

# SUNSTONE METALS

## Corporate Governance Statement

**Dated 5 September 2023**

### Statement

In recognising the need for the highest standards of corporate behaviour and accountability, the Directors of Sunstone Metals Limited ("Company") have adhered to the principles of corporate governance and this statement outlines the main corporate governance practices in place throughout the financial year. The ASX Corporate Governance Council released revised Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations (fourth edition) in February 2019. Having regard to the size of the Company and the nature of its enterprise, it is considered that the Company complies as far as practical with the spirit and intentions of the ASX Corporate Governance Council's Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations.

The current Directors of the Company at the date of this report are:

Mr Graham Ascough	Non-Executive Chairman	Independent
Mr Malcolm Norris	CEO & Managing Director	
Mr Stephen Stroud	Non-Executive Director	Independent

For information on each Director, refer to the Directors' Report.

The following policies or obligations have been established by the Board:

- Continuous disclosure
- Code of conduct
- Share trading
- Audit & Financial Risk
- Board Charter
- Risk Management
- Anti-Bribery and Corruption
- Whistleblower

### Independent Directors

When determining whether or not a Non-Executive Director is independent, the Director must not fail any of the following materiality thresholds:

- more than 5% of Company shares are held by the Director and any entity or individual directly or indirectly associated with the Director;
- no sales are made to, or purchases made from, any entity or individual directly or indirectly associated with the Director; and
- none of the Directors' income or the income of an individual or entity directly or indirectly associated with the Director, is derived from a contract with any member of the Group other than income as derived as a Director of the entity.

At the date of this report, the board consists of one independent Non-Executive Chairman, one Executive Director and one independent, Non-Executive Director. Independent Directors have shareholdings less than 5% of the total shares on issue. The board is considered to be appropriate for the size of the Company and the nature of its activities. It is a cost effective structure for managing the Company and there is no justification for appointing additional independent directors.

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### **Board Composition**

When the need for a new director is identified, selection is based on the skills and experience of prospective directors, having regard to the present and future needs of the Company. Any director so appointed must then stand for election at the next meeting of shareholders of the Company.

All new Directors are educated about the nature of the business, current issues, the corporate strategy, the culture and values of the Group, and the expectations of the Group concerning performance of Directors. In addition, Directors are also educated regarding meeting arrangements and Director interaction with each other, senior executives and stakeholders. Directors have the opportunity to visit Group facilities and meet with management to gain a better understanding of operations. Directors are given access to continuing education opportunities to update and enhance their skills and knowledge upon joining the Group. Directors will be educated on the Group's structure, strategy, operations, financial position and risk management policies. It also familiarises the individual with respective rights, duties, responsibilities and roles of the individual and the Board.

### **Term of Appointment as a Director**

The constitution of the Company provides that a director, other than the Managing Director, may not retain office for more than three calendar years or beyond the third annual general meeting following his or her election, whichever is longer, without submitting for re-election. One third of the directors must retire each year and are eligible for re-election. The directors who retire by rotation at each Annual General Meeting are those with the longest length of time in office since their appointment or last election.

### **Risk Management and internal compliance and controls**

#### **Audit and Financial Risk Committee**

The board has established an Audit and Financial Risk Committee.

All directors are members of the Committee, with a Non-Executive Director that is not the Chairman of the Board being the Chairman of the Committee. Given the size of the Company and the nature of its activities, it is considered important that all directors participate in matters relating to audit and financial risk.

The Committee members are:

Mr Stephen Stroud (Chairman), Mr Graham Ascough, and Mr Malcolm Norris

The Committee's responsibilities include:

- providing the Board with advice and recommendations regarding the ongoing development of financial risk oversight and management policies (covering oversight, risk profile, risk management, compliance and control) that set out the roles and respective accountabilities of the Board, the Audit Committee and management;
- receiving and reviewing management's recommendations and providing the Board with advice and recommendations regarding the establishment of a financial risk management system and financial risk profile;
- regularly reviewing the Company's financial risk profile (provided by management) having regard to key financial risk, legal and regulatory risk and disclosure reporting;

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- reviewing internal controls and their effectiveness, in the absence of a formal internal audit function;
- reviewing financial statements provided by management for accuracy, adequacy and clarity to ensure they give a true and fair view of the Company's financial position and adhere to accounting standards and policies and legislative requirements;
- with respect to the external auditor, approving and recommending policies and procedures for appointing or removing an external auditor and terms of engagement;
- regularly reviewing and assessing the compliance of the external auditor with policies and procedures, the effectiveness, and independence of the external auditor; and
- monitoring the relationship between management and the auditor.

The Audit and Financial Risk Committee has met twice during the financial year. The CEO & Managing Director and the Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary are invited to attend the Committee meetings.

Where appropriate, the Board and the Audit and Financial Risk Committee engage independent experts or professional advisors to assist with the identification and/or management of any key risk areas identified.

To ensure that risks, and also opportunities, are identified on a timely basis and that activities are aligned with the risks and opportunities identified, the Board has also adopted a Risk Management Policy to:

- ensure the Company's risk management policies and procedures are adequate;
- monitor compliance with the Company's risk management policies and procedures;
- keep itself apprised of the latest developments, policies, trends in relation to financial matters, rules, regulations, to the extent that they may affect the Company or the markets in which the Company operates;
- review the Company's internal financial control mechanisms and risk management policies;
- compile a risk profile of the material risks facing the Company;
- review major non-financial regulatory matters covering areas of exposure including the environment, safety and health, asset protection (including insurance), discrimination and harassment, conflict of interest and ethical standards.

