



## **Aeris Resources Limited**

ABN: 30 147 131 977

### **Corporate Governance Statement - 2021**

## OVERVIEW

### ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations

The Directors of Aeris Resources Limited (Aeris or the Company) believe that effective Corporate Governance improves company performance, enhances corporate social responsibility and benefits all stakeholders. Governance practices are not a static set of principles, and the Company assesses its governance practices on an ongoing basis. Changes and improvements are made in a substance over form manner, which appropriately reflects the changing circumstances of the Company as it grows and evolves. Accordingly, the Board has established a number of practices and policies to ensure that these intentions are met and that all shareholders are fully informed about the affairs of the Company.

The Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) Corporate Governance Council sets out best practice recommendations including Corporate Governance practices and suggested disclosures. ASX Listing Rule 4.10.3 requires companies to disclose the extent to which they have complied with the ASX recommendations and to give reasons where they have not been followed.

The Company has a Corporate Governance section on its website at:

<https://www.aerisresources.com.au/investor-centre/#corporate-governance>. The Corporate Governance section includes details on the Company's governance arrangements and copies of relevant policies and charters.

### Compliance with ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)

Unless otherwise indicated, the best practice recommendations of the ASX Corporate Governance Council (CGC), including Corporate Governance practices and suggested disclosures, have been adopted by the Company for the year ended 30 June 2021, as relevant to the size and complexity of the Company and its operations. Where the Company has not followed a recommendation, reasons for non-compliance have been identified.

The Board currently consists of four Directors, one of whom is the Executive Chairman. In view of the current size of the Board, the Board considers it more effective to set aside time at Board meetings to specifically address the matters that would have been ordinarily attended to by a Nomination Committee, Risk Committee and Remuneration Committee, and consequently does not comply with CGC recommendations 2.1, 7.1 and 8.1 respectively.

The role of the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer is performed by the Executive Chairman.

The size and structure of the Board has also resulted in the following CGC recommendations not being complied with:

- Recommendation 2.5 - the chair should be an independent director and in particular, should not be the same person as the chief executive officer of the company;
- Recommendation 4.1 - the Board should establish an audit committee which has at least three members, all of whom are Non-executive directors.

The other recommendations that are not fully complied with are: 1.5, 1.6 and 3.4, and the reasons for non-compliance are set out in the commentary for the respective recommendations.

The Board will continue to review and amend its governance policies as appropriate to reflect changes in the Company's operations.

**PRINCIPLE 1 – LAY SOLID FOUNDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT**

**Recommendation 1.1: A listed entity should have and disclose a board charter setting out:**

- (a) the respective roles and responsibilities of its board and management; and**
- (b) those matters expressly reserved to the board and those delegated to management.**

The Board is responsible to the shareholders for the performance of the Company in both the short and long term. Their focus is to enhance the interest of shareholders, taking into account the interests of other stakeholders and to ensure the Company is properly managed.

Broadly, the key responsibilities of the Board are:

- Setting the strategic direction of the Company with management, and monitoring management's implementation of that strategy;
- Evaluating, approving and monitoring major capital expenditure, capital management and all major corporate transactions;
- Approving the annual operating budget, annual shareholders' report and annual financial statements;
- Appointing, monitoring, managing the performance of, and if necessary terminating, the employment of the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer;
- Approving and monitoring the Company's Risk Management Policy and Guidelines; and
- Ensuring compliance with the Corporations Act 2001, ASX listing rules and other relevant regulations.

The Board Charter sets out the Board's delegation of responsibility to allow the Executive Chairman and the senior executives to carry on the day-to-day operations and administration of the Company. The Board Charter supports all delegations of responsibility by formally defining the specific functions reserved for the Board and its Committees and those matters delegated to management.

**Recommendation 1.2: A listed entity should:**

- (a) undertake appropriate checks before appointing a director or senior executive or putting someone forward for election as a director; and**
- (b) provide security holders with all material information in its possession relevant to a decision on whether or not to elect or re-elect a director.**

The Company undertakes reference checks prior to appointing a Director or putting that person forward as a candidate to ensure that person is competent, experienced, and would not be impaired in any way from undertaking the duties of a Director.

