

GOLDEN STATE MINING LIMITED
ACN 621 105 995
(Company)

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PLAN

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SCHEDULE 1 – BOARD CHARTER

1. ROLE OF THE BOARD

The role of the Board is to provide overall strategic guidance and effective oversight of management. The Board derives its authority to act from the Company's Constitution.

2. THE BOARD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH MANAGEMENT

- (a) The Board shall delegate responsibility for the day-to-day operations and administration of the Company to the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director.
- (b) Specific limits on the authority delegated to the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director and the Executive Team must be set out in delegated authorities approved by the Board.
- (c) The role of management is to support the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director and implement the running of the general operations and financial business of the Company, in accordance with the delegated authority of the Board.
- (d) In addition to formal reporting structures, members of the Board are encouraged to have direct communications with management and other employees within the Group to facilitate the carrying out of their duties as Directors.

3. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

In addition to matters it is expressly required by law to approve, the Board has reserved the following matters to itself.

- (a) Driving the strategic direction of the Company, ensuring appropriate resources are available to meet objectives and monitoring management's performance.
- (b) Appointment, and where necessary, the replacement, of the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director and other senior executives and the determination of their terms and conditions including remuneration and termination.
- (c) Approving the Company's remuneration framework.
- (d) Monitoring the timeliness and effectiveness of reporting to Shareholders.
- (e) Reviewing and ratifying systems of audit, risk management and internal compliance and control, codes of conduct and legal compliance to minimise the possibility of the Company operating beyond acceptable risk parameters.
- (f) Approving and monitoring the progress of major capital expenditure, capital management and significant acquisitions and divestitures.
- (g) Approving and monitoring the budget and the adequacy and integrity of financial and other reporting such that the financial performance of the company has sufficient clarity to be actively monitored.

- (h) Approving the annual, half yearly and quarterly accounts.
- (i) Approving significant changes to the organisational structure.
- (j) Approving decisions affecting the Company's capital, including determining the Company's dividend policy and declaring dividends.
- (k) Recommending to shareholders the appointment of the external auditor as and when their appointment or re-appointment is required to be approved by them (in accordance with the ASX Listing Rules if applicable).
- (l) Ensuring a high standard of corporate governance practice and regulatory compliance and promoting ethical and responsible decision making.
- (m) Procuring appropriate professional development opportunities for Directors to develop and maintain the skills and knowledge needed to perform their role as Directors effectively.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

- (a) The Board should comprise Directors with a mix of qualifications, experience and expertise which will assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities, as well as assisting the Company in achieving growth and delivering value to shareholders.
- (b) In appointing new members to the Board, consideration must be given to the demonstrated ability and also future potential of the appointee to contribute to the ongoing effectiveness of the Board, to exercise sound business judgement, to commit the necessary time to fulfil the requirements of the role effectively and to contribute to the development of the strategic direction of the Company.
- (c) The composition of the Board is to be reviewed regularly against the Company's Board skills matrix prepared and maintained by the Nominations Committee to ensure the appropriate mix of skills and expertise is present to facilitate successful strategic direction.
- (d) Where practical, the majority of the Board should be comprised of non-executive Directors. Where practical, at least 50% of the Board should be independent.
 - (i) An independent Director is a director who is free of any interest, position, association or relationship that might influence, or reasonably be perceived to influence, in a material respect his or her capacity to bring an independent judgement to bear on issues before the Board and to act in the best interests of the Company and its security holders generally.
 - (ii) In considering whether a Director is independent, the Board should consider the definition of what constitutes independence as detailed in Box 2.3 of the ASX Corporate Governance Council's *Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations 3rd Edition* as set out in Annexure A (**Independence Tests**).

- (e) Prior to the Board proposing re-election of non-executive Directors, their performance should be evaluated by the Remuneration and Nomination Committee to ensure that they continue to contribute effectively to the Board.
- (f) The Company must disclose the length of service of each Director in, or in conjunction with, its Annual Report.
- (g) The Company must disclose the relevant qualifications and experience of each Board Member in, or in conjunction with, its Annual Report.

3. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Where a Director has an interest, position, association or relationship of the type described in the Independence Tests, but the Board is of the opinion that it does not compromise the independence of the Director, the Company must disclose the nature of the interest, position, association or relationship in question and an explanation of why the Board is of that opinion.
- (b) Directors must disclose their interests, positions, associations or relationships. The independence of the Directors should be regularly assessed by the Board in light of the interests disclosed by them.
- (c) Directors are expected to bring their independent views and judgement to the Board and must declare immediately to the Board any potential or active conflicts of interest.
- (d) Directors must declare immediately to the Board, and the Board will determine whether to declare to the market, any loss of independence.
- (e) No member of the Board (other than a Managing Director) may serve for more than three years or past the third annual general meeting following their appointment, whichever is the longer, without being re-elected by the shareholders.

4. THE ROLE OF THE CHAIRMAN

- (a) The Chairman is responsible for the leadership of the Board, ensuring it is effective, setting the agenda of the Board, conducting the Board meetings, ensuring then approving that an accurate record of the minutes of board meetings is held by the Company and conducting the shareholder meetings.
- (b) Where practical, the Chairman should be a non-executive Director. If a Chairman ceases to be an independent Director then the Board will consider appointing a lead independent Director.
- (c) Where practical, the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director should not be the Chairman of the Company during his term as Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director or in the future.
- (d) The Chairman must be able to commit the time to discharge the role effectively.

- (e) The Chairman should facilitate the effective contribution of all Directors and promote constructive and respectful relations between Board members and management.
- (f) In the event that the Chairman is absent from a meeting of the Board then the Board shall appoint a Chairman for that meeting in an Acting capacity

5. BOARD COMMITTEES

- (a) Once the Board is of a sufficient size and structure, reflecting that the Company's operations are of a sufficient magnitude, to assist the Board in fulfilling its duties, the Board must establish the following committees, each with written charters:
 - (i) Audit and Risk Committee;
 - (ii) Remuneration Committee; and
 - (iii) Nomination Committee.
- (b) The charter of each Committee must be approved by the Board and reviewed following any applicable regulatory changes.
- (c) The Board will ensure that the Committees are sufficiently funded to enable them to fulfil their roles and discharge their responsibilities.
- (d) Members of Committees are appointed by the Board. The Board may appoint additional Directors to Committees or remove and replace members of Committees by resolution.
- (e) The Company must disclose the members and Chairman of each Committee in, or in conjunction with, its annual report.
- (f) The minutes of each Committee meeting shall be provided to the Board at the next occasion the Board meets following approval of the minutes of such Committee meeting.
- (g) The Company must disclose in, or in conjunction with, its annual report, in relation to each reporting period relevant to a Committee, the number of times each Committee met throughout the period and the individual attendances of the members at those Committee meetings.
- (h) Where the Board does not consider that the Company will benefit from a particular separate committee:
 - (i) the Board must carry out the duties that would ordinarily be assigned to that committee under the written terms of reference for that committee; and
 - (ii) the Company must disclose in, or in conjunction with, its annual report:
 - (A) the fact a Committee has not been established; or
 - (B) if an Audit and Risk Committee has not been established, the processes the Board employs that independently verify and safeguard the integrity of its

financial reporting, including the processes for the appointment and removal of the external auditor and the rotation of the audit engagement partner, and the process it employs for overseeing the Company's risk management framework.

6. BOARD MEETINGS

- (a) The Directors may determine the quorum necessary for the transaction of business at a meeting, however, unless otherwise determined, there must be two Directors present at a meeting to constitute a quorum.
- (b) The Board will schedule formal Board meetings at least quarterly and hold additional meetings, including by telephone, as may be required.
- (c) Non-executive Directors may confer at scheduled times without management being present.
- (d) The minutes of each Board meeting shall be prepared by the Company Secretary, approved by the Chairman and circulated to Directors after each meeting.
- (e) The Company Secretary shall ensure that the business at Board and committee meetings is accurately captured in the minutes.
- (f) The Company Secretary shall co-ordinate the timely completion and distribution of Board and committee papers for each meeting of the Board and any committee.
- (g) Minutes of meetings must be approved at the next Board meeting.
- (h) Further details regarding Board meetings are set out in the Company's Constitution.

7. THE COMPANY SECRETARY

- (a) When requested by the Board, the Company Secretary will facilitate the flow of information of the Board, between the Board and its Committees and between senior executives and non-executive Directors.
- (b) The Company Secretary is accountable directly to the Board, through the Chair, on all matters to do with the proper functioning of the Board.
- (c) The Company Secretary is to facilitate the induction and professional development of Directors.
- (d) The Company Secretary is to facilitate and monitor the implementation of Board policies and procedures.
- (e) The Company Secretary is to provide advice to the Board on corporate governance matters, the application of the Company's Constitution, the ASX Listing Rules and applicable other laws.
- (f) All Directors have access to the advice and services provided by the Company Secretary.
- (g) The Board has the responsibility for the appointment and removal, by resolution, of the Company Secretary.

8. ACCESS TO ADVICE

- (a) All Directors have unrestricted access to company records and information except where the Board determines that such access would be adverse to the Company's interests.
- (b) All Directors may consult management and employees as required to enable them to discharge their duties as Directors.
- (c) The Board, Committees or individual Directors may seek independent external professional advice as considered necessary at the reasonable expense of the Company, subject to prior consultation with the Chairman. A copy of any such advice received is made available to all members of the Board.

9. PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The Nomination Committee shall conduct performance reviews of the Board that:

- (a) compares the performance of the Board with the requirements of its Charter;
- (b) critically reviews the mix of the Board; and
- (c) suggests any amendments to the Charter as are deemed necessary or appropriate.

SCHEDULE 2 – CORPORATE CODE OF CONDUCT

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Corporate Code of Conduct is to provide a framework for decisions and actions in relation to ethical conduct in employment. It underpins the Company's commitment to integrity and fair dealing in its business affairs and to a duty of care to all employees, clients and stakeholders. The document sets out the principles covering appropriate conduct in a variety of contexts and outlines the minimum standard of behaviour expected from employees.

