# **Group Policy - Continuous Disclosure**

28 June 2022



# **PURPOSE**

Perpetual is committed to meeting its investors' expectations for open and transparent communication. It is also committed to promoting investor confidence in the Company by ensuring that trading in its securities takes place in an informed market. It expects to achieve these objectives by disseminating information in a fair, timely and balanced manner.

This policy sets out how Perpetual aims to meet its continuous disclosure obligations.

#### SCOPE

This policy applies to Perpetual's continuous disclosure obligations, which arise under the ASX Listing Rules and the Corporations Act. These obligations relate to information concerning Perpetual that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities. Attachment C summarises these legal obligations and provides guidance as to what information may require disclosure in accordance with these obligations.

This policy does not apply to the continuous disclosure obligations, if any, of any funds/trusts of which a Perpetual entity is the responsible entity/trustee or Perpetual Equity Investment Company Limited.

In the event of any inconsistency between this policy and the Group Policy - Media, this policy will prevail.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

ASX means the Australian Securities Exchange Limited.

ASIC means Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

Board means the board of directors of Perpetual Limited.

**CEO** means the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director.

Company or Perpetual means Perpetual Limited.

Continuous Disclosure Officer means the Company Secretary of Perpetual.

Corporations Act means Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

**Employee** includes any individual employed by Perpetual and includes individuals engaged as contractors, consultants or on a non-permanent basis. This definition also includes representatives of Perpetual authorised to trade in Perpetual securities.

Perpetual means Perpetual Limited and its controlled entities.

# **POLICY PRINCIPLES**

It is Perpetual's policy and commitment:

- to comply with its continuous disclosure obligations under the Corporations Act and ASX Listing Rules
- to ensure that there are procedures for identifying and assessing whether information must be disclosed to satisfy Perpetual's continuous disclosure obligations
- to ensure that information disclosed to the ASX by Perpetual, in the Board's opinion, is accurate, balanced and clearly worded in an objective manner, to allow investors to assess the impact of information when making investment decisions, and
- to ensure that Employees are aware of and are required to facilitate Perpetual's timely compliance with its continuous disclosure obligations.

This policy is supported by the procedures set out in Attachment A.

# **CONTINUOUS DISCLOSURE COMMITTEE**

The Continuous Disclosure Committee (the Committee) is a delegated Committee of the Board and is responsible for:

- ensuring that there is an adequate framework in place for the timely and balanced disclosure of material information in accordance with the ASX Listing Rules and Corporations Act;
- ensuring that there is an adequate framework for safeguarding confidentiality of corporate information to avoid premature disclosure of material information;



- identifying and assessing whether information must be disclosed by Perpetual under the ASX Listing Rules or the Corporations Act and, if information is to be disclosed, authorising the Company Secretary to release it;
- ensuring announcements released to the ASX by Perpetual are accurate, balanced and clearly worded in an
  objective manner, to allow investors to assess the impact of information when making investment decisions;
- responding to ASX and ASIC queries in relation to Perpetual's continuous disclosure obligations, including any
  requests to correct or prevent an actual or emerging 'false market' in Perpetual's securities, and for deciding
  when a trading halt should be requested;
- reporting to the Board at each of its meetings on any continuous disclosure issues which have arisen since the last board meeting; and
- reporting to the Board on the operation and effectiveness of the continuous disclosure framework generally.

The procedures that the Committee employs are set out in Attachment A and the Committee's terms of reference are set out in Attachment B.

# **CONTINUOUS DISCLOSURE OFFICER**

The Continuous Disclosure Officer is responsible for:

- overseeing, coordinating and authorising disclosure of information approved by the Committee;
- coordinating a response to general queries from the ASX and ASIC in relation to Perpetual's continuous disclosure obligations; and
- liaising with management and Employees regarding enquiries or escalation of potentially price sensitive information, or the content of this policy.

### **COMPLIANCE**

Compliance with this policy is mandatory and a breach is a serious matter that may result in disciplinary action. Disciplinary action will be based on the severity of the matter and may include dismissal. A breach of the policy may also involve potential civil or criminal liability for both Perpetual and the Employee.

