

PERPETUAL EQUITY INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED

ACN 601 406 419

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26 August 2020

ASX Limited
ASX Market Announcements Office
Exchange Centre
20 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

FY20 Financial Results

The following announcements to the market are provided:

- FY20 Appendix 4E
- Annual Report to Shareholders
- ✓ **Corporate Governance Statement 2020**
- Appendix 4G
- FY20 Summary

Yours sincerely



Sylvie Dimarco
Company Secretary

PERPETUAL EQUITY INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED

ACN 601 406 419

2020 CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE
STATEMENT

Perpetual 

INTRODUCTION

Perpetual Equity Investment Company Limited (the **Company**) is a listed investment company. Its shares are quoted on the Australian Securities Exchange (**ASX**). The Company invests predominantly in Australian listed securities with typically a mid-cap bias and cash, deposit products and senior debt, together with opportunistic allocations to global listed securities.

The Board of the Company (**Board**) is committed to the highest standards of corporate governance that is appropriate for the Company, recognising that the day-to-day management of the Company is undertaken by Perpetual Investment Management Limited (**Manager**) in accordance with the Management Agreement between the Company and the Manager (**Management Agreement**). This Corporate Governance Statement (**Statement**) sets out the Company's approach to corporate governance in light of these governance arrangements.

The Company has maintained high standards of governance arrangements over the financial year ended 30 June 2020 (**FY2020**).

The relevant policies and charters referred to in this Statement are available in full on the Company's website: www.perpetualequity.com.au/about/corporate-governance.

References to the Company's Annual Report are to the Company's Annual Report for FY2020 lodged with the ASX on 26 August 2020.

ASX CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COUNCIL PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This Statement reports against the 3rd edition of the ASX Corporate Governance Council Principles and Recommendations (**ASX Principles**). Where the Company, after due consideration, has adopted corporate governance practices that depart from an ASX Principle, the Statement sets out the reasons for the departure. This Statement has been approved by the Board and is current to 30 June 2020.

The ASX Guidelines were amended in February 2019 and will become effective for the Company's financial year ending 30 June 2021, the Company's full financial year after 1 January 2020. The Company will report against the 4th edition ASX Principles for the financial year ending 30 June 2021.

FRAMEWORK

The workings of the Company, and the responsibilities and duties of its officers, are regulated by the:

- Corporations Act;
- ASX Listing Rules;
- Company's Constitution;
- Board and Committee Charters and Company policies; and
- general law.

PRINCIPLE 1

LAY SOLID FOUNDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT

RELEVANT POLICIES AND CHARTERS:

Company Constitution

Board Charter

Audit and Risk Committee Charter

Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee Charter

Diversity Policy

Board Tenure and Performance Policy

Code of Conduct

1.1 THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD AND MANAGEMENT

The Board's Charter sets out the principles for the operation of the Board and describes the functions of the Board. The Board Charter is reviewed annually.

The role of the Board is to manage the Company in accordance with its legal duties. The Board's specific responsibilities include:

- guiding the Company's strategic direction;
- monitoring the performance of the Manager and its compliance with the terms of the Management Agreement executed between the Company and the Manager, and whenever required, holding the Manager to account and satisfying itself that the reporting from the Manager to the Board is appropriate;
- monitoring that the Manager is performing its duties in a skilful and diligent manner and that it operates appropriate risk and compliance monitoring programs; and
- overseeing the operation of the Company.

The Board Charter contemplates that one or more Executive Directors and/or a Chief Executive Officer may be appointed to the Board. The current Executive Director is Perpetual Limited Group Executive, International Asset Management, David Lane. Under the Board Charter, the Executive Director is responsible for the day to day management of the Company. The Company does not currently have a Chief Executive Officer.

Directors are able to obtain independent professional advice at the Company's expense on any matter connected with the discharge of their responsibilities. Directors must seek prior approval of the Chairman. The Chairman may set a reasonable limit on the amount that the Company will contribute towards the cost of obtaining the advice. The Chairman may determine that any advice received by an individual Director will be circulated to the remainder of the Board.

Under the Deed of Access, Indemnity and Insurance, Directors have access to inspect the Company's Board papers up to seven years after the date on which the Director ceases to be a director of the Company.

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The Board currently comprises four Non-Executive Directors and one Executive Director. Three of the four Non-Executive Directors have been assessed as independent in accordance with the ASX Principles and criteria set out in the Board Charter. Director independence is discussed further below.

