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# **Code of Conduct**

Pearl Gull Iron Limited (ACN 621 103 535)

Reviewed and approved by the Board on 26 July 2022

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# Pearl Gull Iron Limited - Code of Conduct

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## 1 Introduction

- (a) This code of conduct, which has the full endorsement of the board of directors (**Board**) of Pearl Gull Iron Limited (**Pearl Gull**), sets out the way Pearl Gull conducts business (**Code**). Pearl Gull will carry on business honestly and fairly, acting only in ways that reflect well on Pearl Gull in strict compliance with all laws and regulations.
- (b) The purpose of this Code is to guide the behaviour of everyone in Pearl Gull (including all employees, contractors, consultants, managers and the Board, including temporary employees, contractors and directors of Pearl Gull) (collectively, **Employees**) by clearly stating Pearl Gull's firm commitment to behaving honestly and fairly.
- (c) All Employees are required to understand and comply with their obligations under this Code.
- (d) If Employees are not sure that a proposed action is appropriate, they should ask their manager for guidance before acting.

The Code of Conduct is available in the Corporate Governance section of Pearl Gull's website ([www.pearlgulliron.com.au](http://www.pearlgulliron.com.au)).

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## 2 Employee's responsibilities

- (a) Each Employee is responsible for complying with this Code both in detail and in spirit. Everyone must:
  - (i) act in accordance with Pearl Gull's values and the best interests of Pearl Gull;
  - (ii) act with integrity – being honest, ethical, fair and trustworthy in all business dealings and relationships;
  - (iii) comply with all laws and regulations that apply to Pearl Gull and its operations and avoid any illegal or unethical activity;
  - (iv) act ethically and responsibly;
  - (v) avoid conflicts between Pearl Gull's interests and personal interests;
  - (vi) treat fellow staff members with respect and not engage in bullying, harassment, discrimination or other forms of detrimental conduct;
  - (vii) deal with customers and suppliers fairly;
  - (viii) protect Pearl Gull's business assets;
  - (ix) not take advantage of the property or information of Pearl Gull or its customers for personal gain or to cause detriment to Pearl Gull or its customers;

- (x) not take advantage of their position or the opportunities arising therefrom for personal gain; and
  - (xi) report breaches of this Code to an appropriate person in Pearl Gull as set out in section 18 of the Code.
- (b) It is the responsibility of all of Pearl Gull's people, including managers and other leaders, to ensure ethical conduct is recognised and valued throughout Pearl Gull.
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### **3 Responsibility and accountability of the Board and Managers**

The Board is responsible for the contents of the Code and its periodic updating. The directors and managers at all levels of Pearl Gull are responsible for ensuring that all Employees understand and follow this Code.

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### **4 Consultants' responsibilities**

Individuals or organisations contracting to, consulting for, or representing Pearl Gull, or both, must comply with this Code in the same way as Pearl Gull employees. Pearl Gull employees who engage contractors or consultants should ensure that they are provided with a copy of relevant Pearl Gull policies, including this Code.

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### **5 Compliance with law**

- (a) Pearl Gull will only conduct business by lawful and ethical means. Legal responsibilities change and Employees at all levels must keep themselves informed and comply with all legal responsibilities.
  - (b) Depending on their individual responsibilities, Employees must be familiar with corporate, competition and consumer, taxation, employment, work health and safety, equal opportunity and discrimination, privacy and environmental laws and regulations as well any of Pearl Gull's internal policies in relation to such matters.
  - (c) All Employees have an obligation to understand and work within these requirements. If Employees do not understand their responsibilities and Pearl Gull's obligations, they must seek guidance from their manager.
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### **6 Avoiding conflicts of interest**

- (a) Employees must avoid any situations involving divided loyalty or a conflict between their personal interests and those of Pearl Gull. Employees faced with conflicting interests must report it to their manager.
- (b) In particular:
  - (i) Employees and any organisation in which they or their family have a significant interest must not compete with, or have business dealings with Pearl Gull;
  - (ii) Employees must not work or consult for, or have any other key role in, an outside business organisation which has dealings with Pearl Gull or is a competitor of Pearl Gull;

- (iii) Employees must not enter into any arrangement or participate in any activity that conflicts with Pearl Gull's best interests or is likely to negatively affect Pearl Gull's reputation;
- (iv) Employees must not use Pearl Gull's assets for any purpose other than for Pearl Gull's business purposes or interests;
- (v) Employees must not make improper use of their employment with Pearl Gull, their position or role in Pearl Gull, or information obtained because of their position, to gain an advantage for themselves or anyone else, to Pearl Gull's detriment; and
- (vi) Employees must not buy or sell shares in Pearl Gull or any other companies at any time when they are aware of price sensitive information about Pearl Gull, which has not been disclosed to the Australian Securities Exchange (**ASX**). All Employees must read and follow the Pearl Gull Securities Trading Policy.