The Company does not believe it has any material exposure to economic, environmental or social sustainability risks due to its size and nature of activities.

This financial year the CEO & Managing Director and the Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary provided a statement to the Board in writing in respect to the integrity of the financial statements, that they are founded on a sound system of risk management and internal compliance and control systems are operating efficiently and effectively in all material respects.

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### **Remuneration/Nomination and Performance**

Given the size of the Company and the nature of its activities, it is considered that all directors participate in matters relating to remuneration and director nomination. It is a cost effective structure and there is no justification for appointing a separate Remuneration Committee.

The Board deals with matters of remuneration and nomination. The nomination of new Directors and the setting, or review, of remuneration levels of Directors and senior executives, is performed by the Board and recommendations made to the Board as a whole for approval by resolution (with abstentions from relevant directors where there is a conflict of interest). Where the Board considers that particular expertise or information is required, which is not available from within the Board, appropriate external advice may be taken prior to a final decision.

The Board also deals with the remuneration of Directors and key executives of the Company. The Company's policy is to remunerate non-executive Directors at market rates for time, commitment and responsibilities. The Board determines payments to the non-executive Directors and reviews their remuneration annually, based on market practice, duties and accountability. Independent external advice is sought where required. The maximum aggregate amount of fees that can be paid to non-executive Directors is subject to approval by shareholders.

The Company does not currently have a documented formal process for periodically evaluating the performance of the board, its committees and individual directors, however, does undertake informal evaluations. The Board undertakes an annual review of key executives, evaluating their performance and remuneration levels. This annual review was last undertaken in August 2023.

### **Code of Conduct**

The board has adopted a Code of Conduct to guide Directors, officers, employees and contractors in carrying out their duties and responsibilities. This Code of Conduct set out the principles and standards which the Board, management, employees and contractors of the Company are encouraged to strive towards when dealing with each other, shareholders and the community as a whole.

### **Conflict of interest**

Each Director must keep the Company informed on an ongoing basis, of any interest that could potentially conflict with those of the Company. Where the Board believes a significant conflict exists, the director concerned does not receive the relevant Board papers and is not present at the meeting whilst the item is considered.

### **Independent Professional Advice**

Each Director has the right of access to all relevant Company information and to the Company's executives. Directors have the right, in connection to their duties and responsibilities as Directors, to seek independent professional advice at the Company's expense. For independent legal advice in excess of a cost of \$15,000, prior approval of the Chairman is required, which will not be unreasonably withheld, before any expense is incurred on behalf of the Company.

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### Share Trading Policy

Directors and employees are not permitted to trade shares whilst in the possession of price sensitive information. Directors and employees are prohibited from trading in securities whilst in possession of any inside information in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001. The Company's Securities Trading Policy can be found on the Company's website.

### Communication to market and shareholders

The Board Charter, Code of Conduct and Securities Trading Policy all recognise legal and other obligations and support the legitimate interests of all stakeholders. Directors aim to ensure that the shareholders, on behalf of whom they act are informed of all information necessary to assess the performance of the Directors and the Company. Information is communicated to shareholders and the market through:

- the Annual Report, which is available to all shareholders;
- other periodic reports, such as Quarterly Reports, which are lodged with ASX and available for shareholder scrutiny;
- other announcements made in accordance with ASX Listing Rules;
- special purpose information memoranda issued to shareholders as appropriate;
- the Annual General Meeting and other meetings called to obtain approval for Board action as appropriate;
- electronic reporting to shareholders from the Company's share registry; and
- the Company's website.

The Continuous Disclosure Policy adopted by the Board ensures procedures are in place so that the market is properly informed of matters which may have a material impact on the price at which securities are traded.

### Diversity Policy

The Company does not at present have a Diversity Policy in place due to the size and stage of development of the Company. The Company currently has five fulltime employees and two non-executive directors in Australia and currently has no female employees or directors. In Ecuador the Company's subsidiaries have 48 full-time permanent employees, of which seventeen are female (35%; 2022: 32%).

### Our commitment to sustainability

Sunstone is committed to building Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) credentials.

Sunstone believes that responsible mining can be transformative for the development of communities in Ecuador, and we are committed to being a part of this positive change. Our objective is to develop mutually beneficial and respectful relationships with local communities, landowners and government. We seek to collaborate with these stakeholders to provide sustainable solutions to local issues, recognising the positive impact that we can help generate through local employment, business opportunities and environmental initiatives, as well as investing in community infrastructure, health, education and business development alongside local partners.

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### **External Auditors**

The external auditor is BDO Audit Pty Ltd. The external auditor attends the Annual General Meeting and part of the agenda is the tabling of the financial statements and inviting shareholders to ask the Directors or the auditor any questions with regard to the financial statements and the audit report.

### **Other Information**

The Corporate Governance Policies of the Company will be continually reviewed in accordance with the standards required of the Company by the Directors, ASX, ASIC and other stakeholders to ensure that appropriate governance standards are maintained.

Further information relating to the Company's corporate governance practices and policies has been made publicly available on the Company's web site at [www.sunstonemetals.com.au](http://www.sunstonemetals.com.au).