



Continuous  
disclosure policy

# Continuous disclosure policy

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**IVE Group Limited**

ACN 606 252 644

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### **Attachment 1**

**More detailed information about continuous disclosure obligations, contraventions and penalties, infringement notices and statement of reasons**

### **Attachment 2**

**ASX Lodgment procedures**

### **Attachment 3**

**Media Relations Policy**

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# Continuous disclosure policy

## 1 General disclosure policy and obligations

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The Company has significant obligations under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) (**Corporations Act**) and the Listing Rules of ASX Limited (**ASX**) to keep the market fully informed of information which may have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities.

The Company's policy is to ensure compliance with these requirements, and the Company discharges its obligations by releasing information to ASX in the form of an ASX release or, where appropriate, through disclosure of other relevant documents (eg the annual report, results announcements etc) and, where appropriate, by requesting a trading halt.

## 2 Overview of continuous disclosure obligations, contraventions and penalties

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### 2.1 ASX Listing Rule 3.1

ASX has described Listing Rule 3.1, known as the continuous disclosure rule, as its most important and 'cornerstone' Listing Rule. It requires that the Company must immediately notify ASX of

*any information the Company becomes aware of concerning itself that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities.*

The information must be given to ASX (and an acknowledgement that ASX has released the information to the market must be received) before the information can be given to any other person or released on the Company's website.

The basic principle underlying the continuous disclosure framework is that:

*Timely disclosure must be made of information which may affect security values or influence investment decisions, and information in which security holders, investors and ASX have a legitimate interest.*

Immediate disclosure under Listing Rule 3.1 requires disclosure to be made 'promptly and without delay'. Although the length of time required to make an announcement will depend on the circumstances, the information must be disclosed to ASX as quickly as possible in the circumstances and must not be deferred, postponed or put off to a later time.

### 2.2 Materiality

Materiality must be assessed having regard to all the relevant background information, including past announcements that have been made by the Company and other generally available information.

Strategic or reputational matters clearly have the potential to be very significant issues for the Company. They can be just as important as (or even more important than) financial and other 'quantifiable' matters.



Some examples of what might constitute 'material' price sensitive information are included in paragraph 1.2 of Attachment 1.

## 2.3 Exceptions to the continuous disclosure rule

Disclosure to the market is not required where **each** of the following conditions is and remains satisfied:

- (a) **one or more** of the following apply:
- it would be a breach of a law to disclose the information;
  - the information concerns an incomplete proposal or negotiation;
  - the information comprises matters of supposition or is insufficiently definite to warrant disclosure;
  - the information is generated for the internal management purposes of the Company; or
  - the information is a trade secret; **and**
- (b) the information is confidential and ASX has not formed the view that the information has ceased to be confidential; **and**
- (c) a reasonable person would not expect the information to be disclosed.

### Confidentiality

When the Company is relying on an exception to Listing Rule 3.1, or is involved in a development that may eventually require reliance on an exception, appropriate confidentiality protocols must be adhered to. A leak of confidential information will immediately deny the Company the ability to withhold the information from ASX and force the Company to make a 'premature' announcement, regardless of where the leak comes from.

Information about a matter involving the Company may cease to be confidential if there is:

- (a) a reasonably specific and reasonably accurate media or analyst report about the matter;
- (b) a reasonably specific and reasonably accurate rumour known to be circulating the market about the matter; or
- (c) a sudden and significant movement in the market price or traded volumes of the Company's securities that cannot be explained by other events or circumstances.

## 2.4 False market

If ASX considers that there is or is likely to be a false market in the Company's securities and asks the Company to give it information to correct or prevent a false market, the Company must immediately give ASX that information. See section 6.11 for the Company's policy in relation to ASX price query letters.

The obligation to give this information arises even if an exception described in paragraph 2.3 would apply but for ASX's request.

## 2.5 Contraventions

The Company contravenes its continuous disclosure obligations if it fails to notify ASX of information required by ASX Listing Rule 3.1.

Either ASX or ASIC, as co-regulators, may take action upon a suspected contravention.

(a) **ASX Listing Rules**

If the Company contravenes its continuous disclosure obligations under the Listing Rules, ASX may suspend trading in the Company's shares or, in extreme cases, may delist the Company from ASX.

(b) **Corporations Act**

If the Company contravenes its continuous disclosure obligations, it may also be liable under the Corporations Act and may face:

- criminal liability which attracts substantial monetary fines; and
- civil liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of the failure to disclose relevant information to ASX.

There is no fault element required to establish civil liability. However, a court has power to relieve a person from civil liability if the person acted honestly and in the circumstances the person ought fairly to be excused for the contravention.

ASIC has the power to issue infringement notices to the Company (see section 11).

