

Date: 31 March 2021

**ASX Code: WEL** 

#### Directors

Laurence Roe Executive Chairman

Larry Liu Non-Executive Director

Tony Peng Non-Executive Director

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## **Corporate Governance Statement**

Please find attached the Winchester Energy Ltd Corporate Governance Statement as at 24 March 2021.

Authorised for release by the board of directors.

Laurence Roe

**Executive Chairman** 

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### CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

To the extent applicable, and to the extent able (given the current size and structure of the Company and the Board), the Company has adopted the ASX Corporate Governance Council's Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations (**Recommendations**). Any departures from the Recommendations are set out in the 'Departures from Recommendations' section.

In light of the Company's size and nature, the Board considers that the current Board is a cost effective and practical method of directing and managing the Company. As the Company's activities develop in size, nature and scope, the size of the Board and the implementation of additional corporate governance policies and structures will be reviewed. A full copy of the Company's corporate governance charter and associated policies, protocols and related instruments is available on the Company's website under its "Corporate Governance" heading – <a href="https://www.winchesterenergyltd.com">www.winchesterenergyltd.com</a>.

The corporate governance statement contained in this section and the section entitled 'Departures from Recommendations' are current as at 24 March 2021 and have been approved by the Board.

## **Departures from Recommendations**

PRIN	CIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	COMMENT
1.	Lay solid foundations for management and oversight	
1.1	Companies should disclose the respective roles and responsibilities of its board and management and those matters expressly reserved to the board and those delegated to management.	Satisfied. The Board has adopted a formal charter setting out the responsibilities of the Board. This charter can be accessed at: <a href="www.winchesterenergyltd.com">www.winchesterenergyltd.com</a>
1.2	Companies should undertake appropriate checks before appointing a person, or putting forward to shareholders a candidate for election as a director and should provide shareholders with all material information in its possession relevant to a decision on whether or not to elect or re-elect a director.	Satisfied. The Company has undertaken appropriate police, credit and other relevant checks prior to the appointment of the Directors. All information to hand has been included in the Annual Report.
1.3	Companies should have a written agreement with each director and senior executive setting out the terms of their appointment.	Satisfied. Written agreements have been entered into with all Directors and senior management.
1.4	The company secretary should be accountable directly to the board, through the chair, on all matters to do with the proper functioning of the board.	Satisfied. This practice is in place.
1.5	Companies should:	
	<ul> <li>have and disclose a diversity policy</li> </ul>	Satisfied - the Company has adopted a Diversity Policy which can be accessed at <a href="https://www.winchesterenergyltd.com">www.winchesterenergyltd.com</a> .
	<ul> <li>through its board or a committee set measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity in the composition of its board, senior executives and workforce generally; and;</li> </ul>	Not satisfied. Immediate Covid issues have placed a hold on diversity objectives.
	<ul><li>disclose as at the end of each reporting period;</li></ul>	
	<ul> <li>the measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity; and</li> </ul>	Not satisfied. The targets are currently being determined. There are no women on the board currently.
	its progress towards achieving them and either:	
	<ul> <li>the respective proportions of men and women on the board, in senior executive positions and across the whole organisation; or</li> </ul>	No women hold senior executive roles currently.
	<ul> <li>the company's 'Gender Equality Indicators' as defined in the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012.</li> </ul>	N/a – there are less than 100 employees.

but the chair is currently executive.

#### PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS **COMMENT** 1.6 Companies should disclose the process for evaluating Satisfied. The performance evaluation of the performance of the board, its committees and board members occurs in accordance individual directors and disclose in relation to each with the Remuneration and Nomination reporting period whether a performance evaluation Committee Charter which can be was undertaken in the reporting period in accordance accessed at www.winchesterenergyltd.com. with that process. 1.7 Companies should disclose a process for periodically Satisfied. The Board meets to review the evaluating the performance of its senior executives and performance of executives. The senior executives' performance is to be assessed disclose in relation to each reporting period, whether a performance evaluation was undertaken in the against the performance of the Company reporting period in accordance with that process. as a whole. 2. Structure the board to add value 2.1 Companies should have a nomination committee The Board has established a Remuneration which: and Nomination Committee has at least 3 members, a majority of whom are Not satisfied. Currently comprises of two independent directors; and directors of which only one is nonexecutive. Not satisfied. Currently chaired by is chaired by an independent director; chairman who is "executive" subsequent and disclose: to resignation of Managing Director. the charter of the committee; Satisfied www.winchesterenergyltd.com. the members of the committee; and Laurence Roe and Larry Liu as at the end of each reporting period the number During the period the Remuneration and of times the committee met throughout the period Nomination Committee met once and the individual attendances of the members at formally, with all members of the Committee in attendance. those meeting. 2.2 Companies should disclose a board skills matrix setting No matrix formulated. The skills, out the mix of skills and diversity that the board currently experience and expertise relevant to the position held by each Director is disclosed has or is looking to achieve its membership. in the Directors' Report in the Annual Report. 2.3 Companies should disclose: The Board currently has 2 independent the names of the directors considered by the board Directors, being Larry Liu and James to be independent directors; Allchurch. Each of the other independent directors if a director has an interest, position, association, or have an interest in the shares of the relationship affecting independent status but the company but less than the threshold of board is of the opinion that it does not compromise 10% holding as decided by the board. the independence of the director, the nature of that interest position or association or relationship in question and an explanation of why the Board is of that opinion; and The date of appointment of each Director the length of service of each director. is set out in the Annual Report. 2.4 A majority of the board of a company should be Not satisfied. The board currently has 2 independent directors. independent Directors immediately. There was a majority of independent directors for the 2020 financial year. 2.5 The chair should be an independent director and Not satisfied. The Company has a COO

