

# HANNANS

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023

Approved by the Board on 20 September 2023

The Board of Hannans Ltd (the **Company** or **Hannans**) is responsible for the overall corporate governance of the Company and its subsidiaries (the **Group**). The Board believes that good corporate governance helps ensure the future success of the Group, adds value to stakeholders and enhances investor confidence. The Board guides and monitors the business affairs of the Group on behalf of the shareholders by whom they are elected and to whom they are accountable.

The ASX document 'Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations 4th Edition' (**Recommendations**) published by the ASX Corporate Governance Council applies to listed entities with the aim of enhancing the credibility and transparency of Australia's capital markets. The Board has assessed the Group's current practice against the Principles and Recommendations and other than the matters specified below under "If Not, Why Not" Disclosure, all the best practice recommendations of the ASX Corporate Governance Council have been applied.

This Corporate Governance Statement (**Statement**) discloses the extent to which the Company has followed the Recommendations, or where appropriate, indicates a departure from the Recommendations with an explanation for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

This Statement should be read in conjunction with the Company's Charters, Policies and other related documents (**CG Plan**) on its website <https://www.hannans.com/corporate-governance>.

### PRINCIPLE 1: LAY SOLID FOUNDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT

#### Recommendation 1.1: Disclose a Board Charter

Comply: Yes

Hannans' Board Charter details the respective roles and responsibilities of the Company's Board and management and those matters expressly reserved to the Board and delegated to management.

#### Recommendation 1.2: Undertake appropriate checks before appointing a Director or Senior Executive and provide Material Information to Security Holders

The Company undertakes appropriate checks before appointing a Director or senior executive or endorsing the election of any prospective Director and provides security holders with all material information in its possession relevant to a decision on whether or not to elect or re-elect a Director by providing biographical details of candidates including relevant qualifications, experience and skills and details of any other material directorships currently held by the candidate and in the case of a candidate standing for election as a Director for the first time:

- ∂ confirmation that the Company has conducted appropriate checks into the candidate's background and experience which have been satisfactory; and
- ∂ if the Board considers that the candidate will, if elected, qualify as an independent Director, a statement to that effect.

#### Recommendation 1.3: Establish a Written Agreement with each Director and Senior Executive setting out the Terms of their Appointment

Comply: Yes

Each director or senior executive is a party to a written agreement with the Company which sets out the terms of that Director's or senior executive's appointment, including the remuneration entitlement and performance requirements. Directors also receive a deed of indemnity, insurance, and access.

The summary of agreements is disclosed in the Company's Annual Report.



[www.hannans.com](http://www.hannans.com)



[@Hannans\\_Ltd](https://twitter.com/Hannans_Ltd)



[Hannans\\_Ltd](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Hannans_Ltd)



[info@hannans.com](mailto:info@hannans.com)

**Recommendation 1.4: The Company Secretary should be Accountable Directly to the Board, through the Chair**  
**Comply: Yes**

Hannans' Board Charter outlines the roles, responsibilities and accountability of the Company Secretary. In accordance with this, the Company Secretary is accountable directly to the Board, through the Chair, on all matters to do with the proper functioning of the Board.

**Recommendation 1.5: Disclose a Diversity Policy and Set Measurable Objectives for Achieving Gender Diversity**  
**Comply: Partially**

Hannans' Diversity Policy provides a framework to establish and achieve measurable diversity objectives, including in respect of gender diversity. The Diversity Policy allows the Board to set measurable gender diversity objectives, if considered appropriate, and to assess annually both the objectives (if any have been set) and the Company's progress in achieving them.

The proportion of women within the Group at 30 June 2023 was as follows:

Position category	FY 2023	
	Men	Women
Board	100%	Nil
Senior Executive	100%	Nil
Whole Organisation	100%	Nil

Given the current small size of the Board and the Company's operations, the Board does not presently intend to set measurable gender diversity objectives because:

- (i) the Board does not anticipate there will be a need to appoint any new Directors or senior executives due to the limited nature of the Company's existing and proposed activities and the Board's view that the existing Directors and senior executives have sufficient skill and experience to carry out the Company's plans;
- (ii) if it becomes necessary to appoint any new Directors or senior executives, the Board will consider the application of the measurable diversity objectives and determine whether, given the small size of the Company and the Board, requiring specified objectives to be met will unduly limit the Company from applying the Diversity Policy as a whole and the Company's policy of appointing the best person for the job; and
- (iii) the respective proportions of men and women on the Board, in senior executive positions and across the whole organisation (including how the Company defines "senior executive" for these purposes) for each financial year will be disclosed in this Statement.