# **NEED MORE INFORMATION?**

This policy is administered by the Committee. Any questions in relation to the policy can be forwarded to the Continuous Disclosure Officer: Continuous.Disclosure.Officer@perpetual.com.au

Further information is also available in ASX Guidance Note 8 "Continuous Disclosure", ASIC Regulatory Guide 62 "Better disclosure for investors".

# **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A - Procedures

Attachment B - Continuous Disclosure Committee Terms of Reference

Attachment C - Legal Framework

# **RELATED POLICIES**

Group Policy - Confidential Information, Inside Information and Information Barriers

Group Policy - Media

Group Policy - Personal Trading in Perpetual Securities

Group Policy - Employee Use of Social Media

Code of Conduct



# **DOCUMENT CONTROL**

Owner	Company Secretariat	
Approval	Board of Perpetual Limited	
Relates to	Trading in Perpetual Securities, Media, Confidential Information	
Primary rules / rationale	ASX Listing Rule 3.1 Chapter 6 Corporations Action 2001 (Cth)	



# **ATTACHMENT A - PROCEDURES**

### A. REPORTING OF INFORMATION

Employees are required to immediately inform by email or telephone call a Perpetual Group Executive member or the Continuous Disclosure Officer or a member of the Committee of any information that may require disclosure and that has not been previously disclosed to the market. Such information is described as "**price sensitive information**".

Employees are taken to be aware of "price sensitive information" where it is information that a reasonable person might expect would have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities. Attachment C contains further guidance on what that information may be. When in doubt as to whether a matter requires disclosure, Employees are nonetheless required to advise a Group Executive member or the Continuous Disclosure Officer or a Committee member of the matter.

Perpetual Group Executives must immediately notify by email or telephone call a member of the Committee if they receive or are aware of information that may require disclosure.

Continuous disclosure is a standing agenda item at all Perpetual Group Executive committee meetings at which Perpetual Group Executives confirm that there are no matters which require timely disclosure to the ASX. Perpetual Group Executives also provide semi-annual certifications to Perpetual Group Finance confirming that all matters which required disclosure to the ASX have been disclosed over the previous six months.

#### B. DETERMINING IF INFORMATION IS TO BE DISCLOSED

When information has been reported to a member of the Committee as described above, the member must convene a meeting of the Committee immediately. The Committee must meet as soon as possible to assess whether the information should be disclosed to the ASX and ASIC, including considering whether it is necessary to seek a trading halt to facilitate an orderly, fair and informed market in the Company's securities, and coordinating the actual form of disclosure with the relevant members of management.

### C. TRADING HALTS AND VOLUNTARY SUSPENSIONS

Circumstances may arise where Perpetual may be required to request a trading halt or seek voluntary suspension from the ASX.

The Company Secretary or their delegate may request a trading halt or seek voluntary suspension on the satisfaction of either:

- Committee approval;
- Board approval;
- approval from the Chairman of the Board;
- approval from the CEO; or
- in the event approval cannot be sought from the above options, and the Company Secretary considers it is necessary for Perpetual to immediately request a trading halt to comply with its continuous disclosure obligations, then the Company Secretary is authorised to seek the request for a trading halt or seek voluntary suspension.

Generally, a trading halt may be necessary in the following scenarios:

- a) where there are indications that market sensitive information may have leaked ahead of an announcement and it is having, or is likely to have, a material effect on the market price or traded volumes of the Company's securities
- b) where Perpetual has been asked by the ASX to provide information to correct or prevent a false market, or
- where Perpetual becomes aware of market sensitive information that is likely to cause a significant move (either up or down) in the market price of the Company's securities (for example, information that the Board has resolved to appoint an administrator or Perpetual is about to make a material value accretive acquisition),

and in each such scenario:

i. where the market is trading and Perpetual is not in a position to give an announcement to the ASX immediately, or



ii. where the market is not trading and Perpetual will not be in a position to give an announcement to the ASX before trading next resumes.

Generally, voluntary suspension from the ASX is sought if Perpetual is unable to satisfy its continuous disclosure obligations within the maximum permitted duration granted under a trading halt.

