if the director resigns the office of director by written notice given by the director to the co-operative;
- (d) if the director is removed from office by special resolution of the co-operative;
- (e) if the person ceases to hold the qualification by reason of which the person was qualified to be a director;

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- (f) if an administrator of the co-operative's affairs is appointed under Division 5 of Part 12.

**DIVISION 2—DUTIES AND LIABILITIES OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS
AND EMPLOYEES**

Meaning of "officer"

215. In this Division—

"officer", in relation to a co-operative, means—

- (a) a director or secretary of the co-operative; or
- (b) a person who is concerned, or takes part, in the management of the co-operative, whether or not as a director; or
- (c) a receiver, or receiver and manager, of property of the co-operative, or any other authorised person who enters into possession or assumes control of property of the co-operative for the purpose of enforcing any charge; or
- (d) an administrator of a deed of arrangement executed by the co-operative; or
- (e) a liquidator or provisional liquidator appointed in a voluntary winding up of the co-operative; or
- (f) an administrator of the co-operative appointed under Part 5.3A of the *Corporations Law* as adopted and applying under this Act; or
- (g) a trustee or other person administering a compromise or arrangement made between the co-operative and another person or other persons.

Officers must act honestly

216. (1) An officer of a co-operative must at all times act honestly in the exercise of his or her powers and the discharge of the duties of his or her office, both in the State and elsewhere.

(2) The penalty applicable to a contravention of this section is—

- (a) if the contravention was committed with intent to deceive or defraud the co-operative, members or creditors of the co-operative or creditors of any other person or for any other fraudulent purpose—a fine not exceeding \$24 000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years, or both; or
- (b) in any other case—a fine not exceeding \$6 000.

Standard of care and diligence required

217. (1) In the exercise of his or her powers and the discharge of his or her duties, an officer of a co-operative must exercise the degree of care and diligence that a reasonable person in a like position in a co-operative would exercise in the co-operative's circumstances.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(2) An officer is not liable to be convicted for a contravention of this section if the board of the co-operative has resolved by ordinary resolution to forgive the contravention.

Improper use of information or position

218. (1) An officer or employee or former officer or employee of a co-operative or a member of a committee referred to in section 213(1) must not make improper use of information acquired by reason of his or her position as such an officer or employee or member to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for himself or herself or for any other person or to cause detriment to the co-operative.

(2) An officer or employee of a co-operative or a member of a committee referred to in section 213(1) must not make improper use of his or her position as an officer or employee or member, to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for himself or herself or for any other person or to cause detriment to the co-operative.

(3) The penalty applicable to a contravention of this section is—

(a) if the contravention was committed with intent to deceive or defraud the co-operative, members or creditors of the co-operative or creditors of any other person or for any other fraudulent purpose—a fine not exceeding \$24 000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years, or both; or

(b) in any other case—a fine not exceeding \$6 000.

Court may order payment of compensation

219. (1) If the court that convicts a person for a contravention of a provision of this Division is satisfied that a co-operative has suffered loss or damage as a result of the act or omission that constituted the offence, the court may (in addition to imposing a penalty) order the convicted person to pay a specified amount of compensation to the co-operative.

(2) An order under subsection (1) may be enforced as if it were a judgment of that court.

Recovery of damages by co-operative

220. (1) If a person contravenes a provision of this Division in relation to a co-operative, the co-operative may, whether or not the person has been convicted of an offence in respect of that contravention, recover an amount from the person as a debt due to the co-operative.

(2) The amount that the co-operative is entitled to recover from the person is—

(a) if the person or any other person made a profit as a result of the contravention, an amount equal to that profit; and

(b) if the co-operative has suffered loss or damage as a result of the contravention, an amount equal to that loss or damage.

Other duties and liabilities not affected

221. This Division has effect in addition to, and not in derogation of, any rule of law relating to the duty or liability of a person by reason of the person's office or employment in relation to a co-operative and does not prevent the institution of any civil proceedings in respect of a breach of such a duty or in respect of such a liability.

Indemnification of officers and auditors

222. (1) Any provision, whether contained in the rules or in a contract with a co-operative or elsewhere, for exempting any officer or auditor of the co-operative from, or indemnifying the officer or auditor against, any liability that by law would otherwise attach to the officer or auditor in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust of which the officer or auditor may be guilty in relation to the co-operative is void.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to a contract of insurance.

(3) Despite subsection (1), a co-operative may, pursuant to its rules or otherwise, indemnify an officer or auditor against any liability incurred by the officer or auditor in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in the officer's or auditor's favour or in which the officer or auditor is acquitted or in connection with any application in relation to any such proceedings in which relief is under this section granted to the officer or auditor by the court.

(4) If in proceedings for negligence, default or breach of duty against an officer or auditor of a co-operative it appears to the court that the person is or may be liable in respect of the negligence, default or breach of duty but acted honestly and reasonably and that, having regard to all the circumstances of the case (including those connected with the person's appointment), the person ought fairly to be excused for the negligence, default or breach of duty, the court may relieve the person, either wholly or partly, from the person's liability on such terms as the court thinks fit.

(5) If an officer or auditor of a co-operative has reason to believe that any claim will or might be made against him or her in respect of any negligence, default or breach of duty in relation to the co-operative, the person may apply to the Supreme Court for relief, and the Supreme Court then has the same power to relieve the person as it would have under this section if it had been a court before which proceedings against the officer or auditor for negligence, default or breach of duty had been brought.

(6) If any case to which subsection (4) applies is being tried by a judge with a jury, the judge, after hearing the evidence, may, if satisfied that the defendant should in pursuance of that subsection be relieved either wholly or partly from the liability sought to be enforced against him or her, withdraw the case in whole or in part from the jury and direct judgment to be entered for the defendant on such terms as to costs or otherwise as the judge thinks proper.

(7) In this section—

"officer" includes an employee of a co-operative and any other person empowered under the rules of the co-operative to give directions in regard to the business of the co-operative.

Adoption of Corporations Law provisions concerning officers of co-operatives

223. (1) The provisions of sections 589 to 598 and 1307 of the *Corporations Law* are adopted by this section and apply to and in respect of a co-operative in the same way as they apply to and in respect of a company.

(2) Those provisions apply with any modifications that are prescribed and as if—

- (a) a reference in those provisions to a company were a reference to a co-operative; and
- (b) a reference in those provisions to the Australian Securities Commission were a reference to the Corporate Affairs Commission; and
- (c) the reference in section 591 to section 289 were a reference to the equivalent provisions of the regulations under section 233 of this Act.

DIVISION 3—RESTRICTIONS ON DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Directors' remuneration

224. A director of a co-operative must not be paid any remuneration for services as a director other than fees, concessions and other benefits that are approved at a general meeting of the co-operative.

Certain financial accommodation to officers prohibited

225. (1) An officer of a co-operative who is not a director of the co-operative must not obtain financial accommodation from the co-operative other than—

- (a) with the approval of a majority of the directors; or
- (b) under a scheme about providing financial accommodation to officers that has been approved by a majority of the directors.

Maximum penalty: \$24 000 or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

(2) For the purposes of this section, financial accommodation is taken to be obtained by an officer of a co-operative if it is obtained by—

- (a) a proprietary company in which the officer is a shareholder or director; or
- (b) a trust of which the officer is a trustee or beneficiary; or
- (c) a trust of which a body corporate is trustee if the officer is a director or other officer of the body corporate.

(3) A co-operative must not give financial accommodation to an officer of the co-operative if—

- (a) by giving the financial accommodation, the officer would contravene this section; and
- (b) the co-operative knows or should reasonably know of the contravention.

Maximum penalty: \$50 000.

Financial accommodation to directors and associates

226. (1) In this section—

"**associate**" of a director means—

- (a) the director's spouse; or
- (b) a person when acting in the capacity of trustee of a trust under which—
 - (i) the director or director's spouse has a beneficial interest; or
 - (ii) a body corporate mentioned in paragraph (c) has a beneficial interest; or
- (c) a body corporate if—
 - (i) the director or director's spouse has a material interest in shares in the body corporate; and
 - (ii) the nominal value of the shares is not less than 10 per cent of the nominal value of the issued share capital of the body corporate.

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(2) For the purposes of this section, a person has a "**material interest**" in a share in a body corporate if—

- (a) the person has power to withdraw the share capital subscribed for the share or to exercise control over the withdrawal of that share capital; or
- (b) the person has power to dispose of or to exercise control over the disposal of the share; or
- (c) the person has power to exercise or to control the exercise of any right to vote conferred on the holder of the share.

(3) A co-operative must not provide financial accommodation to a director, or to a person the co-operative knows or should reasonably know is an associate of a director, unless—

- (a) the accommodation is—
 - (i) approved under subsection (4); or
 - (ii) given under a scheme approved under subsection (4); or
 - (iii) provided on terms no more favourable to the director or associate than the terms on which it is reasonable to expect the co-operative would give if dealing with the director or associate at arm's length in the same circumstances; and
- (b) the directors have approved the accommodation, at a meeting of the board at which a quorum was present, by a majority of at least two-thirds of the directors present and voting on the matter.

Maximum penalty: \$50 000.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(a)(i) and (ii), financial accommodation or a scheme is approved if—

- (a) it is approved by a resolution passed at a general meeting; and
- (b) the full details of the accommodation or scheme were made available to members at least 21 days before the meeting.

(5) A director or an associate of a director who obtains financial accommodation given in contravention of subsection (3) is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$24 000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years, or both.

(6) For the purposes of this section, a concessional rate of interest for a borrower from a co-operative is a normal term only if the borrower is entitled to the concession by being a member of a class of borrowers from the co-operative specified in its rules as being entitled to the concession.

(7) If a director of a co-operative or an associate of a director accepts in payment of a debt owed by a member of the co-operative to the director or associate, any proceeds of financial accommodation provided to the member by the co-operative, this section has effect as if the financial accommodation has been provided to the director or associate.

(8) In this section, a reference to—

- (a) the provision of financial accommodation to a director or an associate of a director; or
- (b) the obtaining of financial accommodation by a director or an associate of a director; or
- (c) a debt owed to a director or an associate of a director,

includes a reference to a provision of financial accommodation to, or an obtaining of financial accommodation by, the director or associate, or a debt owed to the director or associate, jointly with another person.

Restriction on directors of certain co-operatives selling land to co-operative

227. A director of a co-operative the primary activity of which is or includes the acquisition of land in order to settle or retain people on the land and of providing any community service or benefit must not sell land to the co-operative except pursuant to and in accordance with a special resolution of the co-operative.

Management contracts

228. (1) In this section—

"**management contract**" means a contract or other arrangement under which—

- (a) a person who is not an officer of the co-operative agrees to perform the whole, or a substantial part, of the functions of the co-operative, whether under the control of the co-operative or not; or
- (b) a co-operative agrees to perform the whole or a substantial part of its functions—
 - (i) in a particular way; or
 - (ii) in accordance with the directions of any person; or
 - (iii) subject to specified restrictions or conditions.

(2) A co-operative must not enter into a management contract unless that contract has first been approved by special resolution.

(3) A management contract entered into in contravention of subsection (2) is void.

DIVISION 4—DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Declaration of interest

229. (1) A director of a co-operative who is or becomes in any way (whether directly or indirectly) interested in a contract, or proposed contract with the co-operative must declare the nature and extent of the interest to the board of directors under this section.

Maximum penalty: \$24 000 or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

(2) In the case of a proposed contract, the declaration must be made—

- (a) at the meeting of the board at which the question of entering into the contract is first considered; or

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- (b) if the director was not at that time interested in the proposed contract, at the next meeting of the board held after the director becomes interested in the proposed contract.

(3) If a director becomes interested in a contract with the co-operative after it is made, the declaration must be made at the next meeting of the board held after the director becomes interested in the contract.

(4) For the purposes of this section, a general written notice given to the board by a director to the effect that the director—

- (a) is a member of a specified entity; and
- (b) is to be regarded as interested in any contract which may, after the giving of the notice, be made with the entity,

is a sufficient declaration.

(5) A director of a co-operative who holds an office or has an interest in property whereby, whether directly or indirectly, duties or interests might be created that could conflict with the director's duties or interests as director must, under subsection (6) declare at a meeting of the board of directors the fact and the nature, character and extent of the conflict.

Maximum penalty: \$24 000 or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

(6) A declaration required by subsection (5) in relation to holding an office or having an interest must be made by a person—

- (a) if the person holds the office or has the interest when he or she becomes a director, at the first meeting of the board held after—
- (i) the person becomes a director; or
- (ii) the relevant facts as to holding the office or having the interest come to the person's knowledge,

whichever is the later; or

- (b) if the person starts to hold the office or acquires the interest after the person becomes a director, at the first meeting of the board held after the relevant facts as to holding the office or having the interest come to the person's knowledge.

(7) If a director has made a declaration under this section, then unless the board otherwise determines, the director must not—

- (a) be present during any deliberation of the board in relation to the matter; or
- (b) take part in any decision of the board in relation to the matter.

(8) For the purposes of the making of a determination of the board under subsection (7) in relation to a director who has made a declaration under this section, the director must not—

- (a) be present during any deliberation of the board for the purpose of making the determination; or
- (b) take part in the making by the board of the determination.

Declarations to be recorded in minutes

230. Every declaration under this Division is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it was made.

Division does not affect other laws or rules

231. Except as provided in section 232, this Division is in addition to, and not in derogation of, the operation of any rule of law or any provision in the rules of the co-operative restricting a director from having any interest in contracts with the co-operative or from holding offices or possessing properties involving duties or interests in conflict with his or her duties or interests as director.

Certain interests need not be declared

232. The interest in a contract or proposed contract that a director is required by this Division to declare does not include an interest in—

- (a) a contract or proposed contract for a purchase of goods and services by the director from the co-operative; or
- (b) a lease of land to the director by the co-operative; or
- (c) a contract or proposed contract for the sale of agricultural products or livestock by the director to the co-operative; or
- (d) a contract or proposed contract that, pursuant to the rules of the co-operative, may be made between the co-operative and a member; or
- (e) a contract or proposed contract of a class of contracts prescribed for the purposes of this section,

but only if the contract is made in good faith, in the ordinary course of the business of the co-operative, and on such terms as are usual and proper in similar dealings between the co-operative and its members.

DIVISION 5—ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Requirements for accounts and accounting records

233. (1) A co-operative must—

- (a) keep accounting records and prepare accounts and consolidated accounts as required by the regulations; and
- (b) ensure that those accounts are audited in accordance with the regulations.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(2) Without limiting the matters for which regulations under this section may make provision, the regulations may make provision for or with respect to the following:

- (a) any matter for which provision is made by or under Parts 3.6 and 3.7 of the *Corporations Law* (including the conferring of jurisdiction on a court);
- (b) requiring accounts and consolidated accounts to be prepared in accordance with any accounting standards in force for the purposes of Parts 3.6 and 3.7 of the *Corporations Law* (with or without modifications specified in the regulations);

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- (c) requiring the submission of accounts or consolidated accounts to the Australian Accounting Standards Board;
- (d) requiring the adoption by a co-operative of the same financial year for each entity that the co-operative controls;
- (e) prescribing the qualifications and the functions of auditors of the accounts of a co-operative and providing for the appointment, the holding of office by, the remuneration of and the removal of auditors;
- (f) the duties of directors of a co-operative in relation to the preparation, the auditing and the laying before meetings of members of accounts and consolidated accounts, including the reports to be prepared by directors in relation to those accounts and consolidated accounts;
- (g) the sending or making available to members of copies of accounts and reports in relation to accounts.

(3) The regulations may make provision for a matter for which the *Corporations Law* makes provision by adopting (with or without modification) provisions of the *Corporations Law*.

Power of Commission to grant exemptions

234. (1) The Commission may, by order in writing, exempt a co-operative or any class of co-operatives or a director or auditor of a co-operative from compliance with all or specified provisions of the regulations made for the purposes of this Part.

(2) An exemption—

- (a) may be given subject to conditions; and
- (b) may be limited as to time; and
- (c) may be varied, suspended or revoked by the Commission by a further order in writing.

(3) An order under this section takes effect—

- (a) if it applies to a particular co-operative—when the order is served on the co-operative; or
- (b) if it applies to a class of co-operatives—when the order is published in the *Gazette*.

Meaning of "entity" and "control"

235. In this Division, "entity" and "control" have the same meanings in relation to a co-operative as they have under Parts 3.6 and 3.7 of the *Corporations Law* in relation to a corporation.

Disclosure by directors

236. The directors of a co-operative must make the disclosures in relation to the affairs of the co-operative and of any entity that the co-operative controls that are required by the regulations.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

Protection of auditors etc.

237. (1) An auditor of a co-operative has qualified privilege in respect of—

- (a) any statement that the auditor makes, orally or in writing, in the course of his or her duties as auditor; or
- (b) the giving of any notice, or the sending of any copy of accounts, consolidated accounts or a report, to the Commission under this Act.

(2) A person has qualified privilege—

- (a) in respect of the publishing of any document prepared by an auditor in the course of the auditor's duties and required by or under this Act to be lodged with the Commission, whether or not the document has been so lodged; or
- (b) in respect of the publishing of any statement made by an auditor as mentioned in subsection (1).

(3) This section does not limit or affect any right, privilege or immunity that an auditor or other person has, apart from this section, as defendant in proceedings for defamation.

Financial year

238. (1) The financial year of a co-operative is to end on the day in each calendar year that is provided for by the rules of the co-operative.

(2) The first financial year of a co-operative may extend from the date of its registration to a date not later than 18 months from the date of its registration.

(3) On an alteration of the rules of a co-operative altering its financial year, the alteration may provide either that the financial year current at the date of alteration is to be extended for a period not exceeding 6 months or that the financial year next following the financial year that is so current is to be a period exceeding 12 months but not exceeding 18 months.

DIVISION 6—REGISTERS, RECORDS AND RETURNS

Registers to be kept by co-operatives

239. (1) A co-operative must keep the following registers in accordance with this section:

- (a) a register of members, directors and shares (if any);
- (b) a register of any loans to, securities given by, debentures issued by and deposits received by the co-operative;
- (c) a register of names of persons who have given loans or deposits to or hold securities or debentures given or issued by the co-operative;
- (d) a register of any loans made by or guaranteed by the co-operative, and of any securities taken by the co-operative;
- (e) a register of memberships cancelled under Part 6;
- (f) a register of notifiable interests in accordance with section 280;
- (g) such other registers as the regulations may require.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

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(2) The registers must be kept in the manner and contain the particulars that are prescribed by this Act or the regulations.

Location of registers

240. (1) A register kept under this Division must be kept at—

- (a) the co-operative's registered office; or
- (b) an office at the co-operative's principal place of business; or
- (c) an office (whether of the co-operative or of someone else) where the work involved in maintaining the register is done; or
- (d) another office approved by the Commission.

(2) The office must be in South Australia.

(3) The co-operative must lodge with the Commission a notice of the address at which the register is kept within 28 days after the register is—

- (a) established at an office that is not the co-operative's registered office; or
- (b) moved from one office to another.

Inspection of registers etc.

241. (1) A co-operative must have at the office where the registers are kept and available during all reasonable hours for inspection by any member free of charge the following:

- (a) a copy of this Act and the regulations;
- (b) a copy of the rules of the co-operative;
- (c) a copy of the minutes of each general meeting of the co-operative;
- (d) a copy of the last annual report of the co-operative under section 244;
- (e) the register of directors, members and shares;
- (f) the register of names of persons who have given loans or deposits to or hold securities or debentures given or issued by the co-operative;
- (g) such other registers as the regulations provide are to be open for inspection under this section.

(2) If a register is not kept on a computer, the person inspects the register itself.

(3) If the register is kept on a computer, the person inspects a hard copy of the information on the register unless the person and the co-operative agree that the person can access the information by computer.

(4) A member is entitled to make a copy of entries in a register specified in subsection (1) and to do so free of charge unless the rules of the co-operative require a fee to be paid, in which case on payment of the required fee.

(5) The fee required by the rules must not exceed the fee prescribed for a copy of any entry in the Register.

(6) A co-operative must—

- (a) permit a member to inspect a document or make a copy of a document that the member is entitled to inspect or make under this section; and
- (b) give the member all reasonable assistance to inspect the document or make the copy.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(7) A co-operative must have at the place where the registers are kept and available during all reasonable hours for inspection by any person such documents in relation to the co-operative as are prescribed.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

Use of information on registers

242. (1) A person must not—

- (a) use information about a person obtained from a register kept under this Division to contact or send material to the person; or
- (b) disclose information of that kind knowing that the information is likely to be used to contact or send material to the person,

unless that use or disclosure of the information is—

- (c) relevant to the holding of the directorship, membership, shares, loans, securities, debentures or deposits concerned or the exercise of the rights attaching to them; or
- (d) approved by the board; or
- (e) necessary to comply with a requirement of this Act.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) is liable to compensate anyone else who suffers loss or damage because of the contravention.

(3) A person who makes a profit from a contravention of subsection (1) owes a debt to the co-operative. The amount of the debt is the amount of the profit.

Notice of appointment etc. of directors

243. (1) A co-operative must give notice to the Commission in accordance with this section of the appointment of a person as a director, principal executive officer or secretary of the co-operative or any subsidiary of the co-operative, and of the cessation of any such appointment.

(2) The notice must—

- (a) be in the form approved by the Commission; and
- (b) be given within 28 days after the appointment or cessation of appointment; and
- (c) specify the prescribed particulars of the appointment or cessation of appointment.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

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Annual report

244. (1) A co-operative must send to the Commission within the required period in each year an annual report containing each of the following:

- (a) a list in the form approved by the Commission specifying the directors and the principal executive officers of the co-operative and of each subsidiary of the co-operative, as at the date that the annual report is sent to the Commission;
- (b) a copy of the accounts of the co-operative in respect of its financial year then last past;
- (c) a copy of the accounts of each subsidiary of the co-operative in respect of the financial year of the subsidiary then last past;
- (d) a copy of any report by the auditors or directors of the co-operative or subsidiary on the accounts referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c);
- (e) such other particulars as may be prescribed.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) the required period is—

- (a) 28 days after the annual general meeting of the co-operative; or
- (b) if the annual general meeting of the co-operative is not held within the period specified in section 199(2)(a), 28 days after the end of that period.

List of members to be furnished at request of Commission

245. A co-operative must, at the request in writing of the Commission, send to the Commission, within the time and in the manner that the Commission specifies, a full list of the members of the co-operative and of each subsidiary of the co-operative, together with the particulars with regard to those members that the Commission specifies in the request.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

Special return to be furnished at request of Commission

246. (1) The Commission may by direction in writing require a co-operative to furnish to the Commission a special return in the form, within the time, and relating to the subject-matter, specified by the Commission.

(2) The co-operative must comply with a direction under subsection (1).

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

DIVISION 7—NAME AND REGISTERED OFFICE**Name to include certain matter**

247. (1) The name of a co-operative may consist of words, numbers or a combination of both.

(2) The name of the co-operative must include the word "Co-operative" or "Cooperative" or the abbreviation "Co-op".

(3) The word "Limited" or the abbreviation "Ltd" must be the last word of the name.

(4) A body corporate which is formed or incorporated under any Act other than this Act must not register under that other Act by any name which includes the word "Co-operative" or "Cooperative" or the abbreviation "Co-op".

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(5) Subsection (4) does not apply to—

- (a) a housing co-operative within the meaning of the *South Australian Co-operative and Community Housing Act 1991*; or
- (b) a building society or credit union.

Use of abbreviations

248. A description of a co-operative is not inadequate or incorrect merely because of one or more of the following:

- (a) the use of the abbreviation "Co-op" instead of the word "Co-operative" or "Cooperative" in the co-operative's name;
- (b) the use of the abbreviation "Ltd" instead of the word "Limited" in the co-operative's name;
- (c) the use of the symbol "&" instead of the word "and" in the co-operative's name;
- (d) the use of any of those words instead of the corresponding abbreviation or symbol in the co-operative's name;
- (e) the use of any abbreviation or elaboration of the name of the co-operative that is approved in a particular case or for a particular purpose by the Commission in writing.

Name to appear on business documents etc.

249. (1) The name of a co-operative must appear in legible characters—

- (a) on its seal; and
- (b) in all notices, advertisements and other official publications of the co-operative; and
- (c) in all its business documents.

(2) If subsection (1) is contravened, the co-operative is guilty of an offence and liable to a maximum penalty of \$2 000.

(3) An officer of a co-operative or a person on its behalf must not—

- (a) use any seal of the co-operative; or
- (b) issue or authorise the issue of any notice, advertisement or other official publication of the co-operative; or
- (c) sign or authorise to be signed on behalf of the co-operative any business document of the co-operative,

in or on which the co-operative's name does not appear in legible characters.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

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(4) A director of a co-operative who knowingly authorises or permits a contravention of this section is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$2 000.

(5) In this section—

"business document", in relation to a co-operative, means a document that is issued, signed or endorsed by or on behalf of the co-operative and is—

- (a) a business letter, statement of account, invoice or order for goods or services; or
- (b) a bill of exchange, promissory note, cheque or other negotiable instrument; or
- (c) a receipt or letter of credit issued by the co-operative; or
- (d) a document of a class prescribed as a class of business documents.

Change of name of co-operative

250. (1) A co-operative may by special resolution change its name to a name approved by the Commission.

(2) A change of name must be advertised as prescribed.

(3) A change of name does not take effect until—

- (a) the Commission has noted the change on the certificate of registration of the co-operative; or
- (b) the certificate of registration is surrendered to the Commission and a replacement certificate of registration is issued in the new name.

(4) A change of name by a co-operative does not affect—

- (a) the identity of the co-operative; or
- (b) the exercise of any rights, or the enforcement of any obligations, by or against the co-operative or any person; or
- (c) the continuation of any legal proceedings by or against the co-operative.

(5) Any legal proceedings that might have been continued or commenced by or against the co-operative in its former name may be continued or commenced by or against the co-operative in its new name.

(6) The Commission may refuse to approve a change of name if—

- (a) the Commission is of the opinion that the new name is undesirable; or
- (b) the Commission is of the opinion that the name is such as is likely to be confused with the name of a body corporate or a registered business name; or
- (c) the new name does not conform with any direction of the Minister relating to the names of registered co-operatives.

Registered office of co-operative

251. (1) A co-operative must have a registered office.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(2) A co-operative must, at the premises of its registered office, publicly and conspicuously display a notice stating the name of the co-operative and identifying the premises as its registered office.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(3) Not later than 28 days after changing the address of its registered office, a co-operative must give the Commission written notice of the new address.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

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**PART 10
FUNDS AND PROPERTY**

DIVISION 1—POWER TO RAISE MONEY

Meaning of obtaining financial accommodation

252. A reference in this Division to the obtaining of financial accommodation includes a reference to the obtaining of credit and the borrowing or raising of money by any means.

Funds to be raised in accordance with Act and regulations

253. The regulations may impose requirements and restrictions on the obtaining of financial accommodation and the giving of security in connection with the obtaining of financial accommodation by a co-operative.

Limits on deposit taking

254. A co-operative must not accept money on deposit unless—

- (a) the co-operative was authorised by its rules immediately before the commencement of this Act to accept money on deposit; or
- (b) the co-operative was a deposit-taking body corporate immediately before it became a co-operative and it is authorised by its rules to accept money on deposit; or
- (c) in the case of a merged co-operative, one or more of the co-operatives involved in the merger was a deposit-taking co-operative immediately before the registration of the merged co-operative and the merged co-operative is authorised by its rules to accept money on deposit.

Members etc. not required to see to application of money

255. A member or other person from whom a co-operative obtains financial accommodation is not required to see to its application and is not affected or prejudiced by the fact that in doing so the co-operative contravened any provision of this Act or the regulations or the rules of the co-operative.

Commission's directions re fundraising

256. (1) The Commission may by written notice served on a co-operative give a direction to the co-operative as to the manner in which it is to exercise its functions in connection with the activities of the co-operative in obtaining financial accommodation.

(2) A direction under subsection (1) may make provision for any one or more of the following matters:

- (a) requiring the co-operative to cease obtaining financial accommodation or to cease obtaining financial accommodation in a particular way;
- (b) requiring the co-operative to repay in accordance with the direction all or part of financial accommodation obtained;
- (c) requiring the co-operative to re-finance in a specified manner financial accommodation repaid in accordance with the Commission's direction;
- (d) the manner in which the co-operative is permitted to invest or use the proceeds of financial accommodation it obtains.

Subordinated debt

257. (1) A co-operative may incur subordinated debt.

(2) Subordinated debt is debt incurred under an agreement under which, in the event of the winding up of the co-operative, any claim of the creditor against the co-operative in respect of the debt is to rank in priority—

- (a) equally with the claim of any other creditor who is a party to a similar agreement; and
- (b) except as provided by paragraph (a), after the claims of any other creditor of the co-operative and before the claims of members to repayment of any share capital in the co-operative.

(3) An agreement referred to in subsection (1) has effect despite the provisions of Division 6 of Part 5.6 of the *Corporations Law* (as adopted under Division 3 of Part 12 of this Act).

Application of Corporations Law to issues of debentures

258. (1) The provisions of Parts 1.2A, 7.11 and 7.12 of the *Corporations Law* are adopted by this section and apply to and in respect of debentures of a co-operative.

(2) Those provisions apply with any modifications that are prescribed and as if—

- (a) a co-operative were a company; and
- (b) a reference in those provisions to a corporation included a co-operative; and
- (c) a reference in those provisions to the Australian Securities Commission were a reference to the Corporate Affairs Commission.

(3) The provisions of the *Corporations Law* adopted by this section do not apply to a loan to which section 262 applies.

(4) The provisions of the *Corporations Law* adopted by this section do not apply to an issue of debentures of a co-operative which is made—

- (a) solely to members; or
- (b) solely to members and employees of the co-operative; or
- (c) to a person who on becoming an inactive member of the co-operative has had his or her share capital converted to debt.

(5) Expressions used in this section that are not defined in this Act have the same meaning as in the *Corporations Law*.

(6) The Commission may exempt a co-operative from any of the requirements of the *Corporations Law* adopted by this section.

Disclosure statement

259. (1) This section applies to the issue of debentures of a co-operative where the issue is made—

- (a) solely to members; or
- (b) solely to members and employees of the co-operative.

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(2) Before issuing to the person debentures to which this section applies, a co-operative must provide a person with a disclosure statement, approved by the Commission, and containing such information as is reasonably necessary to enable a person to make an informed assessment of the financial prospects of the co-operative, including—

- (a) the purpose for which the money raised by the co-operative by the issue of debentures is to be used; and
- (b) the rights and liabilities attaching to the debentures; and
- (c) the financial position of the co-operative; and
- (d) the interests of the directors of the co-operative in the issue of the debentures; and
- (e) any compensation or consideration to be paid to officers or members of the co-operative in connection with the issue of debentures; and
- (f) such other matters as the Commission directs.

(3) Sections 17 (except subsection (2)) and 29 apply to the approval of a disclosure statement under this section with any necessary modifications and in particular as if any reference in section 17 to the holding of a formation meeting were a reference to the issue of debentures.

Approval of board for transfer of debentures

260. A debenture of a co-operative cannot be sold or transferred except with the consent of the board and in accordance with the rules of the co-operative.

Application of Corporations Law—re-issue of redeemed debentures

261. Section 1051 of the *Corporations Law* is adopted by this section and applies in relation to debentures issued by a co-operative to any of its members as if a co-operative were a company.

Compulsory loan by member to co-operative

262. (1) If the rules of the co-operative so provide, the co-operative may require its members to lend money, with or without security, to the co-operative, in accordance with a proposal approved by special resolution of the co-operative.

(2) The proposal must not require a loan to be for a term exceeding 7 years or such other term as is prescribed.

(3) The proposal must—

- (a) be accompanied by a disclosure statement, approved by the Commission, that explains the purpose for which the money raised by the co-operative pursuant to the proposal is to be used and includes any other information that the Commission directs; and
- (b) clearly show the total amount of the loan to be raised by the co-operative and the basis on which the money required to be lent by each member is to be calculated; and
- (c) be accompanied by a statement informing the member that the member may inform the board by notice on or before the date specified in the statement (being a date before the passing of the special resolution) that the member resigns on the passing of the special resolution.

(4) If the proposal so allows, the board of the co-operative may, in accordance with the terms of the proposal, deduct the money required to be lent by a member to the co-operative from money due from the co-operative to the member in respect of his or her dealings with the co-operative.

(5) A proposal to deduct money referred to in subsection (4) must, in addition, clearly show—

- (a) the basis on which the money is to be deducted; and
- (b) the time and manner of making the deductions.

(6) When approved the proposal is binding on—

- (a) all members of the co-operative at the date of passing of the special resolution other than a member who has given a notice of resignation in accordance with subsection (3)(c); and
- (b) all persons who become members of the co-operative after that date and before the total amount of the loan to be raised pursuant to the proposal has been raised.

