

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Unless disclosed below, all the best practise recommendations of the ASX Corporate Governance Council's principles and recommendations ("ASX Guidelines") have been applied for the entire financial year ended 30 June 2019.

Information, documents, policies, statements and charters are held by the Company's secretary.

## 1. Lay solid foundations for management and oversight

### The Board

Responsible for:

- oversight of the company, including its control and accountability systems
- ratifying the appointment/removal of the executive directors, chief executive officer, chief financial officer and the company secretary
- approval of management's development of corporate strategies and performance objectives
- reviewing and ratifying system of risk management and internal compliance and control, codes of conduct and legal compliance
- monitoring senior management's performance and implementation of strategy, and ensuring appropriate resources are available
- approving and monitoring the progress of major capital expenditure, capital management and acquisitions and divestitures
- approving and monitoring financial and other reporting
- assessing the competencies of board members, review board succession plans, evaluate board performance and recommend appointment and removal of directors
- setting executive remuneration policy
- appointment and removal of external auditor.

### The Chairperson

Responsible for:

- leading the board in its duties to the company
- ensuring the processes and procedures are in place to evaluate the performance of the board and its individual directors
- facilitating effective discussions at board meetings
- ensuring effective and timely communication with shareholders.

### The Management Team

The executive directors are responsible for the effective and efficient operation and administration of the group including bringing material matters to the attention of the board.

The chief executive officer has the responsibility for the communication and execution of company's policies and the achievement of policy outcomes. The chief financial officer is responsible for financial management and timely financial reporting.

Senior management are provided every resource towards enabling smooth day – to – day operations of the company.

Prior to appointment as directors the company undertakes reference checks including education, employment, criminal history and bankruptcy. A condition of appointment the director must not be a disqualified person. Information is outlined on pages 7 - 8

All directors, management and employees are provided with either a letter of appointment and/or an employment contract outlining their remuneration, job description, expectation and company policies. Performance is then benchmarked against these. Performance evaluation of all directors and management team are outlined in the remuneration report on pages 8 - 12. Performance evaluation was conducted in the manner prescribed for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

The company secretary will be the secretary of the board and as directed by the Chairperson. Copies of matters reserved for the board, those delegated to senior executives and the board charters are held by the company's secretary.

The Board has a diversity policy which is discussed further under the heading "Act ethically and responsibly" below.

## 2. Structure the board to add value

The constitution provides for a minimum of three and a maximum of nine directors. The board currently has four directors, two non-executive and two executive directors. Both non-executive directors are independent.

Whilst the company do not have a majority of non-executive directors, as recommended by ASX Corporate Governance Council best practice recommendation 2.1, it is proposed that the board be increased by another two independent non-executive directors, to comply with the recommendations of the ASX Corporate Governance Council's guidelines.

At this stage of development of the Company, the Board considers it neither appropriate nor cost effective for there to be a majority of independent directors, together with an Independent Chairman who is also not the CEO.

The chairman currently is an executive director and CEO.

The skills, experience and expertise relevant to the position of each director who is in office at the date of the annual report and their term of office are detailed in the directors' report on pages 7 – 8.

The names of independent directors of the company are;

- AG Menezes
- AK Ambalavanar

An independent director is a non-executive director and:

- is not a substantial shareholder of the company or an officer of, or otherwise associated directly with, a substantial shareholder of the company
- within the last 3 years has not been employed in an executive capacity by the company or another group member, or been a director after ceasing to hold any such employment
- within the last 3 years has not been a principal of a material professional adviser or a material consultant to the company or another group member, or an employee materially associated with the service provided
- is not a material supplier or customer of the company or other group member, or an officer of or otherwise associated directly or indirectly with a material supplier or customer
- has no material contractual relationship with the company or another group member other than as a director of the company
- has not served on the board for a period which could, or could reasonably be perceived to, materially interfere with the director's ability to act in the best interests of the company
- is free from any interest and any business or other relationship which could, or could reasonably be perceived to, materially interfere with the director's ability to act in the best interests of the company.