Board composition is determined in accordance with the Company's Constitution and Board Charter, which together include the following general principles:

- the Board must comprise a minimum of three Directors and a maximum of six;
- the Board should comprise a majority of independent Directors with a broad range of skills, knowledge and experience from a diverse range of backgrounds that is relevant to the Company and its strategy; and
- the Chairman will be a Non-Executive Director and will not be the same person as the Chief Executive Officer (if appointed).

In determining the composition of the Board, the Board and the Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee work together to achieve the optimal size and blend of skills, knowledge and experience on the Board so as to support effective discussion and decision making. The Board is satisfied that it is currently comprised of Directors representing a broad range of these attributes.

BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board has established the following operational committees:

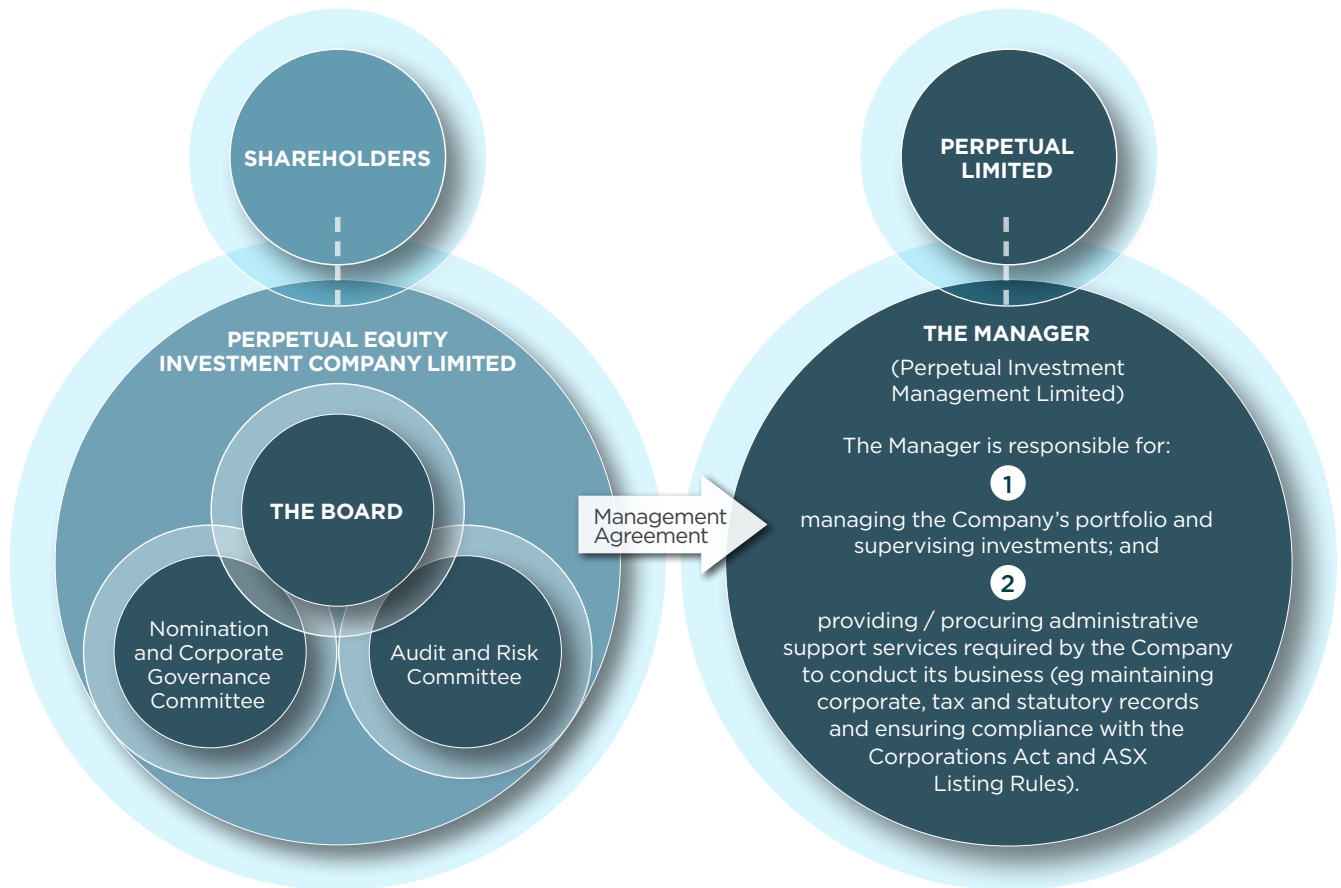
- Audit and Risk Committee; and
- Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee.

