



National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

Meeting Date: Monday 10 AUGUST 2026
Venue: Dogs Qld Boardroom – lower ring road opposite Ring 22
Cocker National - Dogs Qld Grounds Durack
Time: lunch time break between judging
Chair: to be advised
Minutes: Jenny Hughes (Secretary)
Delegates Attending from: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic and SA

ITEM	DISCUSSION LEAD
Item 1: Welcome / Attendance/ Apologies	Chair
Item 2: Confirmation Minutes of Previous Meeting: 16 March 2026 Item 2.1: Business arising from Minutes	JH/all
Item 3: Correspondence (in and out)	JH /all
Item 4: Reports and updates 4.1 No President Report available - Secretary Report 2024-26 4.2 Financial / Bank Account update / Investment options 4.3 Website 4.4 Breed Standard Working Group Project Report 4.5 Dogs Australia: New DRAFT Constitution 4.6 Reminder: Annual fee notices for 2027 dates	JH JH JH Working Group JH JH
Item 5: Decision making – Motions 5.1 New Generic Working Group Terms of Reference 5.2 Breed Standard Working Group: GO / NO GO – This motion is withdrawn 5.3 Health Committee nominations Victoria – Meg Hardy NSW – Vendela Pento Qld – Kay Hutt SA – Peter Thompson (tbc) ACT – Marcia Kingston	All All All
Item 6: Election of Officers 6.1 President nomination: Anna Hatherly 6.2 Secretary nomination: Jenny Hughes	all
Item 7: General Business	All
Item 8: Wrap up 8.1 Summary of dates 2026 – 2028 will be sent out with minutes	
Item 9: Meeting close	



National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia)

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 16 March 2026
Venue: online Zoom
Meeting opened at: 6.30pm (Qld time)
Meeting closed at: 7.30 pm (Qld Time)
Chair: Ray Dennis (President)
Minutes: Jenny Hughes (Secretary)
Delegates Attending from: Qld – Toni Dennis, NSW – Linda Kantek, ACT – Debbie Smith, Vic – Meg Hardy and SA – nil
Also in attendance: Marcia Kingston (ACT) and Judith Balfour (SA)
Apologies: nil

ITEM	ACTIONS
Item 1: Welcome / Attendance/ Apologies All online were welcomed. Attendance and Apologies noted Those attending were reminded of the role of delegates and the role of others attending.	nil
Item 2: Confirmation Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes from the previous meeting held 8 September 2025 were confirmed Moved: Jenny Hughes (Secretary) Seconded: Linda Kantek (NSW)	Secretary to update website with meeting papers
Item 2.1: Business arising from Minutes Secretary advised that all actions were completed.	nil
Item 3: Correspondence (in and out) Correspondence for the period 25 September 2025 to 23 February 2026 was noted and accepted. Members were advised of the change of Dogs Australia Secretary which was received after closing date for correspondence ie Tracey Barry replaced with Emma Ford from 31 March 2026. Moved: Jenny Hughes (Secretary) Seconded: Debbie Smith (ACT)	nil
Item 4: Reports 4.1: Cocker Spaniel National Championship Show Update Qld delegate Toni Dennis advised that: - Information pack had been emailed to all Secretaries - National Secretary requested information pack to post on National Website - Further updates via facebook page	Toni Dennis to send National Information pack to National Secretary
Item 5: Discussion and Decision Making 5.1: Health Education Committee Implementation Plan - There was a general discussion about the expertise of a Chairperson, possibly from outside the breed with academic expertise. - Appendix B was discussed and changes recommended to expectations not requirements and sections such as prefix and club removed. - Members were asked if they accepted the Health Education Committee Implementation Plan with these noted changes. Voting results were: Vic – yes; NSW – yes; ACT – yes; Qld – yes; SA – no vote Vote supports next phase implementation	National Secretary to revise Appendix B in HC Implementation Plan. Interim Lead Group (President, Secretary and Victoria Delegate) to carry out next phase implementation.