(7) Sections 17 (except subsection (2)) and 29 apply to the approval of a disclosure statement under this section with any necessary modifications and in particular as if any reference in section 17 to the holding of a formation meeting were a reference to the special resolution.

Interest payable on compulsory loan

263. (1) The rate of interest payable by a co-operative in respect of a loan under section 262 during any period is—

- (a) in the case of a co-operative with share capital—
 - (i) at the rate (or, if there is more than one rate, at the higher or highest rate) of dividend payable in respect of that period on the share capital of the co-operative; or
 - (ii) if the rate of dividend payable in respect of that period has not been determined—at the rate (or the higher or highest rate) payable in respect of the immediately preceding period for which a rate has been determined; or
 - (iii) if a rate of dividend has never been determined in respect of the share capital of the co-operative—at the rate that the board of the co-operative considers reasonable; or
- (b) in the case of a co-operative without share capital—at the rate that the board of the co-operative considers reasonable; or
- (c) if the rules provide for a rate to be payable that is higher than the rate applicable under paragraph (a) or (b)—at that higher rate.

(2) A member may agree to the rate of interest being less than that which would otherwise be payable under this section and may agree to no interest being paid.

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DIVISION 2—CHARGES**Registration of charges**

264. Schedule 3 has effect but does not apply to—

- (a) a mortgage, charge or encumbrance that is over specific land and is registered under the *Real Property Act 1886*; or
- (b) a mortgage, charge or encumbrance over a specific licence under the laws relating to mining.

DIVISION 3—RECEIVERS AND OTHER CONTROLLERS OF PROPERTY OF CO-OPERATIVES**Receivers and other controllers of property of co-operatives**

265. Schedule 4 has effect.

DIVISION 4—DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS FROM ACTIVITIES**Retention of surplus for benefit of co-operative**

266. The board of a co-operative may resolve to retain all or any part of the surplus arising in any year from the business of the co-operative to be applied for the benefit of the co-operative.

Application for charitable purposes or members' purposes

267. (1) The rules of a co-operative may authorise the co-operative to apply a part of the surplus arising in any year from the business of the co-operative for any charitable purpose.

(2) The rules of a trading co-operative may authorise the co-operative to apply a part of the surplus arising in any year from the business of the co-operative for supporting any activity approved by the co-operative.

(3) The rules must limit the amount that may be applied under subsection (1) or (2) to a specified proportion of the surplus.

(4) A co-operative may apply part of the surplus for a purpose and to the extent authorised by rules under subsection (1) or (2).

Distribution of surplus or reserves to members

268. (1) The rules of a trading co-operative may authorise the co-operative to apply a part of the surplus arising in any year from the business of the co-operative or a part of the reserves of the co-operative by—

- (a) distribution to members as a rebate on the basis of business done with the co-operative; or
- (b) the issue of bonus shares to members; or
- (c) the issue to members of a limited dividend.

(2) The amount of any rebate or dividend payable to a member under subsection (1) may, with the consent of the member, be applied—

- (a) in payment for the issue to the member of bonus shares; or
- (b) as a loan to the co-operative.

(3) In this section—

"limited dividend" means a dividend that does not exceed the prescribed amount.

Application of surplus to other persons

269. (1) If authorised by its rules, any part of the surplus arising in any year from the business of a trading co-operative may be credited to any person who is not a member, but is qualified to be a member, by way of rebate in proportion to the business done by him or her with the co-operative, if—

- (a) the person was a member at the time the business was done and the membership has lapsed; or
- (b) the person has applied for membership after the business was done.

(2) Nothing in this section precludes the payment of a bonus to an employee in accordance with the terms of his or her employment.

DIVISION 5—ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

Acquisition and disposal of assets

270. (1) A co-operative must not do any of the following things except as approved by special resolution by means of a special postal ballot:

- (a) sell or lease as a going concern, the undertaking of the co-operative or a part of the undertaking that relates to its primary activities the value of which represents 5 per cent or more of the total value of the undertaking;
- (b) acquire from or dispose to a director or employee of the co-operative, or a relative (within the meaning of the *Corporations Law*) of such a director or employee or of the spouse of such a director or employee, of any property the value of which represents 5 per cent or more of the total value of all the assets of the co-operative that relate to its primary activities;
- (c) acquire an asset the value of which exceeds 5 per cent or more of the assets of the co-operative if the acquisition would result in the co-operative commencing to carry on an activity that is not one of its primary activities;
- (d) dispose of an asset if the disposal would result in the co-operative ceasing to carry on any primary activity of the co-operative, or in the ability of the co-operative to carry on any primary activity of the co-operative being substantially impaired either generally or in a particular geographical region.

(2) The Commission may by order in writing exempt a co-operative from compliance with all or specified provisions of this section and section 195 in relation to any matter to which this section applies and may grant that exemption unconditionally or subject to conditions.

(3) If a co-operative contravenes this section, each person who is a member of the board of the co-operative is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$6 000 unless the person satisfies the court that he or she used all due diligence to prevent the contravention by the co-operative.

PART 11
RESTRICTIONS ON THE ACQUISITION OF INTERESTS IN CO-OPERATIVES

DIVISION 1—RESTRICTIONS ON SHARE AND VOTING INTERESTS

Application of Part

271. This Part applies to trading co-operatives.

Notice required to be given of voting interest

272. (1) A person (whether or not a member of the co-operative) must give notice to a co-operative within 5 business days after becoming aware that the person has a relevant interest in the right to vote of a member of the co-operative.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(2) A person (whether or not a member of the co-operative) who has ceased to have a relevant interest in the right to vote of a member of a co-operative must give notice to the co-operative within 5 business days after becoming aware of that fact.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(3) Section 181 provides for the effect of a person having a relevant interest in the right to vote of a member of a co-operative.

Notice required to be given of substantial share interest

273. (1) A person must give notice to a co-operative within 5 business days after becoming aware that the person has a substantial share interest in the co-operative.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(2) A person who has a substantial share interest in a co-operative must give notice to the co-operative within 5 business days after becoming aware that a substantial change has occurred in that share interest.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(3) A person who has ceased to have a substantial share interest in a co-operative must give notice to the co-operative within 5 business days after becoming aware that the person has ceased to have that interest.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(4) A person has a "**substantial share interest**" in a co-operative if the nominal value of the shares in the co-operative in which the person has a relevant interest represents 5 per cent or more of the nominal value of the issued share capital of the co-operative.

(5) A "**substantial change**" takes place in a person's share interest in a co-operative if there is an increase or decrease in the number of shares in the co-operative in which the person has a relevant interest and the increase or decrease represents at least 1 per cent of the nominal value of the issued share capital of the co-operative.

Requirements for notices

274. A notice required under this Division must—

(a) be in the form approved by the Commission; and

- (b) specify the prescribed particulars of the interest or change being notified.

Maximum permissible level of share interest

275. (1) A person must not have a relevant interest in shares of a co-operative the nominal value of which exceeds 20 per cent of the nominal value of the issued share capital of the co-operative.

(2) The Commission, by order published in the *Gazette*, may specify a maximum greater than 20 per cent as the maximum for the purposes of subsection (1) in respect of a particular person, a particular co-operative, a particular class of co-operatives or co-operatives generally.

(3) On the making of an order under subsection (2) the percentage is varied accordingly.

(4) The maximum of 20 per cent specified by subsection (1) may be increased in respect of a particular person by special resolution of the co-operative concerned passed by means of a special postal ballot.

(5) A resolution under subsection (4) does not have effect unless—

- (a) it is approved by the Commission; or
- (b) the person concerned is another co-operative.

Shares to be forfeited to remedy contravention

276. (1) If a person has a relevant interest in a share of a co-operative in contravention of this Division, the board of the co-operative must declare to be forfeited sufficient of the shares in which the person has a relevant interest to remedy the contravention.

(2) The shares to be forfeited are—

- (a) the shares nominated by the person for the purpose; or
- (b) in the absence of such a nomination, the shares in which the person has had a relevant interest for the shortest time.

(3) A declaration of the board that shares are forfeited operates to forfeit the shares concerned.

(4) Sections 133 to 135 apply to and in respect of shares forfeited under this section as if the shares had been forfeited under Part 6.

Powers of board in response to suspected contravention

277. (1) If the board of a co-operative is satisfied on reasonable grounds that a person has contravened section 272 in respect of the co-operative, the board may do either or both of the following:

- (a) refuse to register any share transfer involving the person;
- (b) suspend any specified rights or entitlements that a person has as a member of the co-operative or attaching to any shares of the co-operative in which the person has a relevant interest.

(2) The board may request a person who it suspects has a relevant interest in any shares of the co-operative to furnish specified information to the board concerning that interest.

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(3) A failure by a person to comply with a request under subsection (2) constitutes reasonable grounds for being satisfied that the person has contravened section 272.

Powers of Supreme Court with respect to contravention

278. (1) If a person has contravened section 272 in respect of a co-operative, the Supreme Court may, on the application of the co-operative or the Commission, make any order or orders that it thinks just.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the orders may include—

- (a) a remedial order; and
- (b) for the purpose of securing compliance with any other order made under this section, an order directing the co-operative or any other person to do or refrain from doing a specified act.

(3) An order may be made whether or not the contravention continues.

(4) Proof to the satisfaction of the Supreme Court at the hearing of an application that—

- (a) a person has a relevant interest in a share of a co-operative because an associate of the person has a relevant interest in a share; and
- (b) the associate became entitled to that relevant interest within 6 months before the application was filed with the Supreme Court,

is evidence that the associate was an associate of the person from the time the person first had the relevant interest until the date of the hearing.

Co-operative to inform Commission of interest over 20 per cent

279. (1) A co-operative must inform the Commission in writing within 14 days after the board becomes aware that—

- (a) a particular person has a relevant interest in shares of the co-operative the nominal value of which exceeds 20 per cent of the nominal value of the issued share capital of the co-operative; or
- (b) there has been a change in the number of shares in which such a person holds a relevant interest.

(2) The notification must give details of the relevant interest concerned or of the change concerned.

Co-operative to keep register

280. (1) A co-operative must keep a register of notifiable interests.

(2) The co-operative must enter in the register in alphabetical order the names of persons from whom the co-operative has received a notification under this Division together with the information contained in the notification.

(3) The register must be open for inspection—

- (a) by any member of the co-operative free of charge; and

- (b) by any other person on payment of the fee (if any) that the co-operative may require, not exceeding the prescribed maximum fee.

Unlisted companies to provide list of shareholders

281. (1) This section applies to a company (within the meaning of the *Corporations Law*) that is not a listed corporation (within the meaning of that Law).

(2) A company to which this section applies that is a member of a co-operative must furnish to the co-operative a list showing—

- (a) the name of each member of the company as at the end of the financial year of the company and the number of shares in the company held by each member; and
- (b) the name of each person who has a relevant interest (within the meaning of the *Corporations Law*) in any share of the company together with details of that interest; and
- (c) the name of each person who is an associate (within the meaning of the *Corporations Law*) of the company.

(3) A list under subsection (2) must be furnished within 28 days after the end of each financial year of the company and within 28 days after a request for the list is made in writing to the company by the Commission.

(4) The details to be shown on the list are those details as at the end of the financial year concerned or, if the list is provided at the request of the Commission, as at the date specified in the request.

(5) The Commission may make a request under subsection (3) at any time but only if the Commission is of the opinion that the company is or may be involved in a suspected contravention of a provision of this Division.

Excess share interest not to affect loan liability

282. (1) This section applies if a co-operative has made a loan to a member and the member had or has a relevant interest in shares of the co-operative in contravention of this Division.

(2) Until the amount lent to the member has been repaid to the co-operative (with any interest payable), the member is liable to make to the co-operative the payments which the member would be liable to make if all the shares concerned were lawfully held by the member.

(3) Any security for the repayment of the loan is not affected by a contravention of this Division.

Extent of operation of Division

283. This Division—

- (a) applies to all natural persons, whether resident in South Australia or in Australia or not and whether Australian citizens or not, and to all bodies corporate or unincorporated, whether incorporated or carrying on business in the State or in Australia or not; and
- (b) extends to acts done or omitted to be done outside the State, whether in Australia or not.

Commission may grant exemption from Division

284. (1) The Commission may grant exemptions from the operation of this Division in a particular case or class of cases.

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- (2) An exemption must be in writing and may be unconditional or subject to conditions.

DIVISION 2—RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN SHARE OFFERS**Share offers to which Division applies**

285. (1) This Division applies to the following offers to purchase shares in a co-operative:

- (a) an offer made as part of a proposal for, or that is conditional on, the sale of the undertaking or any part of the undertaking, as a going concern, of the co-operative;
- (b) an offer made as part of a proposal for, or that is conditional on, the registration of the co-operative as a company under the *Corporations Law*;
- (c) an offer made as part of a proposal for, or that is conditional on, the winding-up of the co-operative;
- (d) an offer that would result in a contravention of section 275 were the offerer to be registered (immediately after the offer is made) as the holder of the shares that are the subject of the offer;
- (e) an offer that would lead to the offerer having a substantial share interest in the co-operative, or to a substantial change taking place in a substantial share interest that the offerer has in the co-operative, were the offerer to be registered (immediately after the offer is made) as the holder of the shares that are the subject of the offer.

(2) In subsection (1)(e), "substantial share interest" and "substantial change" have the same meanings as they have in section 273.

Requirements to be satisfied before offer can be made

286. (1) A person must not make an offer to which this Division applies unless the making of the offer has been approved—

- (a) by special resolution by means of a special postal ballot; and
- (b) by the Commission.

(2) Despite subsection (1), an offer referred to in section 285(1)(e) can be made even if it has not been approved as referred to in that subsection if it is made in circumstances specified in and in accordance with the requirements of the regulations.

Some offers totally prohibited if they discriminate

287. An offer referred to in section 285(1)(a) to (d) must not be made at all if it operates or would operate to discriminate between members who are active members and members who are not active members.

Offers to be submitted to board first

288. (1) Any proposal to make an offer to which this Division applies must in the first instance be submitted to the board of the co-operative.

(2) The board may decline to put a proposed offer to a special postal ballot unless arrangements satisfactory to the board have been made for payment to the co-operative of the expenses involved in holding the ballot.

- (3) The board may require payment in advance under subsection (2).

(4) A requisition for a special postal ballot for the purposes of this Division cannot be served unless and until the board has had a reasonable opportunity to consider the proposed offer concerned.

(5) A period of 28 days is to be considered to constitute a reasonable opportunity for considering a proposed offer but the Commission may extend that period in a particular case by written notice to the co-operative.

Announcements of proposed takeovers concerning proposed company

289. (1) This section applies to an offer to purchase shares in a co-operative made as part of a proposal for, or that is conditional on, the registration of the co-operative as a company ("**the proposed company**") under the *Corporations Law*.

(2) A person must not make a public announcement to the effect that the person proposes, or that the person and another person or other persons together propose, to make takeover offers, or to cause a takeover announcement to be made, in relation to the proposed company if—

- (a) the person knows that the announcement is false or is recklessly indifferent as to whether it is true or false; or
- (b) the person has no reasonable grounds for believing that the person, or the person and the other person or persons, will be able to perform obligations arising under the scheme or announcement or under the *Corporations Law* in connection with the scheme or announcement if a substantial proportion of the offers or the offers made under the announcement are accepted.

Maximum penalty: \$20 000 or imprisonment for 5 years, or both.

(3) If a person makes a public announcement to the effect that the person proposes, or that the person and another person or other persons together propose, to make a takeover bid in relation to the proposed company, the person must proceed to make a takeover bid in relation to shares in the company in accordance with the public announcement within 2 months after the day on which the company is incorporated.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000 or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

(4) A person is not liable to be convicted of more than one offence under subsection (3) in respect of any one public announcement.

(5) A person who contravenes this section (whether or not the person is convicted of an offence for the contravention) is liable to pay compensation to any other person who suffered loss as a result of entering into a transaction with respect to shares in reliance on the public announcement concerned.

(6) The amount of that compensation is the difference between the price of the shares at which the transaction was entered into and the price of the shares at which the transaction would have been likely to have been entered into if the person had not made the public announcement.

(7) A person is not guilty of an offence for a contravention of subsection (3) and is not liable to pay compensation in respect of the contravention if it is proved that the person could not reasonably have been expected to make the takeover bid concerned—

- (a) as a result of circumstances that existed at the time of the making of the public announcement but of which the person had no knowledge and could not reasonably have been expected to have knowledge; or

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- (b) as a result of a change in circumstances after the making of the announcement, other than a change in circumstances caused directly or indirectly by the person.

(9) Expressions used in this section have the same meanings as in section 746 of the *Corporations Law*.

Additional disclosure requirements for offers involving conversion to company

290. If an offer is part of a proposal for, or is conditional on, the registration of the co-operative as a company under the *Corporations Law*, the disclosure statement required to be sent to members for the purposes of the special postal ballot must contain the following additional information:

- (a) full particulars of any proposal whereby any of the directors will acquire a relevant interest in any share of the company to be formed;
- (b) any other information that is material to the making of a decision by a member whether or not to agree to the making of the offer, being information that is within the knowledge of the directors and has not previously been disclosed to the members;
- (c) any other information that the Commission directs.

Consequences of prohibited offer

291. (1) If a person makes an offer to purchase shares in a co-operative in contravention of this Division—

- (a) the person is not entitled to be registered as the holder of the shares concerned; and
- (b) if the transfer of the shares is registered, the person is not entitled to vote at any meeting of the co-operative.

(2) Any vote cast by or on behalf of a member when the member is not entitled to vote because of the operation of this section is to be disregarded.

Commission may grant exemptions

292. The Commission may, by order in writing, exempt a co-operative from compliance with all or specified provisions of this Division and section 195 in relation to any matter to which this Division applies and may grant such an exemption unconditionally or subject to conditions.

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**PART 12
MERGER, TRANSFER OF ENGAGEMENTS, WINDING UP****DIVISION 1—MERGERS AND TRANSFERS OF ENGAGEMENTS****Application of Division**

293. This Division does not apply to a merger or transfer of engagements to which Part 14 applies.

Mergers and transfers of engagements of local co-operatives

294. Any 2 or more co-operatives may consolidate all or any of their assets liabilities and undertakings by way of merger or transfer of engagements approved under this Division.

Requirements before application can be made

295. (1) Before co-operatives can apply for approval under this Division of a merger or transfer of engagements, the proposed merger or transfer must have been approved by each of the co-operatives by—

- (a) a special resolution passed by means of a special postal ballot; or
- (b) (if permitted by subsection (2)) a resolution of the board of the co-operative.

(2) The proposed merger or transfer of engagements may be approved by resolution of the board of a co-operative if the Commission consents to that procedure applying in the particular case.

Disclosure statement required

296. (1) A resolution of a co-operative is not effective for the purposes of this Division unless this section has been complied with.

(2) Each co-operative must send to each of its members a disclosure statement approved by the Commission specifying—

- (a) the financial position of each co-operative concerned in the proposed merger or transfer of engagements as shown in financial statements that have been prepared as at a date that is not more than 6 months before the date of the statement; and
- (b) any interest that any officer of each co-operative has in the proposed merger or transfer of engagements; and
- (c) any compensation or other consideration proposed to be paid, or any other incentive proposed to be given, to any officer or member of each co-operative in relation to the proposed merger or transfer of engagements; and
- (d) whether the proposal is a merger or transfer of engagements and the reason for the merger or transfer of engagements; and
- (e) in the case of a transfer of engagements, whether it is a total or partial transfer of engagements; and
- (f) any other information that the Commission directs.

(3) The disclosure statement must be sent to the members of each co-operative so that it will in the ordinary course of post reach each member who is entitled to vote on the special resolution not later than 21 days before the day on or before which the ballot papers must be returned by members voting in the special postal ballot.

(4) The Commission may exempt a co-operative from complying with this section.

(5) The Commission may grant an exemption, or approve a disclosure statement, subject to any conditions that the Commission considers appropriate.

Making an application

297. (1) An application for approval of a merger or transfer of engagements under this Division must be made to the Commission in the manner and form required by the Commission.

(2) An application for approval of a merger must be accompanied by 2 copies of the proposed rules of the merged co-operative and any other particulars required by the Commission.

Approval of merger

298. (1) The Commission must approve a merger pursuant to an application under this Division if satisfied that—

- (a) this Division has been complied with in relation to the application; and
- (b) the proposed rules of the merged co-operative are consistent with this Act and the regulations and are such that may reasonably be approved; and
- (c) the certificates of registration of the co-operatives have been surrendered to the Commission or have been lost or destroyed; and
- (d) there is no good reason why the merged co-operative and its rules should not be registered.

(2) On approving an application for merger, the Commission must—

- (a) cancel the registration of the co-operatives involved in the merger; and
- (b) register the merged co-operative and its rules; and
- (c) issue to the merged co-operative a certificate of registration under this Act.

(3) A merger takes effect on the issue of the certificate of registration for the merged co-operative.

Approval of transfer of engagements

299. (1) The Commission must approve a transfer of engagements pursuant to an application under this Division if satisfied that—

- (a) this Division has been complied with in relation to the application; and
- (b) the rules or proposed rules of the transferee co-operative are adequate; and
- (c) in the case of a total transfer of engagements from a co-operative, the certificate of registration of the co-operative has been surrendered to the Commission or has been lost or destroyed; and

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(d) there is no good reason why the transfer of engagements should not take effect.

(2) A transfer of engagements takes effect on the day specified in the approval of the Commission.

Transfer of engagements by direction of Commission

300. (1) The Commission may, with the approval of the Minister, direct a co-operative—

(a) to transfer its engagements to a co-operative approved by the Commission; and

(b) within a period specified by the Commission when giving the direction or within such further period as the Commission may allow, to enter into an agreement approved by the Commission to give effect to the transfer of engagements directed.

(2) The Commission must not give such a direction to a co-operative unless the necessary grounds exist for the giving of the direction, as referred to in section 331.

(3) The transfer of engagements must make provision in a manner approved by the Commission for those members of the transferor co-operative who wish to do so to become members of the transferee co-operative.

(4) If a co-operative fails to comply with a direction under this section, the Commission may elect to treat the failure as the necessary grounds—

(a) for the winding up of the co-operative on a certificate of the Commission; or

(b) for the appointing of an administrator of the co-operative.

(5) The Commission must notify the co-operative of the Commission's decision under subsection (4).

(6) The Commission may revoke a direction under this section at any time up until the co-operative has agreed pursuant to the direction to transfer its engagements.

(7) A transfer of engagements directed under this section takes effect on a day notified by the Commission in the *Gazette*.

(8) An officer of a co-operative who—

(a) fails to take all reasonable steps to secure compliance by the co-operative with a direction given under this section; or

(b) by a wilful act or omission is the cause of a failure by the co-operative to comply with such a direction,

is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$2 000.

DIVISION 2—TRANSFER OF INCORPORATION**Application for transfer**

301. A co-operative, if approved under this Division, may apply to become incorporated as—

(a) a company under the *Corporations Law*; or

- (b) a body corporate that is incorporated, registered or otherwise established under a law that is prescribed for the purposes of this section.

Requirements before application can be made

302. (1) Before an application is made under section 301, the co-operative must by special resolution passed by means of a special postal ballot—

- (a) approve the proposed application; and
- (b) determine under what name the co-operative is to apply to be incorporated; and
- (c) adopt any memorandum or articles of association or rules that may be necessary or considered desirable.

(2) The name applied for need not be the same as that of the co-operative and must not include the word "co-operative" or any other word importing a similar meaning.

(3) The Commission may exempt a co-operative from compliance with all or specified provisions of this section and section 195 in relation to any matter to which this section applies.

(4) An exemption under subsection (3) may be granted unconditionally or subject to conditions.

Meaning of "new body" and "transfer"

303. The incorporation of a co-operative as a result of an application under this Division is referred to in this Division as its "**transfer**" and the body corporate concerned is referred to in this Division as "**the new body**".

New body ceases to be registered as co-operative

304. On the transfer of a co-operative under this Division, it ceases to be registered as a co-operative under this Act.

Transfer not to impose greater liability etc.

305. (1) Any memorandum or articles of association adopted for the purposes of the transfer must not be such as to—

- (a) impose on the members of the new body who were members of the co-operative at the date of transfer any greater or different liability to contribute to the assets of the new body than the liability to which they were subject as members of the co-operative; or
- (b) deprive any member of the new body of any preferential rights with respect to dividend or capital to which the member was entitled as a member of the co-operative at the date of transfer.

(2) The transfer must result in all persons who were members of the co-operative at the date of transfer becoming members of the new body.

(3) In the case of a transfer of a co-operative that has a share capital to a new body that has a share capital, the transfer must result in every member of the co-operative at the date of transfer who held shares in the co-operative being the holder of shares in the capital of the new body equal in number and nominal value to the shares held by the member as a member of the co-operative.

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Effect of new certificate of registration

306. A certificate of incorporation as the new body issued by the appropriate officer under the law applicable to the new body is conclusive evidence that all the requirements of this Division in respect of that incorporation have been complied with.

New body is a continuation of the co-operative

307. (1) When a co-operative transfers to a new body, the body corporate constituted by the new body is to be considered to be the same entity as the body corporate constituted by the co-operative.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), Division 6 applies to a transfer under this Division.

Stamp duty

308. (1) This section applies when a co-operative that transfers under this Division was before its registration as a co-operative under this Act a company under the *Corporations Law* or any corresponding previous law of the State and stamp duty had been paid on its incorporation as such a company in respect of the amount of the nominal capital of the company (or if subsequently increased on the amount of its nominal capital as so increased).

(2) Any stamp duty so paid is to be taken into account and included in assessing the stamp duty payable on its incorporation pursuant to the transfer.

DIVISION 3—WINDING UP**Methods of winding up**

309. (1) A co-operative may be wound up voluntarily or by the Supreme Court or on a certificate of the Commission.

(2) In the case of a winding up voluntarily or by the Supreme Court, the co-operative may be wound up in the same manner and in the same circumstances as a company under the *Corporations Law* may be so wound up.

Winding up on Commission's certificate

310. (1) A co-operative may be wound up on a certificate of the Commission only if the necessary grounds for the taking of that action exist, as referred to in section 331.

(2) A winding up on a certificate of the Commission commences when the certificate is given.

(3) On the giving of a certificate, the Commission may appoint a person to be the liquidator of the co-operative.

(4) The liquidator need not be a registered liquidator under the *Corporations Law*.

(5) The liquidator must within 10 days after appointment give notice of his or her appointment in the *Gazette*.

(6) The liquidator must give such security as may be prescribed and is entitled to receive such fees as are fixed by the Commission.

(7) Any vacancy occurring in the office of liquidator is to be filled by a person appointed by the Commission.

Application of Corporations Law to winding up

311. (1) The provisions of Parts 5.4 to 5.7 and Part 9.7 of the *Corporations Law* with respect to the winding up or dissolution of a company under that Law are adopted by this section and apply to the winding up or dissolution of a co-operative.

(2) For the purposes of the application of those provisions to a winding up on the certificate of the Commission, the winding up is to be considered to be a voluntary winding up (but section 490 of the *Corporations Law* does not apply).

(3) Provisions of the *Corporations Law* are adopted with any modifications that are prescribed and as if—

- (a) a reference in any of those provisions to a special resolution or an extraordinary resolution were a reference to a special resolution within the meaning of this Act;
- (b) a reference in any of those provisions to the Australian Securities Commission were a reference to the Corporate Affairs Commission;
- (c) a reference in section 461 to a proprietary company were a reference to an association or federation;
- (d) section 513B were amended by inserting after paragraph (d) the following paragraph:
 - (da) if the winding up is on the certificate of the Commission—on the date that the certificate is given; or;
- (e) section 516 were amended by inserting "together with any charges payable by him or her to the co-operative in accordance with the rules" after "past member";
- (f) a reference to a registered liquidator included a reference to a person approved by the Commission as a liquidator of a co-operative;
- (g) a reference in any of those provisions to section 260 of the *Corporations Law* were a reference to Division 5 of Part 4 of this Act;
- (h) the following provision were inserted in Part 9.7 before section 1339:

Co-operatives Liquidation Account

1338. (1) The *Co-operatives Liquidation Account* established under Division 3 of Part 6 of the *Co-operatives Act 1983* of South Australia continues in existence under this Part.

(2) The Account must continue to be kept in a separate account at the Treasury.;

- (i) a reference in Part 9.7 to an unclaimed money account were a reference to the Co-operatives Liquidation Account;
- (j) section 1339 were amended—
 - (i) by striking out from subsection (2) "as permitted by subsection 142(2) of the *Australian Securities Commission Act 1989*" and substituting "under subsection (4)";

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(ii) by striking out subsections (3) and (4) and substituting the following subsections:

(3) Money in the Co-operatives Liquidation Account that is not immediately required for the payment of claims under section 1341 may be invested by the Treasurer on such terms and conditions as the Treasurer thinks fit with a prescribed person or body.

(4) The Treasurer must pay income derived from the investment of money in the Co-operatives Liquidation Account into the Consolidated Account.;

(k) section 1341 were amended by striking out "or subsection 1339(3)";

(l) a reference in section 1341 to the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Commonwealth were a reference to the Consolidated Account of the State;

(m) a reference in section 1341 to the Parliament of the Commonwealth were a reference to the Parliament of South Australia;

(n) a reference in section 1341 to the Court were a reference to the District Court;

(o) a reference in section 1342 to the Commonwealth were a reference to the Crown in right of the State.

(4) The provisions of the *Corporations Law* adopted by this section are to be read subject to sections 71 and 317 for the purposes of determining the liability of members and former members to contribute on a winding up of a co-operative.

Restrictions on voluntary winding up

312. (1) A co-operative may be wound up voluntarily only—

(a) by a creditors' voluntary winding up; or

(b) if a special resolution is passed by means of a special postal ballot in favour of voluntary winding up.

(2) The Commission may by order exempt a co-operative from compliance with all or specified provisions of this section or section 195.

(3) An exemption under subsection (2) may be granted either unconditionally or subject to conditions.

(4) When a special postal ballot is held, the members may, by means of the same ballot, by simple majority—

(a) appoint one or more liquidators for the purpose of winding up the affairs and distributing the assets of the co-operative; and

(b) fix the remuneration to be paid to the liquidator.

Commencement of members' voluntary winding up

313. A members' voluntary winding up of a co-operative commences when the result of the special postal ballot is noted in the minute book by the secretary of the co-operative.

Distribution of surplus—non-trading co-operatives

314. (1) On a winding up of a non-trading co-operative, the surplus property of the co-operative must be distributed as required by the rules of the co-operative.

(2) The rules of a non-trading co-operative must make provision for the manner in which the surplus property of the co-operative is to be distributed in a winding up.

(3) In this section—

"**surplus property**" means that property of the co-operative that remains after satisfaction of the debts and liabilities of the co-operative and the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up.

Liquidator vacancy may be filled by Commission

315. If a co-operative is being wound up voluntarily and a vacancy occurs in the office of liquidator which in the opinion of the Commission is unlikely to be filled in the manner provided by the *Corporations Law*, the Commission may appoint a person to be liquidator.

Review of liquidator's remuneration

316. Any member or creditor of a co-operative or the liquidator may at any time before the completion of the winding up of the co-operative apply to the Supreme Court to review the amount of the remuneration of the liquidator.

Liability of member to contribute in a winding up where shares are forfeited etc.

317. (1) If a person's membership of a co-operative is cancelled under Part 6 within 2 years before the commencement of the winding up of the co-operative, the person is liable on the winding up to contribute to the property of the co-operative the nominal value of any shares forfeited in connection with that cancellation (being their nominal value immediately before cancellation).

(2) If under section 171 a co-operative—

(a) purchases any share of a member in the co-operative; or

(b) repays to a member the whole or any part of the amount paid up on any share held by a member,

within 2 years before the commencement of the winding up of the co-operative, the member or former member is liable on the winding up to contribute to the property of the co-operative the amount which was paid by the co-operative to the member or former member in respect of the purchase or repayment together with any amount unpaid on those shares immediately before the purchase or repayment.

(3) If a person contributes to the property of a co-operative pursuant to a liability under this section, the amount contributed is, for the purposes of the winding up concerned, to be treated as having been paid up by the person on shares of the co-operative.

(4) The liability of a member or former member of a co-operative under this section is in addition to any other liability of the member or former member to contribute to the property of the co-operative on a winding up of the co-operative.

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DIVISION 4—ADMINISTRATION OF CO-OPERATIVE—ADOPTION OF CORPORATIONS LAW**Adoption of Part 5.3A of Corporations Law**

318. (1) The provisions of Part 5.3A and Division 3 of Part 5.9 of the *Corporations Law* are adopted by this section and apply to and in respect of a co-operative as if it were a company.

