



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF LIVE STEAMERS

AALS Web Site
www.aals.asn.au

Limited

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Subject: Impact of COVID-19 virus

To all club Secretaries

As a result of the impact of the COVID-19 virus there has been a lot of concern and confusion over the past couple of weeks regarding the status of the upcoming convention and club public running. The AALS Board has been monitoring the rapidly evolving situation on a daily basis. In view of the latest Government announcement regarding restrictions on non-essential gatherings you are hereby advised that the 2020 Convention **will not go ahead. It is cancelled.**

AGM

AALS Annual General Meeting must still go ahead at the advertised time and place. That is a legal requirement and one we have no choice about. Some aspects of the AGM will need to be altered. Because this meeting must go ahead, regardless of whether your club sends a delegate to the meeting, **it is very important that you get those voting forms returned as soon as possible.** Email would be best. Send them to the AALS Secretary at secretary@aals.asn.au Under the circumstances it would be best to nominate the Chairman as your Proxy, show how you wish to vote, and then if your delegate cannot attend the AGM your club still gets to vote. If your delegate does attend the AGM the form can be retrieved by the delegate. It would be helpful with organising if you could also advise the AALS Secretary if you will have a delegate attending the AGM. **The AGM will be open to registered delegates only, observers will not be admitted.**

NOTE: There will not be the usual pre-meeting onsite delegate accrediting and registration this year. If your delegate is to attend the meeting you must email that form back to the Secretary promptly. To reiterate, if your delegate can attend the meeting or not, if your club wants to ensure it has a say, complete the voting/proxy form and send it in as soon as possible.

Remember, we are legally bound to hold the AGM. As regards the AMBSC meeting, the ALSSC meeting and the Convention itself, these are cancelled and will not be postponed to a later date. The traditional 'bogie' awards usually held on the Sunday night are also cancelled for this year. There will be further communications regarding the business of the AMBSC and the ALSSC after the AGM.

Whether any of your club delegates attend the AGM is a matter for you to decide. With 90 clubs, all very different, it is not the AALS position to make that decision for you. You need to determine what is the best outcome for your members in this difficult time.

If you or a member has paid their registration fee, please contact the Convention Secretary (with whom you registered), along with your bank details to arrange a refund. Alternately you may prefer to make a donation towards the loss incurred by the host club.

PLEASE ADVISE YOUR MEMBERS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS EMAIL WITHOUT DELAY AS SOME OF THEM HAVE ALREADY PAID FOR ACCOMMODATION AND REGISTRATION.

Public Running

Several clubs have been asking the AALS for advice on whether they should continue public running. **That is not a decision the AALS can make.** Currently the crisis level varies from state to state, and clubs and their circumstances are all different. This type of decision must be made by the club executive/committee - it is part of your responsibility to act in the best interests of your members and supporters.



Ben De Gabriel
National President
Australian Association of Live Steamers