

**ASPO NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED**  
(ASPO-NZ INC)

Founding Document & Constitution  
November 2005

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## 1. DEFINITIONS

“**ASPO**” means Association for the study of Peak Oil and Gas – New Zealand (ASPO-NZ INC).

“**AGM**” means Annual General Meeting.

“**SGM**” means Special General Meeting.

“**Voting Members**” means those who are paid-up members excluding corporate members.

ASPO-NZ INC is a non-profit incorporated society under New Zealand legislation and as a national association, is a member of ASPO International <http://www.peakoil.net>. ASPO-NZ INC operates within the wider ASPO-International framework and shares the principle objectives and approaches of the network, which are to advance the study of and education about the subject of peak oil extraction, energy depletion and their societal impacts.

ASPO-NZ INC is a network of scientists, academics, educational and industry professionals with an interest in determining the timing and impact of the peak and decline of the world's production of oil and gas, due to resource constraints.

## 2. MISSION & PURPOSE

1. Contribute to define and evaluate the world's endowment of oil and gas
2. Assist in the modelling of depletion, taking due account of demand, economics, technology and politics;
3. Facilitate awareness of the serious consequences for Humankind.

## 3. ORGANISATION

ASPO-NZ INC consists of

- (A) a Board of Directors responsible for the efficient operation and implementation of ASPO-NZ INC's overall mission and objectives determined by the Advisory Board. The Board of Directors are elected democratically and by consensus by the (B) Advisory Board.
- (B) The Advisory Board is a group of non-political and non-partisan academics, educators and industry professionals with high standing within the community, who determine the means and approaches of achieving ASPO-NZ INC mission in the best possible way. Advisory Board members are either elected bi-annually by all members of ASPO-NZ INC with the current Advisory Board members retaining veto rights for individual members if they fail to meet the above mentioned criteria. Founding members are automatically and permanently members of the Advisory Board until they wish to resign. Advisory Board members might also be invited by the current Advisory Board.  
Working with the ASPO-NZ INC Board of Directors, the Advisory Board will be responsible for the creation and maintenance of its own by-laws. Final approval

of the content remains with the ASPO-NZ INC Board of Directors. The Board of Directors are automatically members of the Advisory Board.

- (C) General membership to ASPO-NZ INC is open to individuals, community groups and organisations who share ASPO-NZ INC's mission and concerns and wish to contribute to positive responses to oil depletion and its consequences. Members receive newsletters, and preferential access to Conferences at reduced costs. ASPO-NZ INC encourages participants from all walks of life, income levels and ideological beliefs. Membership can be applied for in writing to the ASPO-NZ INC office or through the web site as established. Membership is valid for the duration of current membership fee payment. The Advisory Board retains the right to agree or deny the admission of members.

## **4. MEMBERSHIP**

From members ASPO-NZ INC is looking for a personal commitment.

1. You will work with ASPO-NZ INC and its members to promote and support the objectives of ASPO-NZ INC as a Non-profit, Non-partisan Research and Public Education Initiative.
2. You have the ability and the means – including personal time - to make a positive contribution to ASPO-NZ INC.
3. You agree to give your enthusiastic support to ASPO-NZ INC's mission.

You have acquired a demonstrated knowledge of, and concern for, the issues of resource depletion. The COPAD statement (see appendix B) is an excellent summary reference.

### ***4.1 Membership Categories***

There are to be three categories of membership:

- Individual Membership: open to any one person
- Family Membership: available to an individual, their partner and any children of that person and their partner.
- Organisational or Corporate Membership: open to business, institutional or incorporated society organisations

Membership is not transferable. Subscriptions will not be refunded unless section 10 is invoked.

### ***4.2 Refusal of Membership***

Membership may be refused where a two-thirds majority of the Advisory Board is convinced, with reasonable cause, that acceptance of a given person will be detrimental to ASPO-NZ INC as a whole.

### ***4.3 Continuation of Membership***

Membership subscriptions fall due immediately after the completion of the AGM. A person having been accepted as a member will continue to be a member until;

- i) they resign or
- ii) Section 4.4 is invoked or
- iii) subscriptions remain unpaid beyond the 1st December.

#### **4.4 Revocation of Membership**

Membership of ASPO-NZ INC may be revoked where a two thirds majority of those attending a SGM to decide the matter consider that the behaviour of a given individual has been detrimental to ASPO and where they believe, with reasonable cause, that the continued membership of that person will be further detrimental to ASPO-NZ INC. Advertising company, political or private agendas on the grounds of ASPO membership constitutes a breach of ASPO-NZ INC's operational values and may be sufficient reason for the revocation of membership.

#### **4.5 Resignation**

A person may resign as a member of ASPO\_NZ by advising the president or secretary of their decision to do so. Any member who fails to submit their subscription by the 1st December will be assumed to have resigned.