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## **7 Potential takeovers, acquisitions or other “change of control” transactions involving Pearl Gull**

- (a) Employees must be particularly careful to avoid conflicts of interest and the improper disclosure of confidential information in the case of an approach by a third party (“potential bidder”) in relation to the proposed acquisition of the shares in, or any of the businesses of, Pearl Gull. Such an approach might be made informally (for example by enquiry or overture) and/or through an intermediary or advisor to the potential bidder and may involve discussions about the employee's potential role in a future merged group.
- (b) The Board must be immediately informed of any approach (no matter what the form of the approach) and will establish protocols for Pearl Gull's response to the approach.
- (c) Any Employee who is approached (even informally) by or on behalf of a potential bidder must:
  - (i) immediately notify his or her manager of the approach, including the details of any inducement or incentive offered to that Employee or any other Employee;
  - (ii) cease communications with the potential bidder until communication protocols are established and then only if so authorised under those protocols;
  - (iii) not provide any corporate information to anyone without the express approval of the Board or the Board's representative and then only on terms approved by the Board; and
  - (iv) ensure that the approach is not discussed with customers, suppliers or other Employees unless specifically authorised by the Board and then only on terms approved by the Board (which must take into account Pearl Gull's continuous disclosure obligations, amongst other things).

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## 8 Outside memberships, directorships, employment and public office

- (a) Pearl Gull supports involvement of its employees in community activities and professional organisations. However, outside employment or activity must not conflict with an Employee's ability to properly perform their work for Pearl Gull, nor create a conflict (or the appearance of a conflict) of interest.
- (b) Before accepting outside employment or a position on the board of directors of another company or non-profit organisation, all Employees must carefully evaluate whether the position could cause, or appear to cause, a conflict of interest. If there is any question, Employees should consult their manager.
- (c) Employees must obtain prior written consent from their manager where the proposed employment or position relates to an outside organisation that has or seeks to have a business relationship with Pearl Gull company or competes with services provided by Pearl Gull.
- (d) Employees may accept public office or serve on a public body in their individual private capacity, but not as a representative of Pearl Gull. If such public office would require time away from work, the Employee must comply with Pearl Gull's policies regarding leave of absence and absenteeism.

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## 9 Protection and proper use of Pearl Gull's assets

- (a) All Employees must use their best efforts to protect Pearl Gull's assets and other resources including plant, equipment, and other valuable property including confidential information and intellectual property such as trademarks, registered designs and copyrighted material, from loss, theft and unauthorised use.
- (b) The use of Pearl Gull time, materials, or facilities for purposes not directly related to company business, or the removal or borrowing of company property without permission is prohibited. Incidental personal use of such company resources as computers, phones, faxes, copiers and internet access is permitted in accordance with Pearl Gull's IT policies, but Employees must ensure that Pearl Gull's interests are not harmed.

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## 10 Protecting confidential information

- (a) Information that Pearl Gull considers private and that is not generally available outside Pearl Gull, which may include information of third parties to which Pearl Gull has access (**Confidential Information**) and information that Pearl Gull owns, develops, pays to have developed or to which it has an exclusive right (**Proprietary Information**) must be treated by Pearl Gull employees as follows:
  - (i) Employees must ensure that they do not disclose any Confidential Information or Proprietary Information to any third party or other Employee who does not have a valid business reason for receiving that information, unless:
    - (A) allowed or required under relevant laws or regulation; or
    - (B) agreed by the person or organisation whose information it is; and

- (ii) if Confidential Information or Proprietary Information is required to be provided to third parties or other Employees for valid business purposes, Employees must:
    - (A) take adequate precautions to seek to ensure that information is only used for those purposes for which it is provided and it is not misused or disseminated to Pearl Gull's detriment; and
    - (B) take steps to ensure that the information is returned or destroyed when the purpose is complete.
  - (b) These obligations continue to apply to Employees after their employment or engagement ceases.
  - (c) If Employees are unsure whether information is of a confidential or proprietary nature, they must seek advice from their manager before disclosure.
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## 11 Control of information

- (a) Employees must:
    - (i) return all Pearl Gull property including any documents or confidential information, on termination or on the request of Pearl Gull or its representative; and
    - (ii) if requested by Pearl Gull or its representative, destroy or delete any confidential information stored in electronic, magnetic or optical form so that it cannot be retrieved or reconstructed.
  - (b) Employees must not make improper disclosure, including inadvertent or careless disclosure, of business strategies and plans, special methods of operation and other information that is confidential to or of competitive value to Pearl Gull.
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## 12 Public communications and disclosures

- (a) Media statements, responses to questions from any journalist, investor, stockbroker or financial analyst and official announcements may only be made by persons authorised in accordance with the Disclosure Policy. If Employees receive a request for information and they are not authorised to respond to the enquiry, they must refer the request to the appropriate person. Unless a Director has given prior written consent, Employees and associated parties must not participate in public forum communications or discussions (including internet-based forums and social media) where the subject matter is related to Pearl Gull, its competitors or any industry in which Pearl Gull operates.
- (b) Pearl Gull has adopted the Disclosure Policy as a means of ensuring compliance with its disclosure and communication obligations under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) and the ASX Listing Rules. The aim of the Disclosure Policy is to keep the market fully informed of information that may have a material effect on the price or value of Pearl Gull's securities, and to correct any material mistake or misinformation in the market.
- (c) Employees should ensure that they are aware of the requirements of the Disclosure Policy and, if it applies to them, they must act in accordance with the policy.