2. ACCOUNTABILITIES

2.1 Managers and Supervisors

Managers and supervisors are responsible and accountable for:

- (a) undertaking their duties and behaving in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the Code of Conduct;
- (b) the effective implementation, promotion and support of the Code of Conduct in their areas of responsibility; and
- (c) ensuring employees under their control understand and follow the provisions outlined in the Code of Conduct.

2.2 Employees

All employees are responsible for:

- (a) undertaking their duties in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the Code of Conduct;
- (b) reporting suspected corrupt conduct; and
- (c) reporting any departure from the Code of Conduct by themselves or others.

3. PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR

When carrying out your duties, you should:

- (a) behave honestly and with integrity and report other employees who are behaving dishonestly;
- (b) carry out your work with integrity and to a high standard and in particular, commit to the Company's policy of producing quality goods and services;
- (c) operate within the law at all times;
- (d) act in the best interests of the Company;
- (e) follow the policies of the Company; and
- (f) act in an appropriate business-like manner when representing the Company in public forums.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Potential for conflict of interest arises when it is likely that you could be influenced, or it could be perceived that you are influenced by a personal interest when carrying out your duties. Conflicts of interest that lead to biased decision making may constitute corrupt conduct.

- (a) Some situations that may give rise to a conflict of interest include situations where you have:
 - (i) financial interests in a matter the Company deals with or you are aware that your friends or relatives have a financial interest in the matter;
 - (ii) directorships/management of outside organisations;
 - (iii) membership of boards of outside organisations;
 - (iv) personal relationships with people the Company is dealing with which go beyond the level of a professional working relationship;
 - (v) secondary employment, business, commercial, or other activities outside of the workplace which impacts on your duty and obligations to the Company;
 - (vi) access to information that can be used for personal gain; and
 - (vii) offer of an inducement.
- (b) You may often be the only person aware of the potential for conflict. It is your responsibility to avoid any conflict from arising that could compromise your ability to perform your duties impartially. You must report any potential or actual conflicts of interest to your manager.
- (c) If you are uncertain whether a conflict exists, you should discuss that matter with your manager and attempt to resolve any conflicts that may exist.
- (d) You must not submit or accept any bribe, or other improper inducement. Any such inducements are to be reported to your manager.

5. PUBLIC AND MEDIA COMMENT

- (a) Individuals have a right to give their opinions on political and social issues in their private capacity as members of the community.
- (b) Employees must not make official comment on matters relating to the Company unless they are:
 - (i) authorised to do so by the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director; or
 - (ii) giving evidence in court; or
 - (iii) otherwise authorised or required to by law.

- (c) Employees must not release unpublished or privileged information unless they have the authority to do so from the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director.
- (d) The above restrictions apply except where prohibited by law, for example in relation to "whistleblowing".

6. USE OF COMPANY RESOURCES

Requests to use Company resources outside core business time should be referred to management for approval.

If employees are authorised to use Company resources outside core business times they must take responsibility for maintaining, replacing, and safeguarding the property and following any special directions or conditions that apply.

Employees using Company resources **without** obtaining prior approval could face disciplinary and/or criminal action. Company resources are not to be used for any private commercial purposes without Company approval.

7. SECURITY OF INFORMATION

Employees are to make sure that confidential and sensitive information cannot be accessed by unauthorised persons. Sensitive material should be securely stored overnight or when unattended. Employees must ensure that confidential information is only disclosed or discussed with people who are authorised to have access to it. It is considered a serious act of misconduct to deliberately release confidential documents or information to unauthorised persons, and may incur disciplinary action.

8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY/COPYRIGHT

Intellectual property includes the rights relating to scientific discoveries, industrial designs, trademarks, service marks, commercial names and designations, and inventions and is valuable to the Company.

The Company is the owner of intellectual property created by employees in the course of their employment unless a specific prior agreement has been made. Employees must obtain written permission to use any such intellectual property from the Company Secretary/Chairman before making any use of that property for purposes other than as required in their role as employee.

9. DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT

Employees must not harass, discriminate, or support others who harass and discriminate against colleagues or members of the public on the grounds of sex, pregnancy, marital status, age, race (including their colour, nationality, descent, ethnic or religious background), physical or intellectual impairment, homosexuality or transgender.

Such harassment or discrimination may constitute an offence under legislation. The Company's executives should understand and apply the principles of equal employment opportunity.

10. CORRUPT CONDUCT

Corrupt conduct involves the dishonest or partial use of power or position which results in one person/group being advantaged over another. Corruption can take many forms including, but not limited to:

- (a) official misconduct;
- (b) bribery and blackmail;
- (c) unauthorised use of confidential information;
- (d) fraud; and
- (e) theft.

Corrupt conduct will not be tolerated by the Company. Disciplinary action up to and including dismissal will be taken in the event of any employee participating in corrupt conduct.

11. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is the responsibility of all employees to act in accordance with occupational health and safety legislation, regulations and policies applicable to their respective organisations and to use security and safety equipment provided.

Specifically all employees are responsible for safety in their work area by:

- (a) following the safety and security directives of management;
- (b) advising management of areas where there is potential problem in safety and reporting suspicious occurrences; and
- (c) minimising risks in the workplace.

12. LEGISLATION

It is essential that all employees comply with the laws and regulations of the countries in which we operate. Violations of such laws may have serious consequences for the Company and any individuals concerned. Any known violation must be reported immediately to management.

13. FAIR DEALING

The Company aims to succeed through fair and honest competition and not through unethical or illegal business practices. Each employee should endeavour to deal fairly with the Company's suppliers, customers and other employees.

14. INSIDER TRADING

All employees must observe the Company's "*Trading Policy*". In conjunction with the legal prohibition on dealing in the Company's securities when in possession of unpublished price sensitive information, the Company has established specific time periods when Directors, management and employees are permitted to buy and sell the Company's securities.

15. RESPONSIBILITIES TO INVESTORS

The Company strives for full, fair and accurate disclosure of financial and other information on a timely basis.

16. BREACHES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Employees should note that breaches of certain sections of this Code of Conduct may be punishable under legislation.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct may lead to disciplinary action. The process for disciplinary action is outlined in Company policies and guidelines, relevant industrial awards and agreements.

17. REPORTING MATTERS OF CONCERN

Employees are encouraged to raise any matters of concern in good faith with the head of their business unit or with the Company Secretary/Group Legal Counsel, without fear of retribution.

SCHEDULE 3 – AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE CHARTER

1. ROLE

The role of the Audit and Risk Committee is to assist the Board in monitoring and reviewing any matters of significance affecting financial reporting and compliance. This Charter defines the Audit and Risk Committee's function, composition, mode of operation, authority and responsibilities.

2. COMPOSITION

The Board will strive to adhere to the following composition requirements for the Committee where at all possible. However the Board acknowledges that the composition of the Board may not allow adherence to the following composition requirements from time to time.

- (a) The Committee must comprise at least three members.
- (b) All members of the Committee must be non-executive Directors.
- (c) A majority of the members of the Committee must be independent non-executive Directors in accordance with the criteria set out in Annexure A.
- (d) The Board will appoint members of the Committee. The Board may remove and replace members of the Committee by resolution.
- (e) All members of the Committee must be able to read and understand financial statements.
- (f) The Chairman of the Committee must not be the Chairman of the Board of Directors and must be independent.
- (g) The Chairman shall have leadership experience and a strong finance, accounting or business background.
- (h) The external auditors, the other Directors, the Managing Director, Chief Financial Officer, Company Secretary and senior executives, may be invited to Committee meetings at the discretion of the Committee.

3. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Committee is to assist the Board in fulfilling its statutory and fiduciary responsibilities relating to:

- (a) the quality and integrity of the Company's financial statements, accounting policies and financial reporting and disclosure practices;
- (b) compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and company policy;
- (c) the effectiveness and adequacy of internal control processes;
- (d) the performance of the Company's external auditors and their appointment and removal;
- (e) the independence of the external auditor and the rotation of the lead engagement partner;

- (f) the identification and management of business, economic, environmental and social sustainability risks; and
- (g) the review of the Company's risk management framework at least annually to satisfy itself that it continues to be sound and to determine whether there have been any changes in the material business risks the Company faces and to ensure that they remain within the risk appetite set by the Board.

A secondary function of the Committee is to perform such special reviews or investigations as the Board may consider necessary.

4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

4.1 Review of Financial Reports

- (a) Review the appropriateness of the accounting principles adopted by management in the financial reports and the integrity of the Company's financial reporting.
- (b) Oversee the financial reports and the results of the external audits of those reports.
- (c) Assess whether external reporting is adequate for shareholder needs.
- (d) Assess management processes supporting external reporting.
- (e) Establish procedures for treatment of accounting complaints.
- (f) Review the impact of any proposed changes in accounting policies on the financial statements.
- (g) Review the quarterly, half yearly and annual results.
- (h) Ensure that, before the Board approves the Company's financial statements for a financial period, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer (or, if none, the person(s) fulfilling those functions) have declared that, in their opinion, the financial records of the Company have been properly maintained and that the financial statements comply with the appropriate accounting standards and give true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Company and that the opinion has been formed on the basis of a sound system of risk management and internal control which is operating effectively.

4.2 Relationship with External Auditors

- (a) Recommend to the Board procedures for the selection and appointment of external auditors and for the rotation of external auditor partners.
- (b) Review performance, succession plans and rotation of lead engagement partner.
- (c) Approve the external audit plan and fees proposed for audit work to be performed.
- (d) Discuss any necessary recommendations to the Board for the approval of quarterly, half yearly or Annual Reports.

- (e) Review the adequacy of accounting and financial controls together with the implementation of any recommendations of the external auditor in relation thereto.
- (f) Meet with the external auditors at least twice in each financial year and at any other time the Committee considers appropriate.
- (g) Provide pre-approval of audit and non-audit services that are to be undertaken by the external auditor.
- (h) Ensure adequate disclosure as may be required by law of all non-audit services provided by the external auditor.
- (i) Ensure that the external auditor prepares and delivers an annual statement as to their independence which includes details of all relationships with the Company.
- (j) Receive from the external auditor their report on, among other things, critical accounting policies and alternative accounting treatment, prior to the filing of their audit report in compliance with the Corporations Act.
- (k) Ensure that the external auditor attends the Company's Annual General Meeting and is available to answer questions from security holders relevant to the audit.