### **5. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The Constitution may be altered, added to, or rescinded as circumstances require. This may only take place at the AGM or a SGM called specifically for that purpose. The Constitution may not be altered, added to or rescinded without the agreement of 66% of the voting members present.

Section 7.3 and 10 and any other paragraph relating to the tax-exempt status of the society may not be removed or changed without the approval of the Inland Revenue Department.

### **6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held on or as soon as possible after 1st December and no later than the 1st Feb. The officers will notify members of the time and venue and agenda of the AGM. The written notice of the time, venue and agenda of the AGM must be dispatched to members no later than two weeks prior to the meeting. This information, having been included in the club newsletter and sent to every member, will be deemed to have satisfied this requirement.

The procedure for the AGM shall be as follows:

- a chairperson shall be elected from amongst the members present to conduct the meeting.
- the outgoing treasurer shall present the annual accounts for approval by the meeting.
- subscription fees shall be reviewed and altered if deemed necessary.
- any other business that requires discussion and voting on shall proceed.
- the election of officers will take place.
- the outgoing secretary shall take the minutes.

### **6.1 Quorum**

Unless specified otherwise in the Constitution, the minimum number of members and proxies required at any meeting to pass a resolution affecting ASPO-NZ INC is 25% of the voting membership. This shall be the quorum. A majority of two-thirds of the quorum is required to pass a resolution. The quorum must be maintained throughout the meeting.

### **6.2 Voting Procedure**

Proxies: Where a voting member is unable to attend an AGM or SGM, that member may wish to register a proxy vote. The proxy vote must be in writing and tabled with the secretary by the member making the vote.

Voting: Voting shall be by a simple show of hands and counting of proxies. The Chairperson shall take the count. Each voting member shall have one vote.

### **6.3 Special General Meeting**

Any three members may jointly request a Special General Meeting to discuss and vote on an issue too urgent to wait until the next AGM. The members must notify an officer who will arrange a time and venue and gather a quorum of members advising them of the issue to be discussed and a Chairperson will be elected from amongst the members present to conduct the meeting.

The president, or some other person elected to do so, shall take the minutes.

Voting shall be as for the AGM.

## **5. CALLING OF MEETINGS**

Any member may forward notice of a motion for an AGM or SGM. A notice of motion must have three sponsors, all of whom must be voting members. Notices of motion must be in writing and lodged with the secretary. In the case of the AGM, the notice must be received four weeks in advance of the meeting. In the case of an SGM, the meeting will occur as soon as the officers can gather a quorum after the lodgement of the notice.

## **6. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

The directors of ASPO-NZ INC shall be:

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- plus up to six additional Members

The period of office shall be from one AGM to the next AGM following.

No person may hold more than one office concurrently.

Any paid up member may hold themselves available for election.

There is no limit on the number of times a member may serve in a given capacity.

## **6.1 Duties**

The president and secretary are jointly responsible for advising ASPO-NZ INC members of meeting times and venues. In order to assist them with this, all members are required to furnish the secretary with current addresses and telephone numbers.

i) President: to preside over meetings, represent the club in official dealings and correspondence, bring correspondence addressed to the ASPO-NZ INC to the attention of members and ensure that the Constitution of the Society is adhered to.

ii) Treasurer: to collecting subscriptions, keeping accounts, preparing annual accounts and keeping inventory of ASPO-NZ INC property.

iii) Secretary to maintain Society membership records, to take minutes of official meetings and to prepare any official correspondence for ASPO-NZ INC.

## **6.2 Additional Officers**

ASPO-NZ INC may from time to time elect additional officers to deal with matters for which other Advisory Board members may not have the time or resources. The term of office shall be until the next AGM at which time the office may be discontinued or new elections held.

## **6.2 Resignation of Officers**

If an officer wishes to resign, that officer must call an SGM at which they will announce their intention and elections will then be held for a replacement.

## **6.3 Removal of Officers**

An officer may be asked to resign from their position without revocation of membership where a two thirds majority of those attending an SGM called for that purpose consider that the officer has failed to carry out the duties of the Office in a fitting and appropriate manner.

## **6.4 Delegation of Duties**

The officers may from time to time delegate members to carry out various responsibilities for specific functions. The officer delegating and the member delegated are jointly responsible for carrying out the delegated duties.

## **7. ASPO-NZ INC FUNDS**

ASPO-NZ INC funds shall be administered by the Treasurer who will keep an account of all receipts and payments.

### **7.1 Bank Account**

A cheque account and/or an interest bearing savings account shall be operated in the name of ASPO-NZ INC. The signatories shall be the Treasurer and one board nominated director. Two signatures are required for the withdrawal of funds.