In determining whether a non – executive director is independent, the director must meet the following materiality thresholds

- less than 10% of company shares are held by the director and any entity or individual directly or indirectly associated with the director
- no sales are made to or purchases made from any entity or individual directly or indirectly associated with the director and
- none of the directors' income or the income of an individual or entity directly or indirectly associated with the director is derived from a contract with any member of the economic entity other than income derived as a director of the entity.

Independent directors are to provide to the board all relevant information required for the board to regularly assess their independence. Both qualitative and quantitative information are assessed regularly for these purposes. Both directors remain independent for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Independent directors have the right to consult independent professional advice in the furtherance of their duties as directors at the company's expense. Independent professional advice is sought at the company's cost.

A separate nomination committee is not considered necessary due to the small size of the board, with such role assumed by the main board. In their evaluation process, the board will consider skills, experience, stakeholder perspectives and independence of candidates for appointments to the board. Written approval must be obtained from the chair prior to incurring any expense on behalf of the company.

### 3. Act ethically and responsibly

The board acknowledges and emphasises the importance of all directors and employees maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance practice and ethical standards.

#### Code of Conduct

The following is a guide for directors and senior executives as to:

- the key practices necessary to maintain confidence in the company's integrity
- the responsibility and accountability of individuals for reporting and investigating reports of unethical practices.

All directors and senior executives must act with high standards of honesty, integrity and fairness. Emphasis to be made to the following:

- *Conflicts of interest* - proper disclosure of such situations so that action can be taken to protect parties affected e.g. exclusion from participating in relevant decision making processes
- *Corporate opportunities* - not to take advantage of property, information or position for personal gain or to compete with the company
- *Confidentiality* - not to make use of non-public confidential information for personal gain or in a manner detrimental to the company except where authorised or legally mandated
- *Fair dealing* - by all employees with the company's customers, suppliers, competitors and other stakeholders
- *Protection of and proper use of company's assets* - protecting and ensuring efficient use of assets for legitimate business purposes
- *Compliance with laws and regulations* - ensure strict compliance and promotion of compliance with the content and spirit of all laws, rules, regulations and this guide
- *Encouraging the reporting of unlawful / unethical behaviour* - ensure active promotion of ethical behaviour and protection for those who report violations in good faith.

#### Gender Diversity

The Board recognises the benefits of diversity at boards in senior management and within the organisation generally and recognises the organisational strengths and opportunity for innovation that diversity brings to an organisation.

The guidelines include a recommendation that ASX listed entities:

- establish a policy concerning diversity, including measurable objectives and an annual assessment of progress, and disclose the policy or a summary of the policy;
  - disclose measurable objectives and the progress towards achieving them in each annual report; and
  - disclose the proportion of women on the board, in senior management and employed throughout the organisation in each annual report.
- The guidance on Principle 3 has also been changed to:
- include a new Box 3.2 which contains suggestions for the content of a diversity policy;
  - suggest boards determine which committee should review and report to the board on diversity;
  - recommend that boards should provide greater transparency of the processes used in searching for and selecting new directors; and
  - suggests boards disclose the mix of skills and diversity they are looking for in the membership of the board.

The Company has established a diversity policy which set out the beliefs, goals and strategies of the Company and makes reference to all the characteristics that makes individuals different from each other. The policy sets out the positive steps taken to ensure that current and prospective employees are not discriminated against, either directly or indirectly on such characteristics as gender, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity or any other area of potential difference. The Company is committed to gender diversity at all levels of the organisation. Gender equality is a key component of the Company's' diversity strategy. The implementation of this policy aims to reflect both the circumstances of the Company and the industry in which it operates.

The Company's diversity policy includes a requirement that:

- the Board establish measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity; and
- the Board assess annually the objectives set for achieving gender diversity; and
- the Board assess annually the progress made towards achieving the objectives set.

In accordance with this policy and ASX corporate governance principles, the Board has established the following objectives in relation to gender diversity. The aim is to achieve these objectives over the coming 3 to 5 years as director and senior executive positions become vacant and appropriately skilled candidates are available.

Representation of female employees in the organisation workforce is as follows. Senior Executive Positions include Key Management Personnel.