ASIC can also initiate investigations of suspected breaches under the *Australian Securities Commission Act 2001* (Cth).

(c) **Class action risk**

If the Company fails to disclose materially price sensitive information in accordance with Listing Rule 3.1, people who buy or sell the Company's securities during the period of the failure (and possibly other affected stakeholders) may be entitled to bring a class action against the Company. Even when they are not successful, class actions can be costly to defend and may have a serious negative effect on the Company's reputation and share price. A successful class action may have the potential to threaten the solvency of the Company.

Contravention of the Company's continuous disclosure obligations may also lead to unwanted publicity for the Company and may cause damage to its reputation in the market place which may adversely impact the market value of its securities.

## 2.6 Persons involved in a contravention

The Company's officers (including its directors), employees or advisers who are involved in any contravention of the Company's continuous disclosure obligations may also face criminal penalties and civil liability. Substantial penalties or imprisonment, or both, may apply.

A person will not be considered to be involved in the contravention if the person proves that they:

- (a) took all steps (if any) that were reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that the Company complied with its continuous disclosure obligations; and

- (b) after doing so, believed on reasonable grounds that the Company was complying with those obligations.

The procedures specified in this policy are the minimum expected of relevant officers and employees in relation to compliance with the Company's continuous disclosure obligations. Depending on the circumstances, officers and employees may have obligations over and above those contained in this policy.

To avoid potential civil or criminal liability, in all situations officers and employees must do everything they reasonably can to ensure that the Company complies with its continuous disclosure obligations. In particular, staff must not try to hide or delay 'material news', especially when the information is likely to impact the company's share price.

## 2.7 Infringement notices and statement of reasons

If ASIC has reasonable grounds to believe that the Company has contravened its continuous disclosure obligations, ASIC may issue an infringement notice to the Company, providing (among other things) details of the alleged contravention and specifying the penalty.

Before issuing the infringement notice, ASIC must:

- (a) give the Company a written statement of reasons; and
- (b) give a representative of the Company an opportunity to appear at a private hearing before ASIC, give evidence and make submissions to ASIC in relation to the alleged contravention.

If an infringement notice is issued to the Company, the Company may:

- (c) pay the penalty specified in the infringement notice and lodge the requisite notification with ASX;
- (d) seek an extension of the 28 day compliance period;
- (e) make written representations to ASIC seeking withdrawal of the infringement notice (and, if appropriate, seeking refund of any penalty paid in accordance with the infringement notice); or
- (f) decline to satisfy the infringement notice within the compliance period.

Even when the Company pays the penalty specified in an infringement notice, the Company may still be pursued in the courts by third parties. Paying an infringement notice will not prevent shareholders or other affected third parties from bringing a class action.

## 2.8 Further background information

More detailed information about continuous disclosure obligations is contained in Attachment 1 to this policy.

In addition, relevant officers and employees will receive training that includes familiarisation with the Company's continuous disclosure policy, obligations and the penalties that may result from their breach.

## 3 Reporting disclosable events

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### 3.1 Disclosure Committee

- (a) If management becomes aware of any information at any time that should be considered for release to the market, it must be reported immediately to a member of the Disclosure Committee. See section 8 for further information regarding the Disclosure Committee. Business Unit heads must ensure they have appropriate procedures in place within their areas of responsibility to ensure that all relevant information (ie any information that could be materially price sensitive) is reported to them immediately for on-forwarding in accordance with this policy.

It is important for management to understand that just because information is reported to the Disclosure Committee that does **not** mean that it will be disclosed to ASX. It is for the Disclosure Committee to determine whether information is material and requires disclosure. Accordingly, the Company's policy is for **all potentially material** information to be reported to the Disclosure Committee even where the reporting officer or business area is of the view that it is not in fact 'material'. The officer's or business area's view on materiality can (and should) be shared with the Disclosure Committee but will not be determinative.

A similar reporting obligation also arises where a non-executive director (in their capacity as a director of the Company) becomes aware of information that should be considered for release to the market.

- (b) Where any information is reported as referred to in paragraph 3.1, the Disclosure Committee will (as appropriate):
- review the information in question;
  - urgently seek any advice that is needed to assist the Disclosure Committee to interpret the information (provided that disclosure of the information cannot be delayed if the information is clearly materially price sensitive on its face);
  - determine whether any of the information is required to be disclosed to ASX;
  - consider whether it is necessary to seek a trading halt to facilitate an orderly, fair and informed market in the Company's securities;
  - coordinate the actual form of disclosure with the relevant members of management; and
  - confirm the Managing Director and/or Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Chairman approval (or Board approval where required) for the proposed disclosure.
- (c) Where any information is reported as referred to in paragraph 3.1, and the Disclosure Committee determines that the circumstances are developing but the information is not presently disclosable, the Company Secretary must oversee the preparation of an appropriate draft announcement to facilitate immediate disclosure of the information if it later becomes disclosable (for example, as a result of confidentiality being lost through a 'leak').
- (d) All deliberations of the Disclosure Committee will be shared without delay with the Chairman or, in their absence, the Chairman of the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee.