**Recommendation 1.6: Disclose whether a Performance Evaluation of the Board was undertaken in the Reporting Period**  
**Comply: Partially**

The Board is responsible for evaluating the performance of the Board, its committees and individual Directors on an annual basis. It may do so with the aid of an independent adviser.

Evaluation of the Board is carried out on a continuing and informal basis. The Company will put a formal process in place as and when the level of operations justifies it. No formal performance evaluation was undertaken in the reporting period.

**Recommendation 1.7: Disclose whether a Performance Evaluation of its Senior Executive was undertaken in the Reporting Period**  
**Comply: Partially**

The Board is responsible for evaluating the performance of the Company's senior executives on an annual basis. A senior executive, for these purposes, means key management personnel (as defined in the *Corporations Act 2001*) other than a non-executive Director.

Evaluation of the senior executive is carried out on a continuing and informal basis. The Company will put a formal process in place as and when the level of operations justifies it. No formal performance evaluation was undertaken in the reporting period.

## PRINCIPLE 2: STRUCTURE THE BOARD TO BE EFFECTIVE AND ADD VALUE

### Recommendation 2.1: Establish a Nomination Committee

**Comply: No**

The Company does not have a Nomination Committee as the Board considers that the Company will not currently benefit from its establishment. The Board as a whole decides on the choice of any new director upon the creation of any new Board position and if any casual vacancy arises. Decisions to appoint new directors will be minuted. The Board will identify candidates and assess their skills in deciding whether an individual has the potential to add value to the Company. The Board may also seek independent advice to assist with the identification process. The Board considers that this process is appropriate given the size and the complexity of the Group's affairs. Until the situation changes the Board will carry out any necessary nomination committee functions.

### Recommendation 2.2: Board Skills Matrix

**Comply: Yes**

The Company's objective is to have an appropriate mix of expertise and experience on the Board so that it can effectively discharge its corporate governance and oversight responsibilities. It is the Board's view that the current Directors possess an appropriate mix of relevant skills, experience, expertise and diversity to enable the Board to discharge its responsibilities and deliver the Company's strategic objectives. The Company intends to disclose the board skills matrix in this and future annual Corporate Governance Statements.

The Board will assess each Director's skills and experience and the current Directors as a group, against the Board Skills Matrix from time to time. It is not a requirement that each Director should present all of the skills and experience listed in the Board Skills Matrix, but the Board collectively should present all of the skills and experience listed in the Board Skills Matrix.

Skills	Attributes
<b>Executive Leadership</b>	Sustainable success in business at a very senior executive level.
<b>Global experience</b>	Senior management or equivalent experience in multiple global locations, exposed to a range of political, cultural, regulatory and business environments.
<b>Strategy</b>	Track record of developing and implementing a successful strategy, including appropriately probing and challenging management on the delivery of agreed strategic planning objectives.
<b>Financial Acumen</b>	Senior executive or equivalent experience in financial accounting and reporting, corporate finance and internal financial controls, including an ability to probe the adequacies of financial and risk controls.
<b>Governance</b>	Commitment to the highest standards of governance, including experience with a major organisation that is subject to rigorous governance standards, and an ability to assess the effectiveness of senior management.
<b>Relevant Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling Industry Experience</b>	Experience in the European lithium-ion battery recycling industry, including in-depth knowledge of the Group's corporate purpose, strategy, market, competitors, operational issues and technology.
<b>Health, Safety and Environment</b>	Experience related to workplace health and safety, environmental and social responsibility, and community.
<b>Marketing</b>	Senior executive experience in marketing and a detailed understanding of the Group's corporate purpose to create long-term shareholder value through the discovery, acquisition, development and marketing of resources.

Skills	Attributes
<b>Culture and Remuneration</b>	Experience in remuneration policy and implementation, linking remuneration to strategy and performance. Ability to develop succession plans and to develop talent, culture and diversity.

The Board Skills Matrix will be reviewed regularly by the Board to ensure it covers the skills necessary to address existing and emerging business and governance issues relevant to Hannans, as well as to provide support for ensuring that existing directors seek ongoing professional development to maintain their skills or when filling any Board vacancies.