4.3 Internal Audit Function

- (a) Monitor the need for a formal internal audit function and its scope.
- (b) Assess the performance and objectivity of any internal audit procedures that may be in place.
- (c) Review risk management and internal compliance procedures.
- (d) Monitor the quality of the accounting function.
- (e) Review the internal controls of the Company via consideration of any comments from the Company's internal and/or external auditors and/or commissioning an independent report on the Company's internal controls.

4.4 Risk Management

- (a) Oversee the Company's risk management systems, practices and procedures to ensure effective risk identification and management and compliance with internal guidelines and external requirements.
- (b) Assist in identifying and managing potential or apparent business, economic, environmental and social sustainability risks (if appropriate).
- (c) Review the Company's risk management framework at least annually to satisfy itself that it continues to be sound.
- (d) Review reports by management on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Company's risk management framework and associated internal compliance and control procedures.

4.5 Other

- (a) The Committee will oversee the Company's environmental risk management and occupational health and safety processes.
- (b) The Committee will oversee procedures for whistleblower protection.
- (c) As contemplated by the ASX Corporate Governance Council's *Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations*, and to the extent that such deviation or waiver does not result in any breach of the law, the Committee may approve any deviation or waiver from the "Corporate code of conduct". Any such waiver or deviation will be promptly disclosed where required by applicable law.
- (d) Monitor related party transactions.

5. MEETINGS

- (a) The Committee will meet at least twice in each financial year and additionally as circumstances may require for it to undertake its role effectively.
- (b) Meetings are called by the Secretary as directed by the Board or at the request of the Chairman of the Committee.
- (c) Where deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Committee, meetings and subsequent approvals and recommendations can be implemented by a circular written resolution or conference call.
- (d) A quorum shall consist of two members of the Committee. In the absence of the Chairman of the Committee or their nominees, the members shall elect one of their members as Chairman of that meeting.
- (e) Decisions will be based on a majority of votes with the Chairman having a casting vote.
- (f) The Committee Chairman, through the Secretary, will prepare a report of the actions of the Committee to be included in the Board papers for the next Board meeting.
- (g) Minutes of each meeting are included in the papers for the next full Board meeting after each Committee meeting.

6. SECRETARY

- (a) The Company Secretary or their nominee shall be the Secretary of the Committee and shall attend meetings of the Committee as required.
- (b) The Secretary will be responsible for keeping the minutes of meetings of the Committee and circulating them to Committee members and to the other members of the Board.
- (c) The Secretary shall distribute supporting papers for each meeting of the Committee as far in advance as possible.

7. RELIANCE ON INFORMATION OR PROFESSIONAL OR EXPERT ADVICE

Each member of the Committee is entitled to rely on information, or professional or expert advice, to the extent permitted by law, given or prepared by:

- (a) an employee of the Group whom the member believes on reasonable grounds to be reliable and competent in relation to the matters concerned;
- (b) a professional adviser or expert in relation to matters that the member believes on reasonable grounds to be within the person's professional or expert competence; or
- (c) another Director or officer of the Group in relation to matters within the Director's or officer's authority.

8. ACCESS TO ADVICE

- (a) Members of the Committee have rights of access to management and to the books and records of the Company to enable them to discharge their duties as Committee members, except where the Board determines that such access would be adverse to the Company's interests.
- (b) Members of the Committee may meet with the auditors, both internal and external, without management being present.
- (c) Members of the Committee may consult independent legal counsel or other advisers they consider necessary to assist them in carrying out their duties and responsibilities, subject to prior consultation with the Chairman. Any costs incurred as a result of the Committee consulting an independent expert will be borne by the Company.

9. REVIEW OF CHARTER

- (a) The Board will conduct an annual review of the membership to ensure that the Committee has carried out its functions in an effective manner, and will update the Charter as required or as a result of new laws or regulations.
- (b) The Charter shall be made available to members on request, to senior management, to the external auditor and to other parties as deemed appropriate and will be posted to the Company's website.

10. REPORT TO THE BOARD

- (a) The Committee must report to the Board formally at the next Board meeting following from the last Committee meeting on matters relevant to the Committee's role and responsibilities.
- (b) The Committee must brief the Board promptly on all urgent and significant matters.

SCHEDULE 4 – REMUNERATION COMMITTEE CHARTER

1. ROLE

The role of the Remuneration Committee is to assist the Board in monitoring and reviewing any matters of significance affecting the remuneration of the Board and employees of the Company. This Charter defines the Remuneration Committee's function, composition, mode of operation, authority and responsibilities.

2. COMPOSITION

The Board will strive to adhere to the following composition requirements for the Committee where at all possible. However the Board acknowledges that the composition of the Board may not allow adherence to the following composition requirements from time to time.

- (a) The Committee shall comprise at least three Directors, the majority being independent non-executive Directors.
- (b) The Committee will be chaired by an independent Director who will be appointed by the Board.
- (c) The Board may appoint such additional non-executive Directors to the Committee or remove and replace members of the Committee by resolution.

3. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Committee is to support and advise the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities to shareholders by:

- (a) reviewing and approving the executive remuneration policy to enable the Company to attract and retain executives and Directors who will create value for shareholders;
- (b) ensuring that the executive remuneration policy demonstrates a clear relationship between key executive performance and remuneration;
- (c) recommending to the Board the remuneration of executive Directors;
- (d) fairly and responsibly rewarding executives having regard to the performance of the Group, the performance of the executive and the prevailing remuneration expectations in the market;
- (e) reviewing the Company's recruitment, retention and termination policies and procedures for senior management;
- (f) reviewing and approving the remuneration of direct reports to the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director (or Executive Director(s)), and as appropriate other senior executives; and
- (g) reviewing and approving any equity based plans and other incentive schemes.

4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Executive Remuneration Policy

- (a) Review and approve the Group's recruitment, retention and termination policies and procedures for senior executives to enable the Company to attract and retain executives and Directors who can create value for shareholders.
- (b) Review the on-going appropriateness and relevance of the executive remuneration policy and other executive benefit programs.
- (c) Ensure that remuneration policies fairly and responsibly reward executives having regard to the performance of the Company, the performance of the executive and prevailing remuneration expectations in the market.

4.2 Executive Directors and Senior Management

- (a) Consider and make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration for each executive Director (including base pay, incentive payments, equity awards, retirement rights, service contracts) having regard to the executive remuneration policy.
- (b) Review and approve the proposed remuneration (including incentive awards, equity awards and service contracts) for the direct reports of the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director. As part of this review the Committee will oversee an annual performance evaluation of the senior executive team. This evaluation is based on specific criteria, including the business performance of the Company and its subsidiaries, whether strategic objectives are being achieved and the development of management and personnel.
- (c) Approve changes to the remuneration or contract terms of executive Directors and direct reports to the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director.
- (d) Approve termination payments to executive Directors or direct reports to the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director. Termination payments to other departing executives should be reported to the Committee at its next meeting.

4.3 Executive Incentive Plans (including Equity Based Plans)

- (a) Review and approve the design of any executive incentive plans (**Plans**).
- (b) Review and approve any Plans that may be introduced in the light of legislative, regulatory and market developments.
- (c) For each Plan, determine each year whether awards will be made under that Plan.
- (d) Review and approve total proposed awards under each Plan.
- (e) In addition to considering awards to executive Directors and direct reports to the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director, review and approve proposed awards under each Plan on an individual basis for executives as required under the rules governing each Plan or as determined by the Committee.

- (f) Review, approve and keep under review performance hurdles for each Plan.
- (g) Review, manage and disclose the policy (if any) under which participants to a Plan may be permitted (at the discretion of the Company) to enter into transactions (whether through the use of derivatives or otherwise) which limit the economic risk of participating in the Plan.

4.4 Other

The Committee shall perform other duties and activities that it or the Board considers appropriate.

5. MEETINGS

- (a) The Committee will meet at least once per year and additionally as circumstances may require.
- (b) Meetings are called by the Secretary as directed by the Board or at the request of the Chairman of the Committee.
- (c) A quorum shall comprise any two members of the Committee. In the absence of the Committee Chairman or appointed delegate, the members shall elect one of their members as Chairman.
- (d) Where deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Committee, meetings and subsequent approvals may be held or concluded by way of a circular written resolution or a conference call.
- (e) Decisions will be based on a majority of votes with the Chairman having the casting vote.
- (f) The Committee may invite any executive management team members or other individuals, including external third parties, to attend meetings of the Committee, as they consider appropriate.

6. SECRETARY

- (a) The Company Secretary or their nominee shall be the Secretary of the Committee, and shall attend meetings of the Committee as required.
- (b) The Secretary will be responsible for keeping the minutes of meeting of the Committee and circulating them to Committee members and to the other members of the Board.
- (c) The Secretary shall distribute supporting papers for each meeting of the Committee as far in advance as possible.

7. RELIANCE ON INFORMATION OR PROFESSIONAL OR EXPERT ADVICE

Each member of the Committee is entitled to rely on information, or professional or expert advice, to the extent permitted by law, given or prepared by:

- (a) an employee of the Group whom the member believes on reasonable grounds to be reliable and competent in relation to the matters concerned;

- (b) a professional adviser or expert in relation to matters that the member believes on reasonable grounds to be within the person's professional or expert competence; or
- (c) another Director or officer of the Group in relation to matters within the Director's or officer's authority.

8. ACCESS TO ADVICE

- (a) Members of the Committee have rights of access to the books and records of the Company to enable them to discharge their duties as Committee members, except where the Board determines that such access would be adverse to the Company's interests.
- (b) The Committee may consult independent experts to assist it in carrying out its duties and responsibilities. Any costs incurred as a result of the Committee consulting an independent expert will be borne by the Company.

9. REVIEW OF CHARTER

- (a) The Board will conduct an annual review of the membership to ensure that the Committee has carried out its functions in an effective manner, and will update the Charter as required or as a result of new laws or regulations.
- (b) The Charter shall be made available to members on request, to senior management, to the external auditor and to other parties as deemed appropriate and will be posted to the Company's website.