5.2: Dogs Australia: New DRAFT Constitution The prepared comments on the New DRAFT Constitution were discussed. Attention was drawn to item 8 Officer Functions which would change the current 'balance of decision making'. Members felt that current arrangement should not be changed. The prepared comments were approved to be submitted to Dogs Australia by 31 March 2026*. Since this meeting Dogs Australia have advised that due date for comments is now 31 May 2026. 5.3: Annual Fee Notices National Secretary proposed that annual fee notices be changed to have a due date for payment as 31 December each year. This would line up payments with financial year as per constitution and reporting to Dogs Australia. All members supported this suggestion noting that Membership Invoices for 2027 will be sent in November 2026 with a due date of 31 December 2026. 5.4: Westpac Bank Account - Members were advised of the requirements by Westpac regarding the National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia) bank account. - Members were advised that because these requirements have not been met by due date 16 March 2026 the account is now frozen. - To return access the following is required: - The name of Robyn Spencer is removed from National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia) Account profile. ALL AGREED - The names of Judith Lesley Balfour; Jennifer Lorraine Hughes; and Linda Kantek are listed on National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia) Account profile. ALL AGREED - The names of Judith Lesley Balfour; Jennifer Lorraine Hughes; and Linda Kantek are listed on National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia) Online banking Account as authorities. With Jennifer Hughes to initiate payments and Judith Balfour and Linda Kantek to be approvers. ALL AGREED - National Secretary Jennifer Hughes to be listed as Authorised National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia) Account contact. ALL AGREED - Judith Balfour and Linda Kantek to visit a local Westpac Branch and be Westpac identified. ALL AGREED - National Secretary to submit minuted of the 16 March 2026 meeting to Westpac. ALL AGREED - National Secretary to submit completed Customer Verification Form to Westpac. ALL AGREED - National Secretary to complete Tax Entity Classification Form and submit to Westpac. ALL AGREED - Jennifer Hughes; Judith Balfour and Linda Kantek to participate in virtual meeting with Westpac to amend signatories on main profile. ALL AGREED The group acknowledged the extensive amount of time this process is taking and will take to complete. Linda, Judith and Jenny were thanked for their time and effort.	National Secretary to submit prepared comments to Dogs Australia by 31 March 2026 without amendments. National Secretary to send 2027 invoices in November 2026 with due date 31 December 2026. National Secretary to carry out the necessary steps required by Westpac bank with the assistance of Linda Kantek and Judith Balfour in order to restore banking access.
Item 6: Notices Members were reminded that as per the Constitution nominations for Secretary and President for 2027-2029 are required in writing to Secretary by Monday 11 May 2026.	Nominations for Secretary and President required by

President nomination to come from Cocker Spaniel Club of the ACT Inc. Current Secretary Jenny Hughes indicated that continuing nomination will be sort from Cocker Spaniel Society of NSW	11 May 2026.
Item 7: General Business nil	
Item 8: Summary of Actions and Meeting Close 8.1 Administration: Secretary to update website with meeting papers. 8.2 2026 National Championship Show: Toni Dennis to send National Information pack to National Secretary 8.3 Health Committee: National Secretary to revise Appendix B in Health Committee Implementation Plan. 8.4 Health Committee: Interim Lead Group (President, Secretary and Victoria Delegate) to carry out next phase of Health Committee Implementation. 8.5 Dogs Australia New DRAFT Constitution: National Secretary to submit prepared comments to Dogs Australia by 31 March 2026 without amendments. 8.6 Annual Fee Notices: National Secretary to send 2027 invoices in November 2026 with due date 31 December 2026. 8.7 Westpac Banking Account: National Secretary to carry out the necessary steps required by Westpac bank with the assistance of Linda Kantek and Judith Balfour in order to restore banking access. 8.8 Notices: Nominations for Secretary and President required by 11 May 2026.	
Item 9: Important dates Next meeting: - Annual General Meeting at Cocker National lunch break Monday 10 August 2026. This is an in person meeting, if not attending delegates will have to make their own dial in arrangements. Please advise National Secretary if there is a change of delegates and ensure your delegates are briefed. - Motions required to Secretary by Monday 11 May 2026. - Notice of Meeting with DRAFT Agenda with Motions and Papers sent Tuesday 12 May 2026 (90 days prior) - Final Meeting agenda and papers sent Tuesday 28 July 2026 (2 weeks prior)	



Signed: Ray Dennis
President National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia)
30 March 2026



National Cocker Spaniel Council (Aust)



CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER (Period 23 February 2026 to 20 July 2026)