### 3.2 Form of announcement

The Company has a duty not to disclose information in a way that could mislead the market. Appropriate care must therefore be taken to ensure that the content of any announcement accurately discloses the material information.

The Company recognises the importance of announcements being expressed in an accurate, balanced, clear and objective manner, allowing shareholders to assess the impact of information when making investment decisions.

### 3.3 Approval of announcement

Subject to the Rapid Response Process in 3.4 below, all announcements under Listing Rules 3.1 or 3.1B must be approved by the Managing Director and/or CEO, CFO and the Chairman, before the announcement is made or disclosure released through the Company Secretary. The exception to this rule is an ASX

### 3.4 Rapid Response Process

Rapid Response Process: If the Managing Director and/or CEO, CFO and the Chairman are unavailable to determine whether to make or approve an ASX announcement, the following individuals may authorise the disclosure:

- (1) any two of the Managing Director and/or CEO, CFO and the Chairman; or
- (2) if any two of the Managing Director and/or CEO, CFO or the Chairman are unavailable, any one of them; or
- (3) if all three are unavailable, the Company Secretary.

### 3.5 ASX Lodgment Procedures

All announcements to ASX will be made under the authority of the Company Secretary in accordance with the procedure outlined in Attachment 2 to this policy (**ASX Lodgment Procedures**).

### 3.6 Open briefings

Where open briefings or public speeches are to be made and, in accordance with this policy, relevant presentation materials and speeches are to be lodged with ASX, prior approval will be obtained from the Chairman and Managing Director and/or CEO.

### 3.7 Board and senior management

- (a) The Board will be provided with access to copies of all information disclosed to ASX.
- (b) It is a standing agenda item at all of the Company's Board meetings to consider whether any matters reported to or discussed at a Board meeting should be disclosed to the market pursuant to the Company's continuous disclosure obligation. Continuous disclosure is also a standing agenda item at senior management meetings for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the Company's obligations.
- (c) As noted above, an ASX announcement relating to matters listed in section 10 requires Board approval.

## 4 Trading Halts

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### 4.1 When trading halt is required

The Company may request a trading halt to maintain fair, orderly and informed trading in its securities and to manage disclosure issues.

If the market is or will be trading at any time after the Company becomes aware of an obligation to disclose information but is not in a position to make immediate disclosure to the market, the Disclosure Committee should consider whether to request a trading halt or, in exceptional circumstances, a voluntary suspension.

As a matter of general guidance, a trading halt may be necessary in the following circumstances:

- if media comment about the Company is sufficiently specific and detailed to warrant a response;
- if the Company experiences an unexplained price and/or volume change;
- if a confidentiality leak has occurred and it is having a material effect on the market price and/or traded volumes of the Company's securities;
- if ASX forms a view that a false market exists and asks the Company to release information to correct a false market and the Company is not able to make a release immediately,

and in each such scenario:

- where the market is trading, the Company is not in a position to give an announcement to ASX straight away; or
- where the market is not trading, the Company will not be in a position to give an announcement to ASX before trading next resumes.

### 4.2 Authority to call trading halt

(a) The Managing Director and/or CEO, CFO and the Chairman are authorised to call a trading halt.

(b) **Rapid Response Process**

If the Managing Director and/or CEO, CFO and the Chairman are unavailable to call a trading halt, the following individuals may authorise the disclosure:

- any two of the Managing Director and/or CEO, CFO and the Chairman;
- if any two of the Managing Director and/or CEO, CFO or the Chairman are unavailable, any one of them; or
- if all these are unavailable, the Company Secretary.



## 5 Public comment / statements

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### 5.1 Authority to comment

In order to ensure the Company meets its continuous disclosure obligations, it is important to exercise strict control over what is said publicly, and by whom. It is therefore necessary to limit who is authorised to issue statements or make verbal comment to the media and in this regard, the Company has established a Media Relations Policy which must be read in conjunction with this Disclosure Policy. A copy is attached as Attachment 3 to this Disclosure Policy.

### 5.2 Website

The Company Secretary will ensure all announcements to ASX made under this Disclosure Policy are placed promptly on the Company's website following receipt of acknowledgement from ASX that it has released the information to the market.

