

# IPH Limited Board Charter

ACN 169 015 838



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# 1. Overview

## General Responsibilities

- (a) The Board is responsible for protecting and optimising the Company's performance and building sustainable value for shareholders in accordance with any duties and obligations imposed on the Board by law and the Company's Constitution, and within a framework of prudent and effective controls that enable risk to be assessed and managed.
- (b) The Board demonstrates leadership and high standards of professional conduct in respect of the Company's affairs and instils and continually reinforces a culture across the Company of acting lawfully, ethically and responsibly.
- (c) The Board is also responsible for overseeing that Management recognises the Company's legal and other obligations to all legitimate stakeholders. "**Stakeholders**" are groups that are likely to feel a social, environmental, economic or financial impact from the Company's actions. They include shareholders, customers, suppliers, employees, government regulators and members of the communities where the Company operates and are affected by the Company's activities.
- (d) The Company's obligations to its stakeholders require that appropriate corporate governance, accountability and control systems are in place, including ensuring stakeholders are kept informed of the Company's performance and major developments affecting its state of affairs.
- (e) This Board Charter explains the Company's commitment to corporate governance. It is not an "all inclusive" document and should be read as a broad expression of principles. The Board will review this Board Charter on an annual basis.

## Corporate Governance

The Company endorses the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the ASX Corporate Governance Council's Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations (**ASX Recommendations**).

# 2. Constitution

The Constitution is the Company's key governance document. The Board will use its best endeavours to ensure that it and the Company comply with the provisions of the Constitution.

# 3. Compliance with Laws

## Specific Laws

As a public company listed on the ASX, the Company must comply with the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) (**Corporations Act**) and the ASX Listing Rules as well as all other applicable laws. Examples of applicable areas of regulation include:

- (a) *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth);
- (b) patent, trade mark and other intellectual property legislation;
- (c) legal services legislation;



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- (d) disclosure and reporting obligations, including in relation to sustainability and environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters;
  - (e) anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing legislation;
  - (f) employment and workplace relations related laws;
  - (g) anti-discrimination legislation; and
  - (h) taxation legislation.

## **General**

As a group operating in numerous jurisdictions throughout the world, the Company must use its best endeavours to be aware of, and comply with, all applicable laws in those jurisdictions.

# 4. Responsibilities and Duties

## **Specific Responsibilities**

The Board is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Company and monitoring the implementation of that strategy by Management, including:

- (a) oversight of the Group, including its control and accountability systems;
- (a) appointing and removing the Managing Director;
- (b) appointing and removing the Company Secretary;
- (c) Board and Executive Management development and succession planning;
- (d) input into, and final approval of, corporate strategy, including defining the Company's purpose and setting its strategic objectives;
- (e) input into, and final approval of, the Company's Statement of Values and Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct to reflect the purpose and culture within the Company;
- (f) input into and final approval of the annual operating budget;
- (g) approving and monitoring the progress of major capital expenditure, capital management and acquisitions/divestitures;
- (h) monitoring compliance with all relevant legal, tax and regulatory obligations;
- (i) setting the Company's risk appetite, within which the Board expects Management to operate in the execution of the Company's strategic and business objectives;
- (j) reviewing and monitoring systems of risk management and internal compliance and controls, codes of conduct, continuous disclosure, legal compliance and other significant corporate policies;
- (k) at least annually, reviewing the effectiveness of the Company's implementation of its risk management system and internal control framework, including ensuring that relevant information is reported by Management to the Board;



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- (l) reviewing and approving recommendations from the Audit and Risk Committee regarding climate-related risks and opportunities, and reporting of Climate Related Disclosures in accordance with Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards (ASRS), including AASB S2 *Climate-related Disclosures*;
  - (m) monitoring Executive Management's performance and implementation of strategy and policies, including instilling of the Company's values and assessing whether appropriate resources are available;
  - (n) approving and monitoring the Company's remuneration policies to ensure they are aligned with the Company's purpose, values, strategic objectives and risk appetite;
  - (o) monitoring the effectiveness of the Company's governance practices, including reviewing the Company's key policies;
  - (p) monitoring the effectiveness of the Company's Whistleblower Policy and the processes in place to receive and investigate reports made pursuant to the Whistleblower Policy, and receiving regular reports from Management with respect to reports made pursuant to that Policy;
  - (q) approving and monitoring financial and other reporting to the market, shareholders, employees and other stakeholders; and
  - (r) appointment, reappointment or replacement of the external auditor.