(2) Those provisions apply with any modifications that are prescribed and as if—

- (a) references in those provisions to sections 164 and 166 of the *Corporations Law* were references to sections 43 to 45 and 47 of this Act;
- (b) references in those provisions to the Australian Securities Commission were references to the Corporate Affairs Commission.

DIVISION 5—APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR**Appointment of administrator**

319. (1) The Commission may, by written notice, appoint an administrator to conduct the affairs of a co-operative.

(2) A notice of appointment must specify—

- (a) the date of appointment; and
- (b) the appointee's name; and
- (c) the appointee's business address.

(3) If the appointee's name or business address changes, the appointee must immediately give written notice of the change to the Commission.

(4) The Commission must not appoint an administrator unless the necessary grounds for the taking of that action exist, as referred to in section 331.

Effect of appointment of administrator

320. (1) On the appointment of an administrator of a co-operative—

- (a) the directors of the co-operative cease to hold office; and
- (b) all contracts of employment with the co-operative are terminated; and
- (c) all contracts for the provision of secretarial or administrative services for the co-operative are terminated; and
- (d) the administrator may terminate any contract for providing other services to the co-operative.

(2) An administrator of a co-operative has the functions of the board of the co-operative, including the board's powers of delegation.

(3) A director of a co-operative must not be appointed or elected while the administrator is in office except as provided by this Division.

Revocation of appointment

321. (1) An administrator holds office until the administrator's appointment is revoked.

(2) The Commission may, by written notice, revoke the appointment of an administrator.

(3) When a liquidator of a co-operative is appointed, the appointment of any administrator of the co-operative is automatically revoked.

(4) Immediately on the revocation of an administrator's appointment, the administrator must prepare and submit a report to the Commission showing how the administration was carried out, and for that purpose an administrator has access to the co-operative's records and documents.

(5) On providing the report and accounting fully in relation to the administration of the co-operative to the satisfaction of the Commission, the administrator is released from any further duty to account in relation to the administration of the co-operative other than on account of fraud, dishonesty, negligence or wilful failure to comply with this Act or the regulations.

(6) Before revoking the appointment of an administrator of a co-operative, the Commission must—

- (a) appoint another administrator; or
- (b) appoint a liquidator; or
- (c) ensure that directors of the co-operative have been elected in accordance with the rules of the co-operative at a meeting convened by the administrator in accordance with those rules; or
- (d) appoint directors of the co-operative.

(7) Directors elected or appointed under subsection (6)—

- (a) take office on revocation of the administrator's appointment; and
- (b) in the case of directors appointed under subsection (6), hold office until the next annual general meeting of the co-operative after the revocation of that appointment.

Expenses of administration

322. (1) The expenses of and incidental to the conduct of a co-operative's affairs by an administrator are payable from the co-operative's funds.

(2) The expenses of conducting a co-operative's affairs include—

- (a) if the administrator is not an officer or employee of the public service—remuneration of the administrator at a rate approved by the Commission; or
- (b) if the administrator is an officer or employee of the public service—the amount that the Commission certifies should be paid to it as repayment of the administrator's remuneration.

(3) An amount certified under subsection (2)(b) may be recovered in a court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due to the Crown.

(4) An administrator has, in relation to the expenses specified in subsection (1), the same priority on the winding up of a co-operative as the liquidator of the co-operative has.

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Liabilities arising from administration

323. (1) If a co-operative incurs any loss because of any fraud, dishonesty, negligence or wilful failure to comply with this Act or the regulations or the rules of the co-operative by an administrator, the administrator is liable for the loss.

(2) An administrator is not liable for any loss that is not a loss to which subsection (1) applies but must account for the loss in a report given under section 321.

Additional powers of Commission

324. (1) If the Commission appoints directors of a co-operative under section 321, the Commission may, by written notice given to the co-operative, specify—

- (a) a time during which this section is to apply in relation to the co-operative; and
- (b) the terms and conditions on which all or any of the directors hold office; and
- (c) the rules that are to be the co-operative's rules.

(2) While this section applies to a co-operative, the Commission may—

- (a) from time to time remove and appoint directors; and
- (b) from time to time, vary, revoke or specify new terms and conditions in place of all or any of the terms and conditions specified under subsection (1); and
- (c) amend all or any of the rules specified under subsection (1).

(3) The Commission may, by written notice given to the co-operative, extend the time for which this section is to apply in relation to a co-operative.

(4) A rule specified by the Commission under this section as a rule of a co-operative—

- (a) is not to be altered except in the way set out in this section; and
- (b) if it is inconsistent with any other rule of the co-operative, prevails over the other rule, and the other rule is to the extent of the inconsistency invalid; and
- (c) has the same evidentiary value as is by this Act accorded to the co-operative's rules and to copies of them.

Stay of proceedings

325. (1) If the Commission appoints an administrator to conduct a co-operative's affairs, a person must not begin or continue any proceeding in a court against the co-operative until the administrator's appointment is revoked except with the leave of the Supreme Court and, if the Supreme Court grants leave, in accordance with any terms and conditions that the Supreme Court imposes.

(2) A person intending to apply for leave of the Supreme Court under subsection (1) must give the Commission not less than 10 days' notice of intention to apply.

(3) On the hearing of an application under subsection (1), the Commission may be represented and may oppose the granting of the application.

Administrator to report to Commission

326. On the receipt of a request from the Commission, the administrator of a co-operative must, without delay, prepare and give to the Commission a report showing how the administration is being carried out.

DIVISION 6—EFFECT OF MERGER ETC. ON PROPERTY, LIABILITIES ETC.

How this Division applies to a merger

327. (1) This Division applies to a merger of co-operatives under this Part.

(2) In the application of this Division to a merger—

"**new body**" means the co-operative that results from the merger;

"**original body**" means each co-operative that is a party to the merger;

"**relevant day**" means the day on which the merged co-operative is registered under this Act.

How this Division applies to a transfer of engagements

328. (1) This Division applies to a transfer of the engagements of a co-operative to another co-operative under Division 1.

(2) In the application of this Division to a transfer of engagements—

"**new body**" means the co-operative to which the engagements are transferred;

"**original body**" means the co-operative that transfers its engagements;

"**relevant day**" means the day on which the transfer of engagements takes effect.

How this Division applies to a transfer of incorporation

329. (1) This Division applies to a transfer of incorporation under Division 2.

(2) In the application of this Division to such a transfer—

"**new body**" means the body corporate that results from the transfer;

"**original body**" means the co-operative that transfers its incorporation;

"**relevant day**" means the day on which the transfer takes effect.

Effect of merger etc. on property, liabilities etc.

330. (1) In this section—

"**assets**" means any legal or equitable estate or interest (whether present or future and whether vested or contingent) in real or personal property of any description (including money), and includes securities, choses in action and documents;

"**instrument**" means an instrument (other than this Act) which creates, modifies or extinguishes rights or liabilities (or would do so if lodged, filed or registered in accordance with any law), and includes any judgment, order and process of a court;

"**liabilities**" means liabilities, debts and obligations (whether present or future and whether vested or contingent).

(2) On and from the relevant day for an event to which this Division applies—

- (a) the assets of the original body vest in the new body without the need for any conveyance, transfer, assignment or assurance; and
- (b) the rights and liabilities of the original body become the rights and liabilities of the new body; and
- (c) all proceedings by or against the original body that are pending immediately before the relevant day are taken to be proceedings pending by or against the new body; and
- (d) any act, matter or thing done or omitted to be done by, to or in respect of the original body before the relevant day is (to the extent to which that act, matter or thing has any force or effect) taken to have been done or omitted by, to or in respect of the new body; and
- (e) a reference in an instrument or in any document of any kind to the original body is to be read as, or as including, a reference to the new body.

(3) The operation of this section is not to be regarded—

- (a) as a breach of contract or confidence or otherwise as a civil wrong; or
- (b) as a breach of any contractual provision prohibiting, restricting or regulating the assignment or transfer of assets, rights or liabilities; or
- (c) as giving rise to any remedy by a party to an instrument, or as causing or permitting the termination of any instrument, because of a change in the beneficial or legal ownership of any asset, right or liability.

(4) A document or an instrument executed or registered for or with respect to a transfer of any property to give effect to this section is not liable to stamp duty or to any fee chargeable under any Act for registration.

DIVISION 7—MISCELLANEOUS

Grounds for winding up, transfer of engagements, appoint of administrator

331. (1) This section applies to the following actions:

- (a) a direction by the Commission to a co-operative to transfer its engagements under section 300;
- (b) the appointment of an administrator of a co-operative under Division 5;
- (c) the winding up of a co-operative on a certificate of the Commission under section 310.

(2) The necessary grounds for the taking of action to which this section applies exist if the Commission certifies—

- (a) that the number of members is reduced to less than the minimum number of persons allowed, as referred to in section 69; or
- (b) that the co-operative has not commenced business within 1 year of registration or has suspended business for a period of more than 6 months; or

- (c) that the registration of the co-operative has been obtained by mistake or fraud; or
- (d) that the co-operative exists for an illegal purpose; or
- (e) that the co-operative has wilfully and after notice from the Commission violated the provisions of this Act or of the regulations or of the rules of the co-operative; or
- (f) that the board of the co-operative has, after notice from the Commission, failed to ensure that the rules of the co-operative contain active membership provisions in accordance with Part 6; or
- (g) that there are, and have been for a period of one month immediately before the date of the Commission's certificate, insufficient directors of the co-operative to constitute a quorum as provided by the rules of the co-operative; or
- (h) following an inquiry pursuant to the provisions of this Act into the affairs of a co-operative or the working and financial condition of a co-operative, that in the interests of members or creditors of the co-operative or the public the action concerned should be taken.

(3) Alternatively, the necessary grounds for the winding up of a co-operative on a certificate of the Commission exist if the Commission certifies—

- (a) that the period, if any, fixed for the duration of the co-operative by its rules has expired; or
- (b) that an event (to be specified in the certificate) has occurred on the occurrence of which the regulations or the rules provide that the co-operative is to be wound up.

(4) The Commission must not certify under this section as to any matter unless the matter has been proved to the Commission's satisfaction.

Adoption of Corporations Law concerning reciprocity with other jurisdictions

332. (1) The provisions of Part 5.7A of the *Corporations Law* are adopted by this section and apply to and in respect of a co-operative in the same way as they apply to and in respect of a company.

(2) Those provisions apply—

- (a) with any modifications that are prescribed; and
- (b) as if—
 - (i) a reference in those provisions to a recognised company were a reference to a foreign co-operative; and
 - (ii) a reference to a provision of the *Corporations Law* of another jurisdiction were a reference to that provision as applying to a foreign co-operative under a law of another jurisdiction under which that foreign co-operative is incorporated.

Adoption of Corporations Law concerning insolvent co-operatives

333. (1) The provisions of Part 5.7B (except section 588G) of the *Corporations Law* are adopted by this section and apply to and in respect of a co-operative in the same way as they apply to and in respect of a company.

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(2) Those provisions apply—

- (a) with any modifications that are prescribed; and
- (b) as if a reference in those provisions to any provision of section 289 of the *Corporations Law* were a reference to the equivalent provisions of the regulations under section 233 of this Act.

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**PART 13
ARRANGEMENTS AND RECONSTRUCTIONS**

DIVISION 1—GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for binding compromise or arrangement

334. (1) A compromise or arrangement is binding if and only if it is approved by order of the Supreme Court and it is agreed to—

- (a) if the compromise or arrangement is between the co-operative and any of its creditors—at a court ordered meeting by a majority in number of the creditors concerned who are present and voting (in person or by proxy), being a majority whose debts or claims against the co-operative amount to at least 75 per cent of the total of the debts and claims of all those creditors who are present and voting (in person or by proxy); or
- (b) if the compromise or arrangement is between the co-operative and any of its members—by the members concerned, by special resolution passed by means of a special postal ballot.

(2) The court ordered meeting referred to in subsection (1)(a) is a meeting convened in accordance with an order of the Supreme Court under this Part.

(3) The Supreme Court may grant its approval to a compromise or arrangement subject to such alterations or conditions as it thinks just.

(4) An order of the Supreme Court approving a compromise or arrangement does not have any effect until an office copy of the order is lodged with the Commission.

(5) On the copy being lodged, the order takes effect from the date of lodgment or such earlier date as the Supreme Court specifies in the order.

Supreme Court ordered meeting of creditors

335. (1) If a compromise or arrangement is proposed between a co-operative and any of its creditors, the Supreme Court may on application by an appropriate person order a meeting or meetings of the creditors concerned.

(2) An appropriate person to apply for an order is—

- (a) the co-operative; or
- (b) any member of the co-operative; or
- (c) any of the creditors concerned; or
- (d) in the case of a co-operative being wound up—the liquidator.

(3) The meeting must be convened in the manner and be held in the place or places (in the State or elsewhere) that the Supreme Court directs.

(4) In considering whether to make an order for a meeting to be held in another jurisdiction, the Supreme Court may have regard to where creditors concerned reside.

Commission to be given notice and opportunity to make submissions

336. (1) The Supreme Court may make an order under this Division, if the Supreme Court is satisfied that—

- (a) at least 14 days notice of the hearing of the application for the order, or such shorter period of notice as the Supreme Court or the Commission permits, has been given to the Commission; and
- (b) the Commission has had a reasonable opportunity to examine the terms of and make submissions to the Supreme Court in relation to the proposed compromise or arrangement concerned and a draft explanatory statement relating to it.

(2) The "**draft explanatory statement**" referred to in subsection (1) is a statement—

- (a) explaining the effect of the proposed compromise or arrangement and, in particular, stating—
 - (i) any material interests of the directors of the co-operative, whether as directors, as members or creditors of the co-operative or otherwise; and
 - (ii) the effect on those interests of the proposed compromise or arrangement in so far as that effect is different from the effect on the like interests of other persons; and
- (b) setting out—
 - (i) any information that is prescribed; and
 - (ii) any other information that is material to the making of a decision by a creditor or member of the co-operative whether or not to agree to the proposed compromise or arrangement, being information that is within the knowledge of the directors of the co-operative and has not previously been disclosed to the creditors or members of the co-operative.

Results of 2 or more meetings

337. If the Supreme Court orders 2 or more meetings of creditors to be held in relation to a proposed compromise or arrangement—

- (a) the meetings are to be considered to constitute a single meeting; and
- (b) the votes in favour of the proposed compromise or arrangement cast at each of the meetings are to be aggregated; and
- (c) the votes against the proposed compromise or arrangement cast at each of the meetings are to be aggregated.

Persons disqualified from administering compromise

338. (1) Except with the leave of the Supreme Court, a person must not be appointed to administer, and must not administer, a compromise or arrangement approved under this Act between a co-operative and any of its creditors or members, whether by the terms of that compromise or arrangement or pursuant to a power given by the terms of a compromise or arrangement, if the person—

- (a) is a mortgagee of any property of the co-operative; or

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- (b) is an auditor or an officer of the co-operative; or
- (c) is an officer of a body corporate that is a mortgagee of property of the co-operative; or
- (d) is not a registered liquidator unless the person is a body corporate authorised by or under a law of the State to administer the compromise or arrangement concerned; or
- (e) is an officer of a body corporate related to the co-operative; or
- (f) unless the Commission directs in writing that this paragraph does not apply in relation to the person in relation to the co-operative, has at any time within the last 12 months been an officer or promoter of the co-operative or of a related body corporate.

(2) This section does not disqualify a person from administering a compromise or arrangement under an appointment validly made before the commencement of this section.

Adoption of provisions of Corporations Law and application to person appointed

339. (1) Clauses 16, 18(2) and (4), 19, 23 and 25 of Schedule 4 apply to a person appointed to administer a compromise or arrangement as if the appointment were an appointment of the person as a receiver and manager of property of the co-operative and as if a reference to a receiver were a reference to that person.

(2) Section 536 of the *Corporations Law* is adopted by this subsection and applies to a person appointed to administer a compromise or arrangement as if the appointment were an appointment as a liquidator of the co-operative and as if a reference to a liquidator were a reference to that person.

Copy of order to be attached to rules

340. (1) A co-operative must ensure that a copy of an order of the Supreme Court approving a compromise or arrangement is annexed to each copy of the rules of the co-operative issued after the order is made.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(2) The Supreme Court may, by order, exempt a co-operative from compliance with this section or determine the period during which the co-operative must comply.

Directors to arrange for reports

341. (1) When a compromise or arrangement (whether or not for the purposes of or in connection with a scheme for the reconstruction of a co-operative or the merger of any 2 or more co-operatives) has been proposed, the directors of the co-operative must—

- (a) if a meeting of the members of the co-operative by resolution so directs, instruct the accountants or solicitors or both named in the resolution to report on the proposals and send their report or reports to the directors as soon as practicable; and
- (b) make any report or reports so obtained available at the registered office of the co-operative for inspection by the members and creditors of the co-operative at least 7 days before the day of the meeting ordered by the Supreme Court or the holding of the special postal ballot, as appropriate.

(2) If this section is not complied with, each director of the co-operative concerned is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$2 000.

Power of Supreme Court to restrain further proceedings

342. (1) If a proposed compromise or arrangement is between a co-operative and any of its creditors and no order has been made or resolution passed for the winding up of the co-operative, the Supreme Court may restrain further proceedings in any action or other civil proceeding against the co-operative except by leave of the Supreme Court and subject to such terms as the Supreme Court imposes.

(2) The Supreme Court's power under this section is in addition to any of its other powers and must not be exercised except on application by the co-operative or of any creditor or member of the co-operative.

Supreme Court need not approve compromise or arrangement takeovers

343. (1) The Supreme Court need not approve a compromise or arrangement unless—

- (a) it is satisfied that the compromise or arrangement has not been proposed for the purpose of enabling any person to avoid the operation of any of the provisions of Division 2 of Part 11; and
- (b) there is produced to the Supreme Court a statement in writing by the Commission stating that the Commission has no objection to the compromise or arrangement.

(2) The Supreme Court need not approve a compromise or arrangement merely because a statement by the Commission stating that the Commission has no objection to the compromise or arrangement has been produced to the Supreme Court.

DIVISION 2—EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS

Explanatory statement required to accompany notice of meeting etc.

344. (1) An explanatory statement must accompany every notice—

- (a) that is sent to a creditor of a co-operative convening the court ordered meeting to obtain agreement to the compromise or arrangement; or
- (b) that is sent to a member of a co-operative for the purpose of the conduct of the special postal ballot to obtain agreement to the compromise or arrangement.

(2) In every notice of a meeting referred to in subsection (1) that is given by advertisement there must be included either a copy of the explanatory statement or notification of the place at which and the manner in which creditors entitled to attend the meeting may obtain copies of the explanatory statement.

(3) The explanatory statement must—

- (a) explain the effect of the compromise or arrangement and, in particular, state—
 - (i) any material interests of the directors, whether as directors, as members or creditors of the co-operative or otherwise; and
 - (ii) the effect on those interests of the compromise or arrangement in so far as that effect is different from the effect on the like interests of other persons; and
- (b) set out—
 - (i) any information that is prescribed; and

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- (ii) any other information that is material to the making of a decision by a creditor or member whether or not to agree to the compromise or arrangement, being information that is within the knowledge of the directors and has not previously been disclosed to the creditors or members.

(4) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply in the case of a creditor whose debt does not exceed \$200 unless the Supreme Court otherwise orders.

(5) The notice convening the meeting that is sent to a creditor referred to in subsection (4) must specify a place at which a copy of the explanatory statement can be obtained on request.

(6) The co-operative must comply with a request under subsection (5) as soon as practicable.

Requirements for explanatory statement

345. (1) An explanatory statement must be as approved by the Commission.

(2) If the compromise or arrangement affects the rights of debenture holders, the explanatory statement must specify—

- (a) any material interests of the trustees for the debenture holders, whether as such trustees, as members or creditors of the co-operative or otherwise; and
- (b) the effect on those interests of the compromise or arrangement to the extent that that effect is different from the effect on the like interests of other persons.

(3) If a notice given by advertisement includes a notification that copies of the explanatory statement can be obtained in a particular manner, the co-operative must furnish a copy of the statement free of charge to each creditor or member entitled to attend the meeting or vote in the ballot who applies for it in the appropriate manner.

(4) Each person who is a director or trustee for debenture holders must give notice to the co-operative of such matters relating to the person as are required to be included in the explanatory statement.

Contravention of Division—offence by co-operative

346. (1) If a provision of this Division is contravened, the co-operative concerned and any other person involved in the contravention is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$2 000.

(2) It is a defence to a prosecution for an offence against subsection (1) if it is proved that the contravention was due to the failure of a person (other than the defendant), being a director of the co-operative or a trustee for debenture holders of the co-operative, to supply for the purposes of the explanatory statement particulars of the person's interests.

Provisions for facilitating reconstructions and mergers

347. (1) In this section—

"**co-operative**" includes foreign co-operative registered, formed or incorporated under a law of another State or a Territory.

(2) This section applies when an application is made to the Supreme Court under this Part for the approval of a compromise or arrangement and it is shown to the Court that—

- (a) the compromise or arrangement has been proposed for the purposes of or in connection with a scheme for the reconstruction of a co-operative or the merger of a co-operative with another co-operative or with another body corporate; and

- (b) under the scheme the whole or any part of the undertaking or of the property of a co-operative concerned in the scheme ("**the transferor**") is to be transferred to another body corporate ("**the transferee**") except a company within the meaning of the *Corporations Law*.

(3) When this section applies, the Supreme Court may, either by the order approving the compromise or arrangement or by a later order provide for any one or more of the following:

- (a) the transfer to the transferee of the whole or a part of the undertaking and of the property or liabilities of the transferor;
- (b) the allotting or appropriation by the transferee of shares, debentures, policies or other interests in the transferee that, under the compromise or arrangement, are to be allotted or appropriated by the transferee to or for any person;
- (c) the continuation by or against the transferee of any legal proceedings pending by or against the transferor;
- (d) the dissolution, without winding up, of the transferor;
- (e) the provision to be made for any persons who, within such time and in such manner as the Court directs, dissent from the compromise or arrangement;
- (f) the transfer or allotment of any interest in property to any person concerned in the compromise or arrangement;
- (g) such incidental, consequential and supplemental matters as are necessary to ensure that the reconstruction or merger is fully and effectively carried out.

(4) If an order made under this section provides for the transfer of property or liabilities, then, by virtue of the order—

- (a) the property is transferred to and vests in the transferee, free, in the case of any particular property if the order so directs, from any charge that is by virtue of the compromise or arrangement to cease to have effect; and
- (b) the liabilities are transferred to and become the liabilities of the transferee.

(5) If an order is made under this section, each body to which the order relates must, within 14 days after the making of the order, lodge with the Commission an office copy of the order.

(6) In this section—

"liabilities" includes duties of any description, including duties that are of a personal character or are incapable under the general law of being assigned or performed vicariously;

"property" includes rights and powers of any description, including rights and powers that are of a personal character and are incapable under the general law of being assigned or performed vicariously.

DIVISION 3—ACQUISITION OF SHARES OF DISSENTING SHAREHOLDERS**Definitions**

348. In this Division—

"**dissenting shareholder**", in relation to a scheme or contract, means a shareholder who has not assented to the scheme or contract or who has failed to transfer his, her or its shares in accordance with the scheme or contract;

"**excluded shares**", in relation to a scheme or contract involving a transfer to a person of shares in a class of shares in a co-operative, means shares in that class that, when the offer relating to the scheme or contract is made, are held by—

- (a) in any case—the person or a nominee of the person; or
- (b) if the person is a body corporate—a subsidiary of the body.

Schemes and contracts to which Division applies

349. (1) This Division applies to a scheme or contract involving a transfer of shares in a co-operative ("**the transferor**") to a person ("**the transferee**") that has, within 4 months after the making of the offer relating to the scheme or contract by the transferee, been approved by the holders of at least 90 per cent in nominal value of all the shares concerned (other than excluded shares).

(2) This Division does not apply to a scheme or contract arising out of the making of an offer to which Division 2 of Part 11 applies.

Acquisition of shares pursuant to notice to dissenting shareholder

350. (1) The transferee under the scheme or contract may, within 2 months after the offer is so approved, give notice as prescribed (a "**compulsory acquisition notice**") to a dissenting shareholder that the transferee wishes to acquire the shares held by that shareholder.

(2) When a compulsory acquisition notice is given, the dissenting shareholder may, by written notice given to the transferee within one month after the day on which the compulsory acquisition notice was given, ask for a statement in writing of the names and addresses of all other dissenting shareholders as shown in the register of members and the transferee must give that statement.

(3) Having given the compulsory acquisition notice, the transferee is, unless the Supreme Court orders to the contrary, entitled and bound to acquire those shares on the terms on which, under the scheme or contract, the shares of the approving shareholders are to be transferred to the transferee.

(4) The Supreme Court may give an order to the contrary only on the application of the dissenting shareholder made within 28 days after the compulsory acquisition notice was given or within 14 days after any statement asked for under subsection (2) was given, whichever is the later.

(5) If alternative terms are offered to the approving shareholders—

- (a) the dissenting shareholder is entitled to elect which of those terms are preferred but must make that election within the time allowed for the making of an application to the Supreme Court under subsection (4); and
- (b) if the dissenting shareholder fails to make the election within that time, the transferee may, unless the Supreme Court otherwise orders, determine which of those terms is to apply to the acquisition of the shares of the dissenting shareholder.

Restrictions when excluded shares exceed 10 per cent

351. If the nominal value of excluded shares exceeds 10 per cent of the aggregate nominal value of all the shares (including excluded shares) to be transferred under the scheme or contract, section 350 does not apply unless—

- (a) the transferee offers the same terms to all holders of the shares (other than excluded shares) to be transferred under the scheme or contract; and
- (b) the holders who approve the scheme or contract together hold at least 90 per cent in nominal value of the shares (other than excluded shares) to be transferred under the scheme or contract and are also at least 75 per cent in number of the holders of those shares (with joint owners of shares being counted as one person).

Remaining shareholders may require acquisition

352. (1) If, under a scheme or contract to which this Division applies, the transferee becomes beneficially entitled to shares in the transferor which, together with any other shares in the transferor to which the transferee or a body corporate related to the transferee is beneficially entitled comprise or include 90 per cent in nominal value of the shares concerned, then—

- (a) the transferee must, within 28 days after becoming beneficially entitled to those shares, give notice of the fact as prescribed to the holders of the remaining shares concerned who, when the notice was given, had not assented to the scheme or contract or been given a compulsory acquisition notice by the transferee under this Division; and
- (b) such a holder may, within 3 months after being given that notice, by notice to the transferee require the transferee to acquire the holder's share and, if alternative terms were offered to the approving shareholders, elect which of those terms the holder will accept.

(2) If a shareholder gives notice under this section with respect to the shareholder's shares, the transferee is entitled and bound to acquire those shares—

- (a) on the terms on which under the scheme or contract the shares of the approving shareholders were transferred to the transferee and, if alternative terms were offered to those shareholders, on the terms for which the shareholder has elected, or, if no election is made, for whichever of the terms the transferee determines; or
- (b) on such other terms as are agreed or as the Supreme Court, on the application of the transferee or of the shareholder, thinks fit to order.

Transfer of shares pursuant to compulsory acquisition

353. (1) A transferee who has given a compulsory acquisition notice must—

- (a) send a copy of the notice to the transferor together with an instrument of transfer that relates to the shares that the transferee is entitled to acquire under this Division and that is executed, on the shareholder's behalf, by a person appointed by the transferee and, on the transferee's own behalf, by the transferee; and
- (b) pay, allot or transfer to the transferor the consideration for the shares.

(2) The transferee must do so within 14 days after whichever of the following happens last:

- (a) the period of 28 days after the day on which the compulsory acquisition notice was given expires;

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- (b) the period of 14 days after a statement of the names and addresses of dissenting shareholders is supplied under this Division expires;
- (c) if an application has been made to the Supreme Court by a dissenting shareholder, the application is disposed of.

(3) When the transferee has complied with this section, the transferor must register the transferee as the holder of the shares.

(4) This section does not apply if the Supreme Court on the application of the dissenting shareholder orders to the contrary.

Disposal of consideration for shares compulsorily acquired

354. (1) All sums received by the transferor under this Division must be paid into a separate ADI account and those sums, and any other consideration so received, are to be held by the transferor in trust for the several persons entitled to the shares in respect of which they were respectively received.

(2) If a sum or other property received by the transferor under this Division has been held in trust by the transferor for a person for at least 2 years, the transferor must pay the sum or transfer the consideration, and any accretions to it and any property that may become substituted for it or for part of it, to the Commission.

(3) The Commission must then proceed to deal with it in accordance with the provisions of Part 9.7 of the *Corporations Law* which for that purpose are adopted and apply in respect of a co-operative as if it were a company.

(4) The provisions of Part 9.7 of the *Corporations Law* are adopted—

- (a) with any modifications that are prescribed; and
- (b) with the modifications made by section 311(3); and
- (c) as if a reference in those provisions to unclaimed property were a reference to sums paid, or consideration or property transferred to, the Commission under subsection (2).

(5) The transferor must comply with subsection (2) before the end of 10 years after the day on which the sum was paid, or the consideration was allotted or transferred, to the transferor.

DIVISION 4—MISCELLANEOUS**Notification of appointment of scheme manager**

355. Within 14 days after being appointed to administer a compromise or arrangement approved under this Part, a person must lodge with the Commission a written notice of the appointment.

Maximum penalty: \$1 000.

Power of Supreme Court to require reports

356. When an application is made to the Supreme Court under this Part in relation to a proposed compromise or arrangement, the Supreme Court may—

- (a) before making any order on the application, require the Commission or any other person to give to the Court a report as to—

- (i) the terms of the compromise or arrangement or of the scheme for the purposes of or in connection with which the compromise or arrangement has been proposed; and
 - (ii) the conduct of the officers of the body or bodies concerned; and
 - (iii) any other matters that, in the opinion of the Commission or that person, ought to be brought to the attention of the Court; and
- (b) in deciding the application, have regard to anything contained in the report; and
- (c) make such order or orders as to the payment of the costs of preparing and giving the report as the Court thinks fit.

Effect of out-of-jurisdiction compromise or arrangement

357. (1) A compromise or arrangement that is binding on any creditors of a foreign co-operative because of a provision of the law of another State or a Territory that corresponds to this Part is also binding on the creditors of the foreign co-operative whose debts are recoverable by action in a court of South Australia.

(2) If the Supreme Court of another State or a Territory makes an order under a provision of the law of that State or Territory that is prescribed as corresponding to a provision of this Part, the order is to be considered to have been made by the Supreme Court of South Australia under that corresponding provision of this Act and has effect and may be enforced accordingly.

Jurisdiction to be exercised in harmony with Corporations Law

358. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under this Part is intended to complement the Supreme Court's jurisdiction under the *Corporations Law* and should be exercised in harmony with that jurisdiction.

Commission may appear etc.

359. In any proceedings before the Supreme Court under this Part, the Commission is entitled to appear and be heard by the Commission's duly appointed representative.

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**PART 14
FOREIGN CO-OPERATIVES**

DIVISION 1—INTRODUCTORY

Definitions

360. (1) In this Part—

"**co-operatives law**" means a law that under an order in force under section 361 is declared to be a co-operatives law for the purposes of this Part;

"**non-participating co-operative**" means a foreign co-operative other than a participating co-operative;

"**participating co-operative**" means a foreign co-operative that is registered, incorporated or formed under, or subject to, a co-operatives law;

"**participating State**" means any State in which a co-operatives law is in force;

"**State**" includes the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

Co-operatives law

361. (1) The Governor may, by proclamation, declare a law of a State other than South Australia to be a co-operatives law for the purposes of this Part if satisfied that the law—

- (a) substantially corresponds to the provisions of this Act; and
- (b) contains provisions that are referred to in this Part as provisions of a co-operatives law that correspond to specified provisions of this Act.

(2) The Governor may, by subsequent proclamation, vary or revoke a declaration under subsection (1).

DIVISION 2—REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN CO-OPERATIVES

Operation of foreign co-operative in South Australia

362. A foreign co-operative must not carry on business in South Australia unless it is registered under this Part.

Maximum penalty: \$24 000.

What constitutes carrying on business

363. (1) A foreign co-operative carries on business in South Australia if it—

- (a) solicits for members in South Australia; or
- (b) seeks share capital in South Australia; or
- (c) provides any goods or services within South Australia.

(2) A foreign co-operative is not to be regarded as carrying on business in South Australia only by reason that in South Australia it—

- (a) is or becomes a party to any action or suit or arbitration proceeding or effects settlement of an action, suit or proceeding or of any claim or dispute; or

- (b) holds meetings of its directors or members or carries on other activities concerning its internal affairs; or
- (c) maintains any ADI account; or
- (d) effects any sale through an independent contractor; or
- (e) solicits or procures any offer that becomes a binding contract only if the offer is accepted outside South Australia; or
- (f) creates evidence of any debt or creates a charge on real and personal property; or
- (g) secures or collects any of its debts or enforces its rights in regard to any securities relating to the debts; or
- (h) conducts an isolated transaction that is completed within a period of 31 days not being one of a number of similar transactions repeated from time to time.