10. REPORTING

- (a) The Committee must report to the Board formally at the next Board meeting following from the last Committee meeting on matters relevant to the Committee's role and responsibilities.
- (b) The Committee must brief the Board promptly on all urgent and significant matters.
- (c) The Company must disclose the policies and practices regarding the remuneration of non-executive directors, executive directors and other senior executives in the annual report and as otherwise required by law.

SCHEDULE 5 – NOMINATION COMMITTEE CHARTER

1. ROLE

The role of the Nomination Committee is to assist the Board in monitoring and reviewing any matters of significance affecting the composition of the Board and the Executive Team. This Charter defines the Nomination Committee's function, composition, mode of operation, authority and responsibilities.

2. COMPOSITION

The Board will strive to adhere to the following composition requirements for the Committee where at all possible. However the Board acknowledges that the composition of the Board may not allow adherence to the following composition requirements from time to time.

- (a) The Committee shall comprise at least three non-executive Directors, the majority of whom must be independent, one of whom will be appointed the Committee Chairman.
- (b) The Board may appoint additional non-executive Directors to the Committee or remove and replace members of the Committee by resolution.

3. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Committee is to support and advise the Board in:

- (a) maintaining a Board that has an appropriate mix of skills and experience to be an effective decision-making body; and
- (b) ensuring that the Board is comprised of Directors who contribute to the successful management of the Company and discharge their duties having regard to the law and the highest standards of corporate governance.

4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

- (a) Periodically review and consider the structure and balance of the Board and make recommendations regarding appointments, retirements and terms of office of Directors.
- (b) Make recommendations to the Board on the appropriate size and composition of the Board.
- (c) Identify and recommend to the Board candidates for the Board after considering the necessary and desirable competencies of new Board members to ensure the appropriate mix of skills and experience and after assessment of how the candidates can contribute to the strategic direction of the Company.
- (d) Undertake appropriate checks before appointing a candidate, or putting forward to security holders a candidate for election, as a Director, including checks in respect of character, experience, education, criminal record and bankruptcy history (as appropriate).

- (e) Ensure that all material information relevant to a decision on whether or not to elect or re-elect a Director will be provided to security holders in the Notice of Meeting containing the resolution to elect or re-elect a Director, including:
 - (i) biographical details (including relevant qualifications and experience and skills);
 - (ii) details of any other material directorships currently held by the candidate;
 - (iii) where standing as a Director for the first time, any material adverse information revealed by the checks, details of any interest, position, association or relationship that might materially influence their capacity to be independent and act in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders, and a statement whether the Board considers the candidate is considered to be independent;
 - (iv) where standing for re-election as a Director, the term of office served by the Director and a statement whether the Board considers the candidate is considered to be independent; and
 - (v) a statement by the Board whether it supports the election or re-election of the candidate.
- (f) Ensure that each Director and senior executive is a party to a written agreement with the Company which sets out the terms of that Director's or senior executive's appointment. For these purposes, a senior executive is a member of key management personnel (as defined in the Corporations Act), other than a Director.
- (g) Prepare and maintain a Board skills matrix setting out the mix of skills and diversity that the Board currently has (or is looking to achieve). The Company must disclose this matrix in, or in conjunction with, its Annual Report.
- (h) Approve and review induction and continuing professional development programs and procedures for Directors to ensure that they can effectively discharge their responsibilities.
- (i) Assess and consider the time required to be committed by a non-executive Director to properly fulfil their duty to the Company and advise the Board.
- (j) Consider and recommend to the Board candidates for election or re-election to the Board at each annual shareholders' meeting.
- (k) Review Directorships in other public companies held by or offered to Directors and senior executives of the Company.
- (l) Review succession plans for the Board with a view to maintaining an appropriate balance of skills and experience on the Board.
- (m) Arrange an annual performance evaluation of the Board, its Committee, individual Directors and senior executives as appropriate.

5. MEETINGS

- (a) The Committee will meet at least once a year and additionally as circumstances may require.
- (b) Meetings are called by the Secretary as directed by the Board or at the request of the Chairman of the Committee.
- (c) Where deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Committee, meetings and subsequent approvals may be held or concluded by way of a circular written resolution or conference call.
- (d) A quorum shall comprise any two members of the Committee. In the absence of the Committee Chairman or appointed delegate, the members shall elect one of their number as Chairman.
- (e) Decisions will be based on a majority of votes with the Chairman having a casting vote.
- (f) The Committee may invite executive management team members or other individuals, including external third parties to attend meetings of the Committee, as they consider appropriate.

6. SECRETARY

- (a) The Company Secretary or their nominee shall be the Secretary of the Committee and shall attend meetings of the Committee as required.
- (b) The Secretary will be responsible for keeping the minutes of meetings of the Committee and circulating them to Committee members and to the other members of the Board.
- (c) The Secretary shall distribute supporting papers for each meeting of the Committee as far in advance as possible.

7. RELIANCE ON INFORMATION OR PROFESSIONAL OR EXPERT ADVICE

Each member of the Committee is entitled to rely on information, or professional or expert advice, to the extent permitted by law, given or prepared by:

- (a) an employee of the Group whom the member believes on reasonable grounds to be reliable and competent in relation to the matters concerned;
- (b) a professional adviser or expert in relation to matters that the member believes on reasonable grounds to be within the person's professional or expert competence; or
- (c) another Director or officer of the Group in relation to matters within the Director's or officer's authority.

8. ACCESS TO ADVICE

- (a) Members of the Committee have rights of access to the books and records of the Company to enable them to discharge their duties as Committee members, except where the Board determines that such access would be adverse to the Company's interests.

- (b) The Committee may consult independent experts to assist it in carrying out its duties and responsibilities. Any costs incurred as a result of the Committee consulting an independent expert will be borne by the Company.

9. REVIEW OF CHARTER

- (a) The Board will conduct an annual review of the membership to ensure that the Committee has carried out its functions in an effective manner, and will update the Charter as required or as a result of new laws or regulations.
- (b) The Charter shall be made available to members on request, to senior management, to the external auditor and to other parties as deemed appropriate and will be posted to the Company's website.

10. REPORTING

- (a) The Committee must report to the Board formally at the next Board meeting following from the last Committee meeting on matters relevant to the Committee's role and responsibilities.
- (b) The Committee must brief the Board promptly on all urgent and significant matters.
- (c) The Company must disclose the policies and practices regarding the nomination of non-executive directors, executive directors and other senior executives in, or in conjunction with, the annual report and as otherwise required by law.

SCHEDULE 6 – PERFORMANCE EVALUATION POLICY

The Nomination Committee will arrange a performance evaluation of the Board, its Committees, individual Directors and senior executives as appropriate. To assist in this process an independent advisor may be used.

The Nomination Committee will also conduct as appropriate a review of the role of the Board, assess the performance of the Board and examine ways of assisting the Board in performing its duties more effectively.

The review will include:

- (a) comparing the performance of the Board with the requirements of its Charter;
- (b) examination of the Board's interaction with management;
- (c) the nature of information provided to the Board by management; and
- (d) management's performance in assisting the Board to meet its objectives.

A similar review may be conducted for each Committee by the Board with the aim of assessing the performance of each Committee and identifying areas where improvements can be made.

The Remuneration Committee will oversee the evaluation of the remuneration of the Company's senior executives. This evaluation must be based on specific criteria, including the business performance of the Company and its subsidiaries, whether strategic objectives are being achieved and the development of management and personnel.

The Company must disclose, in relation to each financial year, whether or not the relevant annual performance evaluations have been conducted in accordance with the above processes.

SCHEDULE 7 – CONTINUOUS DISCLOSURE POLICY

The Company must comply with continuous disclosure requirements arising from legislation and the ASX Listing Rules.

The general rule, in accordance with ASX Listing Rule 3.1, is that once the Company becomes aware of any information concerning it that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities, the Company must immediately disclose that information to the ASX.

The Company has in place a written policy on information disclosure and relevant procedures.

The focus of these procedures is on continuous disclosure compliance and improving access to information for investors.

The Company Secretary is responsible for:

- (a) co-ordinating disclosure of information to the relevant stock exchanges and shareholders; and
- (b) providing guidance to Directors and employees on disclosure requirements and procedures.

Price sensitive information is publicly released through ASX before it is disclosed to shareholders and market participants. Distribution of other information to shareholders and market participants is also managed through disclosure to the ASX.

All announcements must be:

- (a) prepared in compliance with ASX Listing Rules continuous disclosure requirements;
- (b) factual and not omit material information; and
- (c) expressed in a clear and objective manner to allow investors to assess the impact of the information when making investment decisions.

The Company's protocol in relation to the review and release of ASX announcements (and media releases) is as follows:

- (a) All key announcements at the discretion of the Managing Director are to be circulated to and reviewed by all members of the Board.
- (b) All members of the Board are required to seek to provide to the Managing Director (or in his/her absence, the Company Secretary) with verbal or written contribution of each key announcement, prior to its release.
- (c) Any relevant parties named in the announcement should also be given the opportunity to review the announcement prior to its release, to confirm all information is factually correct.
- (d) The Managing Director (and in his/her absence, the Chairman) is to be given the final signoff before release to the ASX of the announcement.

Information is posted on the Company's website after the ASX confirms an announcement has been made, with the aim of making the information readily accessible to the widest audience.

SCHEDULE 8 – RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Board determines the Company's "risk profile" and is responsible for overseeing and approving risk management strategy and policies, internal compliance and internal control.

The Board has delegated to the Audit and Risk Committee responsibility for implementing the risk management system.

The Audit and Risk Committee will submit particular matters to the Board for its approval or review. Among other things it will:

- (a) oversee the Company's risk management systems, practices and procedures to ensure effective risk identification and management and compliance with internal guidelines and external requirements;
- (b) assist management to determine whether it has any material exposure to economic, environmental and/or social sustainability risks (as those terms are defined in the ASX Corporate Governance Council's *Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations*) and, if it does, how it manages, or intends to manage, those risks;
- (c) assist management to determine the key risks to the businesses and prioritise work to manage those risks; and
- (d) review reports by management on the efficiency and effectiveness of risk management and associated internal compliance and control procedures.

