

*In the name of Allah, the most beneficent, the most Merciful*

## **Al-Barakah Welfare Trust Australia - Annual General Meeting 2020 Chairman's Report**

My dear respected brothers and sisters in Islam,  
Assalamualaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu.

Praise be to Allah, we seek His help, forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allah from the evil of our own souls and from our bad deeds. I testify that there is none worthy of worship save Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala and that Muhammad (SA) is the last and final Messenger of Allah.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my honour and pleasure to welcome the respected members to the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Al-Barakah Welfare Trust Australia. Thank you for being an invaluable part of this growing community. On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to thank you all for participating in the meeting. Your participation makes this meeting meaningful.

I thank almighty Allah for saving us from the pandemic and slowly returning our life to normal. I would like to extend my prayers for all the victims of COVID19. May Allah grant all brothers and sisters who lost their lives, the highest place in Jannah. Due to the pandemic we had to cancel most of our annual events including Open Day, Annual Iftar and Qurban Lunch. Following NSW Health guidelines, we are a COVID Safe organization.

I would like to remember and acknowledge the contributions made by all brothers and sisters and their families in establishing and running this Trust and Quakers Hill Masjid. May Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala accept their good deed and reward them amply.

Alhamdulillah, most of our development and renovation works are completed. There are only few more works need to be done. Namely new 1.8m fence around the premises, awnings in front of all doors and back of the main building. Development Applications are currently under consideration by the Council. I take this opportunity to thank all our respected donors for their generosity. We were able to complete all our development works without organizing any special fundraising event. May Allah reward everyone amply.

We still have some ongoing issues with the Council in terms of number of worshippers in the Masjid. Council limited the number by the way of putting a condition on the development consent. We have strongly opposed it and appointed a consultant to work on removing such restriction from the development consent. An application is currently with the Council in this regard. Council has recently indicated that they are happy to increase the number significantly however we do not agree with any restriction at all on numbers and it is more than likely that we may have to go to court to get a favourable decision. We had a meeting with the Mayor, three local Councillors, CEO, Director of Planning and Development Assessment Manager of Blacktown Council in this regard in July this year. They have promised to look into the matter favourably. Council has requested traffic and parking assessment from a qualified traffic planner which is currently being undertaken. We have also contacted the local State and Federal Members of Parliaments for their support in this matter.

As per the special resolution taken in the AGM 2018, the Trust Deed was varied to permit a body corporate named Al-Barakah Welfare Australia Pty Ltd to become the sole trustee of the Trust. All trustees became Directors of the body corporate. The change of ownership of the Trust property to the body corporate is currently at its final stage.

Community Safety Precinct Committees (CSPCs) are initiative of NSW Police aimed at reducing crime and the fear of crime throughout NSW. The Committees are designed to identify local crime and safety issues. Community Safety Precinct Committee gives community members, whether they are parents, teachers, or interested individuals the chance to work with the police in keeping their town safe. We are part of Quakers Hill Police Area Command CSPC and I attend their meetings regularly. These meetings give us an opportunity to discuss any safety issues around the Masjid with the Police and other Community Leaders. This meeting is also attended by the local Member of Parliament.

In our last AGM, we had lengthy discussion about termination of Membership of two members of the Trust. Following those discussions, we also received two letters requesting a Special General Meeting. Three members of the Trust voluntarily came to discuss about possibilities of making changes to Deed of Trust. Considering all of the above we called members to attend an informal meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020, to discuss all matters of concern. It was decided in the meeting to form an Advisory Committee under clause 21 of the Deed of Trust. The role of the Advisory Committee was to explore requirements for any changes to the current Deed of Trust as amended on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019. Work of this Committee is still in progress and they have not made recommendations for any change yet. In that meeting, on the basis of a written request by all the participants decision was made to favourably consider Membership Application from two brothers whose membership was cancelled. One of the brothers have applied for his membership and his application was approved. We did not receive any application from the other brother. As I mentioned earlier, although it is undesirable, at times to maintain the sanctity of the environment and to uphold the provisions under which we work, harsh decisions have to be made. I wish I could avoid dealing with those events during my time as the Chairman.

As you already know that this could be my last speech as the Director and Chairman of this Trust. What could be more honourable than being a servant of the house of Allah. I thank Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala for choosing me and allowing me to this job. May Allah forgive me and also all other members of the Board of Directors, for any shortcomings in discharging our responsibility. I also seek forgiveness from all the members for any of our shortcomings. I can assure you that all Directors work hard for the smooth operation and betterment of our beloved Masjid. Please continue to support the future Board of Directors and work together with them for the pleasure of Allah Almighty, the Creator and the Sustainer of the universe. May Allah keep us together in the right path forever. May Allah bestow the best of His sustenance and bounty upon you and your family. Ameen.

Thank you for attending this meeting.

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Rafiq Hasan  
06 December 2020