## **Performance**

In discharging their duties, each Director must:

- (a) exercise care and diligence;
- (b) act in good faith in the best interests of the Company;
- (c) not improperly use their position or misuse information of the Company; and
- (d) commit the time necessary to discharge effectively his/her role as a Director.

## **Meetings**

- (a) All Directors (including Executive Directors) are entitled to be heard at all meetings and should bring an independent judgement to bear in decision-making.
- (b) Non-Executive Directors should confer regularly without Management present.

## **Written Resolutions**

Written resolutions:

- (a) are to be sent to all Directors; and
- (b) are not to be implemented if any Director who is not excluded from voting on the resolution advises that they have any reservations about the proposed resolution (in which case the matter is to be considered at the next Board meeting).

## **Review**

At least once each year, the Directors will review the Board's performance during the previous 12 months.



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## 5. Committees

### Established Committees

To assist the Board in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities, it has established three Committees:

- (a) Audit and Risk Committee;
- (b) People, Remuneration and Nominations Committee; and
- (c) Projects Committee.

### Charters

Each Committee has a formal charter and has been granted certain delegations.

### Reporting

Each Committee has an obligation to report on its meetings to the Board and minutes of all Committee meetings are to be made available to all Directors.

### Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee assists the Board in relation to financial reporting and audit management and risk management, including:

- (a) with respect to financial reporting and audit management:
  - (i) compliance with legal and regulatory obligations;
  - (ii) the integrity of the Group's financial reporting;
  - (iii) oversight of the independence of the external and internal auditors; and
  - (iv) the effectiveness of the Group's financial management and control framework;
- (b) with respect to risk management, in relation to:
  - (i) risk appetite and risk management framework;
  - (ii) risk policies, systems, processes and controls, including with respect to climate-related risks and opportunities; and
  - (iii) the effectiveness of the Group's risk management framework,

and provides strategic financial and risk management leadership, oversight and analysis to the Board.

### People, Remuneration and Nominations Committee

The People, Remuneration and Nominations Committee assists the Board in relation to:

- (a) people and culture matters, including:
  - (i) oversight of people matters, including employee attraction, engagement, development and retention;
  - (ii) oversight of strategies to monitor and transform culture across the Group;
  - (iii) oversight and monitoring of work health, safety and wellbeing; and



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- (iv) reviewing and making recommendations in relation to strategic human resources policies, including in relation to diversity and inclusion across the Group;
  - (b) remuneration matters, including:
    - (i) the remuneration and incentive framework, including any proposed equity incentive awards for the Directors;
    - (ii) recommendations in relation to:
      - (A) remuneration for Directors;
      - (B) remuneration packages to be awarded to Senior Executives;
      - (C) equity-based remuneration plans for Senior Executives and other employees;
      - (D) superannuation arrangements for Directors, Senior Executives and other employees; and
      - (E) whether there is any gender or other inappropriate bias in remuneration for Directors, Senior Executives or other employees; and
  - (c) nominations matters, including:
    - (i) Board appointments, re-elections and performance;
    - (ii) Directors' induction programs and continuing development;
    - (iii) Committee membership;
    - (iv) endorsement of Senior Executive appointments; and
    - (v) diversity obligations.

## **Projects Committee**

The Projects Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its corporate governance and oversight responsibilities with respect to project management of “significant projects” for the Group. The responsibilities of the Projects Committee include the provision of oversight, guidance, review, challenge and support for the planning and execution of significant projects undertaken across the Group.

## **6. The Chairman**

### **Prohibitions**

The Chairman:

- (a) is not to exercise the role of Managing Director of the Company; and
- (b) is not to have previously held the position of Managing Director of the Company.

### **Responsibilities**

The Chairman is responsible for:

- (a) leadership of the Board;
- (b) overseeing the Board in the effective discharge of its supervisory role;
- (c) the efficient organisation and conduct of the Board's function and meetings;



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- (d) facilitating the effective contribution of all Directors;
  - (e) briefing of all Directors in relation to issues arising at meetings;
  - (f) the promotion of constructive and respectful relations between Board members and between the Board and Management;
  - (g) committing the time necessary to discharge effectively their role as Chairman; and
  - (h) scheduling regular and effective evaluations of the Board's performance.