## 6 Financial markets communications

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### 6.1 The Company's contact with the market

Throughout the year the Company has scheduled times for disclosing information to the financial market on its performance. The Company provides technical back-up information at these times that supports such announcements. The financial results announcements, and the supporting information, must be lodged with ASX.

If "outlook statements" or forecasts are included in the Company's annual report or results announcements for a previous period, any material change in earnings expectations (either upwards or downwards) must be announced to ASX before being communicated to anyone outside the Company.

In addition, the Company interacts with the market in a number of ways which can include one-on-one briefings, speeches etc. At all times when interacting with the financial community, the Company must adhere to its continuous disclosure obligation and must not selectively disclose material price sensitive information to an external party unless that information has first been released to ASX.

### 6.2 Authorised spokespersons

The only Company representatives authorised to speak on behalf of the Company to investors and stockbroking analysts are:

- Chairman;
- Managing Director and/or CEO;
- CFO; or
- their delegates nominated for a specific purpose.

Any questions or enquiries from the financial community (whether received in writing, verbally or electronically including via the website) should be referred in the first instance to the CFO.



Authorised spokespersons must not provide any material price sensitive information that has not already been announced to the market nor make comment on anything that may have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities.

No guidance on actual or forecast financial performance will be provided to any external party that has not already been provided to the market generally.

### **6.3 Communication blackout periods**

Between the end of a reporting period and the announcement of the financial results, the Company imposes a blackout period in order to avoid the risk of creating a false market by inadvertently disclosing information that is incomplete or uncertain. The Company's policy is that during this time it will not hold one-on-one briefings with institutional investors, individual investors or stockbroking analysts to discuss financial information concerning the Company and will not hold any open briefings to discuss anything other than information which has been announced to ASX.

Any proposal to deviate from this policy must be subject to approval in advance from the Managing Director and/or CEO and, if any briefings or meetings are held during a blackout period, there must be no discussion or provision of financial or other information in breach of the Company's continuous disclosure obligation.

### **6.4 Open briefings to institutional investors and stockbroking analysts**

The Company holds open briefing sessions, often at times when the Company has posted results or made other significant announcements. The Company will not disclose any information in these sessions which may have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities unless such information has already been announced to ASX.

The Company will advise the market in advance of open briefings via ASX and the Company's website, lodge all presentation materials with ASX prior to the presentation commencing and place such information on the Company's website promptly following completion of the briefing. The Company may web cast its open briefings at the time they occur and if so, will keep a clearly dated historical archive record of the web cast for at least a 6 month period.

Public speeches will often be categorised as open briefings and these will be lodged first with ASX if they may contain material price sensitive information and will also be posted on the Company's website.

The CFO or their representative will be present at all open briefings. Where the representative believes that information which may have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities has been disclosed inadvertently, the representative must immediately report the matter to the Company Secretary for review by the Disclosure Committee for immediate disclosure to ASX.

### **6.5 One-on-one briefings with the financial community / institutional investors**

From time to time the Company may conduct one-on-one briefings with the financial community or institutional investors. Where such briefings occur, no information will be provided which may have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities unless it has been announced previously to ASX.

The CFO or their representative will be involved in all discussions and meetings with analysts and investors.

The CFO will ensure a record or note of all one-on-one briefings is kept for compliance purposes.

## **6.6 Site Visits**

The Company may conduct visits to its sites from time to time which involve the presence of members of the financial community.

Nothing will be disclosed during these site visits which may have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities unless it has already been announced to ASX.

The CFO or their representative should be in attendance at such site visits.

## **6.7 Broker sponsored investor and general conferences**

Where the Company's executives give speeches or presentations to, or participate in, conferences or forums, it is important that the same protocols are maintained as for presentations to investors or analysts. In addition, where appropriate having regard to the principles underlying this Disclosure Policy, the Company's executives will liaise with the Company Secretary to ensure such presentations are posted promptly on the Company's website.

## **6.8 Review of briefings, meetings, visits and presentations**

Immediately following any briefings, meetings, visits or presentations referred to in this section 6 'Financial markets communications', the senior executive involved will review the matters discussed and presented (including any questions and answers provided). Where they believe any information has been disclosed inadvertently which may have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities, they must immediately report the matter to the Company Secretary for review by the Disclosure Committee to consider the necessity for an ASX announcement or the necessity for a trading halt.

## **6.9 Review of analyst reports and forecasts**

The Company recognises the importance placed on reports by stockbroking analysts. Any comment by the Company to an analyst in relation to an analyst's report or financial projections should be confined to errors in factual information and underlying assumptions provided such comment of itself does not involve a breach of the Company's continuous disclosure obligation or amount to a selective briefing.

The Head of Investor Relations will maintain a record of analysts' earnings forecasts and provide a summary report of these forecasts to the CFO on a regular basis.