	Actual at 30 June 2019		Company Objective		Progress towards meeting objective	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Whole organisation	27	47%	30	50%	-	-
Senior Executive Positions	9	35%	12	40%	-	-
Board Members	-	-	2	40%	-	-

#### Policy on Dealing in Company Securities

The law prohibits insider trading and the Corporations Act and the ASX Listing Rules require disclosure of any trading undertaken by directors or their related entities in the company's securities.

This prohibition also covers the procurement of others to trade by directors who may have sensitive, commercial and confidential information by virtue of their office in the company. Guidelines for trading in company securities are:

- applicable to all directors of the company and related entities, the company secretary and staff members who are likely to be in possession of information concerning the company's financial position, strategies or operations.
- such "designated officers" as described above are required to provide notification to the company secretary and chairman of the company of intended trading except for dividend reinvestment plans and the like.
- they are also required to provide subsequent confirmation of the trading that has occurred.

Reference is to be made to the guide to black-out periods, or non-trading periods, where no dealing is permitted, as issued by the ASX, a copy of which may be obtained from the company secretary.

An obligation exist for Directors to be independent in judgement and ensure all reasonable steps are taken to ensure due care is taken by the board in making sound decisions.

#### 4. Safeguard integrity in corporate reporting

The executive directors, chief executive office and chief financial officer are to provide letters of assurance to the Board, in respect of each half year and full year financial report, stating that the company's financial report presents a true and fair view, in all material respects, of the company's financial position and financial performance in accordance with accounting standards and the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

An independence declaration is received from the external auditor in respect of the annual and half year financial reports stating that there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and any applicable code of professional conduct. The provision of non audit services by the audit firm is monitored by the Board so as to ensure that the auditors' independence is not compromised by the provision of such non audit services.

The company does not have a formally constituted audit committee as the Board does not consider it is warranted given the size of the company.

The full Board is responsible for the nomination of the external auditors and for reviewing the adequacy of existing external audit arrangements, including the scope and quality of the audit. In relation to the rotation of the external audit engagement partner, the board is currently reviewing the recent changes announced in the CLERP 9 Act and will formulate a policy which complies with the requirements of that Act.

Whilst the company does not have a formally constituted audit committee, the Board reviews the performance of the external auditors on an annual basis and a representative of the board meets with them at least three times a year to review:

- the proposed scope and timing of audit visits.
- the results and findings of the audit, the adequacy of accounting and internal controls, and to obtain feedback on implementation of recommendations made.
- the draft financial statements and audit review reports at year end and at half year.
- attendance and responses at the Annual General Meeting

The board monitors the need to form an audit committee on a periodic basis.

#### 5. Make timely and balanced disclosure

In ensuring compliance with ASX listing rule 3.1 on continuous disclosure requirements, the company has adopted the following procedures:

##### Directors

- to promptly advise the company secretary of any matters requiring disclosure
- to authorise final form of announcement to the market

##### Company secretary

- to liaise with ASIC and ASX on disclosure matters and provide announcements duly
- to monitor the press and share price continuously
- to consult with the board on matters for announcements
- All policies are with the Company's secretary

The directors and company secretary are to ensure that compliance is adhered to rigidly as failure could lead to civil or criminal liabilities for the company and its directors and officers. They must exercise due care and diligence in the information disclosed with regard to its timeliness, content, clarity, completeness and objectivity.

#### 6. Respect the rights of security holders

The company recognises the importance of effective communication with shareholders and providing them with timely and balanced information. Hence in addition to the traditional means of communication (post, notices of meetings, meetings, annual reports and ASX announcements) the company has set up of a website which enables access to all relevant announcements made to the market, including notices of meeting, published financial data and other information concerning the company and its activities.

As a policy the external auditor will be requested to attend annual general meetings of the company and be available to answer shareholder questions.

Shareholders are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the Annual General Meetings of International Equities Corporation Ltd to lodge questions to be responded by the Board and/or the CEO and are able to appoint proxies.

The company advocates and promotes responsible conduct in the way its business is operated and recognises its legal, social and ethical commitments to stakeholders, regulators and the community at large. The guideline to conduct, as promoted in Principle 3, applies equally to all staff, executives and directors.

The company's policy on compliance and fair dealing is placed in the highest priority and promoted with vigour to staff at all levels. External professional advice is used where necessary. Areas of compliance include trade practices and fair dealing laws, consumer protection, privacy laws, employment laws, occupational health and safety, equal opportunity, superannuation, environment and pollution controls.