# D. ROLE OF PERPETUAL LIMITED BOARD

The Board performs an important oversight function with respect to continuous disclosure. Continuous disclosure is a standing agenda item for Board meetings. Minutes of the Committee meetings are provided to the Board.

The Board retains its power to approve disclosure of significant matters affecting Perpetual before being disclosed to the market. Such significant matters include, but are not limited to:

- statements relating to future earnings performance of Perpetual;
- statements relating to a change in Perpetual's strategy;
- corporate transactions that will lead to a significant change in the nature or scale of Perpetual's activities;
- material acquisitions or disposals;
- entry into, variation or termination of material agreements or licences; and
- changes in ratings applied to Perpetual by a rating agency.

In the event that an announcement that would ordinarily require Board approval must immediately be disclosed to the market in order for Perpetual to comply with its continuous disclosure obligations, all reasonable effort must be made to have the announcement considered and approved by the Board prior to release. However, if such approval cannot be obtained in advance, the usual procedure for making disclosures is to be followed to ensure compliance with the continuous disclosure laws. The announcement must then be considered by the Board at the first possible opportunity following its release to determine what, if any, further steps need to be taken by Perpetual.

# E. EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Requests for comment from an investor, sell-side analyst, media or other entity or third party in relation to any corporate matter concerning Perpetual should be directed to the following authorised representatives:

- General Manager, Corporate Affairs & Investor Relations;
- Head of Investor Relations; or
- Company Secretary for any other queries directed to the Board.

The General Manager, Corporate Affairs & Investor Relations and Head of Investor Relations or Perpetual's authorised third-party media consultants or representatives are authorised to respond to external questions about Perpetual. The General Manager, Corporate Affairs & Investor Relations will maintain a list of the approved media spokespeople.

# F. BRIEFINGS

The following are the only Employees authorised to hold investor and sell-side analyst briefings about Perpetual:

- the CEO:
- Chief Financial Officer;
- General Manager, Corporate Affairs & Investor Relations; and
- Head of Investor Relations.

On all occasions, briefings must not involve the disclosure of price-sensitive or material information unless this information has already been released to the ASX.



Prior to the briefing to shareholders, analysts or the media, any documents or presentations to be used must be given to the Company Secretary for release to the ASX and must be posted on the Perpetual website once the ASX has confirmed that the information has been released to market.

If information which may be price sensitive is inadvertently disclosed during a briefing, the matter must be referred to the Committee for a decision on whether it must be immediately announced to the market and posted on Perpetual's website.

Either the Chief Financial Officer or the Head of Investor Relations should be present at all meetings with investors, sell-side analysts and /or investment bankers with respect to Perpetual. At all times, at least two members of Perpetual should be present. If the Head of Investor Relations is not present, then as soon as practicable, the General Manager, Corporate Affairs & Investor Relations and the Company Secretary should be informed of the meeting and the matters discussed.

Either the General Manager, Corporate Affairs & Investor Relations or an authorised representative should be present at all media briefings or media interviews.

Perpetual should make every reasonable effort to record the matters discussed at meetings with investors, sell-side analysts and the media.

#### G. BLACK OUT PERIODS

Perpetual imposes communication blackout periods between the end of each half year or full year reporting date and the date Perpetual announces its half year or full year financial results. During these blackout periods Perpetual will not hold briefings with investors, analysts or the media to discuss financial information, other than to deal with matters that are the subject of a prior announcement to the ASX.

# H. SELL-SIDE ANALYST'S REPORTS, FINANCIAL FORECASTS AND CONSENSUS ESTIMATES

Comments on sell-side analysts' reports and financial projections may only be made by the CEO, the Chief Financial Officer or members of Perpetual's corporate affairs and investor relations team (after discussions with the CEO and/or the Chief Financial Officer and/or the relevant Group Executive).

If Perpetual determines, in its discretion, to comment or provide feedback to an analyst in respect of that analyst's report, financial forecasts, conclusions or recommendations set out in that analyst's report, it will:

- restrict itself to correcting errors in the underlying data on which the conclusions are based and not the conclusions themselves; and
- only use information already in the public domain and not communicate previously undisclosed information.

No further comment, speculation or clarification is warranted.

