
AUSTRALASIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND
REGULATORS NETWORK (AELERT)



MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Effective 3 May 2023

CHANGE SUMMARY

Version	Date	Change Description
3	23 May 2023	AELERT Membership Policy, endorsed by National Council.

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1. MEMBERSHIP PRINCIPLES

The Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators Network (AELERT) is a network of regulatory agencies concerned with the implementation of environmental and non-environmental law. The network is a widely recognized as the peak professional network for sharing of knowledge and experience between regulatory practitioners within agencies in diverse fields of regulation.

AELERT's membership spans all levels of government across Australia, New Zealand and Internationally. It covers a broad range of environmental disciplines including but not limited to protect area (marine/ land), biosecurity, environmental impact assessment and planning, law and policy making, agriculture, air, noise and water pollution, water management, land management, fisheries, fuels, energy, mining and climate change and action, chemicals and waste, contaminated land, dangerous goods, forestry, and wildlife. It also covers a broad range of non-environmental discipline such as organised crime, disability schemes, local government laws, safety,

AELERT's purpose is to foster world-class environmental regulation for its members. AELERT provides a unique on ground practitioner platform to cultivate our collective capability through innovation and collaboration at practitioner and agency levels. AELERT is focused on:

- Partners – building working relationships with international partner networks.
- Members – maximise the value and direct benefit to practitioners and their agencies
- Products – provide access to AELERT branded resources, tools, capability programs, groups and events.

AELERT aims to make membership accessible and affordable to all regulatory agencies, affiliate agencies and individuals.

2. MEMBER BENEFITS

Some benefits to Member Agencies include: or all of the options below and may include other benefits:

- Access to **14 Communities of Practice** by bringing together practitioners of common interest to share resources, contacts, information, intelligence, approaches and experiences in a secured & safe space.
- Access to **3 Working Groups** in operations, regulation & engagement and capability building by bringing together practitioners to work on solving common cross jurisdictional problems, run initiatives and manage projects that benefit the BAU of AELERT members. [Network Groups - AELERT](#)
- Access to a diverse **resource library** a member wide hub that shares templates, orders, plans, procedures, strategies, tools, policies, frameworks, and approaches to save time and operational costs and a platform for continuous improvement [AELERT Resources](#).
- [Member Products - AELERT](#)
- Exclusive access to **agency products and tools** including:
 - **Modern Regulator Improvement Tool (MRIT)**, unique, AELERT Branded and only for AELERT members. An objective systematic way to take out the guess work on organisational maturity and growth and measure it, report it and let it guide your actions to build your agency's regulatory maturity.
 - **AELERT's Interagency twinning program** that pairs two agencies to support each other at a deeper level along the organisational maturity journey.
- Access to current and future **practitioner** products including:
 - **Professional development programs** and tools such as operational specific training, capability assessment tools;
 - **AELERT's interagency mentoring program**, a structured framework that connects practitioners across agencies, jurisdictions and disciplines to support each other's professional development.
 - **AELERT's interagency job swaps program**, another structured framework that enables practitioners across agency, jurisdictions and discipline at common level to walk in each other's shoes, learn from the experience, share expertise and value add to a peer agency.
- Access to **discounted training** provided by member agencies and collaborators.
- Exclusive access to **AELERT International network partners** including European Union of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement implementation (IMPEL), International Network of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) and Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN),
- Access to **AELERT affiliate members** being educational institutions and regulatory research groups.
- Access to **AELERT's [Jobs Board - AELERT](#)**
- **Access to monthly events:** webinars, podcasts and newsletters
- **Access to yearly events:**
 - Annual networking events and workshops (free)
 - Discounts to Biennial Conference
- Use of **network wide [Forum - AELERT](#)** on the AELERT website, with topics to stimulate discussion, and encourage members to post their own topics for discussion.
- Platform to promote Member Agency and peer organisations' achievements and events.
- Opportunities to network with fellow environmental regulators across Australia & New Zealand

3. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES, TIERS, FEES & ELIGIBILITY

<p>AGENCY MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Agencies with responsibility for administering legislation and regulatory practice.</p>	<p>Unlimited: Unlimited practitioner memberships</p>	\$60,000
	<p>Large: 51-200 staff practitioner membership</p>	\$15,000
	<p>Medium: 6-50 staff practitioner memberships</p>	\$4,500
	<p>Small: Up to 5 staff practitioner membership</p>	\$1,500
	<p>Sponsoring</p>	Base fee + No. of agencies to be sponsored
	<p>Operational Partner</p>	\$100,000 inc. base fee
	<p>Strategic Partner</p>	\$150,000 inc. base fee
<p>PRACTITIONER MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Individuals working in organisations that are an Agency Member have automatic membership for a package of benefits.</p>	Incorporated into Agency membership fee	\$0
<p>AFFILIATE AGENCY MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Government agencies and organisations without environmental regulatory responsibilities, e.g., academic and research institutions and NFPs, for which engagement with AELERT may be mutually beneficial.</p>	<p>Affiliate Agency: Fee does not differentiate on an organisation's size and the benefits are equal for all agencies applying for affiliate membership.</p>	\$650
<p>AFFILIATE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Individuals without environmental regulatory responsibilities, e.g., academic and research institutions and NFPs, for which engagement with AELERT may be mutually beneficial.</p> <p>Individuals who work for Agencies or Affiliate Agencies that have not joined members.</p>	<p>Affiliate individual: Individuals have a strong interest in and can contribute to environmental regulation.</p>	\$250