Inwards

Date	Item	To	From	Topic
3 Mar 2026	email	Secretary	Dogs Qld	Zoom meeting details for 16 March 2026 meeting
9 March 2026	email	Secretary	Dogs Australia	Notification of new Administrator Emma Ford
11 March 2026	email	Secretary	Westpac Bank	Reminder verification requirements by 16 March 2026
20 March 2026	email	Secretary	Dogs Qld	DQ advise on help with copyright issues – referral to Elisa McCutcheon
24 March 2026	email	Secretary	Cocker Spaniel Club Victoria	Letter re concerns about Breed Standard image process
25 March 2026	email	Secretary	Westpac Bank	Advice that account is now frozen
26 March 2026	letter	Secretary	Dogs Australia	Advise that feedback date on DRAFT constitution is extended till end of May 2026
2 April 2026	email	Secretary	Judith Balfour	ID Verification completed with Westpac Bank in Adelaide
17 April 2026	email	Secretary	ECSCA	Use of the Breed Standard picture
30 April 2026	email	Secretary	Cocker Spaniel Club Victoria	Social media post by President Ray Dennis
5 May 2026	email	Secretary	Cocker Spaniel Society NSW	Request update on letter from Cocker Spaniel Club Victoria dated 29 April 2026
6 May 2026	email	Secretary	Ray Dennis	Instructions regarding letter from Cocker Spaniel Club Victoria dated 29 April 2026
7 May 2026	email	Secretary	Jenny Robb	Re letter from Cocker Spaniel Club Victoria dated 29 April 2026
18 May 2026	email	Secretary	CSC ACT	Request re 2028 National
19 May 2026	email	Secretary	Cocker Spaniel Club Victoria	No confidence motion from CSC Victoria – incorrect format
27 May 2026	email	Secretary	Dogs Australia	Advice re no confidence motion
3 June 2026	email	Secretary	CSC QLD	Resignation of Ray Dennis
5 June 2026	Email	Secretary	Dogs Qld	Board Room booking for 10 Aug 2026
5 June 2026	Email	Secretary	Westpac Bank	Advice on next steps re bank account
14 June 2026	email	Secretary	CSC ACT	Health Committee Nomination – Marcia Kingston
22 June 2026	Email	Secretary	Beatrice Lynch	Info on Glenayden kennels
2 July 2026	email	Secretary	CSC QLD	Health Committee Nomination – Kay Hutt

Outgoing

Date	Item	To	From	Topic
1 March 2026	email	All Secretaries	NCSC Secretary	Change of meeting date from 9 March to 16 March 2026
18 March 2026	email	Meg Hardy /Cocker Club Vic	NCSC Secretary	Final Health Committee Implementation Plan
22 March 2026	email	Nikki Lane	NCSC Secretary	Health Committee Information
22 March 2026	email	Dogs Qld	NCSC Secretary	Request on legal counsel to assist with copyright issues breed standard image
25 March 2026	email	CSC Victoria	NCSC Secretary	Acknowledge receipt of letter re breed standard image process
31 March 2026	email	Tina Matthews	NCSC Secretary	Health Committee Information
9 April 2026	email	CSC Qld	NCSC Secretary	Reply to CSC Qld re CSC Vic breed standard image letter
17 April 2026	email	CSC Qld	NCSC Secretary	Reply re advice from ECSCA re use breed standard image
1 May 2026	email	CSC Vic	NCSC Secretary	Letter dated 29 April 2026 re President
5 May 2026	Email	Ray Dennis	NCSC Secretary	Response to 29 April letter required by 8 May 2026
5 May 2026	email	CSC Vic	NCSC Secretary	Letter 29 April – Constitution items to follow
8 May 2026	email	All Secretaries	NCSC Secretary	Update on 29 April letter actions
9 May 2026	email	Jenny Robb	NCSC Secretary	Feedback on email
11 May 2026	email	All Secretaries	NCSC Secretary	Notice of Meeting – AGM on 10 Aug 2026
19 May 2026	email	CSC Vic	NCSC Secretary	Advice from Dogs Australia re no confidence motion
20 May 2026	email	CSC ACT	NCSC Secretary	Letter re 2028 National
20 & 27 May 26	email	Dogs Australia	NCSC Secretary	Matters re no confidence motion; attendance of DA rep at special meeting if required; President resignation
3 June 2026	email	Ray Dennis	NCSC Secretary	Request to correctly resign
3 June 2026	Email	CSC NSW and CSC Vic	NCSC Secretary	Newsletter information
5 June 2026	email	Westpac Bank	NCSC Secretary	Request on next steps
9 June 2026	email	All Secretaries	NCSC Secretary	Updates and Reminders – key dates
15 June 2026	email	CSC ACT	NCSC Secretary	Acknowledge Health Committee nomination – Marcia Kingston
22 June 2026	email	Beatrice Lynch	NCSC Secretary	Advice on Website information
1 July 2026	email	CSC Qld	NCSC Secretary	Health Committee nomination



National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia)

SECRETARY REPORT

To: National Cocker Spaniel Council (Aust) Annual General Meeting
From: Jenny Hughes (Secretary)
Topic: Secretary Annual Report for AGM 10 August 2026
Author: Jenny Hughes (Secretary)
Date: 18 June 2026

Introduction

This Secretary Report is submitted to the National Cocker Spaniel Council (Aust) Annual General Meeting scheduled for 10 August 2026. The following achievements cover the period 25 May 2024 to 10 August 2026.