The Company's process of risk management and internal compliance and control includes:

- (a) identifying and measuring risks that might impact upon the achievement of the Company's goals and objectives, and monitoring the environment for emerging factors and trends that affect these risks;
- (b) formulating risk management strategies to manage identified risks, and designing and implementing appropriate risk management policies and internal controls; and
- (c) monitoring the performance of, and improving the effectiveness of, risk management systems and internal compliance and controls, including regular assessment of the effectiveness of risk management and internal compliance and control.

To this end, comprehensive practises are in place that are directed towards achieving the following objectives:

- (a) compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- (b) preparation of reliable published financial information; and
- (c) implementation of risk transfer strategies where appropriate eg insurance.

The responsibility for undertaking and assessing risk management and internal control effectiveness is delegated to management. Management is required to assess risk management and associated internal compliance and control procedures and report back at each Audit and Risk Committee at least annually.

The Board will review assessments of the effectiveness of risk management and internal compliance and control at least annually.

The Company must disclose at least annually whether the Board (or a committee of the Board) has completed a review of the Company's risk management framework to satisfy itself that it continues to be sound.

The Company will disclose if it has any material exposure to economic, environmental and/or social sustainability risks (as those terms are defined in the ASX Corporate Governance Council's *Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations*) and, if it does, how it manages, or intends to manage, those risks.

SCHEDULE 9 – TRADING POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

These guidelines set out the policy on the sale and purchase of securities in the Company by its Key Management Personnel and other personnel to whom the Company has determined this policy should apply (**Applicable Personnel**).

Key Management Personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any Director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity.

The Company has determined that its Key Management Personnel are its Directors. Other employees may also be considered Key Management Personnel on a case-by-case basis.

Applicable Personnel are encouraged to be long-term holders of the Company's securities. However, it is important that care is taken in the timing of any purchase or sale of such securities.

The purpose of these guidelines is to assist Applicable Personnel to avoid conduct known as 'insider trading'. In some respects, the Company's policy extends beyond the strict requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

2. WHAT TYPES OF TRANSACTIONS ARE COVERED BY THIS POLICY?

This policy applies to both the sale and purchase of any securities of the Company and its subsidiaries on issue from time to time.

3. WHAT IS INSIDER TRADING?

3.1 Prohibition

Insider trading is a criminal offence. It may also result in civil liability. In broad terms, a person will be guilty of insider trading if:

- (a) that person possesses information which is not generally available to the market and, if it were generally available to the market, would be likely to have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities (ie information that is 'price sensitive'); and
- (b) that person:
 - (i) buys or sells securities in the Company; or
 - (ii) procures someone else to buy or sell securities in the Company; or
 - (iii) passes on that information to a third party where that person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the third party would be likely to buy or sell the securities or procure someone else to buy or sell the securities of the Company.

3.2 Examples

To illustrate the prohibition described above, the following are possible examples of price sensitive information which, if made available to the market, may be likely to materially affect the price of the Company's securities:

- (a) the Company considering a major acquisition;
- (b) the threat of major litigation against the Company;
- (c) the Company's revenue and profit or loss results materially exceeding (or falling short of) the market's expectations;
- (d) a material change in debt, liquidity or cash flow;
- (e) a significant new development proposal (e.g. new product or technology);
- (f) the grant or loss of a major contract;
- (g) a management or business restructuring proposal;
- (h) a share issue proposal;
- (i) an agreement or option to acquire an interest in a mining tenement, or to enter into a joint venture or farm-in or farm-out arrangement in relation to a mining tenement; and
- (j) significant discoveries, exploration results, or changes in reserve/resource estimates from mining tenements in which the Company has an interest.

3.3 Dealing through third parties

The insider trading prohibition extends to dealings by individuals through nominees, agents or other associates, such as family members, family trusts and family companies (referred to as "**Associates**" in these guidelines).

3.4 Information however obtained

It does not matter how or where the person obtains the information – it does not have to be obtained from the Company to constitute inside information.

3.5 Employee share schemes

The prohibition does not apply to acquisitions of shares or options by employees made under employee share or option schemes, nor does it apply to the acquisition of shares as a result of the exercise of options under an employee option scheme. However, the prohibition does apply to the sale of shares acquired under an employee share scheme and also to the sale of shares acquired following the exercise of an option granted under an employee option scheme.

4. GUIDELINES FOR TRADING IN THE COMPANY'S SECURITIES

4.1 General rule

Applicable Personnel must not, except in exceptional circumstances deal in securities of the Company during the following periods:

- (a) he or she has information that he or she knows, or ought reasonably to know, is inside information in relation to the Company's; or
- (b) the Company Secretary has issued an instruction prohibiting trading in Company Securities; or
- (a) two weeks prior to the release of the Company's Annual Financial Report;
- (b) two weeks prior to the release of the Half Year Financial Report of the Company; and
- (c) two weeks prior to the release of the Company's quarterly reports (if applicable), (together the **Closed Periods**).

The Company may at its discretion vary this rule in relation to a particular Closed Periods by general announcement to all Applicable Personnel either before or during the Closed Periods. However, if an Applicable Personnel is in possession of price sensitive information which is not generally available to the market, then he or she must not deal in the Company's securities at **any** time.

4.2 No short-term trading in the Company's securities

Applicable Personnel should never engage in short-term trading of the Company's securities except for the exercise of options where the shares will be sold shortly thereafter (or sale of shares prior to exercise of options in order to fund the exercise price).

4.3 Securities in other companies

Buying and selling securities of other companies with which the Company may be dealing is prohibited where an individual possesses information which is not generally available to the market and is 'price sensitive'. For example, where an individual is aware that the Company is about to sign a major agreement with another company, they should not buy securities in either the Company or the other company.

4.4 Hedging Transactions

Applicable Personnel and their closely related parties are prohibited from entering into an arrangement that would have the effect of limiting their exposure to risk relating to an element of their remuneration that either has not vested or has vested but remains subject to a holding lock, in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*. This policy prohibits any person affected by this policy from entering into a hedging transaction.

4.5 Margin Lending and Other Secured Financial Arrangements

Applicable Personnel and other employees covered by this policy are required to disclose any margin lending or other secured financial arrangements to the Company, so that the board and senior management are not caught unaware if there is a default.

4.6 Exceptions

- (a) Applicable Personnel may at any time:
- (i) acquire ordinary shares in the Company by conversion of securities giving a right of conversion to ordinary shares;
 - (ii) acquire Company securities under a bonus issue made to all holders of securities of the same class;
 - (iii) acquire Company securities under a dividend reinvestment, or top-up plan that is available to all holders or securities of the same class;
 - (iv) acquire, or agree to acquire or exercise options under an employee incentive scheme (as that term is defined in the ASX Listing Rules);
 - (v) withdraw ordinary shares in the Company held on behalf of the Applicable Personnel in an employee incentive scheme (as that term is defined in the ASX Listing Rules) where the withdrawal is permitted by the rules of that scheme;
 - (vi) acquire ordinary shares in the Company as a result of the exercise of options held under an employee option scheme;
 - (vii) transfer securities of the Company already held into a superannuation fund or other saving scheme in which the restricted person is a beneficiary;
 - (viii) make an investment in, or trade in units of, a fund or other scheme (other than a scheme only investing in the securities of the Company) where the assets of the fund or other scheme are invested at the discretion of a third party;
 - (ix) where a restricted person is a trustee, trade in the securities of the Company by that trust, provided the restricted person is not a beneficiary of the trust and any decision to trade during a prohibited period is taken by the other trustees or by the investment managers independently of the restricted person;
 - (x) undertake to accept, or accept, a takeover offer;
 - (xi) trade under an offer or invitation made to all or most of the security holders, such as a rights issue, a security purchase plan, a dividend or distribution reinvestment plan and an equal access buy-back, where the plan that determines the timing and structure of the offer has been approved by the Board. This includes decisions relating to whether or not to take up the entitlements and the sale of entitlements required to provide for the take up of the balance of entitlements under a renounceable pro rata issue;
 - (xii) dispose of securities of the Company resulting from a secured lender exercising their rights, for example, under a margin lending arrangement;

- (xiii) exercise (but not sell securities following exercise) an option or a right under an employee incentive scheme, or convert a convertible security, where the final date for the exercise of the option or right, or the conversion of the security, falls during a prohibited period or the Company has had a number of consecutive prohibited periods and the restricted person could not reasonably have been expected to exercise it at a time when free to do so; or
 - (xiv) trade under a non-discretionary trading plan for which prior written clearance has been provided in accordance with procedures set out in this Policy.
- (b) In respect of any share or option plans adopted by the Company, it should be noted that it is not permissible to provide the exercise price of options by selling the shares acquired on the exercise of these options unless the sale of those shares occurs outside the periods specified in paragraph 4.1.

Were this is to occur at a time when the person possessed inside information, then the sale of Company securities would be a breach of insider trading laws, even though the person's decision to sell was not influenced by the inside information that the person possessed and the person may not have made a profit on the sale. Where Company securities are provided to a lender as security by way of mortgage or charge, a sale that occurs under that mortgage or charge as a consequence of default would not breach insider trading laws.

4.7 Notification of periods when Applicable Personnel are not permitted to trade

The Company Secretary will endeavour to notify all Applicable Personnel of the times when they are not permitted to buy or sell the Company's securities as set out in paragraph 4.1.

4.8 Trading in Derivatives

Trading by Applicable Personnel in derivative products issued over or in respect of the Company's securities raises the same issues and poses the same risks as trading by Applicable Personnel in securities. This policy extends to cover trading in derivatives as well.

5. APPROVAL AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Approval requirements

- (a) Any Applicable Personnel (other than the Chairman) wishing to buy, sell or exercise rights in relation to the Company's securities must obtain the prior written approval of the Chairman or the Board before doing so. The Chairman may delegate this authority to the Company Secretary or another director on whatever terms the Chairman thinks fit.
- (b) If the Chairman wishes to buy, sell or exercise rights in relation to the Company's securities, the Chairman must obtain the prior approval of the Managing Director (or, if there is no Managing Director, an Executive Director, or if there are no Executive Directors, the Board) before doing so.