4. FEES

Membership is provided on a financial year basis. Existing member agencies will be invoiced for the following year in May of the preceding financial year. Payments must be received by 31 August each year. Failure to pay the invoice may result in access to the members area of the AELERT website being suspended for the agency member and its registered practitioners.

New member agencies are invoiced at the time of application. New memberships received from July to December will be charged the relevant annual membership fee. New memberships received from January to June will be charged 50% of the relevant annual membership fee.

5. OPTIONS TO NEGOTIATE MEMBERSHIP TIER

AELERT acknowledges that for some agencies, calculation of the exact number of practitioner members within the agency may be challenging. The AELERT Leadership Team may negotiate with these agencies on an individual basis to determine a suitable membership tier and fee for those agencies. Requests to reduce the applicable fee or membership tier are considered and approved when doing so would be consistent with AELERT's objective to make membership accessible and affordable to all environmental regulatory agencies and their regulatory practitioner staff.

6. SPONSORING MEMBERSHIP – OUR CULTIVATING COLLECTIVE CAPABILITY

An agency member has an option to pay the membership fee for 10, 20, 50 or 100 small regional local, state or national governments or government research affiliate members. They can nominate agencies to sponsor or request that the AELERT leadership team will nominate on their behalf. This is to enable AELERT to be used as a peak platform to build, grow and cultivate our collective capabilities in regulatory practice and organisational maturity.

7. OPERATIONAL & STRATEGIC PARTNER MEMBERSHIP – MAXIMISING THE BENEFIT TO MEMBER AGENCIES

AELERT Operational Partner receive any base membership products and benefits plus:

- *Can use AELERT branding “Proudly an AELERT operational partner”*
- *Exclusive operational access to using AELERT secretariat services and resources, the network and other network resources to run specific agency programs to **build agency specific products**.*
- **Priority 2** access to interagency twinning, practitioner mentoring and job swap programs.
- *Access to organising and running webinar events that are specific to their agency.*

The AELERT operational partner membership fee is **\$100,000/yr.** (including any base membership fee); multiple year payment or 6-month payment pro rata to enable viability of agency program so they are enduring or variable commencement times of the year.

AELERT Strategic Partner: appropriate for leading regulatory agencies in a sector. They receive any base membership and relevant operational partner products and benefits plus:

- *Can use AELERT branding “Proudly an AELERT strategic partner”*
- *Exclusive access to using AELERT secretariat services and resources, the network and other network resources to run specific regulatory sector programs to **build sector specific products**.*
- **Priority 1** access to interagency twinning, practitioner mentoring and job swap programs.

- *Access to organising and running AELERT conferences and workshops that are specific to their sector.*
- *Exclusive access to AELERT international partners to **build sector specific products.***
- *Exclusive strategic access to AELERT CEO to plan and run sector specific programs.*

The AELERT Strategic Partner membership fee is **\$150,000/yr.** (including any base membership fee); multiple year payment or 6-month payment pro rata, to enable viability of sector program so they are enduring and variable commencement times of the year.

8. ASSESSMENT OF MEMBERSHIP TIERS

From time to time, AELERT will assess whether the levels of member access from an agency to ensure they are consistent with the relevant membership tier for that agency. Agencies may be requested to adjust their membership where the numbers of staff and their level of participation is not consistent with their current membership tier.

9. COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBER AGENCIES AND PRACTITIONERS

Each AELERT member agency will be asked to provide the following contact details:

- A lead contact for AELERT membership within the agency – for managing enquiries about membership fees, staff access and administrative matters.
- An operational contact for interagency requests and collaboration.

Individual practitioner members may also subscribe to specific mailing lists for network groups.

10. REPORTING

The AELERT Leadership Team will report to Member and Affiliate agencies on an annual basis on the value received by the member agency and its registered practitioners.

This reporting will be supplementary to the AELERT Annual Report, which detail the performance, achievements, activities, operations and financial statements of the preceding financial year, along with an assessment of network performance against the purpose, objectives, priorities and activities set out in the [AELERT 2023-25 Strategic Plan - AELERT](#).