Each committee operates under a Board-approved charter. Further details on the role, responsibilities and operation of these committees are available on the Company's website. Committee proceedings are reported to the Board and each committee has direct access to Directors, officers or employees of the Company to discharge its responsibilities.

THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MANAGER

The Board's delegation of the day-to-day management of the Company is formalised via the Management Agreement. Under this Management Agreement, the Manager is responsible for managing the Company's portfolio in accordance with the objectives, strategy, guidelines, permitted investments and elements of investment as set out in the Company's Replacement Prospectus. The Manager's performance under the Management Agreement is subject to ongoing monitoring by the Board.

The roles and responsibilities of the Company's Board and the Manager are established in accordance with ASX Principle 1 and are summarised in the diagram below.



1.2 APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTORS

The Company's Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for the Board's succession planning which is subsequently provided to the Board for approval. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing the skills, performance and effectiveness of the Board, the Company's Chair, the Executive and Non-executive Directors and Board committees.

The Committee recognises that the markets in which the Company operates are subject to growth and change. If a change is required to the Board, or the appointment of a new Director, the Committee manages the process of the evaluation, nomination

and appointment of Directors on to the Board. In doing so, the Committee considers the skills, experience, expertise, independence and diversity a potential candidate will bring to increase Board effectiveness.

In its succession planning, the Committee considers the skills, experience and expertise likely needed for the Board for the future. Background checks (including those relating to character, education, criminal record and bankruptcy) are undertaken before recommendations on the appointment of a Director to the Board are made.

The Board renewal process is overseen by the Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee and will

involve the regular review of the composition of the Board to achieve an appropriate mix of skill, diversity, expertise and experience that is relevant to the management of the Company amongst the Directors.

The Board endeavours to provide shareholders with material information relevant to the decision on whether a Director be re-elected, in the explanatory statements to the notice of meeting for the Company's annual general meeting. Further information on the Company's current Directors' experience is also available in the Company's annual report and on the Company's website.

1.3 WRITTEN AGREEMENTS WITH DIRECTORS AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES

The Company has entered into written agreements with each Director upon their appointment. These agreements set out the terms of appointment, remuneration, required compliance with the ASX Listing Rules and matters contemplated under ASX Principle 1.3. As part of the process of appointing a Director to the Board, Directors are subject to appropriate and prudent background and screening checks.

The Executive Director, David Lane, is not entitled to Directors' fees or any other form of remuneration from the Company for his services. David Lane is the Group Executive of Perpetual Limited, International Asset Management and a Director of Perpetual Investment Management Limited (the Manager). His remuneration is governed by the remuneration policy of Perpetual Limited, the parent company of the Manager.

1.4 COMPANY SECRETARY

The Board has access to the services and advice of the Company Secretary, Sylvie Dimarco. The Company Secretary is directly accountable to the Board through the Chairman and is responsible to the Board for governance matters and all matters to do with the proper functioning of the Board. All Directors have access to the advice and services of the Company Secretary, whose appointment and removal is a matter for decision by the Board.

The role of the Company Secretary is to:

- advise the Board and its committees on governance matters;
- coordinate all Board business including:
 - preparing agendas;
 - coordinating the timely completion and dispatch of Board and committee papers;
 - ensuring the business at Board and committee meetings is accurately captured in the minutes;

- lodge communications and filings with the ASX;
- monitor compliance with Board and committee policy and procedures; and
- establish and implement programs for the induction and professional development of Directors.

Details of the experience and qualifications of Sylvie Dimarco are set out in the Directors' Report contained in the 2020 Annual Report.

1.5 DIVERSITY

The Company has a Diversity Policy which reinforces the Company's commitment to diversity. The Policy requires the Board to adopt measurable objectives to assist the Company to achieve gender diversity, and to review the Company's progress in meeting these objectives and the effectiveness of these objectives each year.

The Company has adopted a measurable objective of achieving a target of not less than 40% of women and not less than 40% of men on the Board. An annual review of the Company's progress in meeting the objective was undertaken. As at 30 June 2020, 60% of the Company's Board are women and 40% are men.

The Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee determined during the year that the current gender target remains relevant and an effective measure.

The Company's Diversity Policy further recognises that diversity is not limited to gender. The Company aspires to achieve the objectives of this policy and aims to embed a strong diversity framework and culture to benefit from the value of diversity as the Company continues to mature.

The Company does not currently employ any senior executives or any other employees and therefore there are no men or women in any senior executive or employee positions.

1.6 BOARD PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Each year, with the advice and assistance of the Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee, performance evaluations of the Board, each Board committee, and each individual Director (including the Executive Director) against the Company's relevant charters, policies, goals and objectives are undertaken. Each Board committee also conducts an annual self-evaluation of its performance against its Charter and will recommend goals and objectives for the coming year.

During FY2019, the Company commenced an externally facilitated board effectiveness review which was completed in FY2020. The review consisted of:

- a tailored online questionnaire, enabling confidential quantitative and qualitative feedback. This also provides a baseline for future calibration;
- overview of key governance documentation;
- 1:1 individual confidential interviews with board members and senior personnel of the Manager;
- a report, reflecting analysed quantitative and qualitative data, including leading practice recommendations; and
- a presentation of the report to the Board including an overview of the responses to the questionnaire and a summary of actionable recommendations.

1.7 SENIOR EXECUTIVE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

As the Company has no employees, there is no process for periodically reviewing the performance of senior executives or other employees in accordance with ASX Principle 1.7. Senior executives of Perpetual Limited who perform services for the Manager are subject to Perpetual Limited's senior executive performance evaluation process.

PRINCIPLE 2

STRUCTURE THE BOARD TO ADD VALUE

RELEVANT POLICIES AND CHARTERS:

Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee Charter

Board Charter

Board Tenure and Performance Policy

2.1 NOMINATION AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Members: John Edstein (Chairman), Virginia Malley and Christine Feldmanis

The Committee's functions are to support and advise the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities to shareholders and other stakeholders of the Company by:

- reviewing and advising the Board on the composition of the Board and its committees;
- reviewing the performance of the Board, the Chairman, the Executive and Non-Executive Directors and other individual members of the Board;
- developing succession plans for consideration by the Board;
- advising the Board on good governance standards and appropriate corporate governance policies for the Company; and
- critically reviewing the Company's performance against its corporate governance policies.

All members of the Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee, including its Chairman, are independent Non-Executive Directors.

Attendance of Directors at the Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee meetings is set out in the Directors' Report contained in the Company's 2020 Annual Report.

2.2. BOARD SKILLS MATRIX

The mix of skills and diversity represented on the Board as at 30 June 2020 is as follows:



The range of skills, experience and expertise of each Director is also available in the Company's Annual Report and on the Company's website.

2.3 INDEPENDENCE OF DIRECTORS

The Board considers Directors to be independent where they do not have a relationship(s) with management which would reasonably be considered to materially interfere with the exercise of their independent judgement.

A majority of the Board is comprised of independent Directors, being, John Edstein, Christine Feldmanis and Virginia Malley.

Virginia Malley is a Non-Executive Director of Perpetual Superannuation Limited, a licensed superannuation entity within the Perpetual Group. She is also a member of Managed Investment Compliance Committees within the Perpetual Group. The Board does not consider that these roles materially impact Virginia Malley's ability to act in the best interests of the Company.

In assessing the independence of each Director, the Board considers the independence criteria set out in the Board Charter, which is based on Box 2.3 of the ASX Principles. The Board will generally determine a Non-Executive Director to be an independent Director if the Director:

- is not a substantial shareholder (as defined in the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)) of the Company or an officer of, or otherwise associated directly with, a substantial shareholder of the Company;
- within the last three 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 three 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 in a material business relationship (eg. a material supplier or customer) of the Company or another group member, or an officer of or otherwise associated directly or indirectly with an entity which the Company is in a material business relationship with;
- 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; and
- 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.

The independence of each Director is formally reviewed annually and at any time when a change occurs that may affect a Director's independence. Non-Executive Directors also formally advise the Chairman of any relevant information and update the Chairman if their circumstances change at any time.

The Board Tenure and Performance Policy provides that to revitalise the Board, Directors should not seek re-election after three elected terms of three years (i.e. a total of 9 years on the Board) unless the Board (through the Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee) requests them to do so.