should not be the same person as the CEO of the

company.

#### **PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

# 2.6 Companies should have a program for inducting new directors and provide appropriate professional development opportunities for directors to develop and maintain the skill and knowledge needed to perform their role as directors effectively.

#### **COMMENT**

Satisfied. The Company has adopted a program for inducting new directors and providing appropriate professional development opportunities.

#### 3. Act ethically and responsibly

3.1 A listed entity should articulate and disclose its values.

A listed entity should:

- have and disclose a code of conduct for its directors, senior executives and employees; and
- ensure that the board or a committee of the board is informed of any material breaches of that code.

A listed entity should:

- have and disclose a whistleblower policy; and
- ensure that the board or a committee of the board is informed of any material incidents reported under that policy.

A listed entity should:

- have and disclose an anti-bribery and corruption policy; and
- ensure that the board or a committee of the board is informed of any material breaches of that policy.

The Company has adopted a set of Core Values which can be accessed at <a href="https://www.winchesterenergyltd.com">www.winchesterenergyltd.com</a>

The Company has adopted a Code of Conduct which can be accessed at www.winchesterenergyltd.com

The board is kept informed of breaches by the responsible officer.

The Company has adopted a Whistle blower Policy which can be accessed at www.winchesterenergyltd.com

The board is kept informed of breaches by the responsible officer

The Company has adopted an antibribery and corruption policy which can be accessed at

www.winchesterenergyltd.com

The board is kept informed of breaches by the responsible officer

#### 4. Safeguard integrity in corporate reporting

- 4.1 The board should establish an audit committee which:
  - has at least 3 members, all of whom are nonexecutive directors and a majority of whom are independent directors; and
  - is chaired by an independent director, who is not the chair of the board,

and disclose:

- the charter of the committee;
- the relevant qualifications and experience of the members of the committee; and
- in relation to each reporting period the number of times and committee met throughout the period and the individual attendances of the members at those meetings.
- 4.2 The board of a company should, before it, approves the company's financial statements for a financial period, receive from its CEO and CFO a declaration that, in their opinion, the financial records of the company have been properly maintained and that the financial statements comply with the appropriate accounting standards and give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the company and the opinion has been formed on the basis of a sound system of risk management and internal control

Not satisfied. The Company has established an Audit and Risk Committee which consists of two members. Only one is independent. Currently the Chairman chairs the committee. The Company Secretary acts as secretary to the committee and attends its meetings.

The qualification and experience of the committee members are set out in the Directors' Report.

The formal charter of the Committee is at <a href="https://www.winchesterenergyltd.com">www.winchesterenergyltd.com</a>. During the period the Audit and Risk Committee met twice formally, with all members in attendance.

Satisfied. The Board has adopted the policy that before it approves the Company's financial statements for a financial period it will receive from its CEO and CFO (or the persons performing those functions) a declaration that, in their opinion, the financial records of the Company have been properly maintained and that the financial statements comply with the appropriate accounting

