
AUSTRALASIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND
REGULATORS NETWORK (AELERT)



MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Effective 1 January 2025

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CHANGE SUMMARY

Version	Date	Change Description
3	2 January 2025	AELERT Membership Policy, endorsed by National Council.
2	29 August 2022	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 law. The agency based network is a widely recognised professional network for sharing of knowledge and experience between regulatory agencies and practitioners.

AELERT's membership uniquely spans all levels of government across Australia and New Zealand including regional and local governments. It encompasses a broad range of regulators including but not limited to agriculture, biosecurity; safety; environment protection in land, air, noise and water; chemicals, pesticides, and dangerous goods; park and land management; impact assessment; forestry; waste and circular economy. climate change and biodiversity and wildlife.

AELERT members cover the whole regulatory system and include policy and law makers, impact assessors and planning; intelligence agencies, communications, education and engagement; auditing, compliance monitoring, and investigation and law enforcement.

AELERT's purpose is to foster world-class regulation by facilitating collaboration between agencies. ([AELERT Strategic Plan](#)) AELERT provides a unique opportunity for regulatory agencies and practitioners, with a focus on regulation, to:

- Support each other and exchange resources, experiences, knowledge and practical approaches
- Collaborate Innovate in interagency working groups that solve common problems and run cutting edge initiatives.
- Grow organisation regulatory maturity and practitioner regulatory capability

Through our focus on world class regulation, we aim to provide public value by protecting and enhancing the environment and human health.

2. MEMBER BENEFITS

Benefits to Member Agencies will include some or all of the options below and may include other benefits:

Exclusive access to agency and practitioner products and programs

- Exclusive access to Modern Regulator Improvement Tool (MRIT) and supporting programs and guides including the [interagency twinning program](#), [MRIT online tool](#), [Organisational Maturity Community of Practice](#) and [MRIT start up guide](#).
- Exclusive access to Regulatory officer capability framework and [Regulatory officer capability self-assessment tool \(ROCSAT\)](#) and supporting programs and guides including the [interagency twinning program](#), online tool that now enables group reporting on practitioner capability and [Professional Development Community of Practice](#) and [MRIT start up guide](#).
- Access to AELERT Professional Development Program including access to Authorised Officer Policy guide ([link](#)); access to Internationally endorsed and used IDB **free training** modules in inspections and **discounted training** in regulatory practice (professional regulators) via NRCoP and investigation and auditing via EPAs.

Exclusive access to network groups

- Access to **3 Working Groups in regulation and engagement; capability building and operations** to solve interagency problems and common challenges such as lithium ion batteries and setting regulatory priorities using AELERT platforms, resources and governance.
- Access to **20** functionally arranged [Communities of Practice](#) including local government CoP or International Climate Change CoP. These CoPs bring practitioners together to support each other, ensure practitioners don't get isolated and importantly work collaboratively on shared experiences, practical resources, information, and approaches to address common challenges

Access to AELERT events and regulators forum

- Monthly regulatory cutting issues webinars, podcasts and newsletter
- Discounts to Biennial Summit – e.g. [2024 AELERT INECE Global Summit](#) and [recordings](#)
- Annual state and jurisdictional networking events
- **Workshops** on common regulatory challenges including risk communications, regulatory capture and setting regulatory priorities and performance outcomes
- Discussion Forum on the AELERT website, with topics to stimulate discussion, and encourage members to post their own topics for discussion
- Access to case studies, success stories, news and [job vacancies](#) and promotion of AELERT events, tools and resources via Twitter and LinkedIn
- Promotion of Member Agency and peer organisations' events

Exclusion access to practical resources and all member practitioners

- Library of over 200 AELERT and [member agency tools and resources](#)
- AELERT Website, providing a member's hub of exclusive resources and a member database
- Opportunities to network with fellow regulators across Australia & New Zealand

Exclusion access to international and domestic networks

- Access to **10 international network partners** including but not limited to INECE (North America and International), IMPEL (European Commission), ENPE (European prosecutors network), SPREP (Pacific), Redlaife (Central & South America), AECEN (South, East and south east Asia), and Western State Project (North America).
- Access to **5 domestic network partners** including but not limited to AIPIO (Intelligence), NELA (Law), NRCoP (Regulatory practice), and EIANZ (Environmental institution including impact assessment).

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 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 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 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 AELERT website being suspended for the agency and its practitioner members.

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.

AELERT aims to make membership accessible and affordable to all regulatory agencies and their regulatory practitioner staff, along with affiliate agencies and individuals. Fees may be subject to periodic increases.

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 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. MEMBER ENTITLEMENTS

Agency members: Staff who have registered have access to all agency and practitioner products, communities of practice, working groups, resources and events. Access is not transferable to staff who haven't registered or agencies/organisations outside the agency.

Affiliate and individual members: Staff who have registered only have access to communities of practice, and events only. Access is not transferable to staff who haven't registered or agencies/organisations outside the agency.

10. 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.

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

11. REPORTING

The AELERT Leadership Team will report to Member and Affiliate agencies on an annual basis on the level of activity and engagement with AELERT by the agency and its practitioners. This will include but not be limited to reporting on involvement with Working Groups and Communities of Practice, participation in AELERT events such as webinars, conferences and workshops, and use of AELERT's website.

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 the performance of AELERT against the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan and Work Plan.