## 7. Directors

### Independence

- (a) Independent Directors are those who have the ability to exercise their duties unfettered by any business or other relationship and are willing to express their opinions at the Board table free of concern about their position or the position of any third party. The Board does not believe it is possible to draft a list of criteria which are appropriate to characterise, in all circumstances, whether a Non-Executive Director is independent. It is the approach and attitude of each Non-Executive Director which is critical, and this must be considered in relation to each Director while taking into account all other relevant factors, which may include whether the Non-Executive Director:
  - (i) is a substantial shareholder or an officer of, or otherwise associated directly with, a substantial shareholder;
  - (ii) within the last three (3) years has been employed in an executive capacity by any member of the Group, or has been a director after ceasing to hold any such employment;
  - (iii) within the last three (3) years has been a partner or a senior management executive with audit responsibilities of a firm which has acted in the capacity of statutory auditor of any member of the Group;
  - (iv) within the last three (3) years has been a principal of a material professional adviser or a material professional consultant to any member of the Group, or an employee materially associated with the service provided - for this purpose a material professional adviser/consultant is an adviser whose billings to the Group exceed 5% of the total revenues of the adviser/consultant;
  - (v) is a material supplier to, or material customer of, any member of the Group, or an officer of or otherwise associated directly or indirectly with a material supplier or customer (for this purpose a material supplier to the Group means a supplier whose revenues from the Group exceed 5% of the supplier's total revenues and a material customer is a customer whose payments to the Group exceed 5% of the customer's operating costs);
  - (vi) has a material contractual relationship with any member of the Group other than as a Director; and
  - (vii) has any interest or business or other relationship which could materially interfere with the Director's ability to act in the best interests of the Company and independently of Management.
- (b) Family ties and cross-directorships may also be relevant in considering interests and relationships which may compromise independence and should be disclosed by Directors to the Board.



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- (c) The above guidelines must be applied with common sense. Directors are best able to determine if they have an interest or relationship which is likely to impact on their independence. As such, each Director is expected to advise the Chairman immediately if they believe they may no longer be independent. Should the Chairman or any other Director have any concern about the independence of a Director, they must immediately raise the issue with that Director and, if the issue is not resolved, with the Board.
  - (d) Should the Chairman have any concern about his or her own independence, he or she must immediately raise the issue with the other Non-Executive Directors.
  - (e) Each Director (other than the Chairman) must immediately disclose to the Chairman (with a copy to the Company Secretary) all information relevant for determining whether the Director is independent, including details of entities in which the Director has a material direct or indirect shareholding (or other interest), is an executive officer or is a director.
  - (f) The Chairman must immediately disclose to the other Non-Executive Directors (with a copy to the Company Secretary) all information relevant for determining whether the Chairman is independent, including details of entities in which the Chairman has a material direct or indirect shareholding (or other interest), is an executive officer or is a director.
  - (g) In the preparation of the agenda for each Board meeting, the Chairman and Company Secretary need to be sensitive to disclosed interests and consider whether it is appropriate to withhold part or all of an agenda item (including any relevant papers) from any Director because of a potential or actual conflict. If the Chairman decides to withhold part or all of an agenda item from a Director, they must advise the Director at the time of dispatch of the relevant Board paper.
  - (h) Directors are to inform the Chairman or, in the case of the Chairman, the other Non-Executive Directors, prior to accepting any new appointment to any entity's board.

### **Access to Information, Independent Advice and Continuing Development**

- (a) Management must provide the Board and Committees with information in a form, timeframe and quality that enables them to effectively discharge their responsibilities and duties. Directors are entitled to request and receive copies of Committee papers.
- (b) Directors are entitled to request and receive such reasonable additional information as they consider necessary to support informed decision-making. Any Director may, with the prior approval of the Managing Director or the Company Secretary, seek any information they require from any Employee and all employees must comply with such requests. Any significant issues raised by a Director are to be communicated to the Chairman, Managing Director or Company Secretary.
- (c) Any Director may, with prior approval of the Chairman, take such independent legal, financial or other advice as they consider necessary at the Company's cost.
- (d) The Board should understand the Group structure and operations and key developments affecting the Group and may receive periodic presentations to assist in achieving such an understanding.