5.2 Approvals to buy or sell securities

- (a) All requests to buy or sell securities as referred to in paragraph 5.1 must include the intended volume of securities to be purchased or sold and an estimated time frame for the sale or purchase.
- (b) Copies of written approvals must be forwarded to the Company Secretary prior to the approved purchase or sale transaction.

5.3 Notification

Subsequent to approval obtained in accordance with paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2, any Applicable Personnel who (or through his or her Associates) buys, sells, or exercises rights in relation to Company securities must notify the Company Secretary in writing of the details of the transaction within two (2) business days of the transaction occurring. This notification obligation operates at all times and includes applications for acquisitions of shares or options by employees made under employee share or option schemes and also applies to the acquisition of shares as a result of the exercise of options under an employee option scheme.

5.4 Key Management Personnel sales of securities

Key Management Personnel need to be mindful of the market perception associated with any sale of Company securities and possibly the ability of the market to absorb the volume of shares being sold. With this in mind, the management of the sale of any significant volume of Company securities (ie a volume to be sold that would be in excess of 10% of the average daily traded volume of the shares of the Company on the ASX for the preceding 20 trading days) by a Key Management Personnel needs to be discussed with the Board and possibly the Company's legal advisers prior to the execution of any sale. These discussions need to be documented in the form of a file note, to be retained by the Company Secretary.

5.5 Exemption from Closed Periods restrictions due to exceptional circumstance

Applicable Personnel who are not in possession of inside information in relation to the Company, may be given prior written clearance by the Chairman and/or Managing Director (or, if there is no Managing Director, an Executive Director) (although an Applicable Personnel cannot give written clearance to him or herself) to sell or otherwise dispose of Company securities in a Closed Period where the person is in severe financial hardship or where there are exceptional circumstances as set out in this policy.

Trading may also be permitted by the Chairman or Managing Director or Executive Director (as the context requires) if the relevant information not yet announced (if any) is not considered to be price or volume sensitive (ie is not inside information under the Corporations Act).

5.6 Severe financial hardship or exceptional circumstances

The determination of whether an Applicable Personnel is in severe financial hardship will be made by the Managing Director (or in the case of the Managing Director by all other members of the Board).

A financial hardship or exceptional circumstances determination can only be made by examining all of the facts and if necessary obtaining independent verification of the facts from banks, accountants or other like institutions.

5.7 Financial hardship

Applicable Personnel may be in severe financial hardship if they have a pressing financial commitment that cannot be satisfied other than by selling the securities of the Company.

In the interests of an expedient and informed determination by the Chairman or Managing Director or Executive Director (as the context requires), any application for an exemption allowing the sale of Company securities in a Closed Period based on financial hardship must be made in writing, ideally stating all of the facts and be accompanied by copies of relevant supporting documentation, including contact details of the person's accountant, bank and other such independent institutions (where applicable).

Any exemption, if issued, will be in writing and shall contain a specified time period during which the sale of securities can be made.

5.8 Exceptional circumstances

Exceptional circumstances may apply to the disposal of Company securities by Applicable Personnel if the person is required by a court order, a court enforceable undertaking for example in a bona fide family settlement, to transfer or sell securities of the Company, or there is some other overriding legal or regulatory requirement to do so.

Any application for an exemption allowing the sale of Company securities in a Closed Period based on exceptional circumstances must be made in writing and be accompanied by relevant court and/or supporting legal documentation (where applicable).

Any exemption, if issued, will be in writing and shall contain a specified time period during which the sale of securities can be made.

6. ASX NOTIFICATION FOR DIRECTORS

The ASX Listing Rules require the Company to notify the ASX within 5 business days after any dealing in securities of the Company (either personally or through an Associate) which results in a change in the relevant interests of a Director in the securities of the Company. The Company has made arrangements with each Director to ensure that the Director promptly discloses to the Company Secretary all the information required by the ASX.

7. EFFECT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THIS POLICY

Compliance with these guidelines for trading in the Company's securities does not absolve that individual from complying with the law, which must be the overriding consideration when trading in the Company's securities.

SCHEDULE 10 – DIVERSITY POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Company and all its related bodies corporate are committed to workplace diversity.

The Company recognises the benefits that can arise from employee and Board diversity, including a broader pool of high quality employees, improving employee retention, accessing different perspectives and ideas and benefiting from all available talent.

Diversity includes, but is not limited to, gender, age, ethnicity and cultural background.

To the extent practicable, the Company will consider the recommendations and guidance provided in the ASX Corporate Governance Council's *Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations* where appropriate to the Company.

The Diversity Policy does not form part of an employee's contract of employment with the Company, nor gives rise to contractual obligations. However, to the extent that the Diversity Policy requires an employee to do or refrain from doing something and at all times subject to legal obligations, the Diversity Policy forms a direction of the Company with which an employee is expected to comply.

2. OBJECTIVES

The Diversity Policy provides a framework for the Company to achieve:

- (a) a diverse and skilled workforce, leading to continuous improvement in service delivery and achievement of corporate goals;
- (b) a workplace culture characterised by inclusive practices and behaviours for the benefit of all staff;
- (c) improved employment and career development opportunities for women;
- (d) a work environment that values and utilises the contributions of employees with diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives through improved awareness of the benefits of workforce diversity and successful management of diversity; and
- (e) awareness in all staff of their rights and responsibilities with regards to fairness, equity and respect for all aspects of diversity,

(collectively, the **Objectives**).

The Diversity Policy does not impose on the Company, its directors, officers, agents or employee any obligation to engage in, or justification for engaging in, any conduct which is illegal or contrary to any anti-discrimination or equal employment opportunity legislation or laws in any State or Territory of Australia or of any foreign jurisdiction.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The Board's commitment

The Board is committed to workplace diversity and supports representation of women at the senior level of the Company and on the Board where appropriate.

The Board is responsible for developing measurable objectives and strategies (if any) to meet the objectives of the Diversity Policy (**Measurable Objectives**) and monitoring the progress of the Measurable Objectives through the monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms listed below. The Board shall annually assess Measurable Objectives (if any), and the Company's progress towards achieving them.

The Board may also set Measurable Objectives for achieving gender diversity and monitor their achievement.

The Board will consider conducting all Board appointment processes in a manner that promotes gender diversity, including establishing a structured approach for identifying a pool of candidates, using external experts where necessary.

3.2 Strategies

The Company's diversity strategies may include:

- (a) recruiting from a diverse pool of candidates for all positions, including senior management and the Board;
- (b) reviewing succession plans to ensure an appropriate focus on diversity;
- (c) identifying specific factors to take account of in recruitment and selection processes to encourage diversity;
- (d) developing programs to develop a broader pool of skilled and experienced senior management and Board candidates, including, workplace development programs, mentoring programs and targeted training and development;
- (e) developing a culture which takes account of domestic responsibilities of employees; and
- (f) any other strategies the Board develops from time to time.

4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Chairman will monitor the scope and currency of this policy.

The Company is responsible for implementing, monitoring and reporting on the Measurable Objectives.

Measurable Objectives (if any) as set by the Board may be included in the annual key performance indicators for the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director (or Executive Director(s)) and senior executives.

In addition, the Board may review progress against the Measurable Objectives (if any) as a key performance indicator in its annual performance assessment.

5. REPORTING

The Company will disclose, for each financial year:

- (a) any Measurable Objectives set by the Board;
- (b) progress against these Measurable Objectives; and
- (c) either:
 - (i) the respective proportions of men and women on the Board, in senior executive positions (including how the Company has defined "senior executive" for these purposes) and across the whole Company; or
 - (ii) if the entity is a "relevant employer" under the Workplace Gender Equality Act, the entity's most recent "Gender Equality Indicators", as defined in the Workplace Gender Equality Act.

SCHEDULE 11 – SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The Board of the Company aims to ensure that the shareholders are informed of all major developments affecting the Company's state of affairs.

Information is communicated to shareholders through:

1. the Annual Report delivered by post or via email (if requested by the shareholder) and which is also released to Australian Securities Exchange (**ASX**) and accessible from the Company's website;
2. the half yearly report which is released to ASX and also accessible from the Company's website;
3. the quarterly reports which are released to ASX and also accessible from the Company's website;
4. disclosures and announcements made to the ASX copies of which are accessible from the Company's website;
5. notices and explanatory statements of Annual General Meetings (**AGM**) and General Meetings (**GM**) copies of which are released to ASX and accessible from the Company's website;
6. the Chairman's address and the Managing Director's address made at the AGMs and the GMs, copies of which are released to ASX and accessible from the Company's website;
7. the Company's website on which the Company posts or provides access to all announcements which it makes to the ASX; and
8. the auditor's lead engagement partner being present at the AGM to answer questions from shareholders about the conduct of the audit and the preparation and content of the auditor's report.

As part of the Company's developing investor relations program, it is intended that Shareholders should be able to register with the Company to receive email notifications of when an announcement is made by the Company to the ASX, including the release of the Annual Report, half yearly reports and quarterly reports. Links will be made available on the Company's website where all information provided to the ASX is immediately posted or accessible.

Shareholders are encouraged to participate at all GMs and AGMs of the Company.

Historical Annual Reports of the Company are accessible from the Company's website.

Shareholders queries should be referred to the Company Secretary or his/her delegate (such as an investor relations or administration employee) in the first instance.

SCHEDULE 12 – WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

1 Applicability¹

A reference to the **Company** in this policy is a reference to:

- (a) the Company and each of its subsidiaries (together the **Group**); and
- (b) any entities under a Group company's operational control.

This policy applies to all directors, officers, employees, consultants and contractors of Company (**Personnel**). This policy also applies, as far as is reasonably achievable, to Company service providers, suppliers and third-party contractors (**Third Parties**) and any other persons described as an 'eligible whistleblower' as set out in section 1317AAA of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (the **Act**), such as certain relatives and dependants of such Third Parties. Any of these persons making a report under this policy are referred to as a **whistleblower**.

All Personnel and any Third Parties will be provided with access to a copy of this policy via the Company's website at www.goldenstatemining.com.au/corporate-governance/. Training or awareness sessions on this policy may be held from time to time.