### **7.2 Investment**

In the event that ASPO-NZ INC finds itself with moneys surplus to requirements for the day to day running of the society, the members may authorise the officers at an AGM or SGM to invest the moneys in a short term deposit account in the name of ASPO-NZ INC.

### **7.3 Payments to members**

The ASPO Advisory Board may authorise the payment of funds to a member for services rendered to the club and reasonable expenses incurred while doing so. The amount paid will be decided by the full advisory board and the decision is to be unanimous. If the payment is to one of the advisory board members, that member will be excluded from the vote and the decision made by the remainder of the board. Any such amount paid shall be reasonable and comparable to that which would be paid in an open market transaction. The provisions of this clause may not be removed from the Constitution and must be contained in any subsequent Constitution that may replace this document.

## **8. PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND OTHER GOODS**

Advisory Board members may from time to time purchase without calling a meeting such equipment and / or goods as may be reasonably be construed to be necessary for the day to day running of the club. A limit on the amount the officers may spend on such items will be set at the AGM or an SGM. Any expenditure over that limit must have ASPO-NZ INC approval.

## 9. POWER TO BORROW MONEY

ASPO-NZ INC shall not borrow money.

## 10. WINDING UP

Where ASPO-NZ INC has been wound up due to any reason other than bankruptcy, after the payment of all debts, the funds and assets will be distributed in the following manner: all items on loan shall be returned to the owner.

the current year's fees shall be refunded.

any remaining funds and/or assets shall be disposed of by:

that all assets to be auctioned to ASPO-NZ INC members and the general public with the proceeds to be donated to ASPO International; or charity; or as decided at an SGM

## 11. INITIAL WORKING COMMITTEES

Policy	Refine and clarify the mission statement and add specific means of achieving the mission
Communications	Responsible for working with the media on press releases, information, and content support. Maintains media and information content files for use by all ASPO-NZ INC members. Maintains internal communications, and disseminates information to members of ASPO-NZ INC.
Internet Operations	Assists with the management of the ASPO-NZ INC internet site, develops site content, and arranges for cooperative links with other appropriate WEB sites. Ensures Internet content is consistent with content policies of Media Relations committee.
Finance	Identifies and sustains contact with potential and active donors. Works with the Treasurer on financial planning.
Conference	Assists with ASPO-NZ INC conferences.
Government	Establishes and maintains contact with public leaders in national, regional and local government. Provides proactive support for ASPO-NZ INC legislative and constructive community transformation programs.
Public Education	Creates and distributes public education materials.
Technology	Ensures ASPO-NZ INC support is provided to practical technologies. Research technologies with particular expertise or resource base in New Zealand.
International	Establishes and maintains cooperative contact with appropriate persons and organizations outside NZ.

## 12. STAFF

Once sufficient revenue is achieved the board of directors, in consultation with the advisory board, may appoint paid permanent or temporary staff to assist with the operation of ASPO-NZ INC.

## 13. APPENDICES

### (A) ASPO International

**Colin J.Campbell:** "It was in Germany that ASPO had its origin. On December 7th in the year 2000, I was privileged to give a talk on oil depletion at the ancient university of Clausthal in the Harz Mountains. The idea of forming an institution, or network of scientists concerned about the subject, developed. Next day, I took the idea to Professor Wellmer, the head of the BGR in Hannover, who gave it his support. The Norwegians were the next to join, followed by the Swedes. Today, ASPO is represented in almost all European countries.

The next step forward came when Professor Aleklett organised the first International Workshop on Oil Depletion in Uppsala in May of 2002, to be followed by workshops in Paris and Berlin.

ASPO is an informal network working with a very small budget, yet its voice is being heard, thanks in part to the Uppsala website. Perhaps its informal structure is its strength. It means that it can tell the truth freed of all the political, legalistic and commercial constraints that most organisations face. By all means, the subject of depletion is a sensitive one, being perhaps the most important single issue facing the modern world".

#### **Executive board:**

President: **Kjell Aleklett** , Professor, Uppsala University, Sweden

Honorary Chairman: **Colin J. Campbell** , Dr, Cork, Ireland

Secretary: **Roger W. Bentley**, Dr, Reading University, UK

Member: **Peter Gerling**, Dr, BGR, Hannover, Germany

ASPO is a network of scientists, affiliated with European institutions and universities, having an interest in determining the date and impact of the peak and decline of the world's production of oil and gas, due to resource constraints.

Its mission is to:

1. Define and evaluate the world's endowment of oil and gas;
2. Model depletion, taking due account of demand, economics, technology and politics;
3. Raise awareness of the serious consequences for Mankind."

ASPO International presently has 26 members in:

Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden and the United Kingdom

**ASPO, The Association for the Study of Peak Oil & Gas**

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(B) COPAD (<http://www.copad.org/>)

## ***A Statement On Global Oil Peak***

The Statement is designed to be published in national and local newspapers, news magazines, the United Nations, NGO newsletters, and any other organ of public discussion.