Application for registration of participating co-operative

364. (1) A participating co-operative that proposes to carry on business as a co-operative in South Australia may apply to the Commission in the prescribed manner to be registered as a foreign co-operative.

(2) An application by a participating co-operative must be accompanied by—

- (a) a certificate, not more than 2 months old, from the Registrar of the participating State, in which the participating co-operative is registered, incorporated or formed stating that the co-operative is complying with the provisions of the co-operatives law of that State prescribed for the purpose of the section of that law that corresponds with section 373; and
- (b) the documents prescribed for the purpose of the section of the co-operatives law of that State that corresponds with section 373; and
- (c) a copy of the current rules of the co-operative; and
- (d) a statement, verified as prescribed, setting out—
 - (i) the full name and address of each person who will act as agent of the co-operative in South Australia; and
 - (ii) the address of the proposed registered office of the co-operative in South Australia; and
 - (iii) a copy of an instrument appointing a person resident in South Australia (other than a body corporate incorporated outside South Australia) as a person on whom all notices and legal process may be served on behalf of the co-operative; and
- (e) any other documents or information that are prescribed; and
- (f) the prescribed fee.

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Application for registration of non-participating co-operative

365. (1) A non-participating co-operative that proposes to carry on business as a co-operative in South Australia may apply to the Commission in the prescribed manner to be registered as a foreign co-operative.

(2) An application by a non-participating co-operative must be accompanied by—

- (a) a copy of the current rules of the co-operative; and
- (b) a statement, verified as prescribed, setting out—
 - (i) the full name and address of each person who will act as agent of the co-operative in South Australia; and
 - (ii) the address of the proposed registered office of the co-operative in South Australia; and
 - (iii) a copy of an instrument appointing a person resident in South Australia (other than a body corporate incorporated outside South Australia) as a person on whom all notices and legal process may be served on behalf of the co-operative; and
- (c) any other documents or information that are prescribed; and
- (d) the prescribed fee.

Commission to approve rules of non-participating co-operative

366. A non-participating co-operative is not eligible for registration unless the Commission is satisfied that the rules of the co-operative—

- (a) comply with co-operative principles; and
- (b) include acceptable active membership provisions; and
- (c) provide procedures acceptable to the Commission for disclosure of information; and
- (d) provide that a member has one vote only; and
- (e) make adequate provision for the duties of directors; and
- (f) provide for acceptable accounting standards for the co-operative.

Name of foreign co-operative

367. (1) A foreign co-operative is eligible for registration under this Part if the name under which it proposes to carry on business in South Australia is not such as is likely to be confused with the name of a body corporate or a registered business name.

(2) If the Commission advises the foreign co-operative that the name under which it proposes to carry on business in South Australia is likely to be confused with the name of a body corporate or registered business name, the co-operative may amend its application by substituting another name.

Registration of foreign co-operative

368. If, on due application, the Commission is satisfied that the foreign co-operative is eligible for registration, the Commission must register the foreign co-operative as a foreign co-operative and issue a certificate of registration in accordance with the regulations.

Application of Act and regulations to foreign co-operatives

369. The prescribed provisions of this Act and the regulations apply, with all necessary modifications and any prescribed modifications, to a foreign co-operative which is registered under this Part as if the foreign co-operative were a co-operative.

Commission to be notified of certain changes

370. Within 28 days of any alteration affecting—

- (a) the rules or constitution of a foreign co-operative registered under this Part; or
- (b) the directors of the foreign co-operative; or
- (c) the agents (or their addresses) of the foreign co-operative; or
- (d) the person appointed as the person on whom notices and legal process may be served on behalf of the foreign co-operative; or
- (e) the address of the registered office in South Australia of the foreign co-operative; or
- (f) the address of the registered office in the participating State of a participating co-operative registered under this Part; or
- (g) the name under which the participating co-operative carries on business in the participating State,

the foreign co-operative must lodge with the Commission particulars of the alteration accompanied by any prescribed documents.

Balance sheets

371. (1) A foreign co-operative registered under this Part must, within 6 months (or such longer period as the Commission may allow) of the end of each of its financial years, lodge with the Commission—

- (a) in the case of a participating co-operative—a copy of the balance sheet relating to its financial affairs as at the end of the financial year, in the form and with any accompanying documents required by the co-operatives law of the participating State concerned; and
- (b) in the case of a non-participating co-operative—a copy of the balance sheet relating to its financial affairs as at the end of the financial year, in the form and with any accompanying documents required by the Commission.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(2) If the Commission is of the opinion that a balance sheet lodged with the Commission under this section does not sufficiently disclose the financial affairs of the foreign co-operative, the Commission may, by written notice, require the foreign co-operative to give the Commission further information or documents.

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(3) A foreign co-operative must comply with a notice given to it under subsection (2) within the period specified in the notice.

Maximum penalty: \$6 000.

Cessation of business

372. (1) A foreign co-operative registered under this Part must, within 7 days of ceasing to carry on business as a co-operative in South Australia, notify the Commission in writing of that fact.

Maximum penalty: \$6 000.

(2) On notifying the Commission that it has ceased to carry on business as a co-operative in South Australia, a foreign co-operative is no longer obliged to comply with this Part.

(3) Unless the Commission has been notified in writing that the foreign co-operative has resumed carrying on business as a co-operative in South Australia, the Commission must, one year after receiving a notification under subsection (1), cancel the registration of the foreign co-operative.

Co-operative proposing to register as a foreign co-operative

373. (1) A co-operative that proposes to apply to be registered as a foreign co-operative in another participating State may apply to the Commission for a certificate that it is complying with all prescribed provisions of this Act including, if the Commission has varied a requirement in relation to that co-operative, the provision as varied.

(2) The Commission must issue the certificate to the co-operative unless he or she is of the opinion that the co-operative is not complying with the prescribed provisions.

(3) If the Commission issues the certificate, the Commission must also give to the co-operative the prescribed documents.

DIVISION 3—MERGERS AND TRANSFERS OF ENGAGEMENTS**Who is the appropriate Registrar?**

374. In this Division—

"**appropriate Registrar**", in relation to a proposed merger or transfer of engagements, means—

- (a) the South Australian Registrar, if the merger is to result in a South Australian co-operative or the transfer is to a South Australian co-operative; or
- (b) the Registrar for the participating State concerned, if the merger is to result in a co-operative under the co-operatives law of that participating State or the transfer is to such a co-operative;

"**Registrar**" for the participating State means the person for the time being holding the office of Registrar under the co-operatives law of the participating State;

"**South Australian Registrar**" means the Commission.

Authority for merger or transfer of engagements

375. (1) A South Australian co-operative and a participating co-operative may consolidate all or any of their assets, liabilities and undertakings by way of merger or transfer of engagements approved under this Division.

(2) A South Australian co-operative and a non-participating co-operative may consolidate all or any of their assets, liabilities and undertakings by way of merger or transfer of engagements approved under this Division if—

- (a) the merger is to result in a South Australian co-operative; or
- (b) the transfer is to a South Australian co-operative.

Requirements before application can be made

376. (1) Before a South Australian co-operative and a participating co-operative can apply for approval under this Division of a merger or transfer of engagements, the proposed merger or transfer must have been approved by each of the co-operatives by—

- (a) a special resolution passed by special postal ballot; or
- (b) if permitted by subsection (3), by a resolution of the board of the co-operative.

(2) Before a South Australian co-operative and a non-participating co-operative can apply for approval under this Division of a merger or transfer of engagements, the proposed merger or transfer of engagements—

- (a) must have been approved—
 - (i) in the case of the non-participating co-operative—by a special resolution of the co-operative; and
 - (ii) in the case of the South Australian co-operative—by a special resolution passed by special postal ballot; or
- (b) if permitted by subsection (3), must have been approved by a resolution of the board of each of the co-operatives.

(3) The proposed merger or transfer of engagements may be approved by resolution of the board of a co-operative if—

- (a) the South Australian Registrar consents to that procedure applying in the particular case; and
- (b) in the case of a merger or transfer affecting a participating co-operative—the Registrar for the participating State concerned also consents to that procedure applying in the particular case.

Disclosure statement required

377. (1) A special resolution of the South Australian co-operative or foreign co-operative is not effective for the purposes of this Division unless this section has been complied with.

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(2) Each co-operative must send to each of its members a disclosure statement approved by the appropriate Registrar specifying—

- (a) the financial position of the South Australian co-operative and the foreign co-operative as shown in financial statements that have been prepared as at a date that is not more than 6 months before the date of the statement; and
- (b) any interest that any officer of the South Australian co-operative or the foreign co-operative has in the proposed merger or transfer of engagements; and
- (c) any compensation or other consideration proposed to be paid, or any other incentive proposed to be given, to any officer or member of the South Australian co-operative or foreign co-operative in relation to the proposed merger or transfer of engagements; and
- (d) whether the proposal is a merger or transfer of engagements and the reason for the merger or transfer of engagements; and
- (e) in the case of a transfer of engagements whether it is a total or partial transfer of engagement; and
- (f) in the case of a merger—whether the merged co-operative will result in a South Australian co-operative or a co-operative under the co-operatives law of the participating State concerned; and
- (g) any other information that the Registrar directs.

(3) The disclosure statement must be sent to the members of the South Australian co-operative or foreign co-operative so that it will in the ordinary course of post reach each member who is entitled to vote on the special resolution not later than—

- (a) where the resolution is to be decided at a meeting—21 days before the date of the meeting; or
- (b) where the resolution is to be decided by a postal ballot—21 days before the day on or before which the ballot papers must be returned by members voting in the ballot.

(4) The appropriate Registrar may exempt the South Australian co-operative or foreign co-operative from complying with this section.

(5) The appropriate Registrar may grant an exemption, or approve a disclosure statement, subject to any conditions it considers appropriate.

Making an application

378. (1) An application for approval of a merger or transfer of engagements under this Division must be made to the South Australian Registrar and, if the merger or transfer affects a participating co-operative, to the Registrar for the participating State concerned in the manner and form required by the Registrar concerned.

(2) An application for approval of a merger must be accompanied by—

- (a) 2 copies of the proposed rules of the merged co-operative; and
- (b) in the case of a non-participating co-operative—details of voting on the special resolution (if any) of the co-operative; and

- (c) any other information required by the Registrar to whom the application is made.

Approval of merger

379. (1) If the South Australian Registrar is the appropriate Registrar, the South Australian Registrar must approve a merger pursuant to an application under this Division if satisfied that—

- (a) this Division has been complied with in relation to the application; and
- (b) the proposed rules of the merged co-operative are adequate; and
- (c) the certificate of registration of the South Australian co-operative has been surrendered to the South Australian Registrar or has been lost or destroyed; and
- (d) in the case of a merger with a participating co-operative—the certificate of registration of the participating co-operative has been surrendered to the Registrar for the participating State concerned; and
- (e) in the case of a merger with a non-participating co-operative—the merged co-operative will comply with this Act; and
- (f) there is no good reason why the merged co-operative and its rules should not be registered.

(2) If the South Australian Registrar is not the appropriate Registrar, the South Australian Registrar must approve a merger pursuant to an application under this Division if satisfied that the merger has been approved under the provision of the co-operatives law of the participating State that corresponds with subsection (1).

- (3) On approving an application for merger, the South Australian Registrar must—

- (a) cancel the registration of the South Australian co-operative involved in the merger; and
- (b) if the merger is to result in a South Australian co-operative—register the merged co-operative and its rules and issue to it a certificate of registration under this Act.

(4) A merger takes effect on the issue of the certificate of registration for the merged co-operative (whether under this Act or under the co-operatives law of the participating State concerned).

Approval of transfer of engagements

380. (1) If the South Australian Registrar is the appropriate Registrar, the South Australian Registrar must approve a transfer of engagements pursuant to an application under this Division if satisfied that—

- (a) this Division has been complied with in relation to the application; and
- (b) the rules or proposed rules of the transferee co-operative are adequate; and
- (c) in the case of a total transfer of engagements from a participating co-operative—the certificate of registration of the participating co-operative has been surrendered to the Registrar for the participating State concerned or has been lost or destroyed; and
- (d) in the case of a total transfer of engagements from a non-participating co-operative—the certificate of registration of the non-participating co-operative has been surrendered to the South Australian Registrar or has been lost or destroyed; and

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- (e) in the case of a transfer of engagements by a non-participating co-operative—the transferee co-operative will comply with this Act; and
- (f) there is no good reason why the transfer of engagements should not take effect.

(2) If the South Australian Registrar is not the appropriate Registrar, the South Australian Registrar must approve a transfer of engagements pursuant to an application under this Division if satisfied that the transfer has been approved under the provision of the co-operatives law of the participating State that corresponds with subsection (1).

(3) A transfer of engagements takes effect on the day specified in the approval of the South Australian Registrar.

Effect of merger or transfer of engagements

381. (1) In this section—

"assets" means any legal or equitable estate or interest (whether present or future and whether vested or contingent) in real or personal property of any description (including money) and includes securities, choses in action and documents;

"instrument" means an instrument (other than this Act) which creates, modifies, or extinguishes rights or liabilities (or would do so if lodged, filed or registered in accordance with any law) and includes any judgment, order and process of a court;

"liabilities" means liabilities, debts and obligations (whether present or future and whether vested or contingent);

"original co-operative" means—

- (a) in the case of a transfer of engagements—the transferor co-operative; or
- (b) in the case of a merger—each of the co-operatives that are merging;

"successor co-operative" means—

- (a) in the case of a transfer of engagements—the transferee co-operative; or
- (b) in the case of a merger—the co-operative formed by the merger.

(2) When a merger or transfer of engagements takes effect under this Division (the **"transfer day"**) the following provisions apply to the extent necessary to give effect to the merger or transfer:

- (a) persons who were members of the original co-operative immediately before the transfer day are members of the successor co-operative in accordance with its rules; and
- (b) the assets of the original co-operative vest in the successor co-operative without the need for any conveyance, transfer, assignment or assurance; and
- (c) the rights and liabilities of the original co-operative become the rights and liabilities of the successor co-operative; and
- (d) all proceedings by or against the original co-operative that are pending immediately before the transfer day are taken to be proceedings pending by or against the successor co-operative; and

- (e) any act, matter or thing done or omitted to be done by, to or in respect of the original co-operative before the transfer day is (to the extent to which that act, matter or thing has any force or effect) to be taken to have been done or omitted by, to or in respect of the successor co-operative; and
- (f) a reference in an instrument or in any document of any kind to the original body is to be read as, or as including, a reference to the new body.

(3) The operation of this section is not to be regarded—

- (a) as a breach of contract or confidence or otherwise as a civil wrong; or
- (b) as a breach of any contractual provision prohibiting, restricting or regulating the assignment or transfer of assets, rights or liabilities; or
- (c) as giving rise to any remedy by a party to an instrument, or as causing or permitting the termination of any instrument, because of a change in the beneficial or legal ownership of any asset, right or liability.

(4) A document or an instrument executed or registered for or with respect to a transfer of any property to give effect to this section in respect of a transfer of engagements is not liable to stamp duty or to any fee chargeable under any Act for registration.

(5) A document or an instrument executed or registered for or with respect to a transfer of any property to give effect to this section in respect of a merger is not liable to stamp duty or to any fee chargeable under any Act for registration if the co-operative formed by the merger is a non-trading co-operative.

Division applies instead of certain other provisions of this Act

382. (1) This Division applies instead of Division 1 of Part 12, in respect of the merger of a South Australian co-operative with a foreign co-operative.

(2) This Division applies instead of Division 1 of Part 12, in respect of a transfer of engagements between a South Australian co-operative and a foreign co-operative.

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**PART 15
SUPERVISION AND PROTECTION OF CO-OPERATIVES**

DIVISION 1—SUPERVISION AND INSPECTION

Definitions

383. In this Part—

"co-operative venture" means—

- (a) any body corporate or unit trust formed by a co-operative or in the formation of which a co-operative participated; or
- (b) any partnership, joint venture or association of persons or bodies formed or entered into by a co-operative;

"premises" includes any structure, building, aircraft, vehicle, vessel and place (whether built on or not) and any part of such a structure, building, aircraft, vehicle, vessel or place;

"relevant documents" means records or other documents that relate to the promotion, formation, membership, control, transactions, dealings, business or property of a co-operative.

"Co-operative" includes subsidiaries, foreign co-operatives and co-operative ventures

384. A reference in this Part to a co-operative includes a reference to each of the following:

- (a) a foreign co-operative;
- (b) a subsidiary of a co-operative or foreign co-operative;
- (c) a co-operative venture;
- (d) a co-operative or foreign co-operative, or a subsidiary of either, or a co-operative venture, that is in the course of being wound up or has been dissolved.

Appointment of inspectors

385. The Commission may appoint persons to be inspectors for the purposes of this Act.

Commission and investigators have functions of inspectors

386. The Commission, and any investigator exercising functions under Division 2, have and may exercise all the functions of an inspector and for that purpose are to be considered to be inspectors.

Inspector's identity card

387. (1) The Commission must provide each inspector with an identity card.

(2) An inspector must produce his or her identity card on request on applying for admission to any premises.

Inspectors may require certain persons to appear, answer questions and produce documents

388. (1) An inspector may by notice in the prescribed form—

- (a) require a co-operative to produce to the inspector at a time and place specified in the notice specified relevant documents relating to the co-operative; and

- (b) require any person who is involved in the activities of a co-operative to produce to the inspector at a time and place specified in the notice specified relevant documents relating to the co-operative; and
- (c) require any person who is involved in the activities of a co-operative—
 - (i) to attend before the inspector at a time and place specified in the notice; and
 - (ii) to answer any questions put to the person by the inspector relating to the promotion, formation, membership, control, transactions, dealings, business or property of the co-operative.

(2) A person is to be considered to be involved in the activities of a co-operative if the person—

- (a) is or has been an officer or employee of, or an agent, banker, solicitor, auditor or other person acting in any capacity for or on behalf of, the co-operative; or
- (b) is a person who has any relevant documents relating to the co-operative in his or her possession or control; or
- (c) is a person who was a party to the creation of any relevant documents relating to the co-operative.

(3) A person is not subject to any liability by reason of complying with a requirement made or purportedly made under this section.

Inspectors' powers of entry

389. (1) An inspector has power to enter any of the following premises:

- (a) any premises on which the affairs or activities of a co-operative are managed or conducted;
- (b) any premises on which the inspector suspects on reasonable grounds there is evidence of the commission of an offence under this Act or the regulations;
- (c) any premises on which the inspector suspects on reasonable grounds there are relevant documents.

(2) Despite subsection (1), the consent of the occupier or the authority of a search warrant is required to enter—

- (a) any part of premises not used for the management or conduct of the affairs or activities of a co-operative; and
- (b) any part of premises used for residential purposes (whether or not the part is also used for the management or conduct of the affairs or activities of a co-operative).

Powers of inspectors on premises entered

390. An inspector has the following powers on premises that the inspector is authorised to enter:

- (a) power to search for evidence of any contravention of this Act or the regulations;

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- (b) power to search for relevant documents and to require any person on the premises to produce to the inspector any relevant documents in the person's custody or under the person's control;
- (c) power to require any person on the premises who is apparently involved in the management or conduct of the affairs or activities of a co-operative to answer questions or provide information;
- (d) power to exercise the functions of an inspector under section 391 in relation to any relevant documents found on the premises or produced to the inspector.

Functions of inspectors in relation to relevant documents

391. (1) An inspector has the following powers in relation to relevant documents found by an inspector on premises entered by the inspector or produced to the inspector pursuant to a requirement made under this Division:

- (a) power to take possession of the documents or secure them against interference;
- (b) power to make copies, or take extracts from, the documents;
- (c) power to require any person who was party to the creation of the documents to make a statement providing any explanation that the person is able to provide as to any matter relating to the creation of the documents or as to any matter to which the documents relate;
- (d) power to retain possession of the documents for such period as is necessary to enable the documents to be inspected, and copies of, or extracts from, the documents to be made or taken.

(2) While an inspector retains possession of a document, the inspector must permit a person who would be entitled to inspect the document were it not in the possession of the inspector to inspect the document at any reasonable time and make a copy of, or take extracts from, the document.

(3) If an inspector takes possession of or secures against interference any relevant document and a person has a lien on the document, the inspector's actions do not prejudice the lien.

Offence—failing to comply with requirements of inspector

392. (1) A person who fails to comply with any requirement made of the person by an inspector under the authority of this Part is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$12 000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 12 months, or both unless the person establishes that he or she had a reasonable excuse for failing to comply.

(2) A person who in purported compliance with a requirement under this Division furnishes information or makes a statement that is false or misleading in a material particular is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$12 000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 12 months unless the person establishes that he or she believed on reasonable grounds that it was true and not misleading.

(3) A person must not without reasonable excuse obstruct or hinder an inspector exercising functions under this Act.

Maximum penalty: \$12 000 or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

(4) The occupier or person in charge of any premises must provide a person who enters the premises under the authority of this Part or pursuant to a search warrant referred to in section 394 with all reasonable facilities and assistance for the effective exercise of the person's powers under this Part or under the warrant.

Maximum penalty: \$5 000.

Protection from incrimination

393. (1) A person is not excused from making a statement pursuant to a requirement under this Division on the ground that the statement might tend to incriminate him or her.

(2) However, if the person claims before making a statement that the statement might tend to incriminate him or her, the statement is not admissible in evidence against him or her in criminal proceedings other than proceedings under this Division.

(3) Except as provided by subsection (2), a statement made by a person in compliance with a requirement under this Division may be used in evidence in any criminal or civil proceedings against the person.

Search warrants

394. (1) An inspector may apply to a magistrate for the issue of a search warrant in respect of premises if the inspector believes on reasonable grounds—

- (a) that the affairs or activities of a co-operative are being managed or conducted on the premises; or
- (b) that there is evidence on the premises of the commission of an offence under this Act or the regulations; or
- (c) that there are relevant documents on the premises.

(2) If a magistrate is satisfied by the evidence on oath, whether oral or by affidavit, that there are reasonable grounds for doing so, the magistrate may issue a search warrant authorising an inspector named in the warrant and any assistants the inspector considers necessary to enter the premises and exercise all or specified functions of an inspector on the premises.

(3) In addition to any other requirement, a search warrant issued under this section must state—

- (a) the grounds for the issue of the warrant; and
- (b) the premises to be searched; and
- (c) any conditions to which the warrant is subject; and
- (d) whether entry is authorised to be made at any time or during stated hours; and
- (e) a day, not later than 7 days after the issue of the warrant, on which the warrant ceases to have effect.

Copies or extracts of records to be admitted in evidence

395. (1) Subject to this section, in any legal proceedings (whether proceedings under this Act or otherwise), a copy of or extract from a record relating to affairs of a co-operative is admissible in evidence as if it were the original record or the relevant part of the original record.

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(2) A copy of or extract from a record is not admissible in evidence under subsection (1) unless it is proved that the copy or extract is a true copy of the record or of the relevant part of the record.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), evidence that a copy of or extract from a record is a true copy of the record or of a part of the record may be given either orally or by an affidavit or statutory declaration by a person who has compared the copy or extract with the record or the relevant part of the record.

Privilege

396. (1) A legal practitioner is entitled to refuse to comply with a requirement under section 388 or 391 relating to a relevant document if—

- (a) the document contains a privileged communication made by or on behalf of or to the legal practitioner in his or her capacity as a legal practitioner; or
- (b) the legal practitioner is not able to comply with the requirement without disclosing a privileged communication made by or on behalf of or to the legal practitioner in his or her capacity as a legal practitioner.

(2) The legal practitioner is not entitled to refuse to comply with the requirement to the extent that he or she is able to comply with it without disclosing the privileged communication.

(3) The legal practitioner is also not entitled to refuse to comply with the requirement if the person by or on behalf of whom the communication was made or (if the person is under administration under Part 5.3A of the *Corporations Law*, as adopted and applying under this Act, or in the course of being wound up) the administrator or the liquidator agrees to the legal practitioner complying with the requirement.

(4) If the legal practitioner refuses to comply with the requirement, he or she must immediately furnish in writing to the Commission—

- (a) the name and address of the person to whom or by or on behalf of whom the communication was made (if known to the legal practitioner); and
- (b) sufficient particulars to identify the document containing the communication (if the communication was made in writing).

Maximum penalty: \$6 000.

Police aid for inspectors

397. (1) An inspector may call to his or her aid a member of the police force if he or she is obstructed, or believes on reasonable grounds that he or she will be obstructed, in the exercise of his or her functions as an inspector.

(2) A member of the police force has, while acting in aid of an inspector, all the functions of an inspector.

DIVISION 2—INQUIRIES

Definitions

398. In this Division—

"affairs", in relation to a co-operative, includes—

- (a) the promotion, formation, membership, control, transactions, dealings, business and property of the co-operative; and
- (b) loans made to the co-operative; and
- (c) matters that are concerned with identifying people who are, or have been, financially interested in the success or failure, or apparent success or failure, of the co-operative or who are, or have been, able to control or influence materially the policies of the co-operative; and
- (d) the circumstances in which a person placed, withdrew or disposed of funds with, or loans to, the co-operative;

"costs", in relation to an inquiry under this Division, includes—

- (a) the expenses of, and incidental to, the inquiry; and
- (b) the expenses payable by the Commission in any proceedings instituted by the Commission under this Division in the name of the co-operative the subject of the inquiry; and
- (c) so much of the remuneration of an officer or employee of the Crown as is determined by the Commission to be attributable to matters connected with the inquiry;

"investigator" means a person appointed under section 399;

"involved person", in relation to an inquiry into the affairs of a co-operative, means—

- (a) an officer of the co-operative; or
- (b) a person who acts, or has at any time acted, as banker, solicitor, auditor or actuary, or in any other capacity, for the co-operative; or
- (c) a person who has, or at any time had, in his or her possession any property of the co-operative; or
- (d) a person who is indebted to the co-operative; or
- (e) a person who is capable of giving information relating to the affairs of the co-operative; or
- (f) a person whom an investigator believes on reasonable grounds to be a person referred to in paragraphs (a) to (e).

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Appointment of investigators

399. (1) The Commission may appoint a person or persons to hold an inquiry into the affairs of a co-operative if the Commission considers that it is desirable to do so for the protection or otherwise in the interests of the public or of the members or creditors of the co-operative.

(2) The Commission may vary the terms and conditions of appointment of an investigator if the investigator agrees to the variation.

(3) In the course of an inquiry into the affairs of a co-operative, an investigator may inquire into the affairs of a subsidiary of the co-operative that, if the subsidiary were the co-operative, would be affairs of the co-operative.

(4) An inquiry into the affairs of a subsidiary of a co-operative may be conducted as if the subsidiary were the co-operative.

Powers of investigators

400. (1) An investigator inquiring into the affairs of a co-operative may, by giving an involved person a notice in the prescribed form, require the person—

- (a) to produce any document of which the person has custody or control and which relates to those affairs; or
- (b) to give the investigator all reasonable assistance in connection with the inquiry; or
- (c) to appear before the investigator for examination on oath or affirmation.

(2) An investigator may administer an oath or affirmation to an involved person given a notice under subsection (1).

(3) An investigator may take possession of a document produced by an involved person under subsection (1) and may retain it for the period that the investigator decides is necessary for the inquiry.

(4) While an investigator retains possession of a document, the investigator must permit a person who would be entitled to inspect the document were it not in the possession of the investigator to inspect the document at any reasonable time and make a copy of, or take extracts from, the document.

Examination of involved person

401. (1) A legal practitioner acting for an involved person—

- (a) may attend an examination of the involved person by an investigator; and
- (b) may, to the extent that the investigator permits, address the investigator and examine the involved person.

(2) An involved person is not excused from answering a question asked by the investigator even if seeking to be excused on the ground of possible self-incrimination.

(3) If an involved person answers a question of an investigator after having claimed possible self-incrimination by doing so, neither the question nor the answer is admissible in evidence in any criminal proceedings other than—

- (a) proceedings under section 403 for giving a false or misleading answer to the question; or

(b) proceedings on a charge of perjury in respect of the answer.

(4) An involved person who attends for examination by an investigator is entitled to be paid the prescribed allowance and the prescribed expenses.

Privilege

402. (1) An involved person who is a legal practitioner is entitled to refuse to produce a document to an investigator if the document contains a privileged communication made by or on behalf of or to the legal practitioner in his or her capacity as a legal practitioner.

(2) The legal practitioner is not entitled to refuse to produce the document if the person by or on behalf of whom the communication was made or (if the person is under administration under Part 5.3A of the *Corporations Law*, as adopted and applying under this Act, or in the course of being wound up) the administrator or the liquidator agrees to the legal practitioner producing the document.

(3) If the legal practitioner refuses to comply with the requirement to produce a document, he or she must immediately furnish in writing to the investigator—

(a) the name and address of the person to whom or by or on behalf of whom the communication was made (if known to the legal practitioner); and

(b) sufficient particulars to identify the document.

Maximum penalty: \$6 000.

Offences by involved person

403. (1) An involved person must not—

(a) refuse or fail to comply with a lawful requirement of an investigator without showing reasonable cause for the refusal or failure; or

(b) give an investigator information knowing the information to be false or misleading in a material particular; or

(c) when appearing before an investigator—

(i) make a statement knowing the statement to be false or misleading in a material particular; or

(ii) fail to be sworn or to make an affirmation.

Maximum penalty: \$24 000 or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

(2) If an investigator considers that a refusal or failure by a person to comply with a requirement of the investigator is an offence under subsection (1)(a), the investigator may certify the refusal or failure to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court may then—

(a) order the involved person to comply with the requirement of the investigator within a stated period; or

(b) instead of, or in addition to, making that order, punish the involved person as for a contempt of the Supreme Court if satisfied that there was no lawful excuse for the refusal or failure to comply with the requirement of the investigator.

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Offences relating to documents

404. If an inquiry into the affairs of a co-operative is being held under this Division, a person who—

- (a) conceals, destroys, mutilates or alters a document relating to the co-operative; or
- (b) sends, or causes to be sent, out of the State any document or other property that belongs to, or is under the control of, the co-operative,

is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$12 000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 12 months, or both unless it is established that the person charged did not intend to defeat, delay or obstruct the inquiry.

Record of examination

405. (1) Except as provided by section 401, a record of an examination may be used in proceedings against the person examined, but this does not preclude the admission of other written or oral evidence.

(2) A person examined is, on written application made to the investigator, entitled to a free copy of the record of examination.

(3) The Commission may provide a legal practitioner with a copy of a record of examination made by an investigator if the Commission is satisfied that the legal practitioner is conducting, or is in good faith contemplating, legal proceedings in respect of affairs of the co-operative to which the record relates.

(4) A legal practitioner must not—

- (a) use a copy of a record of examination otherwise than in connection with the preparation for, institution of, or conduct of, legal proceedings; or
- (b) publish or communicate the record or any part of it for any other purpose.

Maximum penalty: \$6 000.

Report of investigator

406. (1) An investigator may, and if directed by the Commission to do so must, make interim reports to the Commission on any inquiry being held by the investigator.

(2) As soon as practicable after the end of an inquiry, the investigator must report to the Commission—

- (a) the opinion of the investigator in relation to the affairs of the co-operative the subject of the inquiry; and
- (b) the findings on which the opinion is based.

(3) An investigator's report may include a recommendation as to whether—

- (a) an order should be made under section 409(2) or (3); or
- (b) an application should be made under section 409(4); or
- (c) an order and an application should both be made.

(4) A report by an investigator may be accompanied by any document of which the investigator has taken possession after being produced under this Division, in which case the Commission—

- (a) may retain the document for the period that the Commission considers necessary in order to decide whether legal proceedings should be instituted as a result of the inquiry; and
- (b) may retain the document for any further period that the Commission considers to be necessary to enable legal proceedings to be instituted and prosecuted; and
- (c) may permit the use of the document for any legal proceedings instituted as a result of the inquiry; and
- (d) must permit inspection of the document by a person who would be entitled to inspect it if it were returned to its former custody; and
- (e) may permit inspection of the document by another person while it is in the possession of the Commission but only if the Commission considers that the person has an interest in the inquiry and, because of that interest, refusal of the inspection would be unjust.

Proceedings following inquiry

407. (1) If legal proceedings are to be, or have been, instituted by the Commission as a result of an inquiry under this Division, the Commission may, by order, require a person who, in relation to the inquiry, was an involved person to give all such assistance in connection with the proceedings as the person is reasonably able to give.