The Company provides relevant information to shareholders for their consideration about the attributes of candidates together with whether the Board supports the appointment or re-election in order to enable them to make a decision on whether or not to appoint or re-elect a Director.

**Recommendation 1.3: A listed entity should have a written agreement with each director and senior executive setting out the terms of their appointment.**

All Directors, and senior executives reporting to the Executive Chairman of the Company, have been given formal letters of appointment outlining key terms and conditions of their appointment. A summary of the contract details of the Directors and senior executives who are Key Management Persons is set out in the Directors' Report section of the 30 June 2021 Annual Financial Report.

**Recommendation 1.4: The company secretary of a listed entity should be accountable directly to the board, through the chair, on all matters to do with the proper functioning of the board.**

The Company Secretaries are accountable to the Board through the Executive Chairman on all matters to do with the proper functioning of the Board. The Board Charter confirms that all Directors have direct access to all executives including the Company Secretaries. The Company Secretaries are responsible for:

- Advising the Board on Corporate governance matters;
- Managing the company secretarial function;
- Attending and taking minutes at all Board and Committee meetings; and
- Communicating with the ASX.

The decision to appoint or remove a Company Secretary is made by the Board.

**Recommendation 1.5: A listed entity should:**

- (a) have and disclose a diversity policy;
- (b) through its board or a committee of the board set measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity in the composition of its board, senior executives and workforce generally; and
- (c) disclose in relation to each reporting period:
  - (1) the measurable objectives set for that period to achieve gender diversity;
  - (2) the company's progress towards achieving those objectives; and
  - (3) either:
    - (A) the respective proportions of men and women on the board, in senior executive positions and across the whole workforce (including how the company has defined "senior executive" for these purposes); or
    - (B) if the company is a 'relevant employer' under the Workplace Gender Equality Act, the entity's most recent "Gender Equality Indicators", as defined in and published under that Act.

The Board has adopted a formal Diversity Policy that is available in the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website. The Board values diversity and recognises the benefits it can bring to the Company's ability to achieve its goals.

The Board has elected not to set numerical targets regarding gender diversity; however, the Board has endeavoured to maintain and improve existing participation levels within the Company for female employees.

The Company's Diversity Policy is to provide opportunities for women wherever possible through internal promotion and external recruitment across all levels.

There are currently no female Directors on the Board of Aeris. The Board has undertaken to include both male and female candidates in the process for selection of new Directors and all candidates will continue to be assessed on their skills, knowledge and experience and on the relevance of these to the Company's needs.

Senior executives comprise the Executive Chairman and senior managers who report directly to the Executive Chairman. At the reporting date, 1 out of the 3 senior executives was female.

At 30 June 2021, female employees represented approximately 12% (2020: 14%) of the total workforce.

**Recommendation 1.6: A listed entity should:**

- (a) have and disclose a process for periodically evaluating the performance of the board, its committees and individual directors; and
- (b) disclose for each reporting period whether a performance evaluation has been undertaken in accordance with that process during or in respect of that period.

The Board does not have a formal process for evaluating its performance. The Board, as a whole, continuously monitors its efficiency and effectiveness with reference to the achievement of the Company's financial and operating objectives.

In his role as 'senior independent Director', Mr Michele Muscillo meets with the other Non-executive Directors to review the Executive Chairman's performance (refer to Recommendation 2.5 for the role of the 'senior independent Director'). The Executive Chairman's performance was reviewed by the Non-executive Directors during the reporting period. There is no formal process for evaluating the performance of individual Non-executive Directors, however should an issue be identified with the performance of a particular Director, the matter is discussed with the Director at the time.

Whilst the recommendation is not strictly followed, the Directors consider that at the date of this report the current evaluation process of Company Directors is appropriate and effective.

**Recommendation 1.7: A listed entity should:**

- (a) have and disclose a process for evaluating the performance of its senior executives at least once every reporting period; and**
- (b) disclose for each reporting period whether a performance evaluation has been undertaken in accordance with that process during or in respect of that period.**

The Board sets a range of goals and specific, measurable targets at the start of the performance year for each senior executive, including the Executive Chairman. The Board undertook a performance evaluation of each senior executive during the 2021 financial year and performance was assessed against the goals and targets that were set at the start of the performance year.