Details of the background, experience, professional skills and expertise, and period in office of each Director are set out in the Directors' Report contained in the Company's 2020 Annual Report.

2.4 BOARD INDEPENDENCE

As described above, a majority of the Company's Board is made up of independent directors.

2.5 CHAIRMAN'S INDEPENDENCE

The Chairman is responsible for leadership of the Board and for the efficient organisation and conduct of the Board's functions. The Chairman is also responsible for facilitating the effective contribution of all Directors and promoting constructive and respectful relations between Directors and between the Board and management.

The Company's Chairman during FY2020 was Nancy Fox. Nancy Fox is not an independent Director as recommended by Recommendation 2.5 of the ASX Principles. However, notwithstanding that Nancy Fox is not an independent Director, given her significant experience as a listed company Director, particularly in the financial services sector, the Board determined that she had the most appropriate mix of skills to act as Chairman of the Company.

2.6 DIRECTOR INDUCTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

New Directors participate in an induction process to familiarise themselves with the business of the Company and the senior management team of the Manager. The program includes briefings on the Company's strategy, organisational structure, corporate governance practices, policies and risk management framework.

Directors are expected to maintain the skills and knowledge required to discharge their obligations and are encouraged to attend relevant conferences and seminars.

PRINCIPLE 3

ACT ETHICALLY AND RESPONSIBLY

RELEVANT POLICIES AND CHARTERS:

Code of Conduct

Diversity Policy

3.1 CODE OF CONDUCT

The Company is committed to practising high standards of conduct and has adopted a Code of Conduct that identifies the standard of ethical conduct expected of all relevant personnel, which includes Directors and officers.

The Company is committed to complying with all applicable laws and to delivering strong returns and shareholder value while also promoting shareholder and general market confidence in the Company. The Company is also committed to acting ethically and responsibly in its dealings with third parties.

The objectives of the code are to require that personnel observe high standards of corporate and individual behaviour and that they are aware of their responsibilities to the Company.

The Code of Conduct includes the Company's policy on anti-bribery and corruption.

A copy of the code is available on the Company's website.

PRINCIPLE 4

SAFEGUARD INTEGRITY IN CORPORATE REPORTING

RELEVANT POLICIES AND CHARTERS:

Audit and Risk Committee Charter

4.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Members: Christine Feldmanis (Chairman), Virginia Malley and John Edstein

The purpose of the Audit and Risk Committee is to:

- assist the Board to make all necessary declarations in the financial reporting process, including the system of internal control relating to all matters affecting the Company's financial performance, and the audit process;
- assist the Board in monitoring compliance with laws and regulations and the Company's Code of Conduct;
- review material breaches of the Company's Speak Up Policy and Anti-bribery and Corruption policy (contained in the Company's Code of Conduct);
- assist the Board to adopt appropriate ethical standards in relation to the management of the Company and the conduct of its business;
- review and supervise the Company's risk management framework; and
- review the adequacy of the Company's insurance policies.

The Committee is also responsible for recommending to the Board the appointment of the external auditor and the rotation of audit engagement partners. A copy of the Committee's charter is available on the Company's website.

All members of the Committee are comprised of independent Non-Executive Directors who are financially literate, have a sufficient understanding of the industry in which the Company operates, and also have the technical expertise to allow the Committee to effectively discharge its mandate. The Chairman of the Committee is an independent Director who is not the chairman of the Board. Further information regarding the skills and expertise of the Committee members is set out in the Directors' Report contained in the Company's 2020 Annual Report.

Attendance of Directors at the Audit and Risk Committee meetings is set out in the Directors' Report contained in the Company's 2020 Annual Report.

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter refers to the option of appointing an internal auditor. The Audit and Risk Committee has determined that, as the Company outsources its business activities to the Manager, it is appropriate for the Company to receive relevant internal audit information on the Manager's operations from the internal audit program that is conducted within the Manager.

The Manager reports to the Audit and Risk Committee periodically on internal audit matters that are pertinent and relevant to the Company.