(2) The Supreme Court may, on the application of the Commission, order a person to comply with an order under subsection (1) if the person has refused or failed to do so.

(3) If the Commission considers that, as a result of an inquiry under this Division, legal proceedings should, in the public interest, be instituted by a co-operative for the recovery of—

- (a) damages in respect of fraud or other misconduct in connection with the affairs of the co-operative; or
- (b) property of the co-operative,

the proceedings may be instituted and prosecuted in the name of the co-operative.

Admission of investigator's report as evidence

408. (1) A document certified by the Commission as being a copy of a report of an inquiry under this Division is admissible as evidence of any findings made by the investigator.

(2) Subsection (1) does not authorise the admission of evidence that is inadmissible under section 401.

Costs of inquiry

409. (1) Subject to this section, the costs of an inquiry under this Division are to be paid by the Commission.

(2) If legal proceedings are instituted by the Commission under section 407 as a result of an inquiry under this Division, the Commission may make one or more of the following orders:

- (a) an order that a specified person pay all or part of the costs of the inquiry;

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- (b) if the costs of the inquiry have been paid by the Commission—an order that a specified person reimburse the Commission;
- (c) an order that a specified person pay or reimburse the Commission in respect of all or part of the costs of the inquiry.

(3) If the Commission is of the opinion that all or any part of the costs of an inquiry under this Division into the affairs of a co-operative should be paid by the co-operative, the Commission may, by order in writing, direct the co-operative to pay all or part of the costs of the inquiry.

(4) If a person is convicted of an offence in proceedings certified by the Commission to be the result of an inquiry under this Division into the affairs of a co-operative, the court may, on the application of the Commission made at the time of the conviction or not more than 14 days later, order the convicted person to pay to the Crown all or part of the costs of the inquiry.

(5) An order under this section must state—

- (a) the amount to be paid; and
- (b) the time or times for payment; and
- (c) the manner of payment.

(6) An amount that has not been paid by a person or co-operative in accordance with an order under this section may be recovered by the Commission as a debt by action in a court of competent jurisdiction.

DIVISION 3—PREVENTION OF FRAUD ETC.

Falsification of records

410. A person must not make, order or allow to be made any entry or erasure in, or any omission from—

- (a) any accounts or accounting records of a co-operative or of a subsidiary of a co-operative; or
- (b) any return, document or other record required to be sent, kept or delivered for the purposes of this Act,

with intent to falsify them or it, or to evade any of the provisions of this Act.

Maximum penalty: \$6 000.

Fraud or misappropriation

411. (1) A person must not—

- (a) by false representation or imposition, obtain possession of any property of a co-operative; or
- (b) having any property of a co-operative in his or her possession, withhold or misapply it or wilfully apply any part of it to purposes other than those authorised by the rules of the co-operative or by this Act.

Maximum penalty: \$6 000.

(2) A person who is found guilty of an offence under subsection (1) must, if ordered to do so by the court, deliver up all such property and repay all money improperly applied.

Maximum penalty: \$6 000 or imprisonment for 6 months, or both.

Offering or paying commission

412. A person must not offer or pay any commission, fee or reward, whether pecuniary or otherwise, to an officer of a co-operative for or in connection with a transaction or proposed transaction between the person and the co-operative.

Maximum penalty: \$6 000 or imprisonment for 6 months, or both.

Accepting commission

413. (1) An officer of a co-operative must not accept any commission, fee or reward, whether pecuniary or otherwise, from any person for or in connection with a transaction or proposed transaction between the person and the co-operative.

Maximum penalty: \$6 000 or imprisonment for 6 months, or both.

(2) An officer of a co-operative who is guilty of any offence under subsection (1) is also liable to make good to the co-operative double the value or amount of the commission, fee or reward.

False statements in loan application etc.

414. (1) A person must not in or in relation to any application, request or demand for money made to or of any co-operative—

- (a) give any information or makes any statement to the co-operative or an officer, employee or agent of the co-operative knowing it to be false or misleading in a material particular; or
- (b) proffer to the co-operative or an officer, employee or agent of the co-operative any information or statement provided by any other person knowing it to be false or misleading in a material particular.

Maximum penalty: \$6 000 or imprisonment for 6 months, or both.

(2) If a person is convicted of an offence under subsection (1), a co-operative from which money has been obtained by the person in relation to the commission of the offence may exercise all such rights under a mortgage or other security given to it by the person to secure the repayment of money as it could exercise if there were a breach of a covenant or of a term of any contract by which the security was given.

(3) The co-operative may exercise those rights whether the mortgage or other security was executed by the person alone or by the person and another person or other persons.

DIVISION 4—MISCELLANEOUS POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

Application for special meeting or inquiry

415. (1) The Commission must, on the application of a majority of the members of the board or of not less than one-third in number of the members of a co-operative—

- (a) call a special meeting of the co-operative; or

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- (b) hold, or appoint an inspector to hold, an inquiry into the affairs of the co-operative or of a subsidiary of the co-operative.

(2) An application must be supported by such evidence as the Commission directs for the purpose of showing that the applicants have good reason for requiring the meeting or inquiry and that the application is made without malicious motive.

(3) Notice of the application must be given to the co-operative as the Commission directs.

(4) The applicants must give such security for the expenses of the meeting or inquiry as the Commission directs.

Holding of special meeting

416. (1) The Commission may direct the time and place at which the special meeting is to be held and the matters that are to be discussed and determined at the meeting.

(2) The Commission must give such notice to members of the holding of the special meeting as the Commission considers appropriate (despite any provision in the co-operative's rules as to the giving of notice).

(3) The special meeting has all the powers of a meeting called in accordance with the rules of the co-operative and has power to appoint its own chairperson (despite any rule of the co-operative to the contrary).

(4) The Commission or any person nominated by the Commission for the purpose may attend and address the meeting.

Expenses of special meeting or inquiry

417. The expenses of and incidental to a meeting called or an inquiry held under this Division (including under section 418) must be defrayed in such proportions as the Commission directs—

- (a) by the applicants (if any); or
- (b) out of the funds of the co-operative to which the meeting or inquiry related or whose subsidiary was the subject of the inquiry; or
- (c) by any officer, member, former officer or former member of the co-operative.

Power to hold special inquiry into co-operative

418. The Commission may without any application hold, or appoint an inspector to hold, an inquiry into the working and financial condition of a co-operative or a subsidiary of a co-operative.

Special meeting following inquiry

419. (1) On completion of any inquiry under this Division, the Commission may call a special meeting of the co-operative.

(2) Sections 416 and 417 apply to such a meeting.

Information and evidence

420. (1) On any application for registration of a co-operative or registration or approval of any rule or document under this Act, the Commission may require from the applicant such information and evidence as may be reasonable in order to show that the application should be granted.

(2) The Commission may require from any co-operative such information and evidence as may be reasonable in order to show that the co-operative is *bona fide* carrying on business in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(3) The Commission may require from a co-operative such evidence as the Commission thinks proper of all matters required to be done and of the entries in any document required to be furnished to the Commission under this Act.

Extension or abridgment of time

421. (1) The Commission may grant an extension of, or may abridge, any time for doing anything required to be done by a co-operative by this Act, the regulations or the rules of a co-operative on such terms (if any) as the Commission determines.

(2) The Commission may grant an extension of time even if the time for doing the thing has expired.

Power of Commission to intervene in proceedings

422. (1) The Commission may intervene in any proceedings relating to a matter arising under this Act or the regulations.

(2) When the Commission intervenes in proceedings, the Commission is taken to be a party to the proceedings and, subject to this Act, has all the rights, duties and liabilities of such a party.

(3) The Commission may appear and be represented in any proceedings in which the Commission wishes to intervene pursuant to this section—

- (a) by a person to whom the Commission has delegated the Commission's functions under this Act or such of those functions as relate to a matter to which the proceedings relate; or
- (b) by an officer or temporary employee of the public service who is engaged in the administration of this Act; or
- (c) by a legal practitioner.

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**PART 16
ADMINISTRATION OF THIS ACT**

DIVISION 1—THE COMMISSION

Interpretation

423. In this Division—

"**repealed Act**" means—

- (a) the *Co-operatives Act 1983*; or
- (b) the *Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1923-1982*.

Commission responsible for administration of this Act

424. The Commission is responsible, subject to the control and direction of the Minister, for the administration of this Act.

Keeping of registers

425. (1) The register of incorporated co-operatives and other registers kept by the Commission under the *Co-operatives Act 1983* continue in existence under this Act subject to the provisions of this Act.

(2) The Commission may keep such other registers as the Commission thinks fit.

(3) The registers must be kept in the form and contain the particulars that the Commission thinks fit.

Disposal of records by Commission

426. (1) If the Commission is of the opinion that it is no longer necessary or desirable to retain any document of a class specified in subsection (2) that was lodged under this Act or a repealed Act, it may destroy that document.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the classes of documents are—

- (a) annual or periodic returns (and their annexure) that have been lodged for not less than 7 years;
- (b) quarterly returns under the *Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1923-1982*;
- (c) documents creating or evidencing a charge, or the complete or partial satisfaction of a charge, if a memorandum of satisfaction of the charge was registered for not less than 7 years;
- (d) documents, other than rules and amendments to rules, that have been lodged or registered not less than 10 years;
- (e) documents in the custody of the Commission relating to a society or registered co-operative where the society or registered co-operative has been dissolved or had its registration cancelled for not less than 10 years.

(3) For the purposes of this section a reference to a document includes a reference to a transparency of a document produced by photographic or electronic means.

Inspection of register

427. (1) A person may, on payment of the prescribed fee—

- (a) inspect a register kept by the Commission under this Act; or
- (b) inspect any document held or registered by the Commission under this Act; or
- (c) obtain from the Commission—
 - (i) a certified copy of, or extract from, an entry in a register kept under this Act or a repealed Act; or
 - (ii) a certified copy of a certificate of incorporation, or an acknowledgment of registration, issued or given under this Act or a repealed Act; or
 - (iii) a certified copy of, or extract from, any document held or registered by the Commission under this Act, or held or registered under a repealed Act.

(2) If a reproduction or transparency of a document is produced for inspection, a person is not entitled under subsection (1) to require the production of the original of that document.

(3) The reference in subsection (1)(c) to a certificate or document includes, where a reproduction or transparency of that certificate or document has been incorporated with a register kept by the Commission, a reference to that reproduction or transparency and, where such a reproduction or transparency has been so incorporated, a person is not entitled pursuant to that subsection to a copy of, or extract from, the original of that certificate or document.

(4) In this section—

"**transparency**", in relation to a document, means—

- (a) a developed negative or positive photograph of that document (in this definition referred to as an "**original photograph**") made, on a transparent base, by means of light reflected from, or transmitted through, the document; or
- (b) a copy of an original photograph made by the use of photosensitive material (being photosensitive material on a transparent base) placed in surface contact with the original photograph; or
- (c) any one of a series of copies of an original photograph, the first of the series being made by the use of photosensitive material (being photosensitive material on a transparent base) placed in surface contact with a copy referred to in paragraph (b), and each succeeding copy in the series being made, in the same manner, from any preceding copy in the series.

Approvals by Commission

428. (1) This section applies to any provision of this Act which imposes a requirement for the Commission's approval of any action or thing.

(2) The Commission may indicate in writing to an applicant for such an approval that the approval is to be considered to have been granted at the end of a specified period unless the Commission informs the applicant in writing within that period that the approval has not been granted or is still being considered.

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Lodgment of documents

429. A document is not to be taken to have been lodged under this Act or the regulations unless—

- (a) all information required to be provided in or with the document is provided; and
- (b) the prescribed fee (if any) has been paid.

Method of lodgment

430. (1) Subject to section 429, it is sufficient compliance with a requirement under this Act or the regulations that a document be lodged with the Commission if the Commission receives a copy of the document by facsimile or electronic transmission.

(2) If the Commission receives from a person a copy of a document under subsection (1), the Commission may require that person to produce and lodge the original within the time specified by the Commission.

(3) If the person does not comply with a requirement of the Commission within the specified time, the person is to be taken not to have lodged the document.

Power of Commission to refuse to register or reject documents

431. (1) The Commission may refuse to register or may reject a document submitted to the Commission if the Commission considers that the document—

- (a) contains matter contrary to law; or
- (b) contains matter, that in a material particular, is false or misleading in the form or context in which it is included; or
- (c) by reason of an omission or misdescription, has not been duly completed; or
- (d) does not comply with the requirements of this Act; or
- (e) contains any error, alteration or erasure.

(2) If the Commission refuses to register or rejects a document under subsection (1), the Commission may request—

- (a) that the document be appropriately amended; or
- (b) that a fresh document be submitted in its place; or
- (c) if the document has not been duly completed, that a supplementary document in the form approved by the Commission be submitted.

DIVISION 2—EVIDENCE**Certificate of registration**

432. (1) A certificate of registration of a co-operative issued under this Act is conclusive evidence that the co-operative is incorporated under this Act and that all the requirements of this Act in respect of registration have been complied with.

(2) This section does not affect any provisions of this Act for the winding up or dissolution of the co-operative or the cancellation of its registration.

Certificate evidence

433. (1) If a function under this Act is conferred or imposed on the Commission as a consequence of something being done or omitted to be done within a specified period, the Commission may certify—

- (a) that the thing had or had not been done within that period; or
- (b) that the thing had or had not been done by a specified date.

(2) The Commission may issue a certificate stating that a requirement of this Act specified in the certificate—

- (a) had, or had not, been complied with at a date or within a period specified in the certificate; or
- (b) had been complied with at a date specified in the certificate but not before that date.

(3) The Commission may issue a certificate stating that on a date specified in the certificate a body specified in the certificate was not or had ceased to be registered as a co-operative under this Act.

(4) A certificate given by the Commission under this section is evidence of the matters stated in the certificate.

Orders published in the Gazette

434. A copy of an order, notice, exemption or other instrument published in the *Gazette* purporting to have been given or issued under this Act or the regulations is evidence of the giving or issuing of the order, notice, exemption or other instrument of which it purports to be a copy.

Records kept by co-operatives

435. (1) A record kept by a co-operative under a requirement of this Act is admissible in evidence in any proceedings and is evidence of any matter stated or recorded in the record.

(2) A document purporting to be a record kept by a co-operative is, unless the contrary is proved, to be considered to be a record kept by the co-operative under a requirement of this Act.

(3) A copy of any entry in a record regularly kept by a co-operative in the course of its business is, if verified by statutory declaration of the secretary to be a true copy of the entry, to be received in evidence in any case where and to the same extent as the original entry itself is admissible.

Minutes

436. (1) Every entry in the minutes purporting to be a minute of the business transacted at a meeting of a co-operative or of the board, and purporting to have been signed by the chairperson at a subsequent meeting, is evidence that the business recorded in the minute was transacted at the meeting and that the meeting was duly convened and held.

(2) An entry in the minutes of a meeting of a co-operative to the effect that a resolution was carried or carried unanimously, or was lost, is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of votes recorded for or against the resolution.

Official certificates

437. (1) A certificate of registration given by the Commission must be received in evidence as if it were the original certificate.

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(2) A certificate of registration or other official document relating to a co-operative bearing the common seal of the Commission is to be received in evidence without further proof.

(3) A copy of rules certified by the Commission to be a true copy of the rules of a co-operative is evidence of the registered rules of the co-operative.

The Commission and proceedings

438. (1) Judicial notice must be taken of the seal of the Commission if the seal purports to be attached to any certificate or other official document.

(2) This section extends to any copy of the rules of a co-operative certified by the Commission to be a true copy of its registered rules.

Rules

439. A printed copy of the rules of a co-operative verified by statutory declaration of the secretary of the co-operative to be a true copy of its registered rules is in any proceedings evidence of the rules.

Registers

440. The register of directors, members and shares of a co-operative is evidence of the particulars directed or authorised by or under this Act to be inserted in the register.

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**PART 17
OFFENCES AND PROCEEDINGS**

Offences by officers of co-operatives

441. (1) If a co-operative contravenes a provision of this Act or the regulations—

- (a) any person who is a director of the co-operative or concerned in its management is taken to have contravened the same provision if the person knowingly authorised or permitted the contravention; and
- (b) any other officer of the co-operative who by a wilful act or omission is the cause of the contravention is taken to have contravened the same provision.

(2) A person may be proceeded against and convicted under a provision pursuant to subsection (1) whether or not the co-operative has been proceeded against or convicted under that provision.

(3) This section does not affect any liability imposed on a co-operative for an offence committed by the co-operative against this Act.

Notice to be given of conviction for offence

442. If a co-operative or an officer of a co-operative is convicted of an offence against a provision of this Act or the regulations, the co-operative must, not later than 28 days after the conviction is recorded, give to each member of the co-operative notice of—

- (a) the conviction; and
- (b) any penalty imposed in respect of the offence to which the conviction relates; and
- (c) the nature of the offence to which the conviction relates.

Secrecy

443. (1) A person—

- (a) who is, or at any time was, engaged in the administration of this Act or the former Act; and
- (b) who, except as provided by this section, records, makes use of or divulges any information obtained in the course of that administration,

is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$6 000.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to—

- (a) the recording, making use of or divulging of information in the course of the administration of this Act; or
- (b) the recording or making use of information for the purpose of divulging it as permitted by subsection (3) or (4); or
- (c) the divulging of information as permitted by subsection (3) or (4).

(3) Information may be divulged—

- (a) for the purposes of criminal proceedings; or

- (b) for the purposes of any proceedings under this Act or of an inquiry authorised by an Act; or
 - (c) with the consent of the person to whom the information relates; or
 - (d) in accordance with a requirement imposed under the *Ombudsman Act 1972*; or
 - (e) in accordance with a reciprocal arrangement under section 452.
- (4) Information may be divulged to—
- (a) the Minister; or
 - (b) the Treasurer; or
 - (c) the Commissioner of State Taxation; or
 - (d) the Auditor-General; or
 - (e) the Commissioner of Taxation, a Second Commissioner of Taxation or a Deputy Commissioner of Taxation holding office under a law of the Commonwealth; or
 - (f) the Australian Securities Commission; or
 - (g) the person who, under a law of another State, or of a Territory, administers a law of the State or Territory that relates to taxation or the imposition of a duty; or
 - (h) a commission of inquiry under the *Royal Commissions Act 1917* if—
 - (i) the Commission has received a written request in writing for information from the chairperson of the commission of inquiry; and
 - (ii) the Minister has given written approval to the Commission of the communication of that information; and
 - (iii) the Commission has given to that person written approval of the communication of that information; or
 - (i) a person seeking information under a reciprocal arrangement under section 452; or
 - (j) a member of the police force exercising functions as such; or
 - (k) a person nominated by a person referred to in paragraphs (a) to (g); or
 - (l) any person, to whom, in the opinion of the Commission, it is in the public interest that the information be divulged.

(5) For the purposes of this section, a person is, or was, engaged in the administration of this Act or the former Act if the person is engaged, or has at any time been engaged, in duties related to the administration of this Act or the former Act as—

- (a) an officer of the Commission or person referred to in section 12(3) of the *Companies (Administration) Act 1982*; or
- (b) an inspector appointed under this Act; or

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- (c) an investigator appointed under this Act; or
- (d) a person appointed or employed for the purposes of this Act or the former Act.

(6) In this section—

"**divulge**", in relation to information, means—

- (a) communicate the information verbally; or
- (b) make available a document containing the information; or
- (c) make available anything from which, by electronic process or otherwise, the information may be obtained; or
- (d) communicate the information in any other manner;

"**former Act**" means the *Co-operatives Act 1983*.

False or misleading statements

444. (1) A person who, in a document required for the purposes of this Act or lodged with the Commission makes, or authorises the making of, a statement knowing it to be false or misleading in a material particular is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$12 000.

(2) A person who, from a document required for the purposes of this Act or lodged with the Commission omits, or authorises the omission of, anything knowing that the omission makes the document misleading in a material particular is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$12 000.

(3) A person who, in a document required for the purposes of this Act or lodged with the Commission makes, or authorises the making of, a statement that is false or misleading in a material particular is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$6 000 unless it is proved that the person had taken reasonable precautions aimed at avoiding the making or authorising of false or misleading statements in such a document.

(4) If an omission makes a document required for the purposes of this Act or lodged with the Commission misleading in a material respect, a person who made or authorised the omission is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$6 000 unless it is proved that the person had taken reasonable precautions aimed at avoiding the making or authorising of omissions that would make such a document false or misleading.

Further offence for continuing failure to do required act

445. (1) If a provision of this Act requires an act to be done and it has not been done, the obligation to do the act continues until the act is done—

- (a) even if a person has been convicted of an offence in relation to the failure to do the act; and
- (b) even if the provision required the act to be done within a particular period or before a particular time and that period has ended or that time has passed.

(2) If a person is convicted of an offence (a "**primary conviction**") for a failure to do the act (whether it is the first or a second or subsequent offence in relation to the failure) and the failure to do the act continues after the time of the conviction, the person is guilty of a further offence for that continuing failure.

(3) That further offence is constituted by the failure to do the act during the period that begins with the primary conviction and ends when proceedings for the further offence are commenced or the act concerned is done (whichever happens first). This period is the "**further offence period**".

(4) Proceedings for the further offence are to be considered to have been commenced on the day on which the information for the further offence is laid or on such earlier day as the information may specify for that purpose.

(5) The maximum penalty for the further offence is the penalty calculated by multiplying \$50 by the number of days in the further offence period.

Civil remedies

446. (1) If a co-operative in making, guaranteeing or raising any loan or receiving any deposit contravenes any provision of this Act or the regulations or any rule of the co-operative, the civil rights and liabilities of the co-operative or any other person in respect of the recovery of the loan or deposit are not affected or prejudiced by the contravention but the money becomes immediately payable.

(2) The same remedies may be had for the recovery of the loan or deposit and for the enforcement of any security for it as if there had not been a contravention of this Act or the regulations or of the rules of the co-operative.

Injunctions

447. (1) If the Supreme Court is satisfied on the application of the Commission or a person whose interests have been, are or would be affected by the conduct that another person has engaged, is engaging or is proposing to engage in conduct that constituted, constitutes or would constitute—

- (a) a contravention of this Act or the regulations; or
- (b) attempting to contravene this Act or the regulations; or
- (c) aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring a person to contravene this Act or the regulations; or
- (d) inducing or attempting to induce, whether by threats, promises or otherwise, a person to contravene this Act or the regulations; or
- (e) being in any way, directly or indirectly, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the contravention by a person of this Act or the regulations; or
- (f) conspiring with others to contravene this Act or the regulations,

the Supreme Court may grant an injunction on such terms as the Supreme Court thinks appropriate, restraining that other person from engaging in the conduct and, if in the opinion of the Supreme Court it is desirable to do so, requiring that other person to do any act or thing.

(2) If in the opinion of the Supreme Court it is desirable to do so, the Court may grant an interim injunction pending determination of the application.

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(3) The Supreme Court may discharge or vary an injunction granted under this section.

(4) The power of the Supreme Court to grant an injunction restraining a person from engaging in conduct may be exercised—

- (a) whether or not it appears to the Court that the person intends to engage again, or to continue to engage, in conduct of that kind; and
- (b) whether or not the person has previously engaged in conduct of that kind; and
- (c) whether or not there is an imminent danger of substantial damage to any person if the first-mentioned person engages in conduct of that kind.

(5) The power of the Supreme Court to grant an injunction requiring a person to do an act or thing may be exercised—

- (a) whether or not it appears to the Court that the person intends to refuse or fail again, or to continue to refuse or fail, to do that act or thing; and
- (b) whether or not the person has previously refused or failed to do that act or thing; and
- (c) whether or not there is an imminent danger of substantial damage to any person if the first-mentioned person refuses or fails to do that act or thing.

(6) If the Supreme Court has power under this section to grant an injunction restraining a person from engaging in particular conduct, or requiring a person to do a particular act or thing, the Court may, either in addition to or in substitution for the grant of the injunction, order that person to pay damages to any other person.

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**PART 18
GENERAL**

Exemption from stamp duty

448. No stamp duty is payable in respect of any of the following instruments:

- (a) the certificate of registration of a co-operative;
- (b) a share certificate or any other instrument issued or executed in connection with the capital of a co-operative, other than a transfer of shares.

Co-operatives ceasing to exist

449. (1) As soon as practicable after a co-operative is dissolved or has otherwise ceased to exist, the Commission must register the dissolution and cancel the registration of the co-operative.

(2) The Commission may remove from any register kept by the Commission the name of any co-operative that has been dissolved or otherwise ceased to exist.

(3) A co-operative that has transferred its engagements to another co-operative is to be considered to have ceased to exist.

Service of documents on co-operative

450. (1) A document may be served on a co-operative by post or by leaving it at the registered office of the co-operative with a person who appears to be aged 16 or more.

(2) A document may be served on a foreign co-operative—

- (a) by post; or
- (b) by leaving it with a person who appears to be aged 16 or more and is at a place where the foreign co-operative carries on business in South Australia; or
- (c) by leaving it at the registered office in South Australia of the foreign co-operative registered under Part 14.

(3) For the purpose of serving a document under this section by post, it is properly addressed if—

- (a) in the case of a co-operative, it is addressed to the registered office of the co-operative; or
- (b) in the case of a foreign co-operative, it is addressed to a place in South Australia where the foreign co-operative carries on business.

(4) This section does not affect the operation of any provision of a law or of the rules of a court authorising a document to be served on a co-operative or a foreign co-operative in any other way.

Service on member of co-operative

451. (1) A notice required under this Act to be given to a member of a co-operative must be in writing.

(2) A notice or other document required under this Act to be given to a member of a co-operative may be given—

- (a) personally; or
 - (b) by post; or
 - (c) in the case of a notice—by publishing the notice in a newspaper circulating generally in South Australia or in the area served by the co-operative, if—
 - (i) the co-operative is a non-trading co-operative; or
 - (ii) the member's whereabouts are unknown to the co-operative; or
 - (iii) the Commission grants the co-operative permission to give the notice to its members in that manner.
- (3) The Commission's permission—
- (a) must be by instrument in writing;
 - (b) may be subject to such conditions as the Commission thinks fit;
 - (c) may relate to a particular notice or a class of notice;
 - (d) may be revoked by the Commission for breach of a condition by notice in writing.

Reciprocal arrangements

452. (1) If a reciprocal arrangement with another State or a Territory is in force, the Commission—

- (a) may, at the request of the appropriate official of the State or Territory, provide the official with information or documents relating to a co-operative; and
- (b) may request the appropriate official of the State or Territory to provide the Commission with documents or information relating to an organisation that, under the arrangement, is an organisation corresponding to a co-operative.

(2) A reciprocal arrangement with another State or a Territory is an arrangement made between the Minister and a representative of the government of the other State or the Territory under which it is agreed—

- (a) that the Commission will comply with a request referred to in subsection (1)(a); and
- (b) that a request made by the Commission to an official designated in the arrangement as the appropriate official for the purposes of subsection (1)(b) will be complied with.

Translation of documents

453. A requirement imposed by or under this Act to furnish or lodge a document or make a document available for inspection is, in the case of a document that is not in the English language, to be considered to include a requirement that a translation of the document be furnished, lodged or made available for inspection at the same time.

Regulations

454. (1) The Governor may make such regulations as are contemplated by, or as are necessary or expedient for the purposes of, this Act.

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(2) Without affecting the generality of subsection (1), regulations may be made for or with respect to the following:

- (a) the making of applications for the exercise of a function by the Commission, including the use of a form approved by the Commission;
- (b) the manner of lodgment of documents with the Commission (including electronic lodgment and lodgment by facsimile);
- (c) fees to be paid in connection with the administration of this Act including fees for lodgment of any documents under this Act and additional fees for late lodgment of any documents under this Act.

(3) A regulation may create an offence punishable by a penalty not exceeding \$2 000.

(4) Regulations relating to fees—

- (a) may prescribe different fees for different classes of cases;
- (b) may authorise the Commission to waive, reduce or refund fees in particular cases or classes of cases.

Co-operatives Act 1997

**PART 19
REPEAL AND AMENDMENT**

Repeal of Co-operatives Act 1983

455. The *Co-operatives Act 1983* is repealed.

Amendment of Security and Investigation Agents Act 1995

456. The *Security and Investigation Agents Act 1995* is amended by striking out from section 4(f)(vi) "*Co-operatives Act 1983*" and substituting "*Co-operatives Act 1997*".

Co-operatives Act 1997

SCHEDULE 1*Matters for which rules must make provision***Requirements for all co-operatives**

1. The rules of all co-operatives must set out or make provision for each of the following:

1. The name of the co-operative;
2. Active membership provisions (within the meaning of Part 6);
3. The mode and conditions of admission to membership, and the payment to be made or the share or interest to be acquired before rights of membership are exercised;
4. The rights and liabilities of members, and of the estates of deceased members, and the rights and liabilities of representatives of members under bankruptcy or mental incapacity;
5. The circumstances in which members may be expelled or suspended, and the rights and liabilities of expelled and suspended members;
6. The circumstances in which membership ceases;
7. Any charges or subscriptions which are to be payable by a member to the co-operative;
8. The circumstances in which fines and forfeitures may be imposed on members of the co-operative, and the amount of the fines, not exceeding the prescribed maximum amount;
9. The grievance procedures for settling disputes under the rules between the co-operative and any of its members as defined in section 83, or between a member and any other member;
10. The restrictions, if any, on the powers of the co-operative and the board;
11. The number of directors, the qualification of directors, and the manner of electing, remunerating and removing directors and filling a vacancy, the period for which directors are to hold office, and whether directors are to retire by rotation or otherwise and for the holding of annual elections;
12. The quorum for meetings, and the procedure at meetings, of the board;
13. The device, custody and use of the seal of the co-operative;
14. The manner in which the funds of the co-operative are to be managed, and in particular the mode of drawing and signing cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes, and other negotiable instruments for and on behalf of the co-operative;
15. Provision for the custody of securities belonging to the co-operative;
16. The manner in which debentures may be transferred;
17. The date on which the financial year of the co-operative concludes;
18. Provision for the accounts of the co-operative to be audited annually or more frequently and the manner of appointment of the auditor;
19. The manner in which any loss which may result from the transactions of the co-operative is to be provided for;
20. The manner of calling general and special meetings, the requisite notices of meetings, and the quorum for meetings, of the co-operative;
21. The procedure at meetings of the co-operative, including the rights of members in voting at meetings, the manner of voting, and the majority necessary for carrying resolutions;

22. The method of conducting postal ballots, including special postal ballots, including the sending and lodgment of information and votes by facsimile or electronic means;
23. The manner of altering the rules;
24. The manner in which the co-operative may be wound-up;
25. Any matters that may be prescribed, whether in addition to or in substitution for any matter specified in this clause;
26. Any other matters that to the co-operative appear necessary or desirable.

Additional matters—co-operatives with share capital

2. In addition to the matters specified in clause 1, the rules of a co-operative with a share capital must set out or make provision for each of the following:

1. The nominal value of each share in the co-operative;
2. The amount of the contingent liability, if any, attaching to shares;
3. The terms on which shares, not including bonus shares, but including shares, if any, with a contingent liability attached to them are to be issued;
4. The periodic subscriptions by which or the manner in which shares are to be paid for;
5. In the case of a trading co-operative, the manner in which any surplus may be distributed;
6. The allocation of a deficiency on the winding up of a co-operative;
7. Provision for the forfeiture of shares on expulsion or on failure to pay any subscription or call, the extent to which members whose shares have been forfeited are to remain liable for any amount still unpaid in respect of them, and the sale or cancellation of forfeited shares;
8. The manner in which shares may be transferred;
9. Any matters that may be prescribed, whether in addition to or in substitution for any matter specified in this clause.

Additional matters—non-trading co-operatives

3. In addition to the matters specified in clauses 1 and 2, the rules of a non-trading co-operative must provide—

1. That there must be no return or distribution on surplus or share capital to members other than the nominal value of shares (if any) at winding up;
2. For the manner of distribution of the surplus property at winding up.

Co-operatives Act 1997

SCHEDULE 2*Relevant interests, associates, related bodies***PART 1****RELEVANT INTERESTS****Terminology used in this Schedule**

1. (1) This clause applies for the purposes of this Part.
- (2) Power to vote in respect of a right to vote is power to exercise, or to control the exercise of, the right to vote.
- (3) A reference to power to dispose of a share includes a reference to power to exercise control over the disposal of the share.
- (4) A reference to power or control includes a reference to power or control that is direct or indirect or is, or can be, exercised as a result of, by means of, in breach of, or by revocation of, trusts, agreements and practices, or any of them, whether or not they are enforceable.
- (5) Power to vote in respect of a right to vote, or power to dispose of a share, that is exercisable by 2 or more persons jointly is to be considered to be exercisable by either or any of those persons.
- (6) A reference to a controlling interest includes a reference to an interest that gives control.