### **Appointment and Removal of Directors**

- (a) The Board should be of a size and composition that is conducive to making decisions expediently, with the benefit of a variety of perspectives and skills, and in the best interests of the Group as a whole rather than of individual shareholders or other stakeholders.



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- (b) The People, Remuneration and Nominations Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Board relating to the appointment and retirement of Directors.
  - (c) A new Director will receive a formal letter of appointment setting out the key terms and conditions relative to the appointment.

### **Director Protection Deeds**

- (a) The Constitution indemnifies each Director to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- (b) Each Director is entitled to a director protection deed which shall include provisions relating to:
  - (i) access to Board papers;
  - (ii) indemnity by the Company; and
  - (iii) the maintenance of directors' and officers' insurance.

### **The Managing Director**

- (a) The Managing Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Group with all powers, discretions and delegations authorised, from time to time, by the Board.
- (b) The Managing Director is to have a formal executive services agreement describing his/her term of office, duties, rights and responsibilities and entitlements on termination.
- (c) At each meeting where the Board approves the half-year and full-year financial statements, the Managing Director must provide the Board with a written declaration (together with an equivalent declaration from the Chief Financial Officer) which includes a declaration whether, in the Managing Director's opinion:
  - (i) the financial records of the Company and the entities who are consolidated for financial reporting purposes (**Reporting Entity**) for the relevant reporting period have been properly maintained in accordance with section 286 of the Corporations Act;
  - (ii) the Reporting Entity's financial statements and the notes referred to in sections 295(3)(b) or 303(3) of the Corporations Act for the relevant reporting period comply with the accounting standards;
  - (iii) the financial statements and notes for the reporting period give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Reporting Entity;
  - (iv) the declaration set out in paragraph (c)(iii) above is founded on a sound system of risk management and internal control which, in all material respects, implements the policies adopted by the Board; and
  - (v) the Company's risk management and internal control system is operating effectively in all material respects.

### **Management**

The role of Management is to implement the running of the general operations and financial business of the Company, in accordance with the delegated authority of the Board.



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## **The Company Secretary**

The Company Secretary acts as secretary of the Board, attending all meetings of the Board as required. The Company Secretary is accountable to the Board through the Chairman and the Managing Director.

The Company Secretary is responsible for:

- (a) organising Board meetings and Director attendance;
- (b) monitoring compliance with Board policy and procedures;
- (c) coordinating the completion and dispatch of the Board agenda and briefing materials;
- (d) preparing minutes of meetings and resolutions of the Board and taking these to the Chairman for approval and circulation;
- (e) circulating minutes from Committee meetings to the Board; and
- (f) the Company's compliance with its requirements under the Corporations Act regarding registered office, and annual returns and notices to be lodged with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

## 8. Policy Framework

### **Policy Framework**

The Board oversees the Company's policy framework, including key Company policies. The Company policy framework includes the Statement of Values, the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct and other significant policies recommended by the ASX Recommendations.

### **Statement of Values**

- (a) The Statement of Values sets out the guiding principles and norms that inform the purpose of the Company and which are expected from all Directors, officers, employees, consultants and any other person when they represent the Group.
- (b) The values set out in the Statement of Values permeate through the Group and are important in protecting the Company's reputation and standing in the community as an entity that acts responsibly, lawfully and ethically.

### **Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct**

- (a) The Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct is to be observed by all Directors, officers, employees, consultants and any other person when they represent the Group.
- (b) The Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct deals with compliance in the following areas of conduct:
  - (i) acting in the Company's best interests;
  - (ii) honesty and integrity;
  - (iii) treatment of others;
  - (iv) conflicts of interest;
  - (v) privacy and confidentiality; and



- (vi) improper payments, benefits or gains.

## **Investor Relations Program**

- (a) The Company will establish an Investor Relations Program, designed to promote effective two-way communication with shareholders and encourage effective participation at general meetings.
- (b) Shareholders are encouraged to contact the Company's share registry to arrange the direct receipt of shareholder materials.
- (c) As part of an effective shareholder communications strategy, the Company will:
  - (i) maintain and keep current corporate governance information on its website; and
  - (ii) make available via its website, materials presented at significant investor briefings.
- (d) As part of the Company's continuous disclosure obligations, the Company must provide commentary on its financial results to enhance the clarity and balance of the report. This commentary should include information needed by a sophisticated investor to make an informed assessment of the Company's activities and results.
- (e) The Annual Report is to include a corporate governance statement which will contain the content required by the ASX Recommendations (as well as an explanation of any departures from the ASX Recommendations).
- (f) The Company generally adopts the ASX Recommendations for notices of meetings.