**PRINCIPLE 2 – STRUCTURE THE BOARD BE EFFECTIVE AND ADD VALUE****Recommendation 2.1: The board of a listed entity should:**

- (a) have a nomination committee which:**
  - (1) has at least three members, a majority of whom are independent directors; and**
  - (2) is chaired by an independent director.****and disclose:**
  - (3) the charter of the committee;**
  - (4) the members of the committee; and**
  - (5) as at the end of each reporting period, the number of times the committee met throughout the period and the individual attendances of the members at those meetings.**
- (b) if it does not have a nomination committee, disclose that fact and the processes it employs to address board succession issues and to ensure that the board has the appropriate balance of skills, knowledge, experience, independence and diversity to enable it to discharge its duties and responsibilities effectively.**

The Board currently consists of four Directors, one of whom is the Executive Chairman. In view of the current size of the Board, the Board considers it more effective to set aside time at Board meetings to specifically address the matters that would have been ordinarily attended to by the Nomination Committee.

The Board has adopted a formal Nomination Committee Charter which is available from the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website. When a Director is appointed by the Board to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the Board, an independent Director assumes the role of Chair at the Board meeting held to confirm the appointment.

**Recommendation 2.2: A listed entity should have and disclose a board skills matrix setting out the mix of skills that the board currently has or is looking to achieve in its membership.**

The current Board members represent individuals who have extensive industry experience as well as professionals who bring to the Board their specific skills in order for the Company to achieve its strategic, operational and compliance objectives. Their suitability as Directors has been determined primarily on the basis of their ability to deliver outcomes in accordance with the Company's short to medium term objectives and therefore deliver value to shareholders.

The mix of skills and experience comprised in the current Board, and that the Board would look to maintain and to build on, include:

- Industry and technical experience - experience in the mining sector;
- Financial expertise - knowledge of accounting and reporting processes, financial and capital management strategies and corporate finance issues;
- Capital markets and strategy - setting and reviewing organisational strategy, organic growth and merger and acquisition opportunities;
- Corporate Governance and compliance - knowledge, experience and commitment to the highest standards of Corporate Governance; and
- Leadership - driving engagement and enablement, strategic workforce planning and leading organisational change.

The Board aspires to have a Board comprised of individuals diverse in gender, culture, background, perspectives and experience and will be mindful of this when making any appointments, which will also be based on merit.

Details of Board members, their experience, expertise and qualifications are set out at the commencement of the Directors' Report section of the 30 June 2021 Annual Financial Report.

**Recommendation 2.3: A listed entity should disclose:**

- (a) the names of the directors considered by the board to be independent directors;
- (b) if a director has an interest, position, affiliation or relationship of the type described in the 4th Edition of the Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations, but the board is of the opinion that it does not compromise the independence of the director, the nature of the interest, position, affiliation or relationship in question and an explanation of why the board is of that opinion; and
- (c) the length of service of each director.

In determining the independence of Directors, the Board has regard to the independence criteria as set out in the ASX Principles. The Board periodically assesses the independence of each Director. The Board has determined that Mr Michele Muscillo, Mr Alastair Morrison and Mr Colin Moorhead are independent Directors.

Marcus Derwin was a Non-executive Director during the reporting period and up until the date of his resignation on 27 July 2020. Mr Derwin did not fall within the ASX definition of "independent" as he was a nominee Director of Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), which had a material business relationship with Aeris. In terms of the restructuring deed, Aeris entered into with SCB and Special Portfolio V Limited (PAG SPV) on 31 December 2015, SCB and PAG SPV each had a separate entitlement to appoint one Director to the Aeris Board, whilst certain conditions prevailed. SCB's right to appoint a Director to the Aeris Board was extinguished in April 2020 as a result of SCB selling the majority of the Convertible Redeemable Preference Shares it held to a third party.

In respect of Mr Michele Muscillo, a partner with HopgoodGanim Lawyers (HG) who act as lawyers for the Company, the Board considers that despite the business relationship between Aeris Resources and HG, Mr Muscillo is independent as his annual billings to the Company do not represent more than 1% of the Company's annual revenue or more than 5% of HG's total annual billings.

The term in office of each Board member is set out at the commencement of the Directors' Report section of the 30 June 2021 Annual Financial Report.