**Recommendation 2.3: Disclose Independence of Directors**

**Comply: Yes**

Hannans' Board Charter requires the disclosure of the names of Directors considered by the Board to be independent. The Board currently consists of three Directors (one Non-Executive Chairman and two Non-Executive Directors) of whom all Directors are considered non-independent.

Position	Number in Position	Independent
Non-Executive Chairman	1	No
Non-Executive Directors	2	No

The Company's Annual Report discloses the length of service of each Director as at the end of each financial year.

**Recommendation 2.4: Majority Independent Directors**

**Comply: No**

Hannans' Board Charter requires that, where practical, the majority of the Board should be independent.

The Board currently consists of three Directors (one Non-Executive Chairman and two Non-Executive Directors) of whom all Directors are considered non-independent. Details of their skills, experience and expertise and the period of office held by each Director have been included in the Company's Annual Directors' Report. The number of Board meetings and the attendance of the Directors are set out in the Directors' Company's Annual Report.

The Board considers the composition of the existing Board is appropriate given the speculative nature of the Company's business, its limited scale of activities, the scope and size of the Group's operations and the skills matrix of the existing Board members. The Board will continue to monitor whether this remains appropriate as the scope and scale of its activities evolves and expands.

**Recommendation 2.5: The Chair of the Board should be an Independent Director and, in particular, should not be the same person as the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer**

**Comply: Partially**

Hannans' Board Charter provides that, where practical, the Chair of the Board should be an independent Director and should not be the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The current Chair of the Company is Mr Jonathan Murray. Mr Murray does not satisfy the ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations definition of an independent director but is not the same person as the CEO. However, the Board considers Mr Murray's role as Non-Executive Chairman essential to the success of the Group in its current stage, wherein the Group continues to refine its focus on the strategic development of the business. Over time, it is proposed that the Chair position will transition to an independent non-executive director.

**Recommendation 2.6: A Program for Inducting New Directors and for Periodically Reviewing Existing Directors to undertake Professional Development**

**Comply: Yes**

The Company commits to providing induction programs for new directors and senior executives as well as providing opportunities for continuing professional development for all directors and executives.

New directors are to be provided with an induction pack at the time of their appointment that provides them with detailed information about the Company, its operations, financial position, risk profile and risk management framework, and its strategies and objectives. The pack is also to include copies of the Company Constitution, the CG Plan, the most recent annual report, recent ASX releases, and minutes and papers of previous board and committee meetings.

New directors also receive a letter of appointment setting out, amongst other things, their rights, duties and responsibilities as a director of the Company. The Directors are encouraged to undertake professional development activities to update and enhance their skills and knowledge. It is the practice of the board's directors to reasonably openly share relevant information they may become privy to arising from their professional development activities.

### **PRINCIPLE 3: INSTIL A CULTURE OF ACTING LAWFULLY, ETHICALLY AND RESPONSIBLY**

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#### **Recommendation 3.1: Articulate and Disclosure its Values**

**Comply: Yes**

The Company is committed to conducting all of its business activities fairly, honestly with a high level of integrity, and in compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. The Board, management and employees are dedicated to high ethical standards and recognise and support the Group's commitment to compliance with these standards.

Hannans' values are set out in its Code of Conduct on the Company's website. All employees are given appropriate training on the Company's values and senior executives will continually reference such values.

#### **Recommendation 3.2: Disclose a Code of Conduct and be Informed of any Material Breaches**

**Comply: Yes**

Hannans' Code of Conduct applies to the Directors, senior executives and employees. Any material breaches of the Code of Conduct are reported to the Board or a committee of the Board.

#### **Recommendation 3.3: Disclose a Whistleblower Policy and be Informed of any Material Incidents**

**Comply: Yes**

Hannans' Whistleblower Policy is disclosed on the Company's website. Any material incidents pursuant to the Whistleblower Policy are reported to the Board or a committee of the Board.

#### **Recommendation 3.4: Disclose an Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy (ABC Policy) and be Informed of any Material Breaches**

**Comply: Yes**

Hannans' ABC Policy is disclosed on the Company's website. Any material breaches of the ABC Policy are reported to the Board or a committee of the Board.

### **PRINCIPLE 4: SAFEGUARD THE INTEGRITY OF CORPORATE REPORTS**

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#### **Recommendation 4.1: Establish an Audit Committee**

**Comply: No**

The Company does not have an Audit and Risk Committee as the Board considers that the Company will not currently benefit from its establishment. The Board as a whole meets with the auditor to identify and discuss the areas of audit focus, appropriateness of the accounting judgement or choices exercised by management in preparation of the financial statements. The Board may also seek independent advice as and when required to address matters pertaining to appointment, removal or rotation of auditor. The Board considers that this process is appropriate given the size and the complexity of the Group's affairs. It is not considered necessary to have a separate audit committee.