Basic rules—relevant interests

2. (1) A person who has power to vote in respect of a right to vote has a relevant interest in the right to vote.
- (2) A person who has power to dispose of a share has a relevant interest in the share.

Control of body corporate having power in relation to a share

3. If a body corporate has, or is by this Part to be considered to have—

- (a) power to vote in respect of a right to vote; or
- (b) power to dispose of a share,

a person is to be considered for the purposes of this Part to have in relation to the right to vote or share the same power as the body has, or is to be considered to have, if—

- (c) the body is, or its directors are, accustomed or under an obligation, whether formal or informal, to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the person in relation to the exercise of the power referred to in paragraph (a) or (b); or
- (d) the person has a controlling interest in the body.

Control of 20 per cent of voting power in body corporate having power in relation to a share

4. If a body corporate or an associate of a body corporate has, or is by this Part (other than this clause) to be considered to have—

- (a) power to vote in respect of a right to vote; or
- (b) power to dispose of a share,

a person is to be considered for the purposes of this Part to have in relation to the right to vote or share the same power as the body or associate has, or is to be considered to have, if—

- (c) the person has; or
- (d) an associate of the person has; or

- (e) associates of the person together have; or
- (f) the person and an associate or associates of the person together have,

power to vote in respect of the right to vote attached to not less than 20 per cent of the voting shares in the body.

Deemed relevant interest in advance of performance of agreement that will give rise to a relevant interest

5. If a person—

- (a) has entered into an agreement with another person with respect to an issued share or right to vote in which the other person has a relevant interest; or
- (b) has a right enforceable against another person in relation to an issued share or right to vote in which the other person has a relevant interest, whether the right is enforceable presently or in the future and whether or not on the fulfilment of a condition; or
- (c) has an option granted by another person, or has granted to another person an option, with respect to an issued share or right to vote in which the other person has a relevant interest,

and, on performance of the agreement, enforcement of the right, or exercise of the option, the first-mentioned person would have a relevant interest in the share or right to vote, the first-mentioned person is to be considered for the purposes of this Part to have that relevant interest in the share or right to vote.

Control of body corporate having a relevant interest by virtue of clause 5

6. If a body corporate is by clause 5 to be considered to have a relevant interest in a share in or right to vote at meetings of a co-operative, a person is to be considered for the purposes of this Part to have a relevant interest in the share or right to vote if—

- (a) the body corporate is, or its directors are, accustomed or under an obligation, whether formal or informal, to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the person in relation to the exercise of power to vote in respect of that right to vote or power to dispose of those shares; or
- (b) the person has a controlling interest in the body corporate; or
- (c) the person has power to vote in respect of the right to vote attached to not less than 20 per cent of the voting shares in the body corporate.

Matters not affecting application of Schedule

7. (1) It is immaterial for the purposes of this Part whether or not power to vote in respect of a right to vote, or power to dispose of a share—

- (a) is express or implied or formal or informal; or
- (b) is exercisable by a person alone or jointly with any other person or persons; or
- (c) cannot be related to a particular share; or
- (d) is, or can be made, subject to restraint or restriction.

(2) A relevant interest in a share or right to vote is not to be disregarded merely because of either or both of the following:

- (a) its remoteness;
- (b) how it arose.

Body corporate may have a relevant interest in its own shares

8. A body corporate may, by virtue of this Part, be considered to have a relevant interest in a share in or right to vote arising from membership of the body itself.

Co-operatives Act 1997

Exclusions—money-lenders

9. A relevant interest of a person in a share or right to vote is to be disregarded if the person's ordinary business includes lending money and the person has authority to exercise powers as the holder of the relevant interest only because of a security given for the purposes of a transaction entered into in the ordinary course of business in connection with lending money, other than a transaction entered into with an associate of the person.

Exclusions—certain trustees

10. A relevant interest of a person in a share or right to vote is to be disregarded if—

- (a) the share or right is subject to a trust; and
- (b) the person has the relevant interest as a trustee of the trust; and
- (c) either—
 - (i) a beneficiary under the trust is by clause 5 to be considered to have a relevant interest in the share or right because the beneficiary has a presently enforceable and unconditional right referred to in clause 5(b); or
 - (ii) the person is a bare trustee.

Exclusions—instructions to securities dealer to dispose of share

11. A relevant interest of a person in a share or right to vote is to be disregarded if—

- (a) the person's ordinary business includes dealing in securities; and
- (b) the person has authority to exercise powers as the holder of the relevant interest only because of instructions given to the person, by or on behalf of another person, to dispose of the share on the other person's behalf in the ordinary course of that business.

Exclusions—honorary proxies

12. A relevant interest of a person in a share or right to vote is to be disregarded if the person has it only because of having been appointed, otherwise than for valuable consideration given by the person or an associate of the person, to vote as a proxy or representative at a meeting of members, or of a class of members, of a body corporate.

Exclusions—holders of prescribed offices

13. A relevant interest of a person in a share or right to vote is to be disregarded if the person has it because of holding a prescribed office.

Prescribed exclusions

14. The regulations may provide that specified relevant interests in specified shares are, in specified circumstances and subject to specified conditions (if any), to be disregarded for the purposes of specified provisions of this Act.

Effect of Schedule

15. (1) Nothing in this Schedule limits the generality of anything else in it.

(2) A person does not have a relevant interest in a share of a co-operative or right to vote in respect of a co-operative except as provided in this Schedule.

Relevant interest—body corporate other than co-operative

16. A reference in this Act (including in this Schedule) to a relevant interest in a share of a body corporate other than a co-operative or a right to vote in respect of a body corporate other than a co-operative is to be construed in accordance with the *Corporations Law*.

PART 2
ASSOCIATES

Effect of Part

17. A person is not an associate of another person except as provided by this Part.

Associates of a body corporate

18. The associates of a body corporate include the following:

- (a) a director or secretary of the body;
- (b) a related body corporate;
- (c) a director or secretary of a related body corporate.

Matters relating to voting rights

19. (1) If a reference to an associate of a person relates to—

- (a) the extent of power to exercise, or to control the exercise of, the voting power attached to voting shares in or arising from membership of a body corporate; or
- (b) the person's entitlement to shares in a body corporate; or
- (c) an offer to purchase shares to which Division 2 of Part 11 applies,

the reference includes a reference to another person with whom the person has, or proposes to enter into, an agreement referred to in subclause (2).

(2) Subclause (1) applies to an agreement—

- (a) because of which one of the persons referred to in subclause (1) has or will have power (even if it is in any way qualified)—
 - (i) to exercise; or
 - (ii) to control, directly or indirectly, the exercise of; or
 - (iii) to influence substantially the exercise of any voting power attached to shares in the body; or
- (b) for the purpose of controlling or influencing—
 - (i) the composition of the body's board; or
 - (ii) the conduct of affairs of the body; or
- (c) under which one of those persons—
 - (i) will or may acquire; or
 - (ii) may be required by the other to acquire,shares in the body in which the other has a relevant interest; or
- (d) under which one of those persons may be required to dispose of shares in the body in accordance with the other's directions.

(3) Subclause (1) applies despite any other effect the agreement may have.

(4) In relation to a matter relating to shares in a body corporate, a person may be an associate of the body and the body may be an associate of a person.

Co-operatives Act 1997

General

20. (1) A reference to an associate of a person includes a reference to—

- (a) any other person in concert with whom the person is acting or proposes to act;
- (b) any other person who, under the regulations, is, for the purposes of the provision in which the reference occurs, an associate of the person;
- (c) any other person with whom the person is or proposes to become associated, whether formally or informally, in any other way,

in respect of the matter to which the reference relates.

(2) If a person has entered, or proposes to enter, into a transaction, or has done, or proposes to do, any act or thing, in order to become associated with another person as mentioned in an applicable provision of this Part, a reference to an associate of the person includes a reference to that other person.

Exclusions

21. A person is not an associate of another person by virtue of clause 19 or 20(1), or by virtue of clause 20(2) as it applies in relation to clause 19 or 20(1), merely because of one or more of the following:

- (a) one gives advice to the other, or acts on the other's behalf, in the proper performance of the functions attaching to a professional capacity or a business relationship;
- (b) one, a client, gives specific instructions to the other, whose ordinary business includes dealing in securities, to acquire shares on the client's behalf in the ordinary course of that business;
- (c) one has made, or proposes to make, to the other an offer to which Division 2 of Part 11 applies, in relation to shares held by the other;
- (d) one has appointed the other, otherwise than for valuable consideration given by the other or by an associate of the other, to vote as a proxy or representative at a meeting of members, or of a class of members, of a body corporate.

**PART 3
RELATED BODIES****Related bodies corporate**

22. For the purposes of this Act, a body corporate is to be taken to be related to—

- (a) another body corporate that is its subsidiary; and
- (b) another body corporate of which it is a subsidiary; and
- (c) another body corporate if both it and that other body corporate are subsidiaries of the same body corporate.

SCHEDULE 3

Registration etc. of charges

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Interpretation

1. In this Part—

"**co-operative**" includes a foreign co-operative registered under Part 14;

"**document of title**" means a document—

- (a) used in the ordinary course of business as proof of possession or control, or of the right to possession or control, of property other than land; or
- (b) authorising or purporting to authorise, whether by endorsement or delivery, the possessor of the document to transfer or receive property other than land,

and includes—

- (c) a bill of lading; and
- (d) a warehousekeeper's certificate; and
- (e) a wharfinger's certificate; and
- (f) a warrant or order for the delivery of goods; and
- (g) a document that is, or evidences title to, a marketable security;

"**marketable security**" has the same meaning as in the *Corporations Law*;

"**present liability**", in relation to a charge, means a liability that has arisen, being a liability the extent or amount of which is fixed or capable of being ascertained, whether or not the liability is immediately due to be met;

"**property**", in relation to a co-operative, means property within South Australia held by the co-operative, whether or not as trustee;

"**prospective liability**", in relation to a charge, means any liability that may arise in the future, or any other liability, but does not include a present liability;

"**Register**" means the Register of Co-operative Charges referred to in clause 18;

"**registrable charge**" means a charge in relation to which, by virtue of clause 4, the provisions of this Schedule mentioned in clause 4(1) apply.

Application to charges referred to in clause 17

2. (1) A charge referred to in clause 17 is, until the charge is registered, to be treated for the purposes of this Schedule as if it were not a registrable charge but, when the charge is so registered, it has the priority accorded to a registered charge as from the time of registration.

(2) The registration of a charge referred to in clause 17 does not prejudice any priority that would have been accorded to the charge under any other law (whether or not a law of a place in Australia) if the charge had not been registered.

Lodgment of documents

3. For the purposes of this Schedule, a notice or other document is taken to be lodged when it is received at the office of the Commission by an officer authorised to receive it.

Co-operatives Act 1997

**PART 2
REGISTRATION****DIVISION 1—CHARGES****To which charges does Schedule apply?**

4. (1) Subject to this Division, the provisions of this Schedule relating to the giving of notice in relation to, the registration of, and the priorities of, charges—

- (a) apply in relation to the charges referred to in subclause (2) (whether legal or equitable) on property of a co-operative; and
- (b) do not apply in relation to any other charges.

(2) Subclause (1) applies to the following charges:

- (a) a floating charge on the whole or a part of the property, business or undertaking of the co-operative;
- (b) a charge on uncalled share capital or uncalled share premiums;
- (c) a charge on a call, whether in respect of share capital or share premiums, made but not paid;
- (d) a charge on a personal chattel, including a personal chattel that is unascertained or is to be acquired in the future, but not including a ship registered in an official register kept under a law of a place in Australia relating to title to ships;
- (e) a charge on goodwill, on a patent or licence under a patent, on a trade mark or service mark or a licence to use a trade mark or service mark, on a copyright or a licence under a copyright or on a registered design or a licence to use a registered design;
- (f) a charge on a book debt;
- (g) a charge on a marketable security, not being—
 - (i) a charge created in whole or in part by the deposit of a document of title to the marketable security; or
 - (ii) a mortgage under which the marketable security is registered in the name of the chargee or a person nominated by the chargee;
- (h) a lien or charge on a crop, a lien or charge on wool or a stock mortgage;
- (i) a charge on a negotiable instrument other than a marketable security.

Excluded charges

5. The provisions of this Schedule mentioned in clause 4(1) do not apply in relation to—

- (a) a charge, or a lien over property, arising by operation of law; or
- (b) a pledge of a personal chattel or of a marketable security; or
- (c) a charge created in relation to a negotiable instrument or a document of title to goods, being a charge by way of pledge, deposit, letter of hypothecation or trust receipt; or
- (d) a transfer of goods in the ordinary course of the practice of any profession or the carrying on of any trade or business; or
- (e) a dealing, in the ordinary course of the practice of any profession or the carrying on of any trade or business, in respect of goods outside Australia.

Personal chattels

6. The reference in clause 4(2)(d) to a charge on a personal chattel is a reference to a charge on any article capable of complete transfer by delivery, whether at the time of the creation of the charge or at some later time, and includes a reference to a charge on a fixture or a growing crop that is charged separately from the land to which it is affixed or on which it is growing, but does not include a reference to a charge on—

- (a) a document evidencing title to land; or
- (b) a chattel interest in land; or
- (c) a marketable security; or
- (d) a document evidencing a thing in action; or
- (e) stock or produce on a farm or land that by virtue of a covenant or agreement ought not to be removed from the farm or land where the stock or produce is at the time of the creation of the charge.

Book debts

7. The reference in clause 4(2)(f) to a charge on a book debt—

- (a) is a reference to a charge on a debt due or to become due to the co-operative at some future time on account of or in connection with a profession, trade or business carried on by the co-operative, whether entered in a book or not; and
- (b) includes a reference to a charge on a future debt of the same nature although not incurred or owing at the time of the creation of the charge,

but does not include a reference to a charge on a marketable security, on a negotiable instrument or on a debt owing in respect of a mortgage, charge or lease of land.

Crops or stock

8. The reference in clause 4(2)(h) to a lien or charge on a crop, a lien or charge on wool or a stock mortgage includes a reference to a security (however described) that is registrable under a prescribed law of a State or Territory.

Deposit of documents of title

9. For the purposes of this Division, a co-operative is to be considered to have deposited a document of title to property with another person (in this clause referred to as the "**chargee**") in a case where the document of title is not in the possession of the co-operative if—

- (a) the person who holds the document of title acknowledges in writing that the person holds the document of title on behalf of the chargee; or
- (b) a government, an authority or a body corporate that proposes to issue a document of title in relation to the property agrees, in writing, to deliver the document of title, when issued, to the chargee.

Charges on land or fixtures on land

10. (1) The provisions of this Schedule mentioned in clause 4(1) do not apply in relation to a charge on land.

(2) The provisions of this Schedule mentioned in clause 4(1) do not apply in relation to a charge on fixtures given by a charge on the land to which they are affixed.

What if other property is also charged?

11. For the purposes of this Division, a charge is to be considered to be a charge on property of a kind to which a particular paragraph of clause 4(2) applies even though the instrument of charge also charges other property of the co-operative including other property that is of a kind to which none of the paragraphs of that subclause applies.

Co-operatives Act 1997

Effect of failure to lodge or give notice or document

12. A charge on property of a co-operative is not invalid merely because of the failure to lodge with the Commission, or give to the co-operative or another person, a notice or other document that is required by this Part to be so lodged or given.

DIVISION 2—NOTICE OF CHARGE**Lodgment of notice of charge and copy of instrument**

13. (1) If a co-operative creates a charge, the co-operative must ensure that there is lodged with the Commission within 45 days after the creation of the charge, a notice in the form approved by the Commission setting out the following particulars:

- (a) the name of the co-operative and the date of the creation of the charge;
- (b) whether the charge is a fixed charge, a floating charge or both a fixed and floating charge;
- (c) if the charge is a floating charge, whether there is any provision in the resolution or instrument creating or evidencing the charge that prohibits or restricts the creation of subsequent charges;
- (d) a short description of the liability (whether present or prospective) secured by the charge;
- (e) a short description of the property charged;
- (f) whether the charge is created or evidenced by a resolution, by an instrument or by a deposit or other conduct;
- (g) if the charge is constituted by the issue of a debenture or debentures, the name of the trustee (if any) for debenture holders;
- (h) if the charge is not constituted by the issue of a debenture or debentures or there is no trustee for debenture holders, the name of the chargee;
- (i) any other information that is prescribed.

(2) If, pursuant to a resolution or resolutions passed by the co-operative, the co-operative issues a series of debentures constituting a charge to the benefit of which all the holders of debentures in the series are entitled in equal priority, and the charge is evidenced only by the resolution or resolutions and the debentures, the notice under subclause (1) must be accompanied by—

- (a) a copy of the resolution or of each of the resolutions verified by a statement in writing to be a true copy; and
- (b) a copy of the first debenture issued in the series and a statement in writing verifying the execution of that first debenture.

(3) If, in a case to which subclause (2) does not apply, the charge created by the co-operative was created or evidenced by an instrument or instruments, the notice under subclause (1) must be accompanied by—

- (a) the instrument or each of the instruments; or
- (b) a copy of the instrument or of each of the instruments verified by a statement in writing to be a true copy, and a statement in writing verifying the execution of the instrument or of each of the instruments.

Series of debentures

14. In a case to which clause 13(2) applies—

- (a) the charge is, for the purposes of clause 13, to be considered to be created when the first debenture in the series of debentures is issued; and

- (b) if, after the issue of the first debenture in the series, the co-operative passes a further resolution authorising the issue of debentures in the series, the co-operative must ensure that a copy of that resolution, verified by a statement in writing to be a true copy of that resolution, is lodged within 45 days after the passing of that resolution.

Operation of priority provisions in respect of issue of debentures

15. If a notice with respect to an instrument creating a charge has been lodged under clause 13(1), being a charge in respect of an issue of several debentures the holders of which are entitled under the instrument in equal priority to the benefit of the charge, clauses 46 to 49 have effect as if any charges constituted by those debentures were registered at the time when the charge to which the notice relates was registered.

Discounts

16. (1) If a payment or discount has been made or allowed, either directly or indirectly, by a co-operative to a person in consideration of the person's subscribing or agreeing to subscribe, whether absolutely or conditionally, for debentures, or procuring or agreeing to procure subscriptions, whether absolute or conditional, for debentures, the notice required to be lodged under clause 13(1) must include particulars as to the amount or rate per cent of the payment or discount.

(2) If a co-operative issues debentures as security for a debt of the co-operative, the co-operative is not thereby to be regarded, for the purposes of subclause (1), as having allowed a discount in respect of the debentures.

Acquisition of property subject to charge

17. (1) If a co-operative acquires property that is subject to a charge, being a charge that would have been registrable when it was created if it had been created by a co-operative, the co-operative must, within 45 days after the acquisition of the property—

- (a) ensure that there is lodged with the Commission a notice in the form approved by the Commission in relation to the charge, setting out—
- (i) the name of the co-operative; and
 - (ii) the date on which the property was so acquired; and
 - (iii) any other particulars required by clause 13(1); and
- (b) give to the chargee notice that it has acquired the property and the date on which it was so acquired.

(2) If the charge referred to in subclause (1) was created or evidenced as mentioned in clause 13(2), the notice under subclause (1)(a) must be accompanied by—

- (a) a copy of the resolution or of each of the resolutions referred to in clause 13(2) verified by a statement in writing to be a true copy; and
- (b) a copy of the first debenture issued in the series referred to in clause 13(2) verified by a statement in writing to be a true copy.

(3) If the charge referred to in subclause (1) was created or evidenced by an instrument or instruments (otherwise than as mentioned in clause 13(2)), the notice under subclause (1)(a) must be accompanied by—

- (a) the instrument or each of the instruments; or
- (b) a copy of the instrument or of each of the instruments verified by a statement in writing to be a true copy.

DIVISION 3—REGISTRATION

Register of Co-operative Charges

18. The Commission must keep a register to be known as the *Register of Co-operative Charges*.

Co-operatives Act 1997

Registration of documents relating to charge

19. (1) If a notice is lodged with the Commission in accordance with Division 2, the Commission must as soon as practicable cause to be entered in the Register the time and date when the notice was lodged and the following particulars in relation to the charge—

- (a) if the charge is a charge created by the co-operative, the date of its creation;
- (b) if the charge was a charge existing on property acquired by the co-operative, the date on which the property was so acquired;
- (c) a short description of the liability (whether present or prospective) secured by the charge;
- (d) a short description of the property charged;
- (e) the name of the trustee for debenture holders or, if there is no such trustee, the name of the chargee.

(2) Subclause (1) only applies if the notice contains the required particulars and is accompanied by the required documents.

(3) Subclause (1) applies whether the notice is lodged during or after the period within the notice is required to be lodged.

(4) Subject to this Division, if particulars in respect of a charge are entered in the Register in accordance with subclause (1), the charge is to be considered to be registered, and to have been registered from and including the time and date entered in the Register under that subclause.

(5) The Commission may enter in the Register in relation to a charge, in addition to the particulars expressly required by this Division to be entered, such other particulars as the Commission thinks fit.

Provisional registration if stamp duty not paid

20. (1) If—

- (a) a notice in respect of a charge on property of a co-operative is lodged under Division 2; and
- (b) the notice is not accompanied by a certificate to the effect that all documents accompanying the notice have been duly stamped as required by any applicable law relating to stamp duty,

the Commission must cause to be entered in the Register the time and date when the notice was lodged and the particulars referred to in clause 19(1)(a) to (e), but must cause the word "provisional" to be entered in the Register next to the entry specifying that time and date.

(2) Subclause (1) applies whether the notice was lodged during or after the period within which the notice was required to be lodged.

(3) The Commission must delete the word "provisional" entered in the Register under subclause (1) from an entry relating to a charge if a certificate to the effect set out in subclause (1)(b) has been produced to the Commission—

- (a) within a period of 28 days; or
- (b) within such longer period as is prescribed after the notice was lodged; or
- (c) within such further period as the Commission, if the Commission considers it to be appropriate in a particular case, allows.

(4) The Commission must delete from the Register all the particulars that were entered in relation to a charge if—

- (a) the word "provisional" is entered in the Register under subclause (1) in relation to an entry relating to the charge; and

- (b) a certificate to the effect set out in subclause (1)(b) is not produced within the period, or the further period, referred to in subclause (3).

Provisional registration if required particulars not supplied

21. (1) If a defective notice in respect of a charge on property is lodged with the Commission under clause 19, the Commission must cause to be entered in the Register—

- (a) the time and date when the document was lodged; and
- (b) such of the particulars referred to in clause 19(1)(a) to (e) as are ascertainable; and
- (c) the word "provisional" next to the entry specifying the time and date.

(2) If a defective notice in respect of a charge is lodged under clause 19, the Commission must, by written notice to the person who lodged the defective notice, direct the person to ensure that there is lodged, on or before the day specified in the notice, a notice in relation to the charge that complies with the requirements of Division 2.

(3) Subclauses (1) and (2) apply whether the defective notice was lodged during or after the period within which the notice was required to be lodged.

(4) The giving by the Commission of a direction to the person under subclause (2) does not affect any liability that the co-operative may have incurred or may incur by reason of a contravention of Division 2.

(5) If the Commission gives a direction to a person under subclause (2) in relation to a charge and the direction is complied with on or before the day specified in the notice containing the direction, the Commission must—

- (a) delete from the Register the word "provisional" that was inserted pursuant to subclause (1); and
- (b) cause to be entered in the Register in relation to the charge any particulars referred to in clause 19(1) that have not previously been entered.

(6) If the Commission gives a direction to a person under subclause (2) in relation to a charge and the direction is not complied with on or before the day specified in the notice, the Commission must delete from the Register all the particulars that were entered in relation to the charge.

(7) If the Commission gives a direction to a person under subclause (2) in relation to a charge and the direction is complied with after the day specified in the notice, the Commission must cause to be entered in the Register in relation to the charge—

- (a) the time at which and day on which the direction was complied with; and
- (b) the particulars referred to in clause 19(1)(a) to (e).

(8) In this clause—

"defective notice" means a document that—

- (a) purports to be a notice in respect of a charge on property of a co-operative for the purposes of Division 2; and
- (b) contains the name of the co-operative concerned and the particulars referred to in clause 13(1)(g) or (h), as the case requires,

but does not contain some or all of the other particulars that are required to be included in the notice or is otherwise defective.

Co-operatives Act 1997**Effect of provisional registration**

22. (1) Subject to this clause, if the word "provisional" is entered in the Register next to an entry specifying a time and day in relation to a charge, the charge is to be considered not to have been registered.

(2) If the word "provisional" is deleted from the Register pursuant to clause 20 or 21(5), the charge is to be considered to be registered and to have been registered from and including the time and day specified in the Register pursuant to clause 20 or 21(1), as the case may be.

(3) If the particulars in relation to the charge are deleted from the Register pursuant to clause 21(6) and those particulars and a time and day are subsequently entered in the Register in relation to the charge pursuant to clause 21(7) the charge is to be considered to be registered from and including that last-mentioned time and day.

What if 2 or more charges relate to the same property?

23. (1) If, pursuant to clause 17, a co-operative lodges notices relating to 2 or more charges on the same property acquired by the co-operative (being charges that are not already registered under this Division), the time and day that is to be entered in the Register in relation to each of those charges are the time and day when the first notice was lodged.

(2) If, in accordance with subclause (1), the time and day that are entered in the Register are the same in relation to 2 or more charges on property acquired by a co-operative, those charges are to have, as between themselves, the respective priorities that they would have had if they had not been registered under this Division.

Registration of assignment or variation of charge

24. (1) If a notice is lodged under clause 36, the Commission must as soon as practicable cause to be entered in the Register the time and day when the notice was so lodged and the particulars set out in the notice.

(2) Subclause (1) applies whether the notice was lodged during or after the period within which the notice was required to be lodged.

Standard time for the purposes of this Division

25. (1) The Commission may, by notice published in the *Gazette*, declare a specified standard time to be the standard time for the purposes of this Division.

(2) If a notice is in force under subclause (1), a reference in this Division to entering the time when a particular event happened is a reference to entering that time as expressed in terms of the standard time specified in the notice.

DIVISION 4—CERTAIN CHARGES VOID AGAINST LIQUIDATOR OR ADMINISTRATOR**Definitions**

26. In this Division—

"**critical day**", in relation to a co-operative, means—

- (a) if the co-operative is being wound up, the day when the winding up began; or
- (b) if the co-operative is under administration, the relevant day in relation to the administration; or
- (c) if the co-operative has executed a deed of arrangement, the relevant day in relation to the administration that ended when the deed was executed;

"**relevant day**", in relation to the administration of a co-operative, means—

- (a) if, when the administration began, a winding up of the co-operative was in progress, the day on which the winding up is taken because of Division 1A of Part 5.6 of the *Corporations Law* (as adopted and applying under this Act) to have begun; or

- (b) otherwise, the day on which the administration began.

Certain charges void against liquidator or administrator

27. (1) Subject to this Division, if—

- (a) an order is made, or a resolution is passed, for the winding up of a co-operative; or
- (b) the Commission gives a certificate under section 310 for the winding up of the co-operative; or
- (c) an administrator of a co-operative is appointed under Part 5.3A of the *Corporations Law* as adopted and applying under this Act; or
- (d) a co-operative executes a deed of arrangement,

a registrable charge on property of the co-operative is void as a security on that property as against the liquidator, the administrator of the co-operative, or the deed's administrator, as the case may be.

(2) A charge is not void under subclause (1) if—

- (a) a notice in respect of the charge was lodged under clause 13 or 17, as the case requires—
 - (i) within the relevant period; or
 - (ii) at least 6 months before the critical day; or
- (b) the period within which a notice in respect of the charge (other than a notice under clause 36) is required to be lodged, being the period specified in the relevant clause or that period as extended by the Supreme Court under clause 29, has not ended at the start of the critical day and the notice is lodged before the end of that period; or
- (c) in relation to a charge to which clause 17 applies, the period of 45 days after the chargee becomes aware that the property charged has been acquired by a co-operative has not ended at the start of the critical day and the notice is lodged before the end of that period.

(3) The reference in subclause (2)(a) to the relevant period will be construed as a reference to—

- (a) in relation to a charge to which clause 13 applies, the period of 45 days specified in that clause, or that period as extended by the Supreme Court under clause 29; or
- (b) in relation to a charge to which clause 17 applies, the period of 45 days after the chargee becomes aware that the property has been acquired by a co-operative.

Certain varied charges void against liquidator or administrator

28. (1) Subject to this Division, if, after there has been a variation in the terms of a registrable charge on property of a co-operative having the effect of increasing the amount of the debt or increasing the liabilities (whether present or prospective) secured by the charge—

- (a) an order is made, or a resolution is passed, for the winding up of the co-operative; or
- (b) an administrator of a co-operative is appointed under Part 5.3A of the *Corporations Law* (as adopted and applying under this Act); or
- (c) a co-operative executes a deed of arrangement,

the registrable charge is void as a security on that property to the extent that it secures the amount of the increase in that debt or liability.

(2) A charge is not void under subclause (1) if—

- (a) a notice in respect of the variation was lodged under clause 36—

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- (i) within the period of 45 days specified in clause 36(2) or that period as extended by the Supreme Court under clause 29; or
- (ii) not later than 6 months before the critical day; or
- (b) the period of 45 days specified in clause 36(2), or that period as extended by the Supreme Court under clause 29, has not ended at the start of the critical day and the notice is lodged before the end of that period.

Supreme Court may extend required period

29. The Supreme Court, if it is satisfied that the failure to lodge a notice in respect of a charge, or in respect of a variation in the terms of a charge, as required by any provision of this Schedule—

- (a) was accidental or due to inadvertence or some other sufficient cause; or
- (b) is not of a nature to prejudice the position of creditors or shareholders,

or that on other grounds it is just and equitable to grant relief, may, on the application of the co-operative or any person interested and on such terms and conditions as seem to the Court just and expedient, by order, extend the period for such further period as is specified in the order.

Certain later charges void

30. (1) Subject to subclause (3), if—

- (a) a registrable charge (in this subclause referred to as the "**later charge**") is created before the end of 45 days after the creation of an unregistered registrable charge (in this subclause referred to as the "**earlier charge**"); and
- (b) the later charge relates to all or any of the property to which the earlier charge related; and
- (c) the later charge is given as a security for the same liability as is secured by the earlier charge or any part of that liability,

the later charge, to the extent to which it is a security for the same liability or part thereof, and so far as it relates to the property comprised in the earlier charge, is void as a security on that property as against a liquidator or administrator of the co-operative, or an administrator of a deed of arrangement executed by the co-operative.

(2) Subclause (1) applies even if a notice in respect of the later charge was lodged under clause 13 within the period mentioned in clause 27(2)(a).

(3) Subclause (1) does not apply if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Supreme Court that the later charge was given in good faith for the purpose of correcting some material error in the earlier charge or under other proper circumstances and not for the purposes of avoiding or evading the provisions of this Division.

Effect of provisions on purchaser in good faith

31. (1) Nothing in clause 27(1) or (2) or 28 operates to affect the title of a person to property purchased for value from a chargee or from a receiver appointed by a chargee in the exercise of powers conferred by the charge or implied by law if that person purchased the property in good faith and without notice of—

- (a) the filing of an application for an order for the winding up of the co-operative; or
- (b) the passing of the necessary resolution for the voluntary winding up of the co-operative; or
- (c) an administrator of the co-operative being appointed under Part 5.3A of the *Corporations Law* (as adopted and applying under this Act); or
- (d) the co-operative executing a deed of arrangement.

(2) The onus of proving that a person purchased property in good faith and without notice of any of the matters referred to in subclause (1)(a), (b), (c) and (d) is on the person asserting that the property was so purchased.

DIVISION 5—CERTAIN CHARGES IN FAVOUR OF PERSONS VOID

Definitions

32. In this Division—

"**chargee**", in relation to a charge, means—

- (a) in any case, the holder, or all or any of the holders, of the charge; or
- (b) in the case of a charge that is an agreement to give or execute a charge in favour of a person or persons, whether on demand or otherwise, that person, or all or any of those persons;

"**officer**", in relation to a co-operative, includes, in the case of a foreign co-operative, a local agent of the foreign co-operative;

"**receiver**" includes a receiver and manager;

"**relevant person**", in relation to a charge created by a co-operative, means—

- (a) a person who is at the time when the charge is created, or who has been at any time during the period of 6 months ending at that time, an officer of the co-operative; or
- (b) a person associated, in relation to the creation of the charge, with a person of a kind referred to in paragraph (a).