The CFO will monitor the general range of analysts' forecast earnings relative to the Company's own internal forecasts and any financial forecasts previously published by the Company. If the CFO becomes aware of a divergence between the 'consensus' of the analysts' forecasts and management's own expectations, which may have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities, the CFO will refer the matter immediately to the Disclosure Committee to consider whether an ASX announcement or trading halt is required.

As with any other deliberations of the Disclosure Committee, it is important that any consideration given by the Disclosure Committee to any matter referred by the CFO must be shared without delay with the Chairman or, in his or her absence, the Chairman of the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee. Where a decision is made to make an

announcement about the Company's profit outlook, it is of critical importance that the Company provides clear guidance to the market regarding the Company's view of profit outlook.

During an analyst briefing, if the Company is concerned that the analyst's 'forecast' diverges from the Company's internal expectations, then there is a risk that even a carefully scripted communication limited to previously disclosed information may be interpreted by the analyst as a 'down grade' and thus amounts to 'selective disclosure'. Accordingly, analyst briefings should not be used to manage analyst's expectations. If necessary (eg consensus analyst forecasts diverge from the Company's expectations) and a reasonable person would expect this to have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities, a public ASX release must be made.

## **6.10 Monitor media and share price movements**

The Company Secretary will monitor:

- media reports about the Company;
- media reports about significant drivers of the Company's business;
- the Company's share price movements; and
- significant investor blogs, chat-sites or other social media it is aware of that regularly posts comments about the Company.

If the Company Secretary identifies unusual or unexpected price movements or unexpected media coverage (for example, media coverage in relation to price sensitive matters that have not yet been disclosed by the Company to the market) or the circumstances suggest that a false market may have emerged in the Company's securities, the Company Secretary will report the matter to the CFO to determine whether the circumstances should be reviewed by the Disclosure Committee.

## **6.11 ASX price query letters and aware letters**

ASX can issue a price query letter (if there is a material movement in the Company's share price or trading volumes that is not explained by an announcement or by information that is generally observable) or an aware letter (to determine if the Company has complied with its continuous disclosure obligations under the Listing Rules). ASX will give the Company a short period (often no more than 24 hours) to respond and will publish both ASX letter and the Company's response on the Market Announcements Platform.

The questions that ASX may ask in conjunction with a price query can be quite broad. The preparation of a response can be particularly difficult in the period leading up to the Company's results announcement because of the heightened possibility that the Company may be forced to make a premature announcement of incomplete information.

In order to be in a position to deal promptly with any price query, the Company Secretary should have a system in place which will enable rapid discussion and review of the proposed response. Draft language should also be prepared in advance where a development can be anticipated as being likely to occur.

Any response to ASX should be mindful of any likely future announcements so that the response will not appear, with the benefit of hindsight, to have been less than clear and transparent.

## 6.12 Clear communication

It is important for all members of the Company that interact with different external stakeholders to liaise closely in relation to all information provided to their respective stakeholders so as to ensure consistent and accurate communication across all areas and in order to avoid inconsistencies or ambiguities which can lead to confusion or misinformation in the market place.

## 7 Electronic communication with shareholders

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In addition to its continuous disclosure obligations, the Company has a policy of seeking to keep shareholders informed through electronic communication. This policy is set out in the Company's Communication Strategy.

## 8 Role of the Disclosure Committee

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The Board has appointed the Disclosure Committee with responsibility for compliance with the Company's continuous disclosure obligations.

The Disclosure Committee is constituted by the Chairman, Managing Director and/or CEO, and CFO (or their delegates).

Responsibilities of the Disclosure Committee include:

- (a) ensuring the Company complies with its continuous disclosure requirements;
- (b) reviewing information which is brought to its attention to determine if there is a disclosable matter and, if so, whether any Listing Rule non-disclosure exception applies;
- (c) overseeing and coordinating disclosure of information to ASX, analysts, brokers, shareholders, the media and the public;
- (d) establishing and maintaining the Company's disclosure policies and procedures and ensuring that there is an adequate system in place for the disclosure of all material information to ASX and other authorities in a timely fashion;
- (e) considering any enquiries received from ASX, including any "false market" response letters;
- (f) reviewing, and advising the Board on, any infringement notice, or written statement of reasons issued to the Company by ASIC; and
- (g) educating management and staff on the Company's disclosure policies and procedures.

The Disclosure Committee meets as frequently as required and may meet at short notice where necessary. Meetings and decisions of the Disclosure Committee may be made electronically (including by telephone, email or other electronic means).