#### **Recommendation 4.2: Approval of Financial Statements**

**Comply: Yes**

The Board receives a written assurance in respect of each reporting period from the persons performing the Managing Director and the Chief Financial Officer functions with a declaration in accordance with section 295A of the *Corporations Act 2001* for the annual audit and section 303 of the *Corporations Act 2001* for the half-year review stating:

- ∂ that the Group's financial records have been properly maintained;
- ∂ that the Group's financial statements, in all material respects, are complete and present a true and fair view of the financial condition and operational results of the Group and are in accordance with the relevant accounting standards;
- ∂ that the financial statements are founded on a sound system of risk management and internal compliance and control which implements the policies adopted by the Board; and
- ∂ that the Group's risk management and internal compliance and control systems are operating effectively in all material respects.

#### **Recommendation 4.3: Verification of Integrity of Periodic Corporate Report not audited or reviewed by an external auditor**

**Comply: Yes**

The Group is committed to providing clear, concise, timely and effective disclosure. These procedures are set out in Hannans' Unaudited Periodic Corporate Report Verification Procedure.

## **PRINCIPLE 5: MAKE TIMELY AND BALANCED DISCLOSURE**

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### **Recommendation 5.1: Disclose a Continuous Disclosure Policy**

**Comply: Yes**

Hannans' Continuous Disclosure Policy is disclosed on the Company's website.

### **Recommendation 5.2: Board receives Market Announcements Promptly**

**Comply: Yes**

Hannans' Continuous Disclosure Policy requires all members of the Board receive material market announcements promptly after they have been made.

### **Recommendation 5.3: Investor or Analyst Presentation Released to ASX ahead of the Presentation**

**Comply: Yes**

The Company releases any substantive investor or analyst presentation on the ASX Market Announcements Platform ahead of the presentation.

## **PRINCIPLE 6: RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF SECURITY HOLDERS**

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### **Recommendation 6.1: Provide Information about the Company and its governance on the Website**

**Comply: Yes**

The Company provides information about itself and its governance to investors via its website and complies with ASX Listing Rule 3.1 in relation to publication of all relevant documents and reports.

Hannans' policies, charter and statements are available on its website <https://www.hannans.com/corporate-governance>.

### **Recommendation 6.2: Investor Relations Program to Facilitate Effective Two-Way Communication**

**Comply: Yes**

Hannans' Shareholder Communications Policy aims to promote and facilitate effective two-way communication with investors. The Shareholder Communications Policy outlines a range of ways in which information is communicated to security holders and is available on the Company's website.

### **Recommendation 6.3: Encourage Participation at Meetings**

**Comply: Yes**

The Company encourages shareholders to participate at all general meetings and Annual General Meetings of the Company and sets the time and place of each meeting to promote maximum attendance by shareholders.

### **Recommendation 6.4: Resolutions at a Meeting to be Decided by Poll**

**Comply: Yes**

All resolutions at shareholders' meetings are decided by a poll. The number of votes for or against a resolution is both reported in the Company's Minutes and announced to ASX in accordance with the provisions of the ASX Listing Rules.

### **Recommendation 6.5: Option to Receive and Send Communication Electronically**

**Comply: Yes**

Hannans' Shareholder Communications Policy provides that security holders can register with the Company to receive email notifications when an announcement is made by the Company to the ASX, including the release of the Annual Report, half yearly reports, quarterly reports and notice of meetings. ASX announcements will be uploaded on the Company's website immediately after they have been lodged with ASX.

The Company will no longer send physical meeting documents unless a shareholder requests a copy to be mailed. The Company encourages all shareholders to provide an email address so it can communicate with them electronically when shareholder notices become available online, for items such as meeting documents and annual reports.

Shareholders can still elect to receive some or all of their communications in physical or electronic form or elect not to receive certain documents such as annual reports. The election of communications preferences can be updated with Computershare.

A '**Communication Update**' is available on the Company's website which sets out the method for the shareholders to update their communication preference with the Company's share register.

Further information is available on the Company's website, <https://www.hannans.com>.