As a public corporation, the company encourages practices in public and social accountability on areas of legitimacy, fairness and ethics. The company continually strive to demonstrate this through management by example, encouraging accessibility and communication between staff and management, continuous education through updates and notices, use of suggestion boxes, having regular staff meetings and other management tools. The company also supports a number of community and charity organisations through participation in events and donations.

## **7. Recognise and manage risk**

The board considers identification and management of key risks associated with the business as vital to maximise shareholder wealth.

The company does not have a formally constituted committee as the Board does not consider it is warranted given the size of the company.

The board collectively assess the business and financial risks periodically on new and current ventures being undertaken by the company, covering all aspects of the business from the operational level through to strategic level risks. Through their skills and experience in the property and financial industries, they are able to make management decisions to minimise risks in the highly volatile fields of activities the company operates in.

Compliance and control systems are continually being monitored, reviewed and upgraded, assisted by external auditors and professional advisers, which lend towards maintaining the integrity of the company's financial and external reporting, in lieu of not having a formal internal audit committee.

The executive directors are to provide a statement to the board to the effect that:

- the integrity of the financial statements is founded on a sound system of risk management and internal compliance and control which implements the policies adopted by the board
- the company's risk management and internal compliance and control system is operating efficiently and effectively in all material aspects. The effectiveness of these risk management and internal compliance and control system is monitored and reviewed regularly.

The review was conducted and met for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Additionally, the company is not exposed to any material economic, environmental and social sustainability risk. These have been mitigated through compliance reviews by banks, local authorities and external consultants.

## **8. Remunerate fairly and responsibly**

The performance of the board is measured from financial achievements and results of the company after each financial year. The board as a whole discusses and analyses its own performance during the year and where appropriate offers suggestions for change or improvement. The board works closely with management in reviewing budgets and evaluating investment opportunities for the company throughout each year.

New directors undertake an induction programme which gives them a better understanding of:

- the company's financial, strategic, operational and risk management position
- their rights, duties and responsibilities as directors

Directors are also periodically given updates and information relevant to the operation of the company and the industry generally as part of continuing education to enhance their skills and knowledge. They can also have access to any company and management information, the company secretary and also independent professional advice, if necessary, on company issues at company expense.

The company secretary monitors the implementation of board policies and procedures and coordinates the completion and despatch of board agenda and briefing materials. The company secretary is accountable to the board on all governance matters.

A separate remuneration committee is not considered necessary due to the small size of the board, with such role assumed by the main board.

Board members and senior executives receive fees for services and have no share qualification or entitlement.

In line with the company's constitution, directors shall be paid such sum as may from time to time be determined by the company in general meeting, to be divided among the directors in such proportions as they shall from time to time agree or in default of agreement equally.

Executive directors and senior executives are paid an annual cash salary, benchmarked against a board approved market position, which do not include a commission on or percentage of operating revenue. Payment of cash bonuses and any annual increment to salary are dependent upon meeting performance objectives which comprise both financial and non-financial components.

Directors and senior executives shall be entitled to be paid reasonable travelling, hotel and other expenses incurred by them respectively in or about the performance of their duties as directors.

If any of the directors being willing shall be called to perform extra services on behalf of the company, the directors may remunerate such director in accordance with such services or exertions, and such remuneration may be in addition to his normal remuneration.

The amount of remuneration for all directors and the five highest paid executives includes all monetary and non-monetary components. These are detailed in Note 4 to the financial report. All remuneration paid to executives is valued at the cost to the company and expensed.

The updated guidelines include a recommendation (8.2) that ASX listed entities should establish a remuneration committee comprised of a majority of independent directors with at least three members and chaired by an independent director. In addition, for S&P/ASX300 companies, the proposed Listing Rule amendments will require these companies to have an independent director. In addition, for S&P/ASX300 companies, the proposed Listing Rule amendments will require these companies to have a Remuneration Committee comprised solely of non-executive directors (see section below on Listing Rule amendments); and The guidance on Recommendation 8.1 includes that the remuneration committee should review remuneration by gender.