## 9 Role of the Company Secretary

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The Company has nominated the Company Secretary as the person with the primary responsibility for all communication with ASX in relation to Listing Rule matters. In particular the Company Secretary is responsible for:

- liaising with ASX in relation to continuous disclosure issues;
- the lodging of announcements with ASX in relation to continuous disclosure matters;
- implementing procedures to ensure that the ASX Online passwords are secure;
- ensuring senior management are aware of the Company's Disclosure Policy and related procedures, and of the principles underlying continuous disclosure;
- ensuring this Disclosure Policy is periodically reviewed to check that it is operating effectively and updated as necessary;
- developing template ASX announcements and trading halt requests;
- maintaining an accurate record of all announcements sent to ASX and all correspondence with ASIC in relation to the Company's continuous disclosure obligations; and
- ensuring that the Board receives copies of all material announcements promptly after they have been made

## 10 Role of the Board

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The usual procedure for making disclosures under ASX Listing Rule 3.1 is through the Disclosure Committee as outlined in section 3 'Reporting disclosable events'.

Board approval and input will only be required in respect of matters that are clearly within the reserved powers of the Board (and responsibility for which has not been delegated to management) or matters that are otherwise of fundamental significance to the Company. Such matters will include:

- significant profit upgrades or downgrades;
- dividend policy, guidance or declarations;
- company-transforming transactions or events; and
- any other matters that are determined by the Managing Director and/or CEO, Disclosure Committee or the Chairman to be of fundamental significance to the Company.

Where an announcement is to be considered and approved by the Board, the Company Secretary and Disclosure Committee must ensure that the Board is provided with all relevant information necessary to ensure that it is able to fully appreciate the matters dealt with in the announcement.

No other announcement should be referred to the Board for approval (as opposed to simply being circulated to directors 'for their information' after the announcement has been made).

**Rapid Response Process:** In the event that an announcement that would ordinarily require Board approval must immediately be disclosed to the market in order for the Company to comply with its continuous disclosure obligations, all reasonable effort must be made to have the announcement urgently considered and approved by the Board prior to release. However, if such approval cannot be obtained, the Managing Director and/or CEO, CFO and the Chairman (or any two of them if one is unavailable) may authorise disclosure to ensure compliance with the continuous disclosure laws. The announcement



must then be considered by the Board at the first possible opportunity following its release to determine what, if any, further steps need to be taken by the Company.

## 11 Infringement notices and statement of reasons

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If ASIC has reasonable grounds to believe that the Company has contravened its continuous disclosure obligations, ASIC may issue an infringement notice to the Company.

The receipt by the Company of any written statement of reasons or infringement notice issued to it by ASIC must be reported immediately to the Disclosure Committee.

If the Company receives an infringement notice, the Disclosure Committee (in consultation with the Board where appropriate) must oversee the Company's response to the infringement notice.

## 12 Other disclosure obligations

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The Company has numerous other disclosure obligations under Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 of the Listing Rules, including disclosure obligations in relation to:

- periodic disclosure;
- making a takeover bid;
- making a buy-back;
- agreements between the Company (or a related party or subsidiary) and its directors (or a related party of the director);
- recommendations or decisions in relation to the declaration or payment of dividends;
- changes to the Company's share capital;
- changes to the beneficial ownership of the Company's share capital;
- options over shares;
- general meetings of the Company;
- the Company's registered office and share register;
- changes in officeholders;
- documents sent to shareholders;
- loan assets;
- ownership limits;
- directors' interests; and
- record dates and timetables.

The Company Secretary is responsible for ensuring that necessary disclosures are made as and when required.

## 13 Policy breaches

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The Company regards its continuous disclosure obligation very seriously. Breach of this policy may lead to disciplinary action being taken against the employee, including dismissal in serious cases.

More detailed information about continuous disclosure obligations, contraventions and penalties, infringement notices and statement of reasons

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## 1 Continuous disclosure obligations

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### 1.1 ASX Listing Rule 3.1

This Listing Rule requires that the Company must immediately notify ASX of **any information the Company becomes aware of concerning itself that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities**. This is what is known as the continuous disclosure obligation.

### 1.2 Material effect on the price of securities

A reasonable person is taken to expect information to have a **material effect** on the price or value of securities if it would, or would be likely to, influence persons who commonly invest in securities in deciding whether or not to subscribe for, buy or sell the securities.