Achievements

1. Transition and handover

- Dogs Australia notified of new President and Secretary contact details
- Hard copy Secretary files relocated from NSW to Qld
- New Secretary added to NCSC (Aust) bank account
- Website <https://www.cockerspanielcouncilaust.com/> updated with new President and Secretary details
- Established a dedicated secretary email address secretaryncscaust@gmail.com

2. Operations

- Negotiated with Dogs Queensland access to their ZOOM account to conduct online meetings.
- Established Constitution Review Working Group.
- Constitution Review completed and Constitution 2025 approved by Dogs Australia in February 2025.
- All Council agendas, minutes and papers for the period 1981 to present, scanned and added to website with regular updates.
- Established a schedule of meetings and key dates for the period 2024 – 2026 listed on website under Administration.
- Established a style guide for consistent presentation of Council documents and information.

3. Ongoing business

- Manage communication from Dogs Australia, NCSC (Aust) members and general enquiries.
- Manage finance as required.
- Update website as required.
- Council bank Account – verification process

4. New projects

- Revising the Breed Standard Image through a new Working Group
- Health Committee and Information Hub



PROJECT REPORT



NATIONAL COCKER SPANIEL COUNCIL (AUSTRALIA)

BREED STANDARD IMAGE AND COUNCIL LOGO

April 2026

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Background

On 31 March 2025 the National Cocker Spaniel Council (Aust) approved two new projects:

1. Revise the Breed Standard image currently shown on Dogs Australia Cocker Spaniel Breed Standard; and
2. Revise the NCSC (Aust) logo

Rationale

Breed Standard image

The image shown, does not match, as best it could, the description of the cocker spaniel outlined in the breed standard; and

<https://dogsaustralia.org.au/members/breeds/breed-standards/Cocker-Spaniel>

NCSC (Aust) Logo

The current logo, while it has historical value, does not reflect the current cocker spaniel standard ie no docked tail. The clarity of the image is deteriorating and it is difficult to add the year of the National to the image.

Purpose and Working Group membership

A Working Group was established called **NCSC (Aust) Expert Working Group: Breed Standard Image and Council Logo** to manage revisions of the breed standard image and new Council logo. Membership consists of:

- National President : Ray Dennis
- National Secretary : Jenny Hughes
- Queensland: Toni Dennis
- New South Wales: Linda Kantek
- ACT: Marcia Kingston
- Victoria: Meg Hardy
- South Australia: Judith Balfour then Peter Thompson
- NCSC Secretary as Group Coordinator

Project Activity

8 July 2025	Working Group - First meeting DRAFT Terms of Reference developed (Appendix A) Initial ideas to form a project plan • General feeling was that as the subject matter is somewhat subjective, it would take more time than the constitution process. With this in mind the process should take as long as it takes. • There are two items for consideration in this project, namely the breed standard image and the Council logo. It was discussed and agreed that the breed standard image should be the initial focus and then the silhouette of this image used to develop the new Council logo. • Agreed comments on breed standard image: - should be a drawing not a photograph - should be black and white - should be stacked not running • As a start the group needs to identify some existing drawings that may be suitable ie find what's out there!
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	• Copyright: Consideration needs to be given to the copyright of current drawings being considered. It was agreed that the final picture should be copyright and the owned by NCSC (Aust). Noting that there may be costs. • Costs in general: It was suggested that artist costs may be nil as could be sourced within the breed. But you 'get what you pay for' so the work of any artist engaged would need to be specified to ensure a clear understanding of product development requirements and ownership. • Further thought to be given to digital formats. • Confidentiality: It was agreed that all matters regarding this project must remain confidential within the group until agreed to be released to a broader audience. Artist/s engaged would also be subject to confidentiality. No pictures, images or discussion loaded into the fb portal are to be copied and redistributed without the permission of the group. • Final decision: There was discussion about who should decide the final new image. In that there are a lot of eyes on this image and questions may be asked as to who decided the new image. Would the members of this group be considered 'expert enough'. The group felt that at this time the group was expert enough as NCSC (Aust) would be making the decision and is made up of five breeds specialist clubs and members. • DRAFT PROJECT PLAN Stage 1 - gather images that represent an ideal outline of a stacked cocker - upload to Expert Working Group fb portal* - list the source and any copyright - members to discuss and debate within the portal to refine to 'maybe v maybe not' Stage 2 - if possible decide on a single image for further refinement, development and infill by an artist Further consideration to be given to: - process to identify an artist - specifications and confidentiality of artist work - management of conflicts of interest * The facebook group/ portal provides a secure and central location for all materials associated with the project. Access is only by group membership.
8 Sept 2025	Progress report tabled at NCSC (Aust) General Meeting
July to Dec 2025	Ongoing project activity During this time 5 images were identified by group members. These 5 images were assessed by group members against the agreed criteria, namely • Drawing not photo • Black and white • Stacked not running • Source • Copyright • Maybe v maybe not From this process 3 images progressed for further consideration.