4.2 CEO AND CFO ASSURANCE

The Company does not have an appointed Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer. Before the Company's financial statements are approved by the Board for each half year and full financial year period, the Chief Operating Officer and the General Manager Product of the Manager provide a declaration that the financial statements and notes comply with the accounting standards

PRINCIPLE 5

and give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Company. A declaration has been provided by the Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Product for the financial year ended 30 June 2020 in accordance with section 295A of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

In providing the above declaration, the Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Product of the Manager, provide the following certifications in respect of each half year and full year financial period:

- that, in their opinion:
 - the financial records of the Company have been properly maintained;
 - the financial statements and notes for the reporting period comply with applicable Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001* (Cth);
 - the financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Company; and
- that the opinions above are based on a sound system of risk management and internal control which is operating effectively.

4.3 EXTERNAL AUDITOR ATTENDANCE AT AGM

The Company's external auditor, KPMG, is invited to each annual general meeting of shareholders, and shareholders are provided a reasonable opportunity to ask questions of the external auditor relevant to the audit of the Company's financial statements for each financial year.

MAKE TIMELY AND BALANCED DISCLOSURE

RELEVANT POLICIES AND CHARTERS:

Continuous Disclosure Policy

Securities Trading Policy

Shareholder Communications Policy

Code of Conduct

5.1 MARKET DISCLOSURE

The Company is committed to ensuring compliance with the ASX Listing Rules disclosure requirements and the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth). Consistent with these standards, the Company's Continuous Disclosure Policy, available on the Company's website, outlines the processes for ensuring timely and balanced disclosure.

The Board is responsible for overseeing and implementing this Policy. The Board considers its disclosure obligations at each scheduled Board meeting. The Company's Continuous Disclosure Policy contains the matters recommended by ASX Principle 5.

The Company has also put in place arrangements with the Manager that require it to immediately inform the Board of any matter that can be reasonably expected to have a material impact on the price or value of the Company's securities and that it operates policies and procedures which are consistent with those of the Company.

The Company is committed to taking a proactive approach to continuous disclosure and creating

a culture within the Company that promotes and facilitates compliance with the Company's continuous disclosure obligations.

The Company's liaison officer with the ASX is the Company Secretary.

DEALING IN SHARES

The Board believes it is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders for Directors to own shares in the Company, subject to strict controls and guidelines on share trading.

The Company has in place a Securities Trading Policy which applies to the Company's Directors, Company Secretaries and other personnel determined by the Board. The policy prohibits personnel from dealing in the Company's securities if they are in possession of price sensitive information that is not generally available to the public.

The Securities Trading Policy was recently updated. One of the changes was that the policy includes a 'Front Page Test' as a guiding principle. The test is:

If the market was aware of all the current circumstances, could the proposed dealing be perceived as inappropriate for someone in my position? How would it look if the dealing was reported on the front page of the newspaper?

Where any approval is required for a dealing under the policy, approval will not be granted where the approver does not consider that the dealing would satisfy the 'Front Page Test'. Including such an explicit test improves clarity.

PRINCIPLE 6

Under the Securities Trading Policy, dealings can occur during the following periods, after the relevant person has obtained prior written clearance to trade and waited at least two hours after the relevant release of results or information:

- within the period of six weeks after the release of annual or half yearly results;
- within the period of six weeks after the issue of a prospectus;
- within the period of six weeks commencing one day after the holding of the Annual General Meeting of the Company; and
- any other period as the Board may decide.

Dealings are generally not permitted outside the above periods, unless exceptional circumstances exist and approval to deal in these circumstances has been given. Dealings in the Company's securities on a short-term basis are also prohibited. Short term trading includes buying and selling securities on market within a 6-month period.

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF SECURITY HOLDERS

RELEVANT POLICIES AND CHARTERS:

Continuous Disclosure Policy
Securities Trading Policy
Shareholder Communications Policy
Code of Conduct

6.1 SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

As described in Principle 5 above, the Company is committed to regularly communicating with shareholders in a timely, accessible and clear manner with respect to both procedural matters and major issues affecting the Company. Shareholders can send communications to, and elect to receive communications from, the Company and the Company's share registry, Link Market Services, electronically or by post. The Company's Shareholder Communications Policy sets out the practices which the Company implements to support effective communication with its shareholders. The Company's website includes copies of announcements lodged with the ASX. Additionally, the website provides advance notification of any scheduled events and teleconferences along with access to key news and insights content, videos and investment information.

The Company releases to the ASX a daily statement of the Net Tangible Asset Backing of its shares as at the end of each business day within two business days. The Company also releases to the ASX a statement of the Net Tangible Asset Backing of its shares as at the end of each month

within 14 days of the end of each month, together with an investment update. These reports are accessible on the Company's website.