PRING	CIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	COMMENT
	which is operating effectively.	standards and give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Company.
4.3	A listed entity should disclose its process to verify the integrity of any periodic corporate report it releases to the market that is not audited or reviewed by an external auditor.	Quarterly reports. There were no material variances to be reported to market pursuant to ASX GN23.
5.	Make timely and balanced disclosure	
5.1	A listed entity should have and disclose a written policy for complying with its continuous disclosure obligations under listing rule 3.1.	The Company has adopted a Continuous Disclosure Policy which can be accessed at <a href="https://www.winchesterenergyltd.com">www.winchesterenergyltd.com</a> .
5.2	A listed entity should ensure that its board receives copies of all material market announcements promptly after they have been made.	This is a practice employed by the Company.
5.3	A listed entity that gives a new and substantive investor or analyst presentation should release a copy of the presentation materials on the ASX Market Announcements Platform ahead of the presentation.	This is a practice employed by the Company.
6.	Respect the rights of security holders	
6.1	Companies should provide information about itself and its governance to investors via its website.	Satisfied. Information on the Company can be accessed at <a href="https://www.winchesterenergyltd.com">www.winchesterenergyltd.com</a> .
6.2	Companies should design and implement an investor relations program to facilitate effective two way communications with investors.	The Company has adopted a Shareholder Communications Policy which can be accessed at <a href="https://www.winchesterenergyltd.com">www.winchesterenergyltd.com</a> .
6.3	Companies should disclose the policies and processes it has in place to facilitate and encourage participation at meetings of shareholders.	Satisfied. The Company has adopted a Shareholder Communications Policy which can be accessed at <a href="https://www.winchesterenergyltd.com">www.winchesterenergyltd.com</a> .
6.4	A listed entity should ensure that all substantive resolutions at a meeting of security holders are decided by a poll rather than by a show of hands.	This has been the case since the 2020 AGM and will be the case going forward.
6.5	Companies should give shareholders the option to receive communications from, and send communications to, the company and its share registry electronically.	Satisfied. The Company has adopted a Shareholder Communications Policy which can be accessed at <a href="https://www.winchesterenergyltd.com">www.winchesterenergyltd.com</a> .
7.	Recognise and manage risk	
7.1	Companies should have a committee or committees to oversee risk, each of which:	The Company has adopted an Audit and Risk Committee Charter at <a href="https://www.winchesterenergyltd.com">www.winchesterenergyltd.com</a> .  Not satisfied. Two directors only and only
	<ul> <li>has at least 3 members, a majority of whom are independent directors; and</li> </ul>	one is independent.
	<ul> <li>is chaired by an independent director, and disclose:</li> </ul>	Not satisfied. Executive Chairman is the chair
	<ul><li>the charter of the committee;</li></ul>	Satisfied
	<ul> <li>the members of the committee; and</li> </ul>	Laurence Roe (Chair) and Larry Liu are the members.
		During the period the Audit and Risk

#### PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS **COMMENT** as at the end of each reporting period, the number Committee met twice formally, with all of times and committee met throughout the period members in attendance. and the individual attendances of the members at those meeting. 7.2 The board or a committee of the board should review The Board receives assurance in the form the company's risk management framework at least of a declaration, from the Managing annually to satisfy itself that it continues to be sound Director and Chief Financial Officer and disclose in relation to each reporting period, (equivalent) as required by the whether such a review has taken place. Corporations Act. The Company's formal risk management framework is yet to be adopted. The current informal model is deemed to be sound given the number of projects and organisational structure. 7.3 Companies should disclose if it has an internal audit The Company due to its size does not have function, how the function is structured and what role it an internal audit department. performed, or if it does not have an internal audit function, that fact, and the processes it employs for evaluating and continually improving the effectiveness of its risk management and internal control processes. 7.4 Companies should disclose whether it has any material The risks the Company faces are set out in exposure to economic, environmental and social Section 9 of the Company's Prospectus sustainability risks and if it does, how it manages or dated 8 August 2014, 26 May 2017 and intends to manage those risks. Offer Document 7 December 2018. The Covid-19 pandemic is a new risk facing the company and managing the associated risks have been addressed internally and with 3<sup>rd</sup> party providers. 8. Remunerate fairly and responsibly 8.1 The board should establish a remuneration committee The Company has established a which: Remuneration and Nomination Committee. has at least 3 members, a majority of whom are Not satisfied. Two members only. independent directors; and is chaired by an independent director; Not satisfied. The executive Chairman is chair. and disclose: the charter of the committee; The charter (which can be accessed at www.winchesterenergyltd.com) The committee consists of Laurence Roe the members of the committee; and and Larry Liu. The Company Secretary acts as secretary to the committee and attends its meetings. During the period the Remuneration and as at the end of each reporting period, the number Nomination Committee met once of times the committee met throughout the period

8.2 Companies should separately disclose its policies and practices regarding the remuneration of non-executive directors and the remuneration of executive directors and other senior executives.

those meetings.

and the individual attendances of the members of

formally, with all members of the committee in attendance.

The structure of Non-Executive Directors' remuneration is clearly distinguished from

remuneration is clearly distinguished from that of Executive Directors and senior executives and is described in the Remuneration Report in the Annual Report.

PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS		CIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	COMMENT
			The remuneration of Executive Directors and senior executives is monitored by the Remuneration and Nomination Committee, in accordance with the charter for that committee (which can be accessed at <a href="https://www.winchesterenergyltd.com">www.winchesterenergyltd.com</a> ).
	8.3	Companies with an equity based remuneration scheme should:  have a policy on whether participants are permitted to enter into transactions (whether through the use of derivatives or otherwise) which limit the economic risk of participating in the scheme; and  disclose that policy or a summary of it.	The Company has yet to adopt any equity based remuneration scheme. Currently it is on an ad hoc basis.