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| **Date :** | **30th June 2019** |
| **Forum or Member :** | **State Committee** |
| **Topic for**  **Discussion :** | **Alter the Constitution to allow Changes to the Constitution to be made annually, rather than biennially.** |
| **Rationale :** | Historically, the Conference has been the "business" end of a 2 year period. A time when all Forum members, no matter where they lived, could come together and talk, consult, have robust debate and move forward. Efforts were made to ensure as many members could come, hence the monies to each Forum to subsidise delegates.  At Conference we addressed all the business in order to cover the next 2 years including election of office bearers, financial accounting, any topics for discussion and changes to the Constitution.  When Forum became Incorporated, the Office of Fair Trading did not allow a financial accounting period of 2 years and it was only then that an AGM was held in the off Conference year to comply with the Act.  No one wanted a Conference every year if all that was required was the finances because of the costs involved both to Forum and delegates.  Please bear in mind that amendments to the Constitution are not part of the AGM, but as a segment of the Conference.  Times have changed and we are a very small band at present. Considering only Dalby and PBC are far flung enough to be termed "country", whilst I include Ipswich/Bremer and Cleveland as city.  We could do amendments to the Constitution every year if we decided to. It would be a bigger effort than required at present.  We would have to amend the Constitution to allow for it and you would have to consider a host of other things that may need change.  Conference annually?  Election of officers annually?  Forum Speaking Awards annually?  **Advantages**  Changes would be quicker to implement.  Maybe only one day would be needed for Full Conference consisting of business and Forum speaking awards.  Budgets would only be for a year and will not confuse anyone.  **Disadvantages**  Fewer members attending the Mini Conference than attend the Full Conference if business was annually rather than biannually.  Notice of motions would still need the same lead time.  Constitution would have to be amended substantially.  The Department of Fair Trading would have to be advised every year of changes to the constitution as well as the financials.  Suggestion that careful consideration be given to how this would work.  The fact that we have a Convention every non-Conference year suggests that the Convention could be aligned with the AGM (and/or re-branded as a mini-conference).  Yes there would definitely be extra work each year, but it would enable the Full Conference to be reduced to a one day affair.  Remembering that we also have the birthday lunch each year, maybe the Impromptu Speaking Awards could be held then, annually, thus spreading the fun around. |
|  | The outcome may be a special panel/feasibility subcommittee under the Constitution Advisor to investigate the issues if the idea finds favour at Conference. |