**Recommendation 2.4: A majority of the board of a listed entity should be independent directors.**

The current structure of the Board complies with ASX Recommendation 2.4 as the majority of the Directors are independent however, during the period 1 July 2020 to 27 July 2020, the Board did not have a majority of independent directors.

**Recommendation 2.5: The chair of the board of a listed entity should be an independent director and, in particular, should not be the same person as the chief executive officer of the company.**

Mr Andre Labuschagne was appointed to the role of Managing Director on 20 December 2012 and subsequently as Executive Chairman on 19 April 2013. The Board considered that the combined role is in the interests of shareholders in order to utilise the proven leadership qualities and significant experience of Mr Labuschagne through a challenging period for the Company and to ensure the ongoing commercial success of the Company. Furthermore, Mr Labuschagne has been with the Company since 2012 and has therefore provided stability and continuity through his detailed understanding of the Company's operations and the markets in which it operates.

Recognising, however, that an Executive Chairman is not able to provide an independent review of the performance of management, Mr Michele Muscillo, an independent Director, fulfils the role of the 'senior independent Director' whenever the Executive Chairman is conflicted. In the role of 'senior independent Director' Mr Muscillo:

- Works closely with the Executive Chairman, acting as a sounding board and providing support;
- Being available to shareholders to address any concerns or issues they feel have not been adequately dealt with through the usual channels of communication;
- Meeting with the other Non-executive Directors to review the Executive Chairman's performance and carrying out succession planning for the Chairman's role; and
- Attending sufficient meetings with major shareholders to obtain a balanced understanding of their issues and concerns.

**Recommendation 2.6: A listed entity should have a program for inducting new directors and for periodically reviewing whether there is a need for existing directors to undertake professional development to maintain the skills and knowledge needed to perform their role as directors effectively.**

New Directors are provided with a comprehensive induction programme that includes business briefings by management and site visits.

The Board encourages Directors to continue their education and maintain the skills required to discharge their duties by providing professional development opportunities. The Company meets all reasonable costs of continuing Director education.

A Director of the Company is entitled to seek independent professional advice (including, but not limited to, legal, accounting and financial advice) at the Company's expense on any matter connected with the discharge of his or her responsibilities, in accordance with the procedures, and subject to the conditions set out in the Company's Board Charter.

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

**Recommendation 3.1: A listed company should articulate and disclose its values.**

The Company's four core values are: Safety, Ethics and Integrity, Performance, and People. The values are disclosed on the Company's website under the *People* tab. These values underpin the Company's operations and all employees of the Company are expected to act in a manner that reflects the Company's values.

**Recommendation 3.2: A listed entity should:**

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

The Board has adopted a formal Corporate Code of Conduct (the Code). A copy of the Code is made available to all employees of the Company and is also available from the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website.

This Code expresses certain basic principles that the Company, Directors and employees should follow in all dealings related to the Company. They should show the highest business integrity in their dealings with others, including preserving the confidentiality of other peoples' information and should conduct the Company's business in accordance with relevant legislation and principles of good business practice.

The Company encourages the reporting of unlawful and unethical behaviour and protects those who report breaches in good faith. The Code protects whistleblowers, as required by the Corporations Act 2001.

The Board is informed of any material breaches of the Code.

**Recommendation 3.3: A listed company should:**

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

The Company's Whistleblower Policy encourages reporting of suspected unethical, illegal or undesirable behaviour and promotes a culture of honest and ethical conduct. A third party whistleblower service provider facilitates the Company's employees and other stakeholders speaking up regarding any concerns that the Company or its people are failing to meet ethical or legal standards.

Any material incidents are reported to the Board.

**Recommendation 3.4: A listed entity should:**

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

The Company's does not comply with Recommendation 3.4 as it does not have a separate policy on Anti-Bribery, Corruption and Fraud. The Company expresses the basic principles that the Company, Directors and employees should follow in all dealings related to the Company in the Code of Conduct which is made available to all employees of the Company and is also available from the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website.

Any material breaches are reported to the Board. The Company intends to publish a separate policy on Anti-Bribery, Corruption and Fraud Policy in the next financial year.