2 February 2026	Working Group meeting – online At this meeting members were asked the following questions to focus discussion: Option 1: Accept the 3 images that we have + make changes. Option 2: Accept what we have + make changes + look for other images Option 3: Accept what we have and make NO changes Option 4: Reject all we have and start again The Working Group agreed on Option 2: Accept what we have + make changes + look for other images with a due date of 1 March 2026 for revisions and additional images. Between 2 February and 1 March 2026, existing images were refined based on group feedback and resubmitted. New images were identified. Some were altered using photoshop and AI software. A substantial amount of work was done by members during this time to explore further options. By 1 March 2026 a total of 9 images later adjusted to 7 images were now under consideration by the Working Group.
16 March 2026	Working Group meeting – online following NCSC (Aust) meeting At this meeting members had 7 images under consideration and each club was asked to identify their top 3. Votes were consolidated around 3 clear favourites. Because they typified the words of the standard more than any of the others. The group felt that these final 3 images were good candidates to be considered by a wider audience. Copyright issues and ownership was still to be clarified. It was also agreed that the focus should be on finalising the breed standard image at this time. Separating the use of the image in the logo. The logo image to be considered at a future stage of this project. A survey to members of all clubs was proposed and agreed. 1 May 2026 was identified as the 'go live' date, some 6 weeks away and potentially sufficient time to clarify copyright issues. Tasks allocated for survey development and communications.
17 – 22 March 2026	Further details and legal advice sought on how to determine copyright of images and prepare documentation that would ensure NCSC (Aust) ownership of a final image. Package prepared to be sent to solicitor on 24 March 2026
23 March 2026	Letter received from Cocker Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc raising concerns about the proposed survey and project. (Appendix B)
23 March 2026	Project paused pending clarification of issues raised by Cocker Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc
9 April 2026	NCSC (Aust) reply to Cocker Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc (Appendix C)
April to August 2026	Project paused pending decisions at NCSC (Aust) meeting on 10 August 2026

Next Steps

Given the issues raised in the letters between the Cocker Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc and NCSC (Aust) in March and April 2026.

The project needs to be reset and a process to do this will take place at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Monday 10 August 2026 at the Cocker Spaniel National Championship Show in Brisbane.

This meeting will ask NCSC (Aust) members to:

1. Note the Breed Standard Image and Council Logo Working Group Project Report
2. Approve a Motion for Generic Working Group Terms of Reference; and
3. Approve A GO – NO GO motion to reset the project

Working Group Members contribution

Concerns about the breed standard image were first raised in 1998.

The members of this group are thanked for the enormous amount of time and consideration that they have dedicated to this project to date.



NATIONAL COCKER SPANIEL COUNCIL (AUSTRALIA)
EXPERT WORKING GROUP: BREED STANDARD IMAGE AND COUNCIL LOGO
DRAFT Terms of Reference **9 July 2025**

Background

On 31 March 2025 the National Cocker Spaniel Council (Aust) approved two new projects:

3. Revise the Breed Standard image currently shown on Dogs Australia Cocker Spaniel Breed Standard; and
4. Revise the NCSC (Aust) logo

Rationale

Breed Standard image

The image shown, does not match, as best it could, the description of the cocker spaniel outlined in the breed standard; and

<https://dogsaustralia.org.au/members/breeds/breed-standards/Cocker-Spaniel>

NCSC (Aust) Logo

The current logo, while it has historical value, does not reflect the current cocker spaniel standard ie no docked tail. The clarity of the image is deteriorating and it is difficult to add the year of the National to the image.

Purpose

These terms of reference set out the proposed operations of the **NCSC (Aust) Expert Working Group: Breed Standard Image and Council Logo** to manage revisions of the breed standard image and new Council logo.