THE COMPANY'S WEBSITE

The Company's website has a 'corporate governance' landing page which provides links for the items described in the commentary to ASX Principle 6.1. The Corporate Governance landing page is available at: www.perpetualequity.com.au/about/corporate-governance.

The Company's website, in its 'About' section, has further biographical information regarding the Company's Board of Directors and Management, and an overview of the Company's history. The 'About' section also has further information about the Company's investment objective and investment strategy.

Access to the latest media releases, ASX releases and financial statements are available on the Company's website: www.perpetualequity.com.au/shareholders. A key events calendar is also available on the Company's website www.perpetualequity.com.au/tools-and-resources.

6.2 INVESTOR RELATIONS PROGRAM

The Company is committed to facilitating effective two-way communication with investors and market analysts with a view to providing investors with a greater understanding of the Company's business, governance, financial performance and prospects.

As described above, investors, market analysts and shareholders can view all relevant company information on the Company's website: www.perpetualequity.com.au.

PRINCIPLE 7

The website provides links to the latest news and insights, media releases, ASX releases, financial statements, and a key events calendar.

6.3 PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPANY'S AGM

The Company will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October 2020 and a copy of the notice of the AGM will be posted on the Company's website.

For the 2020 AGM, the Company intends to conduct a virtual meeting due to restrictions imposed on the physical attendance of shareholders at the meeting by COVID-19.

Shareholders are encouraged to submit written questions in advance of the AGM, through an online facility that enables shareholders to submit questions via their investor centre log-in.

The Chairman will seek to address as many of the more frequently raised topics as possible in her AGM address.

In accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), a representative of the external auditor, KPMG, will attend the AGM for the purpose of answering shareholder questions about the audit, the Audit Report, the accounting policies adopted by the Company in preparing the Financial Statements and the independence of the auditors.

6.4 ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH SHAREHOLDERS

The Company provides shareholders the option to elect to receive all (or some) communications from the Company and its share registry (Link Market Services) electronically. The Company encourages its shareholders to receive communications including annual reports electronically.

RECOGNISE AND MANAGE RISK

RELEVANT POLICIES AND CHARTERS:

Board Charter

Audit and Risk Committee Charter

Risk Management Policy

7.1 RISK MANAGEMENT AND THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The Board considers ongoing risk management to be a core component of the management of the Company. The Company's risk management framework comprises a series of processes, structures and guidelines which assist the Company to identify, assess, monitor and manage its business risk, including any material changes to its risk profile.

The oversight of the Company's risk management program has been conferred upon the Audit and Risk Committee. The Manager is responsible for the design and implementation of the internal control systems which identify material risks for the Company and, in turn, regularly reports on the Company's risk management activities to the Committee. The Committee further identifies and reviews emerging risks and controls in making recommendations to the Board. The Audit and Risk Committee Charter is further described in detail in ASX Principle 4 above.

The Risk Management Policy outlines the program implemented by the Company to support appropriate risk management within its systems and culture. The Company's ability to identify risks and address risk is central to achieving its corporate objectives. In order to identify and assess material risks, the Company defines risks

and prepares risk profiles in light of its business plans and strategies. The Company's Key Risk Profile, which is designed to identify and assess material risks, was reviewed and was approved by the Board in June 2020.

7.2 REVIEW OF THE COMPANY'S RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Company's Risk Appetite Statement, which seeks to define the amount of risk the Board is willing to take in the pursuit of its objectives, has been reviewed to ensure that it remains appropriate. Substantial amendments were considered and approved by the Board in June 2020.

The Audit and Risk Committee annually evaluates the effectiveness of its risk management program. The Audit and Risk Committee has reviewed the risk management framework during FY2020 and is satisfied that it is operating effectively and continues to be sound.

7.3 INTERNAL AUDIT

The Audit and Risk Committee has determined that, as the Company outsources its business activities to the Manager, it is appropriate for the Company to receive relevant internal audit information on the Manager's operations from the internal audit program that is conducted within the Manager.

The Manager reports to the Audit and Risk Committee periodically on internal audit matters that are pertinent and relevant to the Company.

7.4 ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE RISK

The Board considers that a number of identified risks, across various risk categories including economic sustainability risks have the potential to impact upon investment activities.