**PRINCIPLE 4 – SAFEGUARD THE INTEGRITY OF CORPORATE REPORTS****Recommendation 4.1: The board of a listed entity should:**

- (a) have an audit committee which:**
  - (1) has at least three members, all of whom are non-executive directors and a majority of whom are independent directors; and**
  - (2) is chaired by an independent director, who is not the chair of the board, and disclose:**
    - (3) the charter of the committee;**
    - (4) the relevant qualifications and experience of the members of the committee; and**
    - (5) in relation to each reporting period, the number of times the committee met throughout the period and the individual attendances of the members at those meetings; or**
- (b) if it does not have an audit committee, disclose that fact and the processes it employs that independently verify and safeguard the integrity of its corporate reporting, including the processes for the appointment and removal of the external auditor and the rotation of the audit engagement partner.**

The Audit Committee members are Mr Michele Muscillo (Chairman) and Mr Alastair Morrison. The Committee does not comply with Recommendation 4.1 as it only has two members and not three. Mr Colin Moorhead has been appointed to the Audit Committee effective 26 August 2021 which will ensure that the Committee will comply during the financial year end 30 June 2022. The Board is of the view that the current size of the Audit Committee is appropriate given the size and structure of the Board.

Both members of the Audit Committee are financially literate and have an appropriate understanding of the mining industry. All other details of the members' qualifications and the number of meetings held and attended can be found in the Directors' Report section of the 30 June 2021 Annual Financial Report.

The Board has adopted a formal Audit Committee Charter which is available from the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website.

**Recommendation 4.2: The board of a listed entity should, before it approves the entity's financial statements for a financial period, receive from its chief executive officer and the chief financial officer a declaration that, in their opinion, the financial records of the entity 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 entity and that the opinion is founded on a sound system of risk management and internal control which is operating effectively.**

In accordance with section 295A of the Corporations Act, the Chief Executive Officer (who is the Executive Chairman) and Chief Financial Officer have provided a written statement to the Board in respect of each half and full-year financial period that:

- The Company's financial records have been properly maintained;
- 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;
- Their view provided on the Company's financial report is founded on a sound system of risk management and internal compliance and control which implements the financial policies adopted by the Board; and
- The Company's risk management and internal compliance and control system is operating effectively in all material respects.

The Board acknowledges that the internal control assurances from the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer are not absolute and can only be provided on a reasonable basis after having made due enquiries. This is due to such factors as the need for judgement, the use of testing on a sample basis, the inherent limitations in internal control and because much of the evidence available is persuasive rather than conclusive and therefore is not, and cannot be, designed to detect all weaknesses in control procedures.

**Recommendation 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.**

For periodic corporate reports released to the market which are not required to be audited or reviewed by the Company's external auditor, the reports are subject to an internal review and approval process prior to the reports being released to the market. This process involves the reports being prepared and reviewed by relevant subject matter experts, an internal verification and sign off process, material statements being reviewed for accuracy, and an appropriate approval process involving senior executives and the Executive Chairman, and for disclosure of certain matters which are within the Board's reserved powers, or matters that are otherwise of significance to the Company, the approval of the Board.

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

**Recommendation 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 Board has adopted a formal Disclosure Policy outlining procedures for compliance with ASX continuous disclosure requirements. The Disclosure Policy is available from the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website.

The Policy is based upon the Company's desire to promote fair markets, honest management and full and fair disclosure. The disclosure requirements must be complied with in accordance with their spirit, intention and purpose.

The purpose of the Policy is to:

- Summarise the Company's disclosure obligations;
- Explain what type of information needs to be disclosed;
- Identify who is responsible for disclosure; and
- Explain how individuals at the Company can contribute.

The Company Secretaries have been nominated as the persons responsible for communications with the ASX. This role includes responsibility for ensuring compliance with the continuous disclosure requirements in the ASX Listing Rules and overseeing and coordinating information disclosure to the ASX, analysts, brokers, shareholders, the media and the public.

**Recommendation 5.2: A listed entity should ensure that its board receives copies of all material market announcements promptly after they have been made.**

The Board receives copies of all material ASX market announcements promptly after they have been made.

**Recommendation 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.**

Presentations to investors and analysts are released to the ASX immediately prior to the making of those presentations. Where practicable, shareholders are given the opportunity to participate and ask questions in presentations using an online webcast service.