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## 13 Gifts, gratuities and entertainment

- (a) Pearl Gull does not permit or tolerate giving or taking bribes, kickbacks or gratuities or any other payments or promises for favourable treatment or as an inducement for doing business. However, Pearl Gull allows the acceptance of token gifts and entertainment provided they are appropriate to the intended business purpose and consistent with local business practice and laws.
- (b) Employees should not seek to gain special advantage for Pearl Gull or themselves through the use of business gifts, favours or entertainment, if it could create even the appearance of impropriety. Business entertainment should be moderately scaled and clearly for business purposes. Gifts and entertainment should not be offered to a customer or supplier whose organisation does not allow this.
- (c) Employees may accept or give gifts, favours, or entertainment only if permitted to do so by Pearl Gull's Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy which outlines Pearl Gull's policies relating to gifts, favours and entertainment.
- (d) If Employees have any doubts about whether a gift or benefit complies with this Code or Pearl Gull's Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy, they should promptly discuss it with their manager.

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## 14 Integrity in financial reporting

- (a) Pearl Gull is committed to providing accurate, timely and clearly understandable disclosures in reports on its results to shareholders, the Australian Securities Exchange, Australian Securities and Investments Commission and other regulators.
- (b) Employees responsible for the preparation of such reports are responsible for the integrity of the information contained in, or which forms the basis, such reports and are expected to exercise the highest standard of care in preparing materials for public communications.

Those reports and communications should:

- (i) comply with all applicable legal requirements and accounting standards;
  - (ii) fairly and accurately reflect the transactions or occurrences to which they relate;
  - (iii) not contain any false or intentionally misleading information, nor intentionally misclassify information; and
  - (iv) be in reasonable detail and recorded in the proper account and in the proper accounting period.
- (c) All material financial information and disclosure must be accurately represented in Pearl Gull's accounts. No information may be concealed by Employees from either Pearl Gull's internal or external auditors. No Employee may take any action to influence, coerce, manipulate or mislead Pearl Gull's external auditors in order to produce misleading financial statements.

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## 15 Responsibility to individuals

- (a) Pearl Gull is committed to the fair and equal treatment of all its Employees and abides by the employment laws of the countries in which it operates. Employees and candidates for employment or engagement shall be judged on the basis of their behaviour and qualifications to carry out their job without regard to race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or political belief or any other aspect protected by law.
- (b) Pearl Gull does not tolerate discrimination, including sexual, physical or verbal harassment or other demeaning behaviour against any individual or group of people.
- (c) Pearl Gull does not tolerate bullying, violence or threats of violence.
- (d) Employees are required to adhere to any Pearl Gull policies relating to the treatment of others.

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## 16 Acting responsibly with customers, suppliers, competitors and others

- (a) Employees dealing with customers, suppliers, partners, competitors and other third parties must engage with such persons fairly, ethically, honestly and respectfully and in compliance with applicable laws and Pearl Gull policies. In particular:
  - (i) Employees must be fair, honest and open in all business dealings;
  - (ii) Employees must not misrepresent Pearl Gull products, services or prices and must not make false claims about those of Pearl Gull's competitors;
  - (iii) purchasing decisions must be based on such commercially competitive factors as quality, price, reputation and reliability and a supplier's level of service; and
  - (iv) Employees must respect confidential information that is obtained through the business relationships.
- (b) If another Employee or outside party suggests acting in a manner contrary to the above, this must be immediately reported to their manager.

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## 17 Legal actions

- (a) Any actual, proposed or potential legal action against Pearl Gull or Employees must be notified to their manager as soon as becoming aware of such an action.
- (b) Any actual, proposed or potential legal action by Pearl Gull or Employees on behalf of Pearl Gull against another party must be approved in advance by the Board.

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## 18 Reporting non-compliance with this Code

- (a) Any Employee who knows or suspects on reasonable grounds a breach of this Code either has occurred, is occurring or might occur should report that information to:



- (i) an officer or senior manager of Pearl Gull;
  - (ii) a member of the Board; or
  - (iii) a Whistleblower Protection Officer in accordance with Pearl Gull's Whistleblower Protection Policy, which is available in the Corporate Governance section of Pearl Gull's website ([www.pearlgulliron.com.au](http://www.pearlgulliron.com.au)).
- (b) Such reports will be treated confidentially to the extent possible consistent with Pearl Gull's obligation to deal with the matter openly and according to applicable laws.
  - (c) No Employee will be subject to retaliation or victimisation for reporting a possible violation of this Code and may be protected under Pearl Gull's Whistleblower Protection Policy.

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## 19 Consequences for non-compliance with this Code

Adherence to this Code and Pearl Gull's policies is a condition of employment or engagement at Pearl Gull. Breaches of the Code may be subject to disciplinary action including termination of employment or engagement, if appropriate.

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## 20 Reviews and changes to this Code

- (a) The Board, in conjunction with the Audit and Risk Management Committee, will review this Code periodically to ensure that it is operating effectively and whether any changes are required.
- (b) The Board may change this Code from time to time by resolution.