Perpetual regularly monitors the published financial forecasts and collates consensus estimates of sell-side analysts covering Perpetual to assess their interpretations of its strategy and expectations of future financial performance. Market expectations reflect sell-side analysts' expectations and consensus estimates. Any potentially material divergence between market expectations (as reflected in consensus estimates) and Perpetual's own forecasts or estimates is to be immediately reported to a member of the Committee. Perpetual has an obligation to publicly announce any change in its expectations before commenting to anyone outside the Company. (Guidelines for assessing materiality are contained in Attachment C.)

A response to the market's current forecasts that suggest they are either correct or incorrect must be avoided.

#### I. TIMING FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Information that must be disclosed to the ASX under Perpetual's continuous and periodic disclosure obligations must not be released to any other party, until it has been disclosed to the ASX, and the ASX has confirmed that the information has been released to market.

# J. WEBSITE

Information released to the ASX under Perpetual's continuous disclosure obligations will be posted on Perpetual's website immediately after receiving confirmation from ASX that the information has been released to market.



# K. MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING

Perpetual has established arrangements to monitor references to Perpetual across traditional and social media including blogs and chat sites. The results of these monitoring arrangements are regularly reviewed by Perpetual's Corporate Affairs team. In the event of misreporting or media error, Perpetual will immediately seek a correction.

If it is believed there has been a leak of information which may be price sensitive, the matter is to be immediately reported to the Continuous Disclosure Officer and a member of the Committee.

The General Manager, Corporate Affairs & Investment Relations, Manager - Corporate Communications and Head of Investor Relations or authorised third party are authorised to brief the media and respond to questions about Perpetual. The General Manager, Corporate Affairs & Investor Relations and the Manager - Corporate Communications will maintain a list of the approved media spokespeople. On all occasions, briefings may not involve the disclosure of price-sensitive information unless this information has already been released to the ASX.

# L. EDUCATION

Employees will receive training that includes:

- familiarisation with Perpetual's continuous disclosure obligations and the penalties that may result from their breach
- the business costs associated with a 'suspected' continuous disclosure breach, including the risk of regulatory investigations and class actions and the reputational damage to Perpetual, and
- an overview of this policy and the Employee's role under this policy.

# M. CONFIDENTIALITY

All Employees execute an employment agreement or arrangements that incorporate terms imposing confidentiality obligations owned to Perpetual, prohibiting the disclosure of any confidential information relating to Perpetual and its business. These obligations extend to all price sensitive matters. The consequences for Perpetual of a loss of confidentiality in respect of price sensitive information can be severe. Employees must treat any potentially price sensitive information as strictly confidential.

# N. FALSE MARKET RUMOUR

If the ASX considers that a false market has arisen or is likely to arise in the Company's securities, for example through inaccurate or partly accurate comment in the media, and/or market speculation and rumours from other sources, it will request Perpetual to give it information which is necessary to correct or prevent the false market from continuing. The Committee must consider and respond to all such requests. Employees must not comment on market rumour or speculation.



# ATTACHMENT B – CONTINUOUS DISCLOSURE COMMITTEE ("COMMITTEE") TERMS OF REFERENCE

# 1. ROLE

The Committee is responsible for:

- ensuring that there is an adequate framework in place for the timely and balanced disclosure of material information in accordance with the ASX Listing Rules and Corporations Act;
- ensuring that there is an adequate framework for safeguarding confidentiality of corporate information to avoid premature disclosure of material information;
- identifying and assessing whether information must be disclosed by Perpetual under the ASX Listing Rules or the Corporations Act and, if information is to be disclosed, authorising the Company Secretary to release it;
- ensuring announcements released to the ASX by Perpetual are accurate, balanced and clearly worded in an objective manner, to allow investors to assess the impact of information when making investment decisions;
- responding to ASX and ASIC queries in relation to Perpetual's continuous disclosure obligations, including any
  requests to correct or prevent an actual or emerging 'false market' in Perpetual's securities, and for deciding when a
  trading halt should be requested;
- reporting to the Board at each of its meetings on any continuous disclosure issues which have arisen since the last board meeting;
- · reporting to the Board on the operation and effectiveness of the continuous disclosure framework generally; and
- reviewing and assessing the effectiveness of the Continuous Disclosure Policy.