Some examples of information that may require disclosure if material include:

- (a) material changes in actual financial performance or projected financial performance from the previously disclosed actual or projected information;
- (b) events likely to have a material effect on financial performance – either for the current period, or over a longer term;
- (c) changes to the Board, senior executives, or company secretary;
- (d) mergers, acquisitions, divestments, joint ventures or material changes in assets;
- (e) significant developments in new projects or ventures;
- (f) material changes to capital structure or funding;
- (g) material information affecting joint venture partners or non-wholly owned subsidiaries;
- (h) media or market speculation;
- (i) analyst, broker or media reports based on incorrect or out of date information;
- (j) industry issues which have, or which may have, a material impact on the Company;
- (k) decisions on significant issues affecting the Company by regulatory bodies;
- (l) information that may have an adverse effect on the reputation of the Company;
- (m) new contracts, orders or changes in suppliers that are material to the Company's business;
- (n) material changes in products or product lines;



- (o) proposed changes in regulations or laws that could materially affect the Company's business;
- (p) major litigation (brought by or brought against the Company);
- (q) significant changes in the Company's accounting policies;
- (r) any rating applied by a rating agency to the Company, or securities of the Company and any change to such a rating; and
- (s) a proposal to change the Company's auditor.

### 1.3 Release of information to others

The Company must not release material price sensitive information to any person (eg the media or any analysts) until it has given the information to ASX and has received an acknowledgement that ASX has released the information to the market.

### 1.4 Information that is generally available

Criminal sanctions will not apply to a breach of the Company's continuous disclosure obligation if the information is generally available.

Information is generally available if it:

- (a) consists of readily observable matter;
- (b) has been made known in a manner that would, or would be likely to, bring it to the attention of persons who commonly invest in any of the classes of securities issued by the Company and since it was made known, a reasonable period for it to be disseminated among those persons has elapsed. That is, information will be 'generally available' if it has been released to ASX or published in an annual report, prospectus or similar document and a reasonable time has elapsed after the information has been disseminated in one of these ways; or
- (c) consists of deductions, conclusions or inferences made or drawn from information referred to in 1.4(a) or information made known as mentioned in 1.4(b), or both.

### 1.5 Exceptions to continuous disclosure obligation

Disclosure is not required to the market where **each** of the following conditions is and remains satisfied:

- (a) **one or more** of the following apply:
  - it would be a breach of a law to disclose the information;
  - the information concerns an incomplete proposal or negotiation;
  - the information comprises matters of supposition or is insufficiently definite to warrant disclosure;
  - the information is generated for the internal management purposes of the Company; or
  - the information is a trade secret'; **and**
- (b) the information is confidential; **and**
- (c) a reasonable person would not expect the information to be disclosed.



As soon as any one of these 3 conditions is no longer satisfied (eg the information is reported in the media and is therefore no longer confidential), the Company must immediately comply with its continuous disclosure obligation.

In this respect, it should also be noted that if ASX forms the view that the information has ceased to be confidential, then such information will no longer be regarded as confidential and must be released to the market. ASX will generally hold this view where there is a rumour circulating or there is a media or analyst report about the information and the rumour or comment is reasonably specific and reasonably accurate. This highlights the importance of maintaining confidentiality of sensitive information.

## **1.6 False market**

If ASX considers that there is or is likely to be a false market in the Company's securities and asks the Company to give it information to correct or prevent a false market, the Company must give ASX that information.

The obligation to give this information arises even if an exception described in paragraph 1.5 of this attachment applies.

ASX would consider that there is or is likely to be a false market in the Company's securities in the following circumstance:

- the Company has information that has not been released to the market, for example because an exception in paragraph 1.5 of this attachment applies;
- there is reasonably specific rumour or media comment in relation to the Company that has not been confirmed or clarified by an announcement by the Company to the market; and
- there is evidence that the rumour or comment is having, or ASX forms a view that the rumour or comment is likely to have, an impact on the price of the Company's securities.

### ASX Lodgment procedures

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#### **Purpose**

To outline the procedures to be followed by the Company in relation to the release of announcements to ASX Limited (**ASX**) in relation to the Company's continuous disclosure obligations.

#### **Background**

ASX Listing Rules require a listed entity to immediately notify ASX of any information concerning it that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of the entity's securities. The entity does this by way of an online lodgment to the ASX Market Announcements Office (**MAO**). The online lodgment will be carried out on a secure online service that will be protected by a password referred to as the Company PIN.

There are 2 main types of announcements made to ASX:

- price sensitive information, including annual and half-yearly results announcements; and
- general notifications required by ASX (eg change of director, change in director shareholdings, issue of new securities).

All price sensitive announcements are to remain confidential until release with MAO.

Any information provided to MAO will be immediately released by MAO to the market. As such, it is extremely important that appropriate controls are placed over the ASX lodgment process to ensure:

- (1) Only authorised personnel are able to lodge announcements with MAO; and
- (2) All documents lodged with MAO are the final versions approved by the CEO, CFO and the Chairman.