### **Statement On Global 'Oil Peak'**

We, the members of the educational and scientific communities involved in the study of the worldwide peak of oil production, offer the following statement on the problem and its implications for our future:

#### ***Oil is a finite resource.***

Oil was formed in the geological past, and a growing number of the world's leading petroleum geologists agree that more than 95 percent of all recoverable oil has now been found. We therefore know, within a reasonable degree of certainty, the total amount of oil available to us. As of this statement, we have consumed approximately half of the recoverable oil, and we continue to consume about 75\* million barrels per day. Since 1981 we have consumed oil faster than we have found it, and the gap between our growing consumption and shrinking discovery continues to widen. Oil is now being consumed four times faster than it is being discovered, and the situation is becoming critical.

#### ***Oil is our most important energy source.***

Oil is the fuel that enabled the growth of modern civilization, and all industrialized countries now rely on it to an extraordinary extent. Oil provides 40 percent of all primary energy, and 90 percent of our transportation energy. It is furthermore critical to industrial agriculture, the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, much of the clothing industry, and a vast array of others. The physical and chemical versatility of oil, combined with its high energy density, are such that no other known energy source can serve as a full or even adequate substitute. In short, oil is the lifeblood of the industrial world.

#### ***Worldwide oil production is peaking.***

After more than fifty years of research and analysis on the subject, it is now clear that the rate at which world oil producers can extract oil has reached, or is extremely close to reaching, the maximum level possible. This is what is meant by 'oil peak.' With great effort and expenditure, the current level of oil production can possibly be maintained for a few more years, but beyond that oil production must begin an irrevocable decline. This decline is a certainty, guaranteed by the natural laws that govern our physical world, and nothing in science, technology, or engineering can prevent it. The consumption of a finite resource is simply a finite endeavour, and attempting to delay the onset of decline only ensures a steeper, more uncontrollable decline.

#### ***Oil peak is a powerful force of global destabilization.***

The foreshocks of the impending oil production peak are already impacting our economies, our environment, and our geopolitics. The inexorable tightening of supply is destabilizing oil markets, which now exhibit extreme price responses to the smallest of disturbances. Higher oil prices are hurting economies by increasing the cost of consumer goods while simultaneously reducing spendable income. Efforts to shore up weakened economies through relaxed environmental regulations, drilling in increasingly sensitive wildlife areas, or shifting

to coal and nuclear technologies, are heightening environmental concerns. And with more than fifty oil-producing countries now in decline, focus on the oil-rich Middle East has sharpened dramatically. Countries of the Middle East have traditionally been able to relieve tight oil markets by increasing production, but, as the Middle East nears its own oil peak, any relief it can provide is limited and temporary. Nonetheless, many countries have become heavily reliant on Middle Eastern oil, and the geopolitical stakes of conflicts in this region have risen to all-time highs.

***Solutions\*\* must be grounded in science.***

The laws of thermodynamics and physics, as opposed to business and economics, must guide us through this crisis. Open markets are not equipped to cope with depletion of a critical resource, as they cannot foresee the serious technical limitations of various replacement technologies. Natural gas, for example, is itself a finite resource, and is already in decline in North America. Hydrogen is a commonly cited panacea, but rather than being a primary energy source, hydrogen is only an energy carrier – much like a battery. As such, hydrogen is strictly an energy loser. Replacing oil with a sevenfold increase in nuclear energy, would pose a serious and expensive waste problem. Renewable energies including solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass must be encouraged, and their potential for large-scale deployment must be assessed. Other technologies still in the laboratory, either proven or as yet unproven, may be extremely difficult to deploy in the timeframe and scale dictated by this problem.

***We call on all governments of the world to address this issue very seriously.***

Oil peak is an inevitability. The first warnings were made public nearly half a century ago, and increasingly since that time the community of petroleum geologists has expressed concerns about global oil supplies. Since 1995, a group of veteran geologists has been issuing highly specific warnings based on exhaustive analyses. We now ask that the call be heard. A first response must include decisive cuts in consumption, and a thorough reassessment of the size of the world's oilfields. Communities everywhere must be apprised of this issue so that they may take part in creating a sustainable future.

Oil peak is the most pivotal challenge facing modern civilization. It is time to come together and acknowledge our collective vulnerability, and begin working to change the structure of our culture and civilization in ways we've never attempted before. We do not underestimate the magnitude of the task, nor the consequences of a failure to act. Please join us in adopting this statement, and become part of a growing community working to respond at every level.

*Saturday, 22nd March 2003*

NOTES:

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\* 2005 it is 84 mbpd

\*\* The consensus now is there are no 'solutions', only appropriate 'responses'.