**PRINCIPLE 6 – RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF SECURITY HOLDERS**

**Recommendation 6.1: A listed entity should provide information about itself and its governance to investors via its website.**

The Company keeps investors informed of its Corporate Governance, financial performance and prospects via its website. Investors can access copies of all announcements to the ASX, notices of meetings, annual reports and financial statements, investor presentations and/or transcripts of those presentations via the *Investor Centre* tab and can access general information regarding the Company and the structure of its business under the *About*, *Operations* and *Exploration* tabs.

**Recommendation 6.2: A listed entity should have an investor relations program that facilitates effective two-way communication with investors.**

The Board has adopted a formal Shareholder Communication Guidelines and Policy.

All information disclosed to the ASX is posted on the Company's website as soon as it is disclosed to the ASX. When there are briefings to general groups, analysts or investors on the aspects of the Company's operations, the material used in the presentation is released to the ASX and posted on the Company's website. Procedures have also been established for reviewing whether any price sensitive information has been inadvertently disclosed, and if so, this information is released to the market.

In addition, the Company seeks to provide opportunities for shareholders to participate through electronic means. Initiatives to facilitate this include making available on the Company's website all Company announcements, media briefings, details of Company meetings and both press releases and financial reports.

The Shareholder Communication Guidelines and Policy is available from the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website.

**Recommendation 6.3: A listed entity should disclose how it facilitates and encourages participation at meetings of security holders.**

The Company communicates with shareholders through releases to the ASX, its website, information distributed directly to shareholders and the general meetings of shareholders. To ensure that shareholders have the opportunity to participate at meetings of members:

- At the Annual General Meeting, shareholders elect the Directors and have the opportunity to express their views, ask questions about the Company's business and vote on items of business for resolution by shareholders; and
- The Company's external auditor attends each Annual General Meeting and is available to answer shareholder questions about the conduct of the audit and the preparation and content of the audit report.

**Recommendation 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.**

All substantive resolutions at meetings of shareholders are decided by a poll rather than by a show of hands.

**Recommendation 6.5: A listed entity should give security holders the option to receive communications from, and send communications to, the entity and its security registry electronically.**

Shareholders can send and receive communications to and from the Company electronically, as provided for in the Shareholders Communication Guidelines and Policy.

The Company's website has a *Contact* section which allows shareholders to submit an electronic form with questions or comments and shareholders can register to receive updates.

The Company's share registry facilitates electronic communication so members can access details about their holding.

## PRINCIPLE 7 – RECOGNISE AND MANAGE RISK

**Recommendation 7.1: The board of a listed entity should:**

- (a) **establish a committee or committees to oversee risk, each of which:**
  - (1) **has at least three members, the majority of whom are independent directors; and**
  - (2) **is chaired by an independent director.****and disclose:**
  - (3) **the charter of the committee;**
  - (4) **the members of the committee; and**
  - (5) **as at the end of each reporting period, the number of times the committee met throughout the period and the individual attendances at those meetings or**
- (b) **if it does not have a risk committee or committees that satisfy (a) above, disclose that fact and the processes it employs for overseeing the company's risk management framework.**

The Board has not formed a committee to oversee risk. The full Board consists of only four Directors and has formed the view that it is more efficient for the Board as a whole to deal with matters that would otherwise be dealt with by a Risk Committee.

**Recommendation 7.2: The board or a committee of the board should:**

- (a) **review the entity's risk management framework at least annually to satisfy itself that it continues to be sound and that the company is operating with due regard to the risk appetite set by the board; and**
- (b) **disclose, in relation to each reporting period, whether such a review has taken place.**

The Board is responsible for reviewing, ratifying and monitoring systems of risk management. The Board has adopted a Risk Management Policy and this policy is available from the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website. A review of the Risk Management Policy was undertaken at a Board meeting during the reporting period and the Board is satisfied that the policy continues to be sound.

**Recommendation 7.3: A listed entity should disclose:**

- (a) **if it has an internal audit function, how the function is structured and what role it performs; or**
- (b) **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 governance, risk management and internal control processes.**

The Company does not have an internal audit function. Given the Company's current size and nature of its operations, the Board considers it appropriate to engage external advisors (independent of the external auditor) as appropriate from time to time to undertake various tasks that an internal audit function would perform. No external advisors were engaged during the financial year ended 30 June 2021 to undertake internal audit activities.