#### **ASX lodgment procedure**

The procedure to be followed in relation to the lodgment of announcements with ASX is as follows:

- (1) The Company Secretary will draft ASX release.
- (2) Subject to the Rapid Response Process in section 3.4, The Managing Director and/or CEO, CFO and the Chairman must approve **all** price sensitive releases.
- (3) Any ASX releases drafted by other than the Company Secretary will be sent by email to the Company Secretary.
- (4) The Company Secretary will review all announcements before confirming their release to ASX and ensure that the headings of all announcements accurately convey their contents.
- (5) Announcements must have a left-hand margin of at least 2.5 cm to accommodate ASX's 'For Personal Use Only' watermark.



- (6) Once the ASX release has been approved and the timing for release has been confirmed, the Company Secretary will release the announcement online to ASX at the relevant time.
- (7) Confirmation of the ASX release is received via e-mail by the Company Secretary and Directors.
- (8) The Company Secretary will advise the appropriate Company management of the release via e-mail and a copy of the release will also be provided to all non-executive directors.

## Media Relations Policy

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### Statements and comments to the media

This document has been prepared to assist the Company's managers in dealings with the news media.

The Company maintains regular contact with the news media but, as a public company, must exercise strict controls on what is said, and by whom. It is therefore necessary to limit who is authorised to issue statements or make verbal comment to the media.

ASX Limited (**ASX**) has stringent requirements under Listing Rule 3.1 in relation to the continuous disclosure of price sensitive information. This has resulted in the Company determining that, as a matter of policy, all media releases made anywhere in the world, must first be provided to head office for clearance and possible lodgment at ASX prior to that information being made publicly available in any other way. This is done through the Company Secretary.

## 1 Issuing a media release or other written statement

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### Australia and overseas

Media releases on Company policy, acquisitions, matters which could affect the Company's share price or which relate to other sensitive matters (such as the Company's performance, Government policy, economic or political issues) may only be made by or on the authority of the Chairman or Managing Director and/or CEO.

Business unit heads may only issue statements on matters pertaining to their area of business responsibility (including industry matters, new services and product releases) with the approval of the Chairman or Managing Director and/or CEO.

Copies of all proposed statements must be passed to the Company Secretary prior to release for clearance and possible lodgment at ASX.

Media releases or other written statements (such as letters to the press) must not be issued in any circumstances other than as set out above, except by or with the approval of the Chairman or Managing Director and/or CEO.

Questions from the Company's website and any media requests received via the website should be forwarded to the Company Secretary for a response.

## 2 Verbal comment

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The continuous disclosure requirements of ASX Listing Rule 3.1 should be kept in mind at all times when making public comment. This means that, as a general rule, no information should be released which is not already in the public domain.

### **Australia and overseas**

Verbal comment to the media, such as a telephone interview or a face-to-face interview, can only be made by the Chairman and Managing Director and/or CEO or their specifically nominated delegates.

Verbal comment on Company policy, acquisitions, matters which could affect the Company's share price or which relate to other sensitive matters (such as the Company's performance, Government policy, economic or political issues) may only be made by the Chairman and Managing Director and/or CEO or their specifically nominated deputy.

Business unit heads may only make comment to the media on matters pertaining to their area of business only with prior discussion and approval by the Chairman and Managing Director and/or CEO.

In special circumstances the Chairman and Managing Director and/or CEO may nominate other senior executives to make comment to the media on specific issues. Any variations to the above must be approved in advance by the Chairman and Managing Director and/or CEO.

## **3 Responding to media inquiries**

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### **Australia and overseas**

Enquiries from journalists, or requests for information, must be treated as detailed in Section 2.

If any employee or executive is approached for information by a representative of the media, the employee should obtain the person's name, the organisation they represent, their location and phone number, as well as an outline of the information required, without responding to the questions/issues raised. The enquirer should be advised that arrangements will be made for someone to make contact with them. The matter should then be passed on to the Chairman, Managing Director and/or CEO or Company Secretary immediately.

The Managing Director and/or CEO is available to handle enquiries at the request of any business unit head.

On no account should an unauthorised person make a comment or respond to any media enquiries.

## **4 Emergencies**

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### **Australia and overseas**

In emergency situations, where the media are seeking immediate comment, the procedures detailed in Section 3 apply.

Managers should not make comment and instead, contact the Chairman or Managing Director and/or CEO who will handle media inquiries.





## 5 Summary

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The reputation of the Company is at risk on every occasion that a public statement is made. When making public statements, the Company must be consistent and accurate. It is better to err on the side of caution and say nothing rather than risk embarrassment or legal action.

In all cases where approval is granted to talk to the media particular attention must be paid to relevant laws, including consumer protection and trade practices, environment and health and safety legislation, and the requirements of ASX Limited Listing Rules.