Charges in favour of certain persons void in certain cases

33. (1) If—

- (a) a co-operative creates a charge on property of the co-operative in favour of a person who is, or in favour of persons at least one of whom is, a relevant person in relation to the charge; and
- (b) within 6 months after the creation of the charge, the chargee purports to take a step in the enforcement of the charge without the Supreme Court having, under clause 34, given leave for the charge to be enforced,

the charge, and any powers purported to be conferred by an instrument creating or evidencing the charge, are, and are to be considered always to have been, void.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subclause (1), a person who—

- (a) appoints a receiver of property of a co-operative under powers conferred by an instrument creating or evidencing a charge created by the co-operative; or
- (b) whether directly or by an agent, enters into possession or assumes control of property of a co-operative for the purposes of enforcing a charge created by the co-operative,

is to be taken, for the purposes of subclause (1), to take a step in the enforcement of the charge.

Supreme Court may give leave for enforcement of charge

34. On application by the chargee under a charge, the Supreme Court may give leave for the charge to be enforced, if the Court is satisfied that—

- (a) immediately after the creation of the charge, the co-operative that created the charge was solvent; and
- (b) in all the circumstances of the case, it is just and equitable for the Court to do so.

Certain transactions excluded

35. (1) Nothing in clause 33 affects a debt, liability or obligation of a co-operative that would, if that clause had not been enacted, have been secured by a charge created by the co-operative.

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(2) Nothing in clause 33 operates to affect the title of a person to property (other than the charge concerned or an interest in the charge concerned) purchased for value from a chargee under a charge, from an agent of a chargee under a charge, or from a receiver appointed by a chargee under a charge in the exercise of powers conferred by the charge or implied by law, if that person purchased the property in good faith and without notice that the charge was created in favour of a person who is, or in favour of persons at least one of whom is, as the case may be, a relevant person in relation to the charge.

(3) The onus of proving that a person purchased property in good faith and without notice that a charge was created as mentioned in subclause (2) is on the person asserting that the property was so purchased.

DIVISION 6—ASSIGNMENT, VARIATION OR SATISFACTION OF CHARGES**Assignment and variation of charges**

36. (1) If, after a registrable charge on property of a co-operative has been created, a person other than the original chargee becomes the holder of the charge, the person who becomes the holder of the charge must, within 45 days after he, she or it becomes the holder of the charge—

- (a) lodge a notice with the Commission stating that he, she or it has become the holder of the charge; and
- (b) give the co-operative a copy of the notice.

(2) If, after a registrable charge on property of a co-operative has been created, there is a variation in the terms of the charge having the effect of—

- (a) increasing the amount of the debt or increasing the liabilities (whether present or prospective) secured by the charge; or
- (b) prohibiting or restricting the creation of subsequent charges on the property,

the co-operative must, within 45 days after the variation occurs, ensure that there is lodged with the Commission a notice setting out particulars of the variation and accompanied by the instrument (if any) effecting the variation or a certified copy of that instrument.

(3) If a charge created by a co-operative secures a debt of an unspecified amount or secures a debt of a specified amount and further advances, a payment or advance made by the chargee to the co-operative in accordance with the terms of the charge is not to be taken, for the purposes of subclause (2), to be a variation in the terms of the charge having the effect of increasing the amount of the charge or the liabilities (whether present or prospective) secured by the charge.

(4) A reference in this clause to the chargee in relation to a charge is, if the charge is constituted by a debenture or debentures and there is a trustee for debenture holders, to be construed as a reference to the trustee for debenture holders.

(5) Nothing in clause 13 requires the lodgment of a notice under that clause in relation to a charge merely because of the fact that the terms of the charge are varied only in a manner mentioned in this clause.

Satisfaction of, and release of property from, charges

37. (1) If, with respect to a charge registered under this Part—

- (a) the debt or other liability the payment or discharge of which was secured by the charge has been paid or discharged in whole or in part; or
- (b) the property charged or part of that property is released from the charge,

the person who was the holder of the charge at the time when the debt or other liability was so paid or discharged or the property or part of the property was released must, within 14 days after receipt of a request in writing made by the co-operative on whose property the charge exists, give to the co-operative a memorandum in the form approved by the Commission acknowledging that the debt or other liability has been paid or discharged in whole or in part or that the property or that part of it is no longer subject to the charge, as the case may be.

(2) The co-operative may lodge the memorandum with the Commission and, on the memorandum being lodged, the Commission must enter in the Register particulars of the matters stated in the memorandum.

(3) The reference in subclause (1) to the person who was the holder of a charge at the time when the debt or other liability was so paid or discharged or the property or part of the property was released is, if the charge was constituted by a debenture or debentures and there was a trustee for debenture holders, to be construed as a reference to the person who was, at that time, the trustee of debenture holders.

DIVISION 7—GENERAL

Lodgment of notices

38. (1) If a notice in respect of a charge on property of a co-operative is required to be lodged under clause 13, 17 or 36(2), the notice may be lodged by the co-operative or by any interested person.

(2) If a document required by this Part other than clause 36(1) to be lodged with the Commission is lodged by a person other than the co-operative concerned, that person—

- (a) must, within 7 days after the lodgment of the document, give to the co-operative a copy of the document; and
- (b) is entitled to recover from the co-operative the amount of any fees properly paid by the person on lodgment of the document.

Lodgment offences

39. (1) If clause 13, 17 or 36(2) is contravened in relation to a registrable charge on property of a co-operative, the co-operative and any officer of the co-operative who is knowingly concerned in or a party to the contravention is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: \$1 000.

(2) If a person who becomes the holder of a registrable charge fails to comply with clause 36(1), the person and, if the person is a body corporate, any officer of the body corporate who is in default, each contravene this subclause.

Co-operative to keep documents relating to charges

40. A co-operative must, at the place where the register referred to in clause 41 is kept, keep a copy of—

- (a) every document relating to a charge on property of the co-operative that is lodged with the Commission under this Part; and
- (b) every document given to the co-operative under this Part.

Maximum penalty: \$1 000.

Co-operative to keep register

41. (1) A co-operative must keep a register.

(2) On the creation of a charge (whether registrable or not) on property of the co-operative, or on the acquisition of property subject to a charge (whether registrable or not), the co-operative must as soon as practicable enter in the register particulars of the charge, giving in each case—

- (a) if the charge is a charge created by the co-operative, the date of its creation or, if the charge was a charge existing on property acquired by the co-operative, the date on which the property was so acquired; and
- (b) a short description of the liability (whether present or prospective) secured by the charge; and
- (c) a short description of the property charged; and
- (d) the name of the trustee for debenture holders or, if there is no such trustee, the name of the chargee; and

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- (e) the name of the person whom the co-operative believes to be the holder of the charge.
- (3) A register kept by a co-operative pursuant to subclause (1) must be open for inspection—
 - (a) by any creditor or member of the co-operative, without charge; and
 - (b) by any other person, on payment for each inspection of such amount, not exceeding the prescribed amount, as the co-operative requires or, where the co-operative does not require the payment of an amount, without charge.
- (4) A person may request a co-operative to furnish the person with a copy of the register or any part of the register.
- (5) If a person makes a request under subclause (4), the co-operative must send the copy to that person—
 - (a) if the co-operative requires payment of an amount not exceeding the prescribed amount, within 21 days after payment of the amount is received by the co-operative or within such longer period as the Commission approves; or
 - (b) in a case to which paragraph (a) does not apply, within 21 days after the request is made or within such longer period as the Commission approves.
- (6) If default is made in complying with any provision of this clause, the co-operative is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: \$1 000.

Certificates

42. (1) If particulars of a charge are entered in the Register in accordance with this Part, the Commission must, on request by any person, issue to that person a certificate—

- (a) setting out those particulars; and
- (b) stating the time and day when a notice in respect of the charge containing those particulars was lodged with the Commission; and
- (c) if the word "provisional" appears in the Register next to the reference to that time and day, stating that fact.

(2) A certificate issued under subclause (1) is evidence of the matters stated in the certificate.

(3) If particulars of a charge are entered in the Register in accordance with this Part, and the word "provisional" does not appear in the Register next to the reference to the time and day when a notice in respect of the charge was lodged, the Commission must, on request by any person, issue to that person a certificate stating that particulars of the charge are entered in the Register in accordance with this Part.

(4) A certificate issued under subclause (3) is conclusive evidence that the requirements of this Part as to registration (other than the requirements relating to the period after the creation of the charge within which notice in respect of the charge is required to be lodged) have been complied with.

Power of Supreme Court to rectify Register

43. If the Supreme Court is satisfied—

- (a) that a particular with respect to a registrable charge on property of a co-operative has been omitted from, or mis-stated in, the Register or a memorandum referred to in clause 37; and
- (b) that the omission or mis-statement—
 - (i) was accidental or due to inadvertence or to some other sufficient cause; or
 - (ii) is not of a nature to prejudice the position of creditors or shareholders,

or that on other grounds it is just and equitable to grant relief the Court may, on the application of the co-operative or any person interested and on such terms and conditions as seem to the Court just and expedient, order that the omission or mis-statement be rectified.

Power to exempt from compliance with certain requirements of Part

44. (1) The Commission may, by instrument in writing, exempt a person, as specified in the instrument and subject to the conditions (if any) that are specified in the instrument, from compliance with such of the requirements of clause 13, 17 or 36 relating to—

- (a) the particulars to be contained in a notice under the relevant clause; or
- (b) the documents (other than the notice) to be lodged under the relevant clause; or
- (c) the verification of any document required to be lodged under the relevant clause,

as are specified in the instrument.

(2) A person who is exempted by the Commission, subject to a condition, from compliance with a requirement of clause 13, 17 or 36 must not contravene the condition.

(3) If a person has contravened a condition to which an exemption under this clause is subject, the Supreme Court may, on the application of the Commission, order the person to comply with the condition.

**PART 3
ORDER OF PRIORITY**

DIVISION 1—GENERAL

Definitions

45. (1) In this Part—

"**priority time**", in relation to a registered charge, means—

- (a) except as provided by paragraph (b) or (c), the time and date appearing in the Register in relation to the charge, being a time and day entered in the Register pursuant to Division 3 of Part 2; and
- (b) if a notice has been lodged under clause 17 in relation to a charge on property, being a charge that, at the time when the notice was lodged, was already registered under Part 2, the earlier or earliest time and day appearing in the Register in relation to the charge, being a time and day entered in the Register pursuant to clause 17; and
- (c) to the extent that the charge has effect as varied by a variation, notice of which was required to be lodged under clause 36(2), the time and day entered in the Register in relation to the charge pursuant to clause 24;

"**prior registered charge**", in relation to another registered charge, means a charge the priority time of which is earlier than the priority time of the other charge;

"**subsequent registered charge**", in relation to another registered charge, means a charge the priority time of which is later than the priority time of the other registered charge;

"**registered charge**" means a charge that is registered under Part 2;

"**unregistered charge**" means a charge that is not registered under Part 2 but does not include a charge that is not a registrable charge.

(2) A reference in this Part to a person having notice of a charge includes a reference to a person having constructive notice of the charge.

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(3) If, by virtue of the definition of "priority time" in subclause (1), a registered charge has 2 or more priority times each of which relates to a particular liability secured by the charge, each of those liabilities is, for the purposes of this Part, to be considered to be secured by a separate registered charge the priority time of which is the priority time of the first-mentioned registered charge that relates to the liability concerned.

Priorities of charges

46. (1) Subject to this clause, Division 2 has effect with respect to the priorities, in relation to each other, of registrable charges on the property of a co-operative.

(2) The application, in relation to particular registrable charges, of the order of priorities of charges set out in Division 2, is subject to—

- (a) any consent (express or implied) that varies the priorities in relation to each other of those charges, being a consent given by the holder of one of those charges, being a charge that would otherwise be entitled to priority over the other charge; and
- (b) any agreement between those chargees that affects the priorities in relation to each other of the charges in relation to which those persons are the chargees.

(3) The holder of a registered charge, being a floating charge, on property of a co-operative is to be considered, for the purposes of subclause (2), to have consented to that charge being postponed to a subsequent registered charge, being a fixed charge that is created before the floating charge becomes fixed, on any of that property unless—

- (a) the creation of the subsequent registered charge contravened a provision of the instrument or resolution creating or evidencing the floating charge; and
- (b) a notice in respect of the floating charge indicating the existence of the provision referred to in paragraph (a) was lodged with the Commission under clause 13, 17 or 36 before the creation of the subsequent registered charge.

(4) If a charge relates to property of a kind or kinds to which a particular paragraph or paragraphs of clause 4(1) applies or apply and also relates to other property, Division 2 applies so as to affect the priority of the charge only in so far as it relates to the first-mentioned property and do not affect the priority of the charge in so far as it relates to the other property.

DIVISION 2—PRIORITY RULES**General priority rules in relation to registered charges**

47. (1) A registered charge on property of a co-operative has priority over—

- (a) a subsequent registered charge on the property, unless the subsequent registered charge was created before the creation of the prior registered charge and the chargee in relation to the subsequent registered charge proves that the chargee in relation to the prior registered charge had notice of the subsequent registered charge at the time when the prior registered charge was created; and
- (b) an unregistered charge on the property created before the creation of the registered charge, unless the chargee in relation to the unregistered charge proves that the chargee in relation to the registered charge had notice of the unregistered charge at the time when the registered charge was created; and
- (c) an unregistered charge on the property created after the creation of the registered charge.

(2) A registered charge on property of a co-operative is postponed to—

- (a) a subsequent registered charge on the property, if the subsequent registered charge was created before the creation of the prior registered charge and the chargee in relation to the subsequent registered charge proves that the chargee in relation to the prior registered charge had notice of the subsequent registered charge at the time when the prior registered charge was created; and

- (b) an unregistered charge on the property created before the creation of the registered charge, where the chargee in relation to the unregistered charge proves that the chargee in relation to the registered charge had notice of the unregistered charge at the time when the registered charge was created.

General priority rule in relation to unregistered charges

48. An unregistered charge on property of a co-operative has priority over—

- (a) a registered charge on the property that was created after the creation of the unregistered charge and does not have priority over the unregistered charge under clause 47(1); and
- (b) another unregistered charge on the property created after the first-mentioned unregistered charge.

Special priority rules

49. (1) Except as provided by this clause, any priority accorded by this Part to a charge over another charge does not extend to any liability that, at the priority time in relation to the first-mentioned charge, is not a present liability.

(2) If a registered charge on property of a co-operative secures—

- (a) a present liability and a prospective liability of an unspecified amount; or
- (b) a prospective liability of an unspecified amount,

any priority accorded by this Part to the charge over another charge of which the chargee in relation to the first-mentioned charge does not have actual knowledge extends to the prospective liability, whether the prospective liability became a present liability before or after the registration of the first-mentioned charge.

(3) If a registered charge on property of a co-operative secures—

- (a) a present liability and a prospective liability up to a specified maximum amount; or
- (b) a prospective liability up to a specified maximum amount,

and the notice lodged under clause 13 or 17 in relation to the charge sets out the nature of the prospective liability and the amount so specified, then any priority accorded by this Part to the charge over another charge extends to any prospective liability secured by the first-mentioned charge to the extent of the maximum amount so specified.

(4) Subclause (3) applies whether the prospective liability became a present liability before or after the registration of the first-mentioned charge and despite the fact that the chargee in relation to the first-mentioned charge had actual knowledge of the other charge at the time when the prospective liability became a present liability.

(5) Subclause (6) applies if—

- (a) a registered charge on property of a co-operative secures—
 - (i) a present liability and a prospective liability up to a specified maximum amount; or
 - (ii) a prospective liability up to a specified maximum amount,

but the notice lodged under clause 13 or 17 in relation to the charge does not set out the nature of the prospective liability or the maximum amount so specified; or

- (b) a registered charge on property of a co-operative secures a prospective liability of an unspecified amount.

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(6) In relation to a charge referred to in subclause (5)—

- (a) any priority accorded by this Part to the charge over another charge of which the chargee in relation to the first-mentioned charge has actual knowledge extends to any prospective liability secured by the first-mentioned charge that had become a present liability at the time when the chargee in relation to the first-mentioned charge first obtained actual knowledge of the other charge;
- (b) any priority accorded by this Part to the charge over another charge of which the chargee in relation to the first-mentioned charge has actual knowledge extends to any prospective liability secured by the first-mentioned charge that became a present liability, as the result of the making of an advance, after the time when the chargee in relation to the first-mentioned charge first obtained actual knowledge of the other charge if, at that time, the terms of the first-mentioned charge required the chargee in relation to that charge to make the advance after that time.

(7) Subclause (6)(b) extends to the prospective liability whether the advance was made before or after the registration of the first-mentioned charge and despite the fact that the chargee in relation to the first-mentioned charge had actual knowledge of the other charge at the time when the advance was made.

SCHEDULE 4

*Receivers, and other controllers, of property of
co-operatives*

Interpretation

1. In this Schedule—

"**administrator**", in relation to a deed of arrangement, means an administrator of the deed appointed under Part 5.3A of the *Corporations Law*, as adopted and applying under this Act;

"**control day**", in relation to a controller of property of a co-operative, means—

(a) unless paragraph (b) applies—

- (i) in the case of a receiver, or receiver and manager, of that property, the day when the receiver, or receiver and manager, was appointed; or
- (ii) in the case of any other person who is in possession, or has control, of that property for the purpose of enforcing a charge, the day when the person entered into possession, or took control, of property of the co-operative for the purpose of enforcing that charge; or

(b) if the controller became a controller of property of the co-operative—

- (i) to act with an existing controller of that property; or
- (ii) in place of a controller of that property who has died or ceased to be a controller of that property,

the day that is, because of any other application or applications of this definition, the control day in relation to the controller referred to in subparagraph (i) or (ii);

"**controller**", in relation to property of a co-operative, means—

- (a) a receiver, or receiver and manager, of that property; or
- (b) anyone else who (whether or not as agent for the co-operative) is in possession, or has control, of that property for the purpose of enforcing a charge;

"**co-operative**" includes a foreign co-operative registered under Part 14;

"**daily newspaper**" means a newspaper that is ordinarily published on each day that is a business day in the place where the newspaper is published, whether or not the newspaper is ordinarily published on other days;

"**managing controller**", in relation to property of a co-operative, means—

- (a) a receiver and manager of that property; or
- (b) any other controller of that property who has functions or powers in connection with managing the co-operative;

"**national newspaper**" means a daily newspaper that circulates generally in each State, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory;

"**officer**", in relation to a co-operative that is a foreign co-operative, includes a local agent of the foreign co-operative;

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"property", in relation to a co-operative, means property—

- (a) in the case of a co-operative that is not a foreign co-operative, within or outside Australia; or
- (b) in the case of a co-operative that is a foreign co-operative, within Australia or an external Territory;

"receiver", in relation to property of a co-operative, includes a receiver and manager.

Application of Schedule

2. Except in so far as the contrary intention appears, this Schedule applies in relation to a receiver of property of a co-operative who is appointed after the commencement of this Schedule, even if the appointment arose out of a transaction entered into, or an act or thing done, before that commencement.

Persons not to act as receivers

3. (1) A person is not qualified to be appointed, and must not act, as receiver of property of a co-operative if the person—

- (a) is a mortgagee of property of the co-operative; or
- (b) is an auditor or an officer of the co-operative; or
- (c) is an officer of a body corporate that is a mortgagee of property of the co-operative; or
- (d) is not a registered liquidator under the *Corporations Law*; or
- (e) is an officer of a body corporate related to the co-operative; or
- (f) unless the Commission directs in writing that this paragraph does not apply in relation to the person in relation to the co-operative, has at any time within the last 12 months been an officer or promoter of the co-operative or of a related body corporate.

(2) In subclause (1)—

"officer", in relation to a body corporate, does not include a receiver, appointed under an instrument whether before or after the commencement of this clause, of property of the body.

(3) Subclause (1)(d) does not apply in relation to a body corporate authorised by or under a law of the Commonwealth, of a State or of a Territory to act as receiver of property of the co-operative concerned.

(4) Nothing in this clause prevents a person from acting as receiver of property of a co-operative under an appointment validly made before the commencement of this clause.

Supreme Court may declare whether controller is validly acting

4. (1) If there is doubt, on a specific ground, about—

- (a) whether a purported appointment of a person, after the commencement of this clause, as receiver of property of a co-operative is valid; or
- (b) whether a person who has entered into possession, or assumed control, of property of a co-operative after the commencement of this clause did so validly under the terms of a charge on that property,

the person, the co-operative or any of the co-operative's creditors may apply to the Supreme Court for an order under subclause (2).

(2) On an application, the Supreme Court may make an order declaring whether or not—

- (a) the purported appointment was valid; or
- (b) the person entered into possession, or assumed control, validly under the terms of the charge,

as the case may be, on the ground specified in the application or on some other ground.

Liability of controller

5. (1) A receiver, or any other authorised person, who, whether as agent for the co-operative concerned or not, enters into possession or assumes control of any property of a co-operative for the purpose of enforcing any charge is, despite any agreement to the contrary, but without prejudice to the person's rights against the co-operative or any other person, liable for debts incurred by the person in the course of the receivership, possession or control for services rendered, goods purchased or property hired, leased, used or occupied.

(2) Subclause (1) does not constitute the person entitled to the charge a mortgagee in possession.

(3) If—

- (a) a person (in this subclause called the "**controller**") enters into possession or assumes control of property of a co-operative; and
- (b) the controller purports to have been properly appointed as a receiver in respect of that property under a power contained in an instrument, but has not been properly so appointed; and
- (c) civil proceedings in a federal court or a court of a State or Territory arise out of an act alleged to have been done by the controller,

the court may, if it is satisfied that the controller believed on reasonable grounds that the controller had been properly so appointed, order that—

- (d) the controller be relieved in whole or in part of a liability that the controller has incurred but would not have incurred if the controller had been properly so appointed; and
- (e) a person who purported to appoint the controller as receiver be liable in respect of an act, matter or thing in so far as the controller has been relieved under paragraph (d) of liability in respect of that act, matter or thing.

Liability of controller under pre-existing agreement about property used by co-operative

6. (1) This clause applies if—

- (a) under an agreement made before the control day in relation to a controller of property of a co-operative, the co-operative continues after that day to use or occupy, or to be in possession of, property ("**the third party property**") of which someone else is the owner or lessor; and
- (b) the controller is controller of the third party property.

(2) Subject to subclauses (4) and (7), the controller is liable for so much of the rent or other amounts payable by the co-operative under the agreement as is attributable to a period—

- (a) that begins more than 7 days after the control day; and
- (b) throughout which—
 - (i) the co-operative continues to use or occupy, or to be in possession of, the third party property; and
 - (ii) the controller is controller of the third party property.

(3) Within 7 days after the control day, the controller may give to the owner or lessor a notice that specifies the third party property and states that the controller does not propose to exercise rights in relation to that property as controller of the property, whether on behalf of the co-operative or anyone else.

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(4) Despite subclause (2), the controller is not liable for so much of the rent or other amounts payable by the co-operative under the agreement as is attributable to a period during which a notice under subclause (3) is in force, but such a notice does not affect a liability of the co-operative.

(5) A notice under subclause (3) ceases to have effect if—

- (a) the controller revokes it by writing given to the owner or lessor; or
- (b) the controller exercises, or purports to exercise, a right in relation to the third party property as controller of the property, whether on behalf of the co-operative or anyone else.

(6) For the purposes of subclause (5), the controller does not exercise, or purport to exercise, a right referred to in subclause (5)(b) merely because the controller continues to be in possession, or to have control, of the third party property, unless the controller—

- (a) also uses the property; or
- (b) asserts a right, as against the owner or lessor, so to continue.

(7) Subclause (2) does not apply in so far as the Supreme Court, by order, excuses the controller from liability, but an order does not affect a liability of the co-operative.

(8) The controller is not taken because of subclause (2)—

- (a) to have adopted the agreement; or
- (b) to be liable under the agreement otherwise than as mentioned in subclause (2).

Powers of receiver

7. (1) Subject to this clause, a receiver of property of a co-operative has power to do, in Australia and elsewhere, all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with, or as incidental to, the attainment of the objectives for which the receiver was appointed.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subclause (1), but subject to any provision of the court order by which, or the instrument under which, the receiver was appointed, being a provision that limits the receiver's powers in any way, a receiver of property of a co-operative has, in addition to any powers conferred by that order or instrument, as the case may be, or by any other law, power, for the purpose of attaining the objectives for which the receiver was appointed—

- (a) to enter into possession and take control of property of the co-operative in accordance with the terms of that order or instrument; and
- (b) to lease, let on hire or dispose of property of the co-operative; and
- (c) to grant options over property of the co-operative on such conditions as the receiver thinks fit; and
- (d) to borrow money on the security of property of the co-operative; and
- (e) to insure property of the co-operative; and
- (f) to repair, renew or enlarge property of the co-operative; and
- (g) to convert property of the co-operative into money; and
- (h) to carry on any business of the co-operative; and
- (i) to take on lease or on hire, or to acquire, any property necessary or convenient in connection with the carrying on of a business of the co-operative; and
- (j) to execute any document, bring or defend any proceedings or do any other act or thing in the name of and on behalf of the co-operative; and

- (k) to draw, accept, make and endorse a bill of exchange or promissory note; and
- (l) to use a seal of the co-operative; and
- (m) to engage or discharge employees on behalf of the co-operative; and
- (n) to appoint a solicitor, accountant or other professionally qualified person to assist the receiver; and
- (o) to appoint an agent to do any business that the receiver is unable to do, or that it is unreasonable to expect the receiver to do, in person; and
- (p) if a debt or liability is owed to the co-operative, to prove the debt or liability in a bankruptcy, insolvency or winding up and, in that connection, to receive dividends and to assent to a proposal for a composition or a scheme of arrangement; and
- (q) if the receiver was appointed under an instrument that created a charge on uncalled capital or uncalled premiums of the co-operative—
 - (i) in the name of the co-operative, to make a call in respect of money unpaid on shares in the co-operative (whether on account of the nominal value of the shares or by way of premium); or
 - (ii) on the giving of a proper indemnity to a liquidator of the co-operative, in the name of the liquidator, to make a call in respect of money unpaid on account of the nominal value of shares in the co-operative; and
- (r) to enforce payment of any call that is due and unpaid, whether the calls were made by the receiver or otherwise; and
- (s) to make or defend an application for the winding up of the co-operative; and
- (t) to refer to arbitration any question affecting the co-operative.

(3) The conferring by this clause on a receiver of powers in relation to property of a co-operative does not affect any rights in relation to that property of any other person other than the co-operative.

(4) In this clause, a reference, in relation to a receiver, to property of a co-operative is, unless the contrary intention appears, a reference to the property of the co-operative in relation to which the receiver was appointed.

Controller's duty of care in exercising power of sale

8. (1) In exercising a power of sale in respect of property of a co-operative, a controller must take all reasonable care to sell the property for—

- (a) if, when it is sold, it has a market value, not less than that market value; or
- (b) otherwise, the best price that is reasonably obtainable, having regard to the circumstances existing when the property is sold.

(2) Nothing in subclause (1) limits the generality of anything in Division 2 of Part 9.

Supreme Court may authorise managing controller to dispose of property despite prior charge

9. (1) On the application of a managing controller of property of a co-operative, the Supreme Court may by order authorise the controller to sell, or to dispose of in some other specified way, specified property of the co-operative, even though it is subject to a charge (in this clause called the "**prior charge**") that has priority over a charge (in this clause called the "**controller's charge**") on that property that the controller is enforcing.

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- (2) The Supreme Court may make an order if satisfied that—
- (a) apart from the existence of the prior charge, the controller would have power to sell, or to so dispose of, the property; and
 - (b) the controller has taken all reasonable steps to obtain the consent of the holder of the prior charge to the sale or disposal, but has not obtained that consent; and
 - (c) sale or disposal of the property under the order is in the best interests of the co-operative's creditors and of the co-operative; and
 - (d) sale or disposal of the property under the order will not unreasonably prejudice the rights or interests of the holder of the prior charge.
- (3) The Supreme Court may have regard to the need to protect adequately the rights and interests of the holder of the prior charge.
- (4) If the property would be sold or disposed of together with other property that is subject to the controller's charge, the Supreme Court may have regard to—
- (a) the amount (if any) by which it is reasonable to expect that the net proceeds of selling or disposing of that other property otherwise than together with the first-mentioned property would be less than so much of the net proceeds of selling or disposing of all the property together as would be attributable to that other property; and
 - (b) the amount (if any) by which it is reasonable to expect that the net proceeds of selling or disposing of the first-mentioned property otherwise than together with the other property would be greater than so much of the net proceeds of selling or disposing of all the property together as would be attributable to the first-mentioned property.
- (5) Nothing in subclause (3) or (4) limits the matters to which the Supreme Court may have regard for the purposes of subclause (2).
- (6) An order may be made subject to conditions, for example (but without limitation)—
- (a) a condition that—
 - (i) the net proceeds of the sale or disposal; and
 - (ii) the net proceeds of the sale or disposal of such other property (if any) as is specified in the condition and is subject to the controller's charge,
 or a specified part of those net proceeds, be applied in payment of specified amounts secured by the prior charge; or
 - (b) a condition that the controller apply a specified amount in payment of specified amounts secured by the prior charge.

Receiver's power to carry on co-operative's business during winding up

10. (1) A receiver of property of a co-operative that is being wound up may—

- (a) with the written approval of the co-operative's liquidator or with the approval of the Supreme Court, carry on the co-operative's business either generally or as otherwise specified in the approval; and
 - (b) do whatever is necessarily incidental to carrying on that business under paragraph (a).
- (2) Subclause (1) does not—
- (a) affect a power that the receiver has otherwise than under that subclause; or

- (b) empower the receiver to do an act that he or she would not have power to do if the co-operative were not being wound up.

(3) A receiver of property of a co-operative who carries on the co-operative's business under subclause (1) does so—

- (a) as agent for the co-operative; and
 - (b) in his or her capacity as receiver of property of the co-operative.
- (4) The consequences of subclause (3) include, but are not limited to, the following:
- (a) for the purposes of clause 5(1), a debt that the receiver incurs in carrying on the business as mentioned in subclause (3) of this clause is incurred in the course of the receivership;
 - (b) a debt or liability that the receiver incurs in so carrying on the business is not a cost, charge or expense of the winding up.

Controller's duties in relation to ADI accounts and accounting records

11. (1) A controller of property of a co-operative must—

- (a) open and maintain an account, with an Australian ADI, bearing—
 - (i) the controller's own name; and
 - (ii) in the case of a receiver of the property, the title "receiver"; and
 - (iii) otherwise, the title "controller"; and
 - (iv) the co-operative's name,or 2 or more such accounts; and
- (b) within 3 business days after money of the co-operative comes under the control of the controller, pay that money into such an account that the controller maintains; and
- (c) ensure that no such account that the controller maintains contains money other than money of the co-operative that comes under the control of the controller; and
- (d) keep such accounting records as correctly record and explain all transactions that the controller enters into as the controller.

(2) Any director, creditor or member of a co-operative may, unless the Supreme Court otherwise orders, personally or by an agent, inspect records kept by a controller of property of the co-operative for the purposes of subclause (1)(d).

Managing controller to report within 2 months about co-operative's affairs

12. (1) A managing controller of property of a co-operative must prepare a report about the co-operative's affairs that is in the form approved by the Commission and is made up to a day not later than 28 days before the day when it is prepared.

(2) The managing controller must prepare the report and lodge it with the Commission within 2 months after the control day.

(3) As soon as practicable, and in any event within 14 days, after lodging the report with the Commission, the managing controller must cause to be published in a national newspaper, or in each State and Territory in a daily newspaper that circulates generally in that State or Territory, a notice stating—

- (a) that the report has been prepared; and
- (b) that a person can, on paying the prescribed fee, inspect the report at specified offices of the Commission.

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(4) If, in the managing controller's opinion, it would seriously prejudice—

- (a) the co-operative's interests; or
- (b) the achievement of the objectives for which the controller was appointed, or entered into possession or assumed control of property of the co-operative, as the case requires,

if particular information that the controller would otherwise include in the report were made available to the public, the controller need not include the information in the report.

(5) If the managing controller omits information from the report as permitted by subclause (4), the controller must include instead a notice—

- (a) stating that certain information has been omitted from the report; and
- (b) summarising what the information is about, but without disclosing the information itself.

Reports by receiver

13. (1) If it appears to the receiver of property of a co-operative that—

- (a) a past or present officer, or a member, of the co-operative may have been guilty of an offence under any law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory in relation to the co-operative; or
- (b) a person who has taken part in the formation, promotion, administration, management or winding up of the co-operative—
 - (i) may have misapplied or retained, or may have become liable or accountable for, any money or property (whether the property is within or outside Australia) of the co-operative; or
 - (ii) may have been guilty of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the co-operative,

the receiver must—

- (c) lodge with the Commission as soon as practicable a report about the matter; and
- (d) give to the Commission such information, and such access to and facilities for inspecting and taking copies of any documents, as the Commission requires.

(2) The receiver may also lodge further reports specifying any other matter that, in the receiver's opinion, it is desirable to bring to the notice of the Commission.

