

Issue	Pre-poll voting
Current Constitution	<p>The HISA Constitution provides for the election of Board members to take place at the Annual General Meeting (section 61). Rules for the conduct of the ballot and determination of winning candidate(s) are found in sections 62 – 64. Voting is by members personally present at the AGM or by proxies exercised through persons present at the AGM. Interestingly, the Constitution allows postal voting for Branch elections (section 79) but not for Board elections.</p>
Reason for change	<p>HISA is a national organisation with over 400 members and growing. The AGM is held in conjunction with the annual conference, which inevitably draws a stronger attendance from the home State. Historically, attendance at the AGM has been light and hence the election of Board members has typically been in the hands of around 20 to 30 members present at the meeting. The Constitution does allow for proxy voting but members have seldom used this option.</p> <p>At the 2007 HISA AGM, the NSW branch made a recommendation to the Board that it consider the introduction of electronic voting. The Board agrees that this is a good idea and is achievable with available technology.</p>
Proposal	<p>The Board election process (sections 61 – 64) will remain substantially unchanged but will allow an option of pre-poll voting, with the pre-poll votes to be counted at the AGM along with proxies and votes cast at the AGM. This would essentially be the same as Australian parliamentary elections in which pre-poll votes are cast, but not counted until polling day. This maintains the safeguard of HISA Board candidates being able to appoint a scrutineer at the AGM to scrutinise all votes and to attest to the propriety of the count.</p>
Recommendation	<p>The HISA Board recommends that members accept the following special resolution to be put at the 2008 annual general meeting of members.</p>
Notice of Special Resolution	<p>The HISA Constitution be amended as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 61(c) be rescinded.• A new section 61(c) be inserted: <p>61(c) Board elections held at the Annual General Meeting will be conducted by the Returning Officer by secret ballot. The Board may also provide for members to vote prior to the Annual General Meeting by such postal and/or electronic means as the Board and the Returning Officer may endorse. All pre-poll votes shall be delivered to the Returning Officer prior to the commencement of the Annual General Meeting and shall be counted equally along with proxy votes and votes cast at the meeting.</p>