## PRINCIPLE 7: RECOGNISE AND MANAGE RISK

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### Recommendation 7.1: Establish a Risk Committee

**Comply: No**

The Company does not have an Audit and Risk Committee as the Board considers that the Company will not currently benefit from its establishment. The Company is constantly monitoring risks associated with the economy, industry and company through the executives and Board members in their respective roles as professional fund managers, lawyers, in-country specialists and shareholders with a view to managing risks and identifying threats. This process is on-going. The preparation of the Board pack and its timely distribution is a key element of this process along with monthly cash flow budgets, management discussions and informal communications between the Board and management via telephone, email and in person. The Board considers that this process is appropriate given the size and complexity of the Group's affairs. It is not considered necessary to have a separate risk committee.

The Company's Annual Report discloses the material risk and risk management of the Company.

### Recommendation 7.2: Risk Management Framework and Periodic Review

**Comply: Partially**

The Board is responsible for ensuring that risks, and also opportunities, are identified on a timely basis and that activities are aligned with the risks and opportunities identified by the Board.

The Company believes that it is crucial for all Board members to be part of this process and as such the Board has not established a separate risk management committee. The Board considers that this process is appropriate given the size and the complexity of the Group's affairs.

The Board has a number of mechanisms in place to ensure management's objectives and activities are aligned with the Board. These include but are not limited to the following:

- ∂ Board approval of a strategic plan, which encompasses strategy statements designed to meet stakeholders' needs and manage business risk.
- ∂ Implementation of Board approved operating plans and Board monitoring of the progress against budgets that are reviewed at every board meeting.

The Board did not undertake a formal review of the risk management framework during the current reporting period, however, risk is monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis.

### Recommendation 7.3: Internal Audit

**Comply: No**

The Company does not have an internal audit function. The Company reviews its risk and internal control processes on a continual informal basis and works alongside auditors at half year and year end reviews to identify the Company's risks, systems and procedures. The Company may also seek independent advice to assist with the identification of risks and processes if and when required. The Board considers that this process is appropriate given the size and the complexity of the Group's affairs. It is not considered necessary to have an internal audit function. Nonetheless it remains committed to effective management and control of these factors.

### Recommendation 7.4: Material Economic, Environmental and Social Risk

**Comply: Partially**

The nature of the Group's lithium-ion battery recycling and exploration operations are such that it could be seen to be constantly exposed to economic, environmental and social risks. The Board and Management have respect for the rights and beliefs of all stakeholders and it is part of the Group's culture to have open, honest and constant two way communication with stakeholders and to operate fully within the laws of the jurisdictions the Group operates within. The Group maintains high standards with regards to its environmental and social practices and is constantly striving to improve its engagement and information processes. The Board and Management will continue to monitor these risks to the Group.

## **PRINCIPLE 8: REMUNERATE FAIRLY AND RESPONSIBLY**

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### **Recommendation 8.1: Establish a Remuneration Committee**

**Comply: Partially**

The Company does not have a Remuneration Committee as the Board considers that the Company will not currently benefit from its establishment. The Board as a whole may appoint an independent working group comprising consultants, Directors and/or the Company Secretary to review and make recommendations to the board in relation to the remuneration framework as well as identify candidates and assess their skills in deciding whether an individual has the potential to add value to the Company. The Board considers that this process is appropriate given the size and the complexity of the Group's affairs. It is not considered necessary to have a separate nomination or remuneration committee. Until the situation changes the Board of Hannans will carry out any necessary remuneration committee functions.

### **Recommendation 8.2: Disclose Policies and Practices Regarding the Remuneration of the Non-Executive Directors, Executive Directors and Other Senior Executives**

**Comply: Yes**

The Company's CG Plan requires the Board to disclose its policies and practices regarding the remuneration of Directors and senior executives, which is disclosed in the remuneration report contained in the Company's Annual Report.

### **Recommendation 8.3: Equity Based Remuneration Scheme**

**Comply: Yes**

The Company has an equity-based remuneration scheme in place in the form of an employee share option plan. The Company prohibits participants in the equity-based remuneration plan from entering into transactions which limit the economic exposure of participating in the plan, whether through the use of derivatives or otherwise. A summary of the equity-based remuneration plan is contained in the Company's Annual Report.

## **OTHER PROCESSES**

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### **Independent Professional Advice**

Directors of the Company are expected to exercise considered and independent judgement on matters before them and may need to seek independent professional advice. A director, with prior written approval from the Chairman, may, at the Group's expense, obtain independent professional advice to properly discharge their responsibilities.