2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to encourage the persons to whom the policy applies to raise any concerns or report instances of any potential breach of law, any violations (or suspected violations) of the Company's Code of Conduct or any other legal or ethical concern without the fear of detriment.

In this policy **detriment** includes (without limitation) any of the following: dismissal of an employee; injury of an employee in his or her employment; alteration of an employee's position or duties to his or her disadvantage; discrimination between an employee and other employees of the same employee; harassment or intimidation of a person; harm or injury to a person, including psychological harm; damage to a person's property; damage to a person's reputation; damage to a person's business or financial position; and any other damage to a person.²

Unethical, unlawful or undesirable conduct is referred to in this policy as **reportable conduct**, examples of which are set out in section 2.

3 Reportable conduct

A whistleblower may make a report under this policy if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a person or persons connected with the Company (e.g. a director officer, employee, contractor, supplier, tenderer) has engaged in conduct which is:

- (a) a breach of the Company's Code of Conduct;
- (b) dishonest, fraudulent or corrupt;
- (c) illegal (such as theft, drug sale or use, violence, harassment or intimidation, criminal damage to property or other breaches of state or federal law);
- (d) in breach of applicable laws;

¹ s1317A(5)(b)

² s1317ADA includes examples of detriment

- (e) unethical or in breach of Company policies and procedures (either representing a breach of the Company's Code of Conduct or generally);
- (f) conduct amounting to harassment, discrimination, victimisation or bullying;
- (g) conduct that is potentially damaging to Company, *its* employees or a third party such as unsafe work practices, environmental damage, health risks or abuse of Company property or resources;
- (h) any conduct which may cause financial or non-financial loss to the Company or be otherwise detrimental to the interests of the Company;
- (i) is described in section 1317AA(5)(c),(d),(e) or (f) of the Act; or
- (j) any other kinds of misconduct or improper state of affairs or circumstances in relation to the Company.

4 Non-reportable conduct

A personal work-related grievance generally would not qualify for protection, but may still qualify for protection if:

- (a) it includes information about misconduct, or information about misconduct includes or is accompanied by a personal work-related grievance (mixed report);
- (b) the entity has breached employment or other laws punishable by imprisonment for a period of 12 months or more, engaged in conduct that represents a danger to the public, or the disclosure relates to information that suggests misconduct beyond the whistleblower's personal circumstances;
- (c) the whistleblower suffers from or is threatened with detriment for making a disclosure; or
- (d) the whistleblower seeks legal advice or legal representation about the operation of the whistleblower protections under the Corporations Act.

Personal work-related grievances which are not protected by the Act are also described and set out in section 1317AADA of the Act.

Personal work-related grievances and other types of issues or concerns that are not covered by the policy should be addressed to the employee's direct supervisor or manager.

5 Whistleblower Officer

The Board will appoint a suitable senior employee to the position of "Whistleblower Officer", whose role it will be investigate the substance of any complaint regarding reportable conduct, to determine whether there is evidence in support of the conduct raised or, alternatively, to refute the report made.

The Whistleblower Officer has access to advice as required for the purposes of effectively carrying out the role. The Whistleblower Officer also has a direct line of reporting to the Chairman.

The current Whistleblower Officer appointed by the Board and authorised pursuant to section 1317AAC of the Act is Marc Boudames, the Company secretary and CFO. The Whistleblower Officer's contact details are as follows:

Marc Boudames

Phone: 0439 676 423

Reports may also be mailed by post to Suite 14, 19/21 Outram Street, WEST PERTH WA 6005 (marked to the attention of Mr Marc Boudames).

A report may be submitted anonymously if you do not wish to disclose your identity. If the matter concerns the Whistleblower Officer, or a whistleblower is not comfortable contacting the Whistleblower Officer, they should contact the Company's Chairman, Mr Damien Kelly or any member of the Company's audit committee. In the case of mail, the report can be addressed to any of the above or the entire audit committee.

Any report should be marked "Private and Confidential". Subject to the Confidentiality requirements set out in section 8.2 below, the person receiving the report should inform the Audit Committee of any material incidents reported under this policy.

6 Making a report³

If a member of Personnel or a Third Party to whom this policy applies becomes aware of any matter that they consider to be reportable conduct, they can:

- (a) report to their direct supervisor or manager. However, if a whistleblower is not comfortable speaking to their supervisor or manager, or are not satisfied with their response to the whistleblower's report, a whistleblower is encouraged to speak with anyone in management who they are comfortable in approaching;
- (b) report directly to the Whistleblower Officer; or
- (c) if the matter concerns the Whistleblower Officer or a whistleblower is not comfortable contacting the Whistleblower Officer, they should contact the Company's Chairman; or
- (d) Seek external legal advice (note that, unless the Company agrees otherwise and to the maximum extent permitted by law, the Company will be under no obligation to bear the costs of such legal advice)

Whistleblowers need to provide in the report all the information on which they formed the view that they had reasonable grounds to suspect reportable conduct to assist in the investigation of the conduct. By way of example, information in the report should include the date, time and location of the conduct, the name(s) of the persons involved and any witnesses to the events, evidence of the events (e.g. emails, documents) and any steps the whistleblower or another person may have already taken to report or resolve the matter.

Reports must be submitted in writing.

Nothing in this policy restricts a person from reporting any matter or providing any information to a regulator, the Company's auditor or a member of the audit team or any other person in accordance with any relevant law, regulation or other requirement.

A false report of reportable conduct could have significant effects on the Company's reputation, the reputation of other Personnel and may result in a considerable waste of time and effort. Any false reporting of reportable conduct will be treated as a serious disciplinary matter.

³ s1317A(5)(b)

Disclosures to a legal practitioner for the purposes of obtaining legal advice or legal representation in relation to the operation of the whistleblower provisions in the Corporations Act are protected (even in the event that the legal practitioner concludes that a disclosure does not relate to a 'disclosable matter');

7 Investigation procedure⁴

The Whistleblower Officer will investigate all matters reported under this policy as soon as possible after the matter has been reported having regard to the nature of the reportable conduct and the circumstances. A Whistleblower Officer may appoint a person to assist in the investigation of a matter raised in a report. Where appropriate, the Company will provide feedback to the whistleblower regarding the investigation's progress and/or outcome (subject to considerations of the privacy of those against whom allegations are made).

The investigation will be conducted in a fair manner, and otherwise as is reasonable and appropriate having regard to the nature of the reportable conduct and the circumstances.

The person who has had a report of reportable conduct made against them will generally be informed and given the opportunity to respond to the report and will be presumed innocent until proven otherwise. Their defence will be fairly set out in any report arising from the investigation and they will be kept informed of the progress of the investigations and the outcome as is reasonable and appropriate having regard to the nature of the reportable conduct and any legal considerations.

If the report is not submitted anonymously, a whistleblower may be contacted to discuss the investigation process. However, if a report is submitted anonymously, the investigation will be conducted based on the information provided by the whistleblower in their report.

8 Support and protection of whistleblowers⁵

The Company is committed to ensuring confidentiality in respect of all matters raised under this policy, and that those who make a report are treated fairly and do not suffer any detriment.

8.1 No detriment

A whistleblower who reports reportable conduct will not be personally disadvantaged by having made the report by suffering detriment.

Where detriment is suffered, or is claimed to have been suffered by a whistleblower, the whistleblower should report it immediately to the Whistleblower Officer. If the matter is not remedied, then it can be reported in accordance with section 6 of this policy.

8.2 Confidentiality and privacy⁶

(a) Subject to compliance with legal requirements and paragraph (b) below, upon receiving a report under this policy, the Company will not, nor will any supervisor, manager or Whistleblower Officer, disclose the whistleblower's identity as a

⁴ s1317A(5)(d)+(e)

⁵ s1317A(5)(a), (c) + (e)

⁶ s1317AAE

whistleblower, or information that is likely to lead to the identification of the whistleblower's identity as a whistleblower unless:

- (i) the whistleblower consents; or
 - (ii) the disclosure is made to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (**ASIC**), the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (**APRA**), a member of the Australian Federal Police (as defined in the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979* (Cth)) or a legal practitioner for the purposes of obtaining legal advice or legal representation.
- (b) If the Company needs to investigate a matter it may disclose information that may be likely to lead to the identification of a whistleblower provided that the disclosure is not of the identity of the whistleblower, the disclosure of the information is reasonably necessary for the purposes of investigating the matter and the Company takes all reasonable steps to reduce the risk that the whistleblower will be identified as a result of the disclosure.

The Company will also ensure that any records relating to a report of reportable conduct are stored securely and are able to be accessed only by authorised staff.

Unauthorised disclosure of:

- (a) the identity of a whistleblower; or
- (b) information that is likely to lead to the identification of the whistleblower,

will be a breach of this policy and the offender(s) will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include termination.

8.3 Special protection under the Corporations Act and the Taxation Administration Act

The *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) (**Corporations Act**) and the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* (Cth) (**Taxation Administration Act**) provide special protections to disclosures about breaches of those Acts (and other Acts as set out in Attachments A and B) provided certain conditions are met. Please refer to Attachments A and B of this policy for further details.

8.4 Compensation and other remedies

A whistleblower (or any other employee or person) can seek compensation and other remedies through the courts if:

- (a) they suffer loss, damage or injury because of a disclosure; and
- (b) the entity failed to take reasonable precautions and exercise due diligence to prevent the detrimental conduct.