These risks include market risk (including currency risk, interest rate risk and price risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. Details of these types of risk and the way in which they are managed are set out in the Annual Report. No material environmental or social sustainability risks were identified. Environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) matters are integrated into the investment analysis and decision-making practices of the Manager.

The Manager incorporates ESG matters into its investment analysis and decision-making practices. The Manager's approach is to seek the best risk-adjusted investment returns over specified time periods. This obligation is satisfied by focusing on both the quality and value of possible investments. This investment philosophy recognises that while traditional financial measures are an important consideration, extra-financial factors such as ESG matters can also influence investment performance. Consistent with this philosophy, it is the policy of the Manager that, to the extent that information is available, the Company's Portfolio Manager should take into account ESG issues in investment analysis and decision-making.

The Manager considers ESG matters primarily from a risk perspective. Analysis may include:

- what ESG issues (risks) the investment is exposed to;
- how material the ESG issues are, taking into account industry and individual company exposure;
- what impact material ESG issues are likely to have on the value, earnings and future prospects of the investment; and

- how well ESG issues are being managed, and therefore how likely the possible impacts are to occur.

Considering ESG factors in investment decision-making can have three possible outcomes:

1. the risks are too high compared to the likely reward and so the investment is not made or is fully or partly sold;
2. the risks are significant, but the likely reward is sufficient compensation for the risk and so an investment is made or is held; or
3. the risks are low and so ESG factors are not a major consideration in making the investment decision.

ESG FACTORS IN PROXY VOTING

The Company recognises that the voting rights that it has in respect of the companies that it invests in is a valuable right of the Company. The Manager is responsible for voting activities on behalf of the Company. The Manager monitors the corporate governance practices of companies through independent research, voting advice and in-depth knowledge of the investee company.

The Manager invests in companies that meet the following four filters:

- sound management;
- conservative debt;
- quality business; and
- recurring earnings (where applicable).

The quality and appropriateness of a company's corporate governance framework forms part of the consideration of 'sound management'.

Where the Manager perceives that a company's corporate governance structure has some material deficiencies, but that management quality overall passes the filter, it may seek to engage with the company through direct contact at senior levels.

Voting at Australian and international company meetings is carried out by the Manager on all resolutions that it has the voting authority and responsibility to do so, where practical. All company resolutions are considered on a case by case basis.

The Company endorses the Manager's practices in relation to the Company's proxy votes.

PRINCIPLE 8

REMUNERATE FAIRLY AND RESPONSIBLY

RELEVANT POLICIES AND CHARTERS:

Board Charter

Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee Charter

Board Tenure and Performance Policy

8.1 REMUNERATION

ASX Principle 8.1 provides that the Board should establish a Remuneration Committee. Given that the Company has no paid employees, the Board has determined that it is therefore not necessary to establish a separate remuneration committee at this time. Nor does it have a Remuneration Policy to disclose.

The Board is responsible for reviewing and approving the remuneration of the Non-Executive Directors. In setting this remuneration, the Board considers market rates commensurate with the responsibilities borne by the Non-Executive Directors to be satisfied that the level of remuneration set is appropriate. From time to time the Board may engage independent remuneration consultants.

The services of the current Executive Director, David Lane are provided to the Company without additional charge as part of the arrangements with the Manager. If the Company employs a number of employees in the future, it will review the decision whether to establish a remuneration committee to perform the functions recommended in the ASX Principles.

8.2 REMUNERATION OF EXECUTIVE AND NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Details about the remuneration paid to the Directors during the reporting period are set out in the Directors' Report contained the 2020 Annual Report.

8.3 EQUITY-BASED REMUNERATION

The Company does not have any employees and outsources its operations to the Manager. Accordingly, the Company does not have an equity-based remuneration scheme in place.

Further information about the Company and its governance practices are available on the Company's website.

DIRECTORY

COMPANY

Perpetual Equity Investment Company Limited
ACN 601 406 419

DIRECTORS

Nancy Fox - Chairman
Virginia Malley
John Edstein
Christine Feldmanis
David Lane

COMPANY SECRETARY

Sylvie Dimarco

MANAGER

Perpetual Investment Management Limited
Level 18, 123 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000
(AFSL 234426)

REGISTERED OFFICE

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AUDITOR

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AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES EXCHANGE CODE

Shares: PIC

SHARE REGISTRY

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