Membership

- One representative from each of the NCSC (Australia) member clubs ie Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, Victoria and South Australia.
- National Secretary and National President (if not already represented)
- Other content experts as required
- NCSC Secretary as Group Coordinator

Role

Working Group members will:

1. Examine the existing cocker spaniel images and assess suitability against the breed standard.
2. Make decisions on image and logo options
3. Develop specifications for the engagement of artists if required.
4. Develop and use agreed criteria to make decisions
5. Propose solutions to achieve the purpose of the new projects.
6. Liaise with members clubs through providing information and collecting feedback.
7. Maintain confidentiality of conversations and information.
8. Manage conflicts of interest, in the interest of the projects, if necessary.
9. Ensure that members clubs agree with the final versions that will then be presented to NCSC (Aust) meeting for endorsement and subsequently sent to Dogs Australia.

Responsibilities

- Members will work in a constructive and positive manner.
- Provide feedback and consider other points of view.
- Source material as required.
- Accept the decisions of the group.
- Liaise with member clubs as required.
- Maintain confidentiality of content and discussions.

Time required

There will be an initial start-up zoom meeting when membership is confirmed. After which an action plan and task timeline will be developed. The majority of tasks will be feedback, suggestions and comments that can be done by email with any necessary meetings for discussion on specific matters conducted by 'zoom'.

It is anticipated that this process could take up to 12 months.

Appointment of Working Group members

Membership is determined through nominations from Member Clubs. National Secretary to call for nominations if required.

Length of appointment

Members to be appointed till the task is completed.

Member resignation

Working group members can resign at any time, with or without explanation. The club they represent is responsible for a replacement to ensure continuity.

Appendix B: Letter from Cocker Spaniel Club Victoria Inc

Ms Jenny Hughes
Secretary
National Cocker Spaniel Council (AUST)

23 March 2026

Dear Jenny

The Committee of the Cocker Spaniel Council of Victoria Inc. has serious reservations about the method in which the National Cocker Spaniel Council (AUST) is conducting its project into determining and ratifying a new breed standard image and logo.

We are concerned with a number of issues:

1. Deliberation: Our Club has not yet received any of the final images selected for the purpose noted above and find the proposed process of sending such images to be assessed by members of the Cocker Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc. before the Committee has assessed them to be a reversal of due process.
2. Ratification: The CSCV Inc. does not approve of the NCSC (AUST) sending out any images to the members of the Cocker Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc. which have not first been approved by our Committee. The Committee will not agree to this under any circumstances.
3. Unprofessional: The process adapted by the NCSC (AUST) appears to be completely confused and poorly thought out. Our Club has not been informed as to the proprietary nature of the images used, who owns the images, copyright and re-publication issues. It is our view that these issues must be finalised before said images are sent to State bodies.
4. Purposes for which the images will be used: As far as the Cocker Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc. is aware no delineation of the use of the selected images has been sent to the State Clubs for approval.
5. We are also interested to note whether or not the selected image can be copyrighted for use by the NCSC (AUST) and the legal avenues for doing this.
6. The CSCV Inc. will not be a party to the distribution of these images via electronic survey. We consider this to be part of the purview of this project initiated by the NCSC (AUST) and, therefore, its responsibility.

All these matters need to be clarified before any representation can be made to the State Clubs for ratification.

Moreover, we note that Mrs Meg Hardy sits on the NCSC (AUST) as the representative/delegate of the Cocker Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc. and is not empowered by our Club to make any decisions independent of and without approval being granted by our Club. To do so would be a breach of the Rules, Regulations, By-Laws and Principles, both stipulated and implied, in our Constitution and render such decisions null and void.

We further note that the same is true of all members of the NCSC (AUST) who are representatives/delegates of their Clubs and are also not empowered to act independently of their State bodies. To do so is to act in bad faith.

Yours sincerely
Dr Gillian Robinson
Secretary
Cocker Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc.



National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia)

Jenny Hughes

0418805499

secretaryncscaust@gmail.com

<https://www.cockerspanielcouncilaust.com/>

Ref: 2026/01

Date: 9 April 2026

Secretary

Cocker Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc

By email only: cockerspanielclubvic@gmail.com

Cc: Meg Hardy

Dear Gillian

Topic: Correspondence regarding new cocker spaniel breed standard image.

I write in response to your letter via email, 23 March 2026 that listed a number of issues that the Cocker Spaniel Club of Victoria Inc have raised regarding the new breed standard image and logo project.

To ensure that we have a common understanding of matters I will briefly revisit facts surrounding the establishment of the Breed Standard Image and Logo Working Group and then respond to your concerns.

Please note that as a consequence of your letter, all project activity has ceased.