Attachment A to Whistleblower Policy – Protections for whistleblowers under the Corporations Act

Part 9.4AAA of the Corporations Act contains a whistleblower protection regime. Under this regime, disclosure about any misconduct or improper state of affairs relating to Company or an Australian incorporated or registered subsidiary (**Regulated Company**) will qualify for the protections provided under the Corporations Act if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. **Eligible whistleblower:**⁷ The whistleblower is or has been: (a) an officer or employee of the Regulated Company; (b) an individual who supplies services or goods to the Regulated Company (whether paid or unpaid) or an employee of a person who supplies services or goods to the Regulated Company (whether paid or unpaid); (c) an individual who is an associate of the Regulated Company; (d) a relative of an individual referred to in any of paragraphs (a) to (c); a dependant of an individual referred to in any of paragraphs (a) to (c), or of such an individual's spouse.
2. **Eligible recipient:**⁸ The report is made to: (a) an officer or senior manager of the Regulated Company or of a related body corporate; (b) an auditor, or a member of an audit team conducting an audit of the Regulated Company or a related body corporate; (c) an actuary of the Regulated Company or a related body corporate; (d) a person authorised by the Regulated Company to receive disclosures that may qualify for protection under the Corporations Act, e.g. the Whistleblower Officer; (e) a legal practitioner for the purposes of obtaining legal advice or legal representation; (f) ASIC; or (g) APRA.
3. **Reasonable grounds:** The whistleblower has reasonable grounds to suspect that the information being disclosed concerns misconduct, or an improper state of affairs or circumstances, in relation to the Regulated Company or a related body corporate of the Regulated Company. This may include a breach of legislation including the Corporations Act⁹, an offence against the Commonwealth punishable by imprisonment for 12 months or more or conduct that represents a danger to the public or financial system.

Summary of protections

When the above conditions are met, the Corporations Act provides the following protections:

1. The whistleblower is immune from any civil, criminal or administrative legal action (including disciplinary action) for making the disclosure.
2. No contractual or other remedy may be enforced, and no contractual or other right may be exercised, against the whistleblower on the basis of the disclosure.

⁷ Section 1317AAA of the Corporations Act.

⁸ Section 1317AAC of the Corporations Act.

⁹ Examples of conduct which may amount to a breach of the Corporations Act include insider trading, insolvent trading, breach of continuous disclosure obligations, failure to keep accurate financial records; breach of director duties by a director or directors (e.g. duty exercise their powers and discharge their duties with the care and diligence that a reasonable person would exercise; duty not to improperly use position or information; duty to act in the best interests of the company and for a proper purpose.

3. In certain circumstances¹⁰, the information will not be admissible in evidence against the whistleblower in criminal proceedings for the imposition of a penalty, other than proceedings in respect of the falsity of the information.
4. Anyone who causes or threatens to cause detriment to a whistleblower or another person in the belief or suspicion that a report has been made, or may have been made, proposes to or could be made, may be guilty of an offence and may be liable for damages.¹¹
5. A whistleblower's identity, or information that is likely to lead to the identification of the whistleblower, cannot be disclosed to a Court or tribunal except where it is necessary to do so to give effect to Part 9.4AAA of the Corporations Act (which contains the whistleblower protection regime) or the Court or tribunal thinks it is necessary in the interests of justice to do so.
6. The person receiving the report commits an offence if they disclose the identity of the whistleblower, information that is likely to lead to the identification of the whistleblower, **unless** the whistleblower consents; or the disclosure is made to ASIC, APRA, a member of the Australian Federal Police (as defined in the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979 (Cth)*) or a legal practitioner for the purposes of obtaining legal advice or legal representation.

Except as provided for in paragraph 3 above, the protections do not prevent the whistleblower being subject to any civil, criminal or administrative liability for conduct of the whistleblower that is revealed by the disclosure.

The offence in paragraph 6 does not apply if the disclosure is not of the identity of the whistleblower and is reasonably necessary for the purposes of investigating a matter and all reasonable steps are taken to reduce the risk that the whistleblower will be identified as a result of the disclosure.

'Public interest' and 'emergency' disclosure¹²

A 'public interest disclosure' may be made 90 days after the original disclosure where the whistleblower has reasonable grounds to believe that their original disclosure is not being acted on. Where the whistleblower has reasonable grounds to believe that a further disclosure is in the public interest, they must then give notice of their intent to go public before telling a member of Parliament and/or a journalist.

An 'emergency disclosure' is one in which the whistleblower 'has reasonable grounds to believe that the information concerns a substantial and imminent danger the health or safety of one or more persons, or to the natural environment'. To be protected, the whistleblower must notify the Regulated Company of their intent to make an emergency disclosure before telling a member of Parliament and/or a journalist.

This Annexure A set out a summary of the whistleblower protection regime in Part 9.4AAA of the Corporations Act. A person seeking to rely on the protections afforded in Part 9.4AAA of the Corporations Act should seek specific legal advice.

¹⁰ For example, where the disclosure has been made to ASIC or APRA, or where the disclosure qualifies as a public interest or emergency disclosure under section 1317AAD of the Corporations Act.

¹¹ Sections 1317AC (no victimisation) and 1317ADA (no detriment) of the Corporations Act.

¹² Section 1317AAD of the Corporations Act.

Attachment B to Whistleblower Policy – Protections for whistleblowers under the Taxation Administration Act

Part IVD of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* (Cth) (**Taxation Administration Act**) contains a whistleblower protection regime. Under this regime, disclosure about any misconduct or improper state of affairs or circumstances, in relation to the tax affairs¹³ of a Regulated Company or an associate within the meaning of section 318 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1946* (Cth) (**Associate**) of the Regulated Company if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. **Eligible whistleblower:** The whistleblower is or has been: (a) an officer or employee of the Regulated Company; (b) an individual who supplies services or goods to the Regulated Company (whether paid or unpaid) or an employee of a person who supplies services or goods to the Regulated Company (whether paid or unpaid); (c) an individual who is an Associate of the Regulated Company; (d) a spouse or child of an individual referred to in any of paragraphs (a) to (c); a dependant of an individual referred to in any of paragraphs (a) to (c), or of such an individual's spouse.
2. **Eligible recipient:** The report is made to: (a) an auditor, or a member of an audit team conducting an audit of the Regulated Company; (b) a registered tax agent or BAS agent who provides tax agent services or BAS services to the Regulated Company; (c) a person authorised by the Regulated Company to receive disclosures that may qualify for protection under the Corporations Act, e.g. the Whistleblower Officer; (d) a director, secretary or senior manager of the Regulated Company; (e) any other employee or officer of the Regulated Company who has functions or duties that relate to the tax affairs of the Regulated Company; (f) the Commissioner of Taxation; (g) a legal practitioner for the purpose of obtaining legal advice or legal representation in relation to the operation of Part IVD of the Taxation Administration Act. The persons referred to paragraphs (a) to (e) are **Company recipients**.
3. **Reasonable grounds where report made to a Company recipient:** The whistleblower has reasonable grounds to suspect that the information indicates misconduct, or an improper state of affairs or circumstances, in relation to the tax affairs of the Regulated Company or an Associate **and** the whistleblower considers that the information may assist the eligible recipient to perform functions or duties in relation to the tax affairs of the Regulated Company or an Associate of the Regulated Company.
4. **Reasonable grounds where report made to the Commissioner of Taxation:** The whistleblower considers that the information may assist the Commissioner of Taxation to perform his or her functions or duties under a taxation law in relation to the Regulated Company or an Associate of the Regulated Company.

Summary of protections

When the above conditions are met, the Taxation Administration Act provides the following protections:

¹³ **Tax affairs** means affairs relating to any tax imposed by or under, or assessed or collected under, a law administered by the Commissioner of Taxation.

1. The whistleblower is immune from any civil, criminal or administrative legal action (including disciplinary action) for making the disclosure.
2. No contractual or other remedy may be enforced, and no contractual or other right may be exercised, against the whistleblower on the basis of the disclosure.
3. If the disclosure was a disclosure of information to the Commissioner of Taxation – the information will not be admissible in evidence against the whistleblower in criminal proceedings for the imposition of a penalty, other than proceedings in respect of the falsity of the information.
4. Anyone who causes or threatens to cause detriment to a whistleblower or another person in the belief or suspicion that a report has been made, or may have been made, proposes to or could be made, may be guilty of an offence and may be liable for damages.
5. A whistleblower's identity, or information that is likely to lead to the identification of the whistleblower, cannot be disclosed to a Court or tribunal except where it is necessary to do so to give effect to Part IVD of the Taxation Administration Act (which contains the whistleblower protection regime) or the Court or tribunal thinks it is necessary in the interests of justice to do so.
6. The person receiving the report commits an offence if they disclose the identity of the whistleblower, information that is likely to lead to the identification of the whistleblower, **unless** the whistleblower consents; or the disclosure is made to a member of the Australian Federal Police (as defined in the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979* (Cth)) or a legal practitioner for the purposes of obtaining legal advice or legal representation.

Except as provided for in paragraph 3 above, the protections do not prevent the whistleblower being subject to any civil, criminal or administrative liability for conduct of the whistleblower that is revealed by the disclosure.

Without limiting the protections in paragraphs 1 to 3 above, the whistleblower has qualified privilege in respect of the disclosure and a contract to which the whistleblower is a party may not be terminated on the basis that the disclosure constitutes a breach of the contract.

The offence in paragraph 6 does not apply if the disclosure is not of the identity of the whistleblower and is reasonably necessary for the purposes of investigating a matter and all reasonable steps are taken to reduce the risk that the whistleblower will be identified as a result of the disclosure.

This Annexure B set out a summary of the whistleblower protection regime in Part IVD of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* (Cth). A person seeking to rely on the protections afforded in Part IVD of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* (Cth) should seek specific legal advice

Date adopted	
Last amendment	n/a
Last review	n/a

ANNEXURE A – DEFINITION OF INDEPENDENCE

Examples of interests, positions, associations and relationships that might cause doubts about the independence of a director include if the director:

- (a) is, or has been, employed in an executive capacity by the Company or any of its child entities and there has not been a period of at least three years between ceasing such employment and serving on the board;
- (b) is, or has within the last three years been, a partner, director or senior employee of a provider of material professional services or a material consultant to the Company or any of its child entities;
- (c) is, or has been within the last three years, in a material business relationship (eg as a supplier or customer) with the Company or any of its child entities, or an officer of, or otherwise associated with, someone with such a relationship;
- (d) is a substantial security holder of the Company or an officer of, or otherwise associated with, a substantial security holder of the Company;
- (e) has a material contractual relationship with the Company or its child entities other than as a director;
- (f) has close family ties with any person who falls within any of the categories described above; or
- (g) has been a director of the Company for such a period that his or her independence may have been compromised.

In each case, the materiality of the interest, position, association or relationship needs to be assessed to determine whether it might interfere, or might reasonably be seen to interfere, with the director's capacity to bring an independent judgement to bear on issues before the Board and to act in the best interests of the Company and its security holders generally.