The Executive Chairman and the Chief Financial Officer are primarily responsible for reporting to the Board on a regular basis in relation to whether the Company's material business risks are being managed effectively by way of the Company's risk management and internal control systems.

**Recommendation 7.4: A listed entity should disclose whether it has any material exposure to environmental or social risks and, if it does, how it manages or intends to manage those risks.**

The Board identifies and manages material exposures to environmental and social risks in accordance with its Risk Management Policy and Guidelines.

Disclosure of the Company's material exposure to and management of environmental and social risks is included on the Company's website under the *Sustainability* tab.

The Company has established and implemented a system for identifying, assessing, monitoring and managing material risk throughout the group. This system includes Aeris' internal compliance and control systems, which include the following:

- Aeris' Health, Safety and Environment Management System Framework;
- Aeris' Health, Safety and Environment Management Standards;
- Insurance risk engineers' operational risk reports;
- Insurance risk assessment reports;
- Insurance valuation of plant and equipment reports;
- Aeris' Group Treasury Policy and Procedures;
- Risk Assessment Registers for all mine sites; and
- Board approved policies which are available from the Corporate Governance section of Aeris' website.

## PRINCIPLE 8 – REMUNERATE FAIRLY AND RESPONSIBLY

**Recommendation 8.1: The board of a listed entity should:**

- (a) **establish a remuneration committee which:**
  - (1) **has at least three members, a majority of whom are independent directors; and**
  - (2) **is chaired by an independent director.****and disclose:**
  - (3) **the charter of the committee;**
  - (4) **the members of the committee; and**
  - (5) **as at the end of each reporting period, the number of times the committee met throughout the period and the individual attendances of the members at those meetings or**
- (b) **if it does not have a remuneration committee, disclose that fact and the processes it employs for setting the level and composition of remuneration for directors and senior executives and ensuring that such remuneration is appropriate and not excessive.**

The Board currently consists of four Directors, one of whom is the Executive Chairman. In view of the current size of the Board, the Board considers it more effective to set aside time at Board meetings, where an independent Director assumes the role of chair to specifically address the matters that would have been ordinarily attended to by the Remuneration Committee.

The Board operates in accordance with a formal Remuneration Committee Charter which sets out the processes the Board employs for setting the level and composition of remuneration for Directors and senior executives and ensuring that such remuneration is appropriate and not excessive. The Charter is available from the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website. An independent Director assumes the role of chair at the Board meeting held.

**Recommendation 8.2: A listed entity should separately disclose its policies and practices regarding the remuneration of non-executive directors and the remuneration of executive directors and other senior executives.**

The Company determines the remuneration of its Non-executive and executive Directors and other senior executives in accordance with its Remuneration Committee Charter, a copy of which is available from the Corporate Governance section of the Company's website.

Each member of the Senior Executive Team signs a letter of appointment covering a range of matters including their duties, rights, responsibilities, fees, any entitlements on termination and job description. Further information on Directors' and executives' remuneration, including principles used to determine remuneration is set out in the Directors' Report section of the 30 June 2021 Annual Financial Report under the heading *Remuneration Report*.

Non-executive Directors are appointed by letter and remunerated by way of an annual Director's fee and a superannuation contribution calculated according to that fee. Non-executive Directors are not entitled to any further remuneration by way of termination payments or any staff benefits, and are ineligible to participate in any of the Company's Incentive Plans. There is no scheme for retirement benefits, other than statutory superannuation. Executive Directors are paid a salary and provided with shares and/or options (subject to shareholder approval) and bonuses as part of their remuneration and incentive package. They do not receive a separate payment for participation on Board committees.

Further details regarding the remuneration of Non-executive and executive Directors are set out in the *Remuneration Report* of the Directors' Report section of the 30 June 2021 Annual Financial Report.

**Recommendation 8.3: A listed entity which has an equity-based remuneration scheme should:**

- (a) 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**
- (b) disclose that policy or a summary of it.**

Under the Company's Security's Trading Policy, participants in the Company's equity-based remuneration plans are not permitted to enter into any transactions that would limit the economic risk of unvested entitlements.