(3) If it appears to the Supreme Court—

- (a) that a past or present officer, or a member, of a co-operative in respect of property of which a receiver has been appointed has been guilty of an offence under a law referred to in subclause (1)(a) in relation to the co-operative; or
- (b) that a person who has taken part in the formation, promotion, administration, management or winding up of a co-operative in respect of property of which a receiver has been appointed has engaged in conduct referred to in subclause (1)(b) in relation to the co-operative,

and that the receiver has not lodged a report with the Commission about the matter, the Court may, on the application of a person interested in the appointment of the receiver or of its own motion, direct the receiver to lodge such a report.

Supervision of controller

14. (1) If—

- (a) it appears to the Supreme Court or to the Commission that a controller of property of a co-operative has not faithfully performed, or is not faithfully performing, the controller's functions or has not observed, or is not observing, a requirement of—
 - (i) in the case of a receiver, the order by which, or the instrument under which, the receiver was appointed; or
 - (ii) otherwise, an instrument under which the controller entered into possession, or took control, of that property; or
 - (iii) in any case, the Supreme Court; or
 - (iv) in any case, this Act, the regulations or rules of court; or
- (b) a person complains to the Supreme Court or to the Commission about an act or omission of a controller of property of a co-operative in connection with performing or exercising any of the controller's functions and powers,

the Supreme Court or the Commission, as the case may be, may inquire into the matter and, where the Supreme Court or Commission so inquires, the Supreme Court may take such action as it thinks fit.

(2) The Commission may report to the Supreme Court any matter that in the Commission's opinion is a misfeasance, neglect or omission on the part of a controller of property of a co-operative and the Court may—

- (a) order the controller to make good any loss that the estate of the co-operative has sustained thereby; and
 - (b) make any other order or orders that it thinks fit.
- (3) The Supreme Court may at any time—
- (a) require a controller of property of a co-operative to answer questions about the performance or exercise of any of the controller's functions and powers as controller; or
 - (b) examine a person about the performance or exercise by such a controller of any of the controller's functions and powers as controller; or
 - (c) direct an investigation to be made of such a controller's books.

Controller may apply to Supreme Court

15. (1) A controller of property of a co-operative may apply to the Supreme Court for directions in relation to any matter arising in connection with the performance or exercise of any of the controller's functions and powers as controller.

(2) In the case of a receiver of property of a co-operative, subclause (1) applies only if the receiver was appointed under a power contained in an instrument.

Power of Supreme Court to fix receiver's remuneration

16. (1) The Supreme Court may by order fix the amount to be paid by way of remuneration to any person who, under a power contained in an instrument, has been appointed as receiver of property of a co-operative.

(2) The power of the Supreme Court to make an order under this clause—

- (a) extends to fixing the remuneration for any period before the making of the order or the application for the order; and

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- (b) is exercisable even if the receiver has died, or ceased to act, before the making of the order or the application for the order; and
- (c) if the receiver has been paid or has retained for the receiver's remuneration for any period before the making of the order any amount in excess of that fixed for that period, extends to requiring the receiver or the receiver's personal representatives to account for the excess or such part of the excess as is specified in the order.

(3) The power conferred by subclause (2)(c) must not be exercised in respect of any period before the making of the application for the order unless, in the opinion of the Supreme Court, there are special circumstances making it proper for the power to be so exercised.

(4) The Supreme Court may from time to time vary or amend an order under this clause.

(5) An order under this clause may be made, varied or amended on the application of—

- (a) a liquidator of the co-operative; or
- (b) an administrator of the co-operative; or
- (c) an administrator of a deed of arrangement executed by the co-operative; or
- (d) the Commission.

(6) An order under this clause may be varied or amended on the application of the receiver concerned.

(7) An order under this clause may be made, varied or amended only as provided in subclauses (5) and (6).

Controller has qualified privilege in certain cases

17. A controller of property of a co-operative has qualified privilege in respect of—

- (a) a matter contained in a report that the controller lodges under clause 12 or 13; or
- (b) a comment that the controller makes under clause 20(2)(c).

Notification of matters relating to controller

18. (1) A person who obtains an order for the appointment of a receiver of property of a co-operative, or who appoints such a receiver under a power contained in an instrument, must—

- (a) within 7 days after obtaining the order or making the appointment, lodge notice that the order has been obtained, or that the appointment has been made, as the case may be; and
- (b) within 21 days after obtaining the order or making the appointment, cause notice that the order has been obtained, or that the appointment has been made, as the case may be, to be published in the *Gazette*.

(2) A person who appoints another person to enter into possession, or take control, of property of a co-operative (whether or not as agent for the co-operative) for the purpose of enforcing a charge otherwise than as receiver of that property must—

- (a) within 7 days after making the appointment, lodge notice of the appointment with the Commission; and
- (b) within 21 days after making the appointment, cause notice of the appointment to be published in the *Gazette*.

(3) A person who enters into possession, or takes control, as mentioned in subclause (2) must—

- (a) within 7 days after so entering into possession or taking control, lodge notice with the Commission that the person has done so; and

- (b) within 21 days after so entering into possession or taking control, cause to be published in the *Gazette* notice that the person has done so,

unless another person—

- (c) appointed the first-mentioned person so to enter into possession or take control; and
- (d) complies with subclause (2) in relation to the appointment.

(4) Within 14 days after becoming a controller of property of a co-operative, a person must lodge with the Commission notice in the form approved by the Commission of the address of the person's office.

(5) A controller of property of a co-operative must, within 14 days after a change in the situation of the controller's office, lodge with the Commission notice in the form approved by the Commission of the change.

(6) A person who ceases to be a controller of property of a co-operative must—

- (a) within 7 days after so ceasing, lodge with the Commission notice that the person has so ceased; and
- (b) within 21 days after so ceasing, cause notice that the person has so ceased to be published in the *Gazette*.

Statement that receiver appointed or other controller acting

19. (1) If a receiver of property (whether within or outside South Australia or within or outside Australia) of a co-operative has been appointed, the co-operative must set out, in every public document, and in every eligible negotiable instrument, of the co-operative, after the name of the co-operative where it first appears, a statement that a receiver, or a receiver and manager, as the case requires, has been appointed.

(2) If there is a controller (other than a receiver) of property (whether within Australia or elsewhere) of a co-operative, the co-operative must set out, in every public document, and in every eligible negotiable instrument, of the co-operative, after the co-operative's name where it first appears, a statement that a controller is acting.

Officers to report to controller about co-operative's affairs

20. (1) In this clause—

"**reporting officer**", in relation to a co-operative in respect of property of which a person is controller, means a person who was—

- (a) in the case of a co-operative other than a foreign co-operative, a director or secretary of the co-operative; or
- (b) in the case of a foreign co-operative, a local agent of the foreign co-operative,

on the control day.

(2) If a person becomes a controller of property of a co-operative—

- (a) the person must serve on the co-operative as soon as practicable notice that the person is a controller of property of the co-operative; and
- (b) within 14 days after the co-operative receives the notice, the reporting officers must make out and submit to the person a report in the form approved by the Commission about the affairs of the co-operative as at the control day; and
- (c) the person must, within 28 days after receipt of the report—
 - (i) lodge with the Commission a copy of the report and a notice setting out any comments the person sees fit to make relating to the report or, if the person does not see fit to make any comment, a notice stating that the receiver does not see fit to make any comment; and

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- (ii) send to the co-operative a copy of the notice lodged in accordance with subparagraph (i); and
 - (d) the person must, within 28 days after receipt of the report, if the person became a controller of the property—
 - (i) because of an appointment as receiver of the property that was made by or on behalf of the holder of debentures of the co-operative; or
 - (ii) by entering into possession, or taking control, of the property for the purpose of enforcing a charge securing such debentures,
 and there are trustees for the holders of those debentures, send to those trustees a copy of the report and a copy of the notice lodged under paragraph (c)(i).
 - (3) If notice has been served on a co-operative under subclause (2)(a), the reporting officers may apply to the controller or to the Supreme Court to extend the period within which the report is to be submitted and—
 - (a) if application is made to the controller, if the controller believes that there are special reasons for so doing, the controller may, by written notice given to the reporting officers, extend that period until a specified day; and
 - (b) if application is made to the Supreme Court, if the Court believes that there are special reasons for so doing, the Court may, by order, extend that period until a specified day.
 - (4) As soon as practicable after granting an extension under subclause (3)(a), the controller must lodge a copy of the notice with the Commission.
 - (5) As soon as practicable after the Supreme Court grants an extension under subclause (3)(b), the reporting officers must lodge a copy of the order with the Commission.
 - (6) Subclauses (2), (3) and (4) do not apply in a case where a person becomes a controller of property of a co-operative—
 - (a) to act with an existing controller of property of the co-operative; or
 - (b) in place of a controller of such property who has died or ceased to be a controller of such property.
 - (7) However, if subclause (2) applies in a case where a controller of property of a co-operative dies, or ceases to be a controller of property of the co-operative, before subclause (2) is fully complied with, then—
 - (a) the references in subclauses (2)(b), (c) and (d) to the person; and
 - (b) the references in subclauses (3) and (4) to the controller,
 include references to the controller's successor and to any continuing controller.
 - (8) If a co-operative is being wound up, this clause (including subclause (7)) and clause 21 apply even if the controller and the liquidator are the same person, but with any necessary modifications arising from that fact.

Controller may require reports

21. (1) A controller of property of a co-operative may, by notice given to the person or persons, require one or more persons included in one or more of the following classes of persons to make out as required by the notice, verify by a statement in writing in the form approved by the Commission, and submit to the controller, a report, containing such information as is specified in the notice as to the affairs of the co-operative or as to such of those affairs as are specified in the notice, as at a date specified in the notice:

- (a) persons who are or have been officers of the co-operative;

- (b) if the co-operative was incorporated within one year before the control day, persons who have taken part in the formation of the co-operative;
- (c) persons who are employed by the co-operative or have been so employed within one year before the control day and are, in the opinion of the controller, capable of giving the information required;
- (d) persons who are, or have been within one year before the control day, officers of, or employed by, a co-operative that is, or within that year was, an officer of the co-operative.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subclause (1), a notice under that subclause may specify the information that the controller requires as to affairs of the co-operative by reference to information that this Act requires to be included in any other report, statement or notice under this Act.

(3) A person making a report and verifying it as required by subclause (1) must, subject to the regulations, be allowed, and must be paid by the receiver (or the controller's successor) out of the controller's receipts, any costs and expenses incurred in and about the preparation and making of the report and the verification of the report that the controller (or the controller's successor) considers reasonable.

(4) A person must comply with a requirement made under subclause (1).

(5) A reference in this clause to the controller's successor includes a reference to a continuing controller.

Controller may inspect books

22. A controller of property of a co-operative is entitled to inspect at any reasonable time any books of the co-operative that relate to that property and a person must not fail to allow the controller to inspect those books at such a time.

Lodging controller's accounts

23. (1) A controller of property of a co-operative must lodge with the Commission an account—

- (a) within 28 days after the end of—
 - (i) 6 months, or such shorter period as the controller determines, after the day when the controller became a controller of property of the co-operative; and
 - (ii) each subsequent period of 6 months throughout which the controller is a controller of property of the co-operative; and
- (b) within 28 days after the controller ceases to be a controller of property of the co-operative.

(2) An account must be in the form approved by the Commission and show—

- (a) the controller's receipts and payments during—
 - (i) in the case of an account under subclause (1)(a), the 6 months or shorter period, as the case requires; or
 - (ii) in the case of an account under subclause (1)(b), the period beginning at the end of the period to which the last account related, or on the control day, as the case requires and ending on the day when the controller so ceased; and
 - (b) except in the case of an account lodged under subclause (1)(a)(i), the respective aggregates of the controller's receipts and payments since the control day.
- (3) In the case of—
- (a) a receiver appointed under a power contained in an instrument; or
 - (b) anyone else who is in possession, or has control, of property of the co-operative for the purpose of enforcing a charge,

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the accounts must also show the following:

- (c) the amount (if any) owing under that instrument or charge—
 - (i) in the case of an account lodged under subclause (1)(a)(i), at the end of the control day and at the end of the period to which the account relates; or
 - (ii) otherwise, at the end of the period to which the account relates;
- (d) the controller's estimate of the total value, at the end of the period to which the account relates, of the property of the co-operative that is subject to the instrument or charge.

(4) The Commission may, of the Commission's own motion or on the application of the co-operative or a creditor of the co-operative, cause the accounts lodged in accordance with subclause (1) to be audited by a registered company auditor appointed by the Commission.

(5) For the purpose of the audit, the controller must furnish the auditor with any books and information that the auditor requires.

(6) If the Commission causes the accounts to be audited on the request of the co-operative or a creditor, the Commission may require the co-operative or creditor, as the case may be, to give security for the payment of the cost of the audit.

(7) The costs of an audit under subclause (4) are to be fixed by the Commission.

(8) The Commission may if the Commission thinks fit make an order declaring that, for the purposes of clause 5(1), the costs of the audit are taken to be a debt incurred by the controller as mentioned in clause 5(1) and, if such an order is made, the controller is liable accordingly.

(9) A person must comply with a requirement made under this clause.

Payment of certain debts, out of property subject to floating charge, in priority to claims under charge

24. (1) This clause applies if—

- (a) a receiver is appointed on behalf of the holders of any debentures of a co-operative that are secured by a floating charge, or possession is taken or control is assumed, by or on behalf of the holders of any debentures of a co-operative, of any property comprised in or subject to a floating charge; and
- (b) at the date of the appointment or of the taking of possession or assumption of control (in this clause called the "**relevant date**")—
 - (i) the co-operative has not commenced to be wound up voluntarily; and
 - (ii) the co-operative has not been ordered to be wound up by the Supreme Court.

(2) The receiver or other person taking possession or assuming control of property of the co-operative must pay, out of the property coming into his, her or its hands, the following debts or amounts in priority to any claim for principal or interest in respect of the debentures—

- (a) first, any amount that in a winding up is payable in priority to unsecured debts pursuant to section 562 of the *Corporations Law* (as adopted and applying under this Act);
- (b) next, if an auditor of the co-operative had applied to the Commission for consent to his, her or its resignation as auditor and the Commission had refused that consent before the relevant date, the reasonable fees and expenses of the auditor incurred during the period beginning on the day of the refusal and ending on the relevant date;
- (c) subject to subclauses (4) and (5), next, any debt or amount that in a winding up is payable in priority to other unsecured debts pursuant to section 556(1)(e), (g) or (h) or 560 of the *Corporations Law* (as adopted and applying under this Act).

(3) The receiver or other person taking possession or assuming control of property must pay debts and amounts payable pursuant to subclause (2)(c) in the same order of priority as is prescribed by Division 6 of Part 5.6 of the *Corporations Law* (as adopted and applying under this Act) in respect of those debts and amounts.

(4) If an auditor of the co-operative had applied to the Commission for consent to his, her or its resignation as auditor and the Commission had, before the relevant date, refused that consent, a receiver must, when property comes to the receiver's hands, before paying any debt or amount referred to in subclause (2)(c), make provision out of that property for the reasonable fees and expenses of the auditor incurred after the relevant date but before the date on which the property comes into the receiver's hands, being fees and expenses in respect of which provision has not already been made under this subclause.

(5) If an auditor of the co-operative applies to the Commission for consent to his, her or its resignation as auditor and, after the relevant date, the Commission refuses that consent, the receiver must, in relation to property that comes into the receiver's hands after the refusal, before paying any debt or amount referred to in subclause (2)(c), make provision out of that property for the reasonable fees and expenses of the auditor incurred after the refusal and before the date on which the property comes into the receiver's hands, being fees and expenses in respect of which provision has not already been made under this subclause.

(6) A receiver must make provision in respect of reasonable fees and expenses of an auditor in respect of a particular period as required by subclause (4) or (5) whether or not the auditor has made a claim for fees and expenses for that period, but where the auditor has not made a claim, the receiver may estimate the reasonable fees and expenses of the auditor for that period and make provision in accordance with the estimate.

(7) For the purposes of this clause the references in Division 6 of Part 5.6 of the *Corporations Law* (as adopted and applying under this Act) to the relevant date are to be read as references to the date of the appointment of the receiver, or of possession being taken or control being assumed, as the case may be.

Enforcement of controller's duty to make returns

25. (1) If a receiver of property of a co-operative—

- (a) who has made default in making or lodging any return, account or other document or in giving any notice required by law fails to make good the default within 14 days after the service on the controller, by any member or creditor of the co-operative or trustee for debenture holders, of a notice requiring the controller to do so; or
- (b) who has become a controller of property of the co-operative otherwise than by being appointed a receiver of the property by a court and who has, after being required at any time by the liquidator of the co-operative so to do, failed to render proper accounts of, and to vouch, the controller's receipts and payments and to pay over to the liquidator the amount properly payable to the liquidator,

the Supreme Court may make an order directing the controller to make good the default within the time specified in the order.

(2) An application under subclause (1) may be made—

- (a) if subclause (1)(a) applies, by a member or creditor of the co-operative or by a trustee for debenture holders; and
- (b) if subclause (1)(b) applies, by the liquidator of the co-operative.

Supreme Court may remove controller for misconduct

26. If, on the application of a co-operative, the Supreme Court is satisfied that a controller of property of the co-operative has been guilty of misconduct in connection with performing or exercising any of the controller's functions and powers, the Court may order that, on and after a specified day, the controller cease to act as receiver or give up possession or control, as the case requires, of property of the co-operative.

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Supreme Court may remove redundant controller

27. (1) The Supreme Court may order that, on and after a specified day, a controller of property of a co-operative—

- (a) cease to act as receiver, or give up possession or control, as the case requires, of property of the co-operative; or
- (b) act as receiver, or continue in possession or control, as the case requires, only of specified property of the co-operative.

(2) The Supreme Court may make an order under subclause (1) if it is satisfied that the objectives for which the controller was appointed, or entered into possession or took control of property of the co-operative, as the case requires, have been achieved, so far as is reasonably practicable, except in relation to any property specified in the order under subclause (1)(b).

(3) For the purposes of subclause (2), the Supreme Court may have regard to—

- (a) the co-operative's interests; and
- (b) the interests of the holder of the charge that the controller is enforcing; and
- (c) the interests of the co-operative's other creditors; and
- (d) any other relevant matter.

(4) The Supreme Court may make an order under subclause (1) on the application of a liquidator appointed for the purposes of winding up the co-operative in insolvency.

(5) An order under subclause (1) may also prohibit the holder of the charge from doing any or all of the following, except with the leave of the Supreme Court:

- (a) appointing a person as receiver of property of the co-operative under a power contained in an instrument relating to the charge;
- (b) entering into possession, or taking control, of the property for the purpose of enforcing the charge;
- (c) appointing a person so to enter into possession or take control (whether as agent for the chargee or for the co-operative).

Effect of clauses 26 and 27

28. (1) Except as expressly provided in clause 26 or 27, an order under that clause does not affect a charge on property of a co-operative.

(2) Nothing in clause 26 or 27 limits any other power of the Supreme Court to remove, or otherwise deal with, a controller of property of a co-operative (for example, the Supreme Court's powers under clause 14).

SCHEDULE 5

Savings and transitional

Definitions

1. In this Schedule—

"**active membership provisions**", in relation to rules of a co-operative, means provisions imposing a duty on all persons who become members of the co-operative to be active members;

"**repealed Act**" means the *Co-operatives Act 1983*;

"**transferred co-operative**" means a body corporate that is deemed by clause 4, 5 or 6 of this Schedule to be a co-operative registered under this Act.

Acts Interpretation Act applies

2. The *Acts Interpretation Act 1915* applies, except to the extent of any inconsistency with the provisions of this Schedule, to the repeal of the *Co-operatives Act 1983*.

Regulations

3. The Governor may make regulations of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment or commencement of this Act.

Saving of existing co-operatives

4. (1) On the commencement of this clause, any existing body corporate that was a co-operative registered under the repealed Act immediately before that commencement is deemed to be a co-operative registered under this Act.

(2) Each transferred co-operative under this clause is the same legal entity as it was before the commencement of this clause with the same name, rules and membership as it had immediately before that commencement.

(3) The committee of management of a transferred co-operative as constituted immediately before its deemed registration under this Act is deemed to be the board of directors of the co-operative referred to in section 206 of this Act and each member of that committee of management is deemed to be a director of the transferred co-operative even if he or she does not qualify to be a director of a co-operative under section 208 of this Act.

(4) A certificate of incorporation issued by the Commission under the provisions of the repealed Act as continuing in force for the purposes of this clause is, for the purposes of this Act, deemed to be a certificate of registration issued under this Act.

Co-operatives in process of formation before commencement

5. (1) If, before the commencement of this clause, the meeting referred to in clause 3 of Form 2 of the *Co-operatives Regulations 1996* had been held and an application for the registration of a co-operative was duly made under the repealed Act but the co-operative had not been registered under that Act—

(a) the provisions of Division 1 of Part 3 of that Act continue to apply to the registration of the co-operative; and

(b) on the registration of the co-operative under those provisions, the co-operative is deemed to be a co-operative registered under this Act.

(2) Each transferred co-operative under this clause is the same legal entity as it was before its deemed registration under this Act with the same name, rules and membership as it had immediately before that deemed registration.

(3) The committee of management of a transferred co-operative as constituted immediately before its deemed registration under this Act is deemed to be the board of directors of the co-operative referred to in section 206 of this Act and each member of that committee of management is deemed to be a director of the transferred co-operative even if he or she does not qualify to be a director of a co-operative under section 208 of this Act.

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(4) A certificate of incorporation issued by the Commission under the provisions of the repealed Act as continuing in force for the purposes of this clause is, for the purposes of this Act, deemed to be a certificate of registration issued under this Act.

Co-operatives in process of amalgamation before commencement

6. (1) If, before the commencement of this clause, 2 or more co-operatives registered under the repealed Act had passed special resolutions resolving to amalgamate the co-operatives and an application for their amalgamation was duly made under the repealed Act but the proposed co-operative had not been registered under that Act—

- (a) the provisions of Division 2 of Part 3 of that Act continue to apply to the registration of the proposed co-operative; and
- (b) on the registration of the co-operative formed by the amalgamation, the co-operative is deemed to be a co-operative registered under this Act.

(2) Each transferred co-operative under this clause is the same legal entity as it was before its deemed registration under this Act with the same name, rules and membership as it had immediately before that deemed registration.

(3) The committee of management of a transferred co-operative as constituted immediately before its deemed registration under this Act is deemed to be the board of directors of the co-operative referred to in section 206 of this Act and each member of that committee of management is deemed to be a director of the transferred co-operative even if he or she does not qualify to be a director of a co-operative under section 208 of this Act.

(4) A certificate of incorporation issued by the Commission under the provisions of the repealed Act as continuing in force for the purposes of this clause is, for the purposes of this Act, deemed to be a certificate of registration issued under this Act.

Rules of co-operative in process of alteration before commencement

7. (1) If, before the commencement of this clause, a co-operative registered under the repealed Act had passed a special resolution resolving to alter its rules and an application for the registration of the proposed alteration of the rules was duly made under the repealed Act but the alteration had not been registered under that Act—

- (a) the provisions of Division 3 of Part 3 of that Act continue to apply to the registration of the alteration of the rules of the co-operative; and
- (b) on the registration of the alteration of the rules of the co-operative under those provisions, the alteration is deemed to be an alteration registered under this Act.

(2) A certificate issued by the Commission under section 19(4) of the repealed Act as continuing in force for the purposes of this clause is, for the purposes of this Act, deemed to be a certificate issued under section 110 of this Act.

Rules of transferred co-operative to conform with Act

8. (1) The rules of a transferred co-operative have effect subject to this Act and the regulations.

(2) A transferred co-operative must bring its rules into conformity with this Act and the regulations—

- (a) within 2 years after the commencement of this Act; or
- (b) within such further period as may be approved by the Commission in respect of that co-operative.

Modification of certain rules of transferred co-operative

9. (1) This clause applies if, in the opinion of the Commission, the rules of a transferred co-operative should be altered to achieve conformity with any requirement of this Act.

(2) The Commission may, by instrument in writing served on a transferred co-operative, require the co-operative within a period specified in the instrument to alter its rules—

- (a) in a manner specified in the instrument; or
- (b) in a manner approved by the Commission.

(3) If, within the period specified in the instrument, the co-operative fails to alter its rules as required by the instrument, the Commission may, by notation on the registered copy of the rules, alter the rules of the co-operative.

(4) The Commission must give written notice to a co-operative of any alteration of its rules made by the Commission under this clause.

(5) Any alteration made by the Commission to the rules of a transferred co-operative under this clause is as valid and effectual as if it were an alteration made and registered under Part 5 of this Act.

Rules of transferred co-operative to contain active membership provisions

10. The board of directors of a transferred co-operative must comply with Division 2 of Part 6 of this Act—

- (a) within 2 years of the commencement of this Act; or
- (b) within any further period approved by the Commission in respect of that co-operative.

Qualifications for membership of transferred co-operative

11. Section 62 of this Act does not apply in relation to a person who applies for membership of a transferred co-operative after the commencement of this Act if the rules of the co-operative do not contain active membership provisions.

Name of transferred co-operative to comply with this Act

12. If the name of a transferred co-operative does not comply with the requirements of this Act the co-operative must, within 12 months of the commencement of this Act, change the name of the co-operative to a name that complies with the requirements of this Act.

Transferred co-operative carrying on business with too few members

13. A transferred co-operative that has less than the minimum number of members required by this Act must, within 12 months of the commencement of this Act, increase its membership to the minimum number required by this Act.

Saving of voting rights of members of transferred co-operative

14. Despite any other provision of this Act, if on the commencement of this clause the rules of a transferred co-operative do not comply with section 175(2) of this Act, those rules are valid until the second anniversary of that commencement.

Inactive members of transferred co-operative entitled to vote if rules do not contain active membership provisions

15. Despite section 179 of this Act, a member of a transferred co-operative who is not an active member of the co-operative is entitled to vote if the rules of the co-operative do not contain active membership provisions.

Extension of time for holding of AGM by transferred co-operative

16. If under section 9 of the repealed Act the Commission extended the time prescribed by that Act for the holding of an annual general meeting by a co-operative that is a transferred co-operative, that extension of time is deemed to be an extension of time allowed by the Commission under section 199(2)(b) of this Act.

Inactive members of transferred co-operative entitled to be requisitioning members if rules do not contain active membership provisions

17. Despite section 204(2) of this Act, a member of a transferred co-operative who is not an active member of the co-operative is entitled to be a requisitioning member if the rules of the co-operative do not contain active membership provisions.

Co-operatives Act 1997**Transferred co-operative to remove disqualified persons from board of directors**

18. If a director of a transferred co-operative is not qualified to be a director of a co-operative under this Act, the transferred co-operative must, within 12 months of the commencement of this Act, remove the director from office and appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy until the next annual general meeting.

Prospectuses issued by transferred co-operative before commencement in relation to issue of debentures to non-members etc.

19. (1) This clause applies in relation to an issue of debentures by a transferred co-operative to persons other than persons referred to in section 258(4) of this Act.

(2) A prospectus issued by a transferred co-operative under section 31(1)(a) of the repealed Act before the commencement of this Act is deemed to be a prospectus issued under section 258 of this Act.

Prospectuses issued by transferred co-operative before commencement in relation to issue of debentures to members

20. (1) This clause applies in relation to an issue of debentures by a transferred co-operative to persons referred to in section 259(1) of this Act.

(2) A prospectus issued by a transferred co-operative under section 31(1)(a) of the repealed Act before the commencement of this Act is deemed to be an approved disclosure statement under section 259 of this Act.

Prospectuses issued by transferred co-operative before commencement in relation to issue of shares to members

21. (1) This clause applies in relation to an issue of shares to members of a transferred co-operative.

(2) A prospectus issued by a transferred co-operative under section 31(1)(a) of the repealed Act before the commencement of this Act is deemed to be a disclosure statement under section 144 of this Act.

Charges registered under repealed Act

22. A charge on property of a transferred co-operative registered under section 31(1)(b) of the repealed Act is deemed to be a charge registered under Schedule 3 of this Act and, for the purposes of the provisions of this Act relating to the priority of charges, the charge is deemed to have been registered under this Act at the time of registration under the repealed Act.

Application for exemption before commencement—qualifications of auditors

23. An application for an exemption under section 50(3) of the repealed Act duly made by a transferred co-operative under the repealed Act but not determined before the commencement of this clause is deemed to be an application for an exemption under section 234 of this Act.

Existing accounts provisions to apply to transferred co-operatives

24. Despite anything to the contrary in this Act or the regulations, Part 5 of the repealed Act continues to apply to a transferred co-operative in respect of the financial year of that co-operative next following the commencement of this clause if that financial year ends on or before the prescribed date.

Notice to be given of relevant interest in voting rights of member of transferred co-operative

25. If—

- (a) on the commencement of this clause a person has a relevant interest in the right to vote of a member of a transferred co-operative; and
- (b) the person became aware of that interest before that commencement,

the person must give notice of that interest to the co-operative within 6 months of that commencement.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

Notice to be given of substantial share interest in transferred co-operative

26. (1) If—

- (a) a person has a substantial share interest in a transferred co-operative on the commencement of this clause; and

(b) the person became aware of that interest before that commencement,

the person must give notice of that interest to the co-operative within 6 months of that commencement.

Maximum penalty: \$2 000.

(2) For the purposes of this clause, a person has a "**substantial share interest**" in a co-operative if the nominal value of the shares in the co-operative in which the person has a relevant interest represents 5 per cent or more of the nominal value of the issued share capital of the co-operative.

Maximum permissible level of share interest in transferred co-operative

27. (1) If, on the commencement of this clause, a person has a relevant interest in shares of a transferred co-operative beyond the maximum permissible level prescribed by section 275(1) of this Act the person must, within 12 months of that commencement, reduce his or her interest to the maximum permissible level.

(2) Section 275(4) of this Act does not apply in relation to a transferred co-operative while the co-operative has less than the minimum number of members allowed by section 69 of this Act.

Unlisted companies to provide list of shareholders etc. to transferred co-operatives

28. A company to which section 281 of this Act applies must, within 6 months of the commencement of this clause, give to a transferred co-operative of which the company is a member the list referred to in that section.

Registered office of transferred co-operative

29. The registered office of a transferred co-operative last notified to the Commission under the repealed Act is deemed to be the registered office of the transferred co-operative for the purposes of this Act.

Investigation into affairs of transferred co-operative

30. If, before the commencement of this clause, a special investigation under Part 7 of the *Companies (South Australia) Code* had commenced in respect of a transferred co-operative, that Part continues to apply in relation to that investigation.

Winding up of transferred co-operative

31. If, before the commencement of this clause, a transferred co-operative had commenced to be wound up under the provisions of Division 3 of Part 6 of the repealed Act, the proceedings for the winding up of the co-operative may be continued and completed under those provisions as if this Act had not been enacted.

Arrangement for transferred co-operative

32. An application for approval of a proposed arrangement duly made by a transferred co-operative under Part VIII of the *Companies (South Australia) Code* before the commencement of this clause is deemed to be an application for approval of an arrangement under section 334 of this Act.

Receivers and managers of transferred co-operative

33. If, immediately before the commencement of this clause, there was a receiver or manager of a transferred co-operative, Division 1 of Part 6 of the repealed Act continues to apply in relation to the transferred co-operative and the appointment of the receiver or manager, despite the enactment of this Act.

Documents

34. A certificate or other document, relating to a transferred co-operative, issued or registered by, filed or lodged with, or given to, the Commission under the repealed Act has effect as if it were a certificate or other document issued or registered by, filed or lodged with, or given to, the Commission under this Act.

Proceedings under the repealed Act in relation to transferred co-operatives

35. The Commission may institute proceedings under the repealed Act for—

- (a) an offence against the repealed Act committed before the commencement of this Act; or
- (b) an offence against a provision of the repealed Act continued in operation by or under this Act.

Co-operatives Act 1997

Superseded references

36. (1) A reference in any other Act, statutory instrument or document of any kind to the *Co-operatives Act 1983* is deemed to be a reference to this Act.

(2) A reference in any other Act, statutory instrument or document of any kind to a co-operative within the meaning of the *Co-operatives Act 1983* is deemed to be a reference to a co-operative registered under this Act.

Co-operatives Act 1997

APPENDIX

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Section 4(1):	definition of "foreign co-operative" paragraph (b) repealed by 33, 1999, Sched. (item 13(a))
Section 247(5):	amended by 33, 1999, Sched. (item 13(b))
Section 354(1):	amended by 33, 1999, Sched. (item 13(c))
Section 363(1):	amended by 33, 1999, Sched. (item 13(d))
Schedule 4	
Clause 11(1):	amended by 33, 1999, Sched. (item 13(e))