Timeline: December 2024 to date

17 December 2024 Motion to revise the Breed Standard Image and Council Logo submitted for consideration at Annual General Meeting, 31 March 2025

31 March 2025 Motion supported and carried by all NCSC (Aust) members.
Delegates agreed to form a Working Group to progress this issue, develop Terms of Reference and a project plan.

8 July 2025 First meeting of Working Group
Membership consists of:

- National President : Ray Dennis
- National Secretary : Jenny Hughes
- Queensland delegate: Toni Dennis
- New South Wales delegate: Linda Kantek
- ACT delegate: Marcia Kingston
- Victoria delegate: Meg Hardy
- South Australia delegate: Judith Balfour then Peter Thompson
- NCSC Secretary as Group Coordinator

DRAFT Terms of Reference developed

Initial Project Plan developed

Initial tasks agreed to

8 September 2025	Progress report tabled at NCSC (Aust) General Meeting
July to Dec 2025	Ongoing project activity
2 February 2026	Working Group meeting – online
16 March 2026	Working Group meeting – online following NCSC (Aust) meeting

Throughout this process, there has been a consistent effort to ensure transparency, with detailed documentation provided to working group members outlining the project plan, methodology, and progress in identifying, assessing, and shortlisting images.

Your correspondence demonstrates there is a divergence in understanding regarding the intended process—specifically in relation to the role of Working Groups, the sequencing of consultation, and the authority of delegates in Working Groups versus authority at NCSC (Aust) meetings as outlined in NCSC (Aust) Constitution 2025.

It appears that the Victorian Club is operating on the basis that State Committees must review and approve materials prior to any broader engagement with their membership. This has not been a clearly established or universally agreed position across all member clubs and does not appear to have been consistently communicated or understood at a national level.

From my perspective, the process adopted to date has been aimed at achieving broad, inclusive consultation to inform a national outcome. However, it is clear that for some member bodies, including Victoria, this approach does not align with their internal governance expectations.

In light of this, I consider it both prudent and appropriate that we pause the current stage of the project to seek clarification and alignment across all member clubs before progressing further.

Specifically, I propose that we seek confirmation from all State Clubs on the:

1. Role, authority and expectations of representatives on Working Groups;
2. Role, authority and expectations of delegates at NCSC (Aust) meetings; and
3. Preferred sequencing of review, consultation, and endorsement
4. Any governance or constitutional requirements that must be observed

Additionally, the matters raised regarding copyright, ownership, and the intended use of images should be consolidated and clearly articulated to ensure there is no ambiguity prior to any finalisation.

Importantly, I do not consider that the process to date has been inappropriate or lacking in transparency. Rather, this appears to be an issue of differing expectations and assumptions that now require clarification to ensure a consistent and agreed pathway forward.

Next Steps

The next meeting of NCSC (Aust) is scheduled for Monday 10 August 2026. This meeting is a face to face meeting held at lunch time on day 1 of the Cocker Spaniel National Championship Show in Brisbane.

In accordance with the NCSC (Aust) Constitution 2025, a notice of meeting with motions and papers will be distributed with 90 days' notice on Monday 11 May 2026.

These papers will include:

4. A Breed Standard Image and Council Logo Working Group Project Report - to note
5. A Motion to approve Generic Working Group Terms of Reference; and
6. A GO – NO GO motion to reset the project

The outcome of this project will be viewed by audiences worldwide. It is important that we re-set the project with common expectations so the atmosphere of the Working Group can be productive and respectful.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the NCSC (Aust) Secretary: Jenny Hughes
secretaryncscaust@gmail.com or tel 0418805499

Yours faithfully



Ray Dennis
President
NCSC (Aust)
Email: ray@tarrendayle.com
Tel: 0438 148 911



National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia)

MOTION

To: NCSC (Aust)
From: National Secretary
Topic: Generic Working Group Terms of Reference
Author: Jenny Hughes
Date: 10 May 2026

Motion: *That the National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia) members vote to approve the generic working group terms of reference.*

Background

NCSC (Aust) has recently used Terms of Reference as the basis for operating the Constitution Review Working Group and the Breed Standard and Council logo Working Group.

Issue

Working groups operate different to the National Council meetings.

Working Groups

- A Working Group is project based. Projects require dynamic and agile discussion and decision making in order to implement the tasks associated with achieving the project goal. Decisions are based on agreed criteria and/ or by consensus.
- Working group members are representatives of member clubs and as such are empowered to make real time decisions in a constructive manner.
- Working Group members liaise with their respective clubs through providing information about the project, collecting feedback, perspectives and problem solving.