## **Continuous Disclosure and Investor Relations Policy**

- (a) The Company has established a Continuous Disclosure and Investor Relations Policy, to support compliance by the Company with its continuous disclosure obligations that arise under the ASX Listing Rules.
- (b) As part of this Continuous Disclosure Policy, employees are required to immediately advise the Board or the Company Secretary of material information that may need to be disclosed, and the Company Secretary, in consultation as required with the Board, will determine whether the information needs to be disclosed and, if so, provide a draft announcement to the Board for approval.

## **Risk Management Policy**

The Company has established a Risk Management Policy, designed to establish a process for risk management procedures and internal control of major risks.

## **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy**

- (a) The Company has established a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy, which outlines the Group's ongoing commitment to fostering a diverse, inclusive and respectful workplace aligned with the Company's core values, as set out in the Statement of Values.
- (b) Key objectives of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy include:
  - (i) building and maintaining a workplace where the Group's people feel valued, respected, safe and empowered to contribute;
  - (ii) ensuring fair and equitable access to opportunities across the Group;



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- (iii) leveraging the different experiences, backgrounds, ideas and insights of the Group's diverse workforce and the communities and clients served across the Group to help achieve the Company's strategy and purpose;
  - (iv) demonstrating leadership in diversity, equity and inclusion across the intellectual property profession; and
  - (v) taking action against inappropriate workplace behaviours including discrimination, harassment, vilification and victimisation.

### **Share Trading Policy**

- (a) The Company has established a Share Trading Policy, which is designed to establish a best practice procedure in relation to dealings in the Company's shares by Directors, officers and employees.
- (b) As part of this Share Trading Policy, Directors, officers and relevant employees may only buy or sell Company shares during certain periods set out in the Policy. The Share Trading Policy contains other relevant restrictions.

### **Whistleblower Policy**

- (a) The Company has established a Whistleblower Policy, which seeks to encourage Eligible Persons of the Group to report on any non-compliant conduct within, or that may affect, an entity within the Group. The Whistleblower Policy is a practical tool for assisting the Group to identify non-compliant conduct that may not be uncovered unless there is a safe and secure means for disclosing such conduct.
- (b) The Whistleblower Policy also sets out various protections available to Eligible Persons who make reports under the Policy.

### **Anti-Bribery Policy**

- (a) The Company has established an Anti-Bribery Policy, which provides information and guidance on the position of the Company and the Group on bribery and corruption in the jurisdictions in which the Group operates.
- (b) Under the Anti-Bribery Policy, Directors, officers and all staff members of entities within the Group must conduct themselves in an honest and ethical manner, including not engaging in any conduct that is, or may constitute, bribery or other corrupt conduct.

### **Sanctions Policy**

- (a) The Company has established a Sanctions Policy, which sets out what the Group requires certain individuals to do to assist the Group to comply with relevant economic and trade sanctions laws and provides information on the Group's general approach to complying with relevant sanctions laws.
- (b) Under this Policy, Directors, officers and employees of entities within the Group must not engage in any business or dealings with clients based in the countries listed in the Schedule to the Sanctions Policy, without the prior express approval of the Group Sanctions Compliance Officer. The Sanctions Policy contains other relevant restrictions.

### **Supplier Code of Conduct**

The Company has established a Supplier Code of Conduct, which outlines the standards and behaviours expected from suppliers to the Group, in order to further the commitment of the Company and the Group to ethical business practices.



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## 9. External Auditor

The external auditor must attend the Annual General Meeting and must be available to answer questions about:

- (a) the conduct of the audit;
- (b) the preparations and content of the auditor's report;
- (c) the accounting policies adopted by the Company in relation to the preparation of the financial statements; and
- (d) the independence of the external auditor in relation to the conduct of the audit.

## 10. Review

At least once each year, the Directors will review this Board Charter, consider any amendments required to comply with the ASX Recommendations and adopt those amendments (as appropriate).

<b>Date Reviewed</b>	April 2026
<b>Next Review</b>	April 2027





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