National Council meetings

- Delegates from each of the member clubs that attend a National Council meeting vote in accordance with the direction of the member club. No personal perspectives or deviation from the club decision is permitted. This is determined by the NCSC (Aust) Constitution 2025: Section 5.

Value add

- With generic and approved Terms of Reference each Working group as they are formed will have a consistent means of operating.
- Representatives joining a working group will have a better and clearer understanding of their role.

Distinctions: Representatives v delegates

- It is envisaged that clarifying the distinction between working group representatives and NCSC (Aust) delegates there will be a better understanding of decision making and operations.

Attachment: Generic Working Group Terms of Reference



NATIONAL COCKER SPANIEL COUNCIL (AUSTRALIA)

GENERIC WORKING GROUP: TERMS OF REFERENCE

NEW

April 2026

PROJECT SPECIFIC INFORMATION – ADDED AS REQUIRED

- **Background**
 - **Rationale**
 - **Purpose**
-

GENERIC WORKING GROUP OPERATIONS

Membership

- Up to two representatives from each of the NCSC (Australia) member clubs ie Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, Victoria and South Australia.
- National Secretary and National President (if not already represented)
- Other content experts as required
- NCSC Secretary as Group Coordinator

How Working Groups operate

Working groups operate different to the National Council meetings.

Working Groups

A Working Group is project based. Projects require dynamic and agile discussion and decision making in order to implement the tasks associated with achieving the project goal. Decisions are based on agreed criteria and/ or by consensus.

Working group members are representatives of member clubs and as such are empowered to make real time decisions in a constructive manner.

Working Group members liaise with their respective clubs through providing information about the project, collecting feedback, perspectives and problem solving.

National Council meetings

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Role

Working Group members will:

1. Examine relevant information specific to the project goal.
2. Develop specifications for contracted work if required.
3. Develop and use agreed criteria to make decisions
4. Propose solutions to achieve the purpose of the new projects.
5. Liaise with members clubs through providing information and collecting feedback.
6. Maintain confidentiality of conversations and information.

7. Investigate, confirm and acquire additional advice as determined by the project and working group members.
8. Manage conflicts of interest, if necessary.
9. Approve expenditure that may be required to achieve project goals.
10. Make final recommendations to NCSC (Aust) meetings for endorsement.

Responsibilities

- Members will work in a constructive and positive manner.
- Provide feedback and consider other points of view.
- Source material as required.
- Respond to set timeframes and due dates.
- Provide accurate and reliable information.
- Make and accept the decisions of the group.
- Liaise with member clubs as required.
- Contribute to debate and discussion in a respectful manner.
- Maintain confidentiality of content and discussions.

Time required

There will be an initial start-up zoom meeting when membership is confirmed. After which an action plan and task timeline will be developed. The majority of tasks will be feedback, suggestions and comments that can be done by email with any necessary meetings for discussion on specific matters conducted by 'zoom'.

It is anticipated that this projects could take up to 12 months.

Information management

A facebook group will be established for Working group members only. All information and documents relating to the project will be loaded into this portal. This will ensure a central location of information with regular and easy access.

Appointment of Working Group members

Membership is determined through nominations from Member Clubs. National Secretary to call for nominations if required.

Length of appointment

Members are appointed till the task is completed.

Member resignation

Working group members can resign at any time, with or without explanation. The club they represent is responsible for a replacement to ensure continuity.



National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia)

DECISION MAKING

To: NCSC (Aust)
From: Health Committee: Interim Lead Group
Topic: Nominations to form NCSC (Aust) Health Committee
Author: Jenny Hughes and Meg Hardy
Date: 22 July 2026

Motion: *That the National Cocker Spaniel Council (Australia) members approve the following nominations to the NCSC (Aust) Health Committee.*

Background

During 2024-2026 the Council has approved a framework for the establishment of an NCSC (Aust) Health Committee and Information Hub.

Details are set out in the Health Education Committee Discussion Paper and Implementation Plan

Forming the Committee

Consistent with the timeframes set out in the Implementation Plan. Expressions of Interest were invited from each of the member clubs to nominate a representative.

Health Committee members will :

- Have a knowledge of health issues relevant to cocker spaniels
- Have or be willing to develop experience in advocating for improving cocker spaniel health
- Make a positive and valuable contribution to the functions of the Health Committee.

Health Committee Nominations

The following nominations have been received for approval.

NSW: Vendela Pento

Qld: Kay Hutt

Vic: Meg Hardy

ACT: Marcia Kingston

SA: Peter Thompson (tbc)

Next Steps:

This Committee will meet via zoom link and discuss the process of appointing/inviting a Chairperson.