The Committee is also required to undertake any specific continuous disclosure related tasks allocated to it by the Board or its committees.

#### 2. MEMBERSHIP

The Committee is comprised of:

- the CEO
- · the Chief Financial Officer
- · the Continuous Disclosure Officer
- the General Manager, Corporate Affairs & Investor Relations;

or their delegates. The CEO is the chairman of the Committee. The Continuous Disclosure Officer or delegate will act as secretary to the Committee.

If the CEO is unavailable to attend a meeting of the Committee for any reason, the Chairman of the Board may attend as chairman of the Committee in place of the CEO. In the event that both the CEO and Chairman of the Board are unavailable to attend a meeting of the Committee for any reason, the CEO may appoint a suitable delegate (who may be any suitable Employee or director of the Company) to attend in their place. Where this occurs, the Committee will determine which of its number shall assume the role of chairman for the meeting.

# 3. MEETINGS AND REPORTING

- · Any member of the Committee or the Chairman of the Board may convene Committee meetings.
- · Where required, meetings must be convened without delay.
- A quorum for Committee meetings is two members, one of whom must be the Continuous Disclosure Officer or their
  equivalent. To ensure that the Committee's ability to act promptly and without delay is not impeded by lack of a
  quorum, each Committee member must ensure that a delegate will be available at times when the Committee
  member is absent, unavailable or cannot be contacted.
- Meetings of the Committee may be held by any means including in person, teleconference or by circular resolution via email.
- · All Committee decisions must be unanimous.
- Where the Committee is unable to make a unanimous decision, the matter will be referred to the Chairman of the Board for decision.



- The Committee may determine its own operational procedures.
- The Committee may obtain independent professional advice to assist in the proper exercise of its role and responsibilities, with the cost to be borne by Perpetual.
- The Company Secretary or delegate will keep minutes of each meeting of the Committee.
- The Company Secretary must give to the Board a report of any material business considered at each meeting of the Committee.



# ATTACHMENT C - CONTINUOUS DISCLOSURE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Obligation to disclosure	Reference	Perpetual entity with obligation	Comments
Information that may have a material effect on the price or value of PPT securities	ASX Listing Rule 3.1 Corporations Act s674	Listed disclosing entity: • PPT	Information must be disclosed immediately (i.e. promptly and without delay)

### 1. OVERVIEW OF CONTINUOUS DISCLOSURE OBLIGATIONS

ASX Listing Rule 3.1 requires that Perpetual must notify the ASX immediately if it becomes aware of any information concerning itself that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price of value of its securities. A reasonable person is taken to expect information to have a material effect on the price or value of securities if it would, or would be likely to, influence persons who commonly invest in securities in deciding whether or not to subscribe for, buy, or sell the securities.

This is the basis of Perpetual's continuous disclosure obligation. This obligation is given statutory force by section 674 of the Corporations Act

### 2. GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSING MATERIALITY

In assessing whether information is 'material', the following guidelines are useful:

- 1. An amount which would have an impact of:
  - a) 5% or less of an appropriate base amount ought to be presumed to be <u>immaterial</u> unless there is evidence, or convincing argument, to the contrary
  - b) 10% or more of an appropriate base amount ought to be presumed to be <u>material</u>, unless there is evidence, or convincing argument to the contrary
  - c) between 5% and 10% of an appropriate base amount is considered to be a 'grey' and subjective area.

Anything 5% or more should be referred to the Committee for consideration.

The base amount for determining whether disclosure should be made in accordance with the above quantitative threshold is net profit after tax less profits on disposal of investments, businesses and buildings for the most recent full financial year and earnings per share on underlying net profit after tax basis.

2. Quantitative parameters should be regarded as merely indicative of potential materiality, without necessarily being conclusive as to materiality. Items may be regarded as material, and therefore require disclosure, without necessarily exceeding any indicative quantitative parameters (for example, if Perpetual is involved in any mergers or acquisition or is undertaking a significant capital management activity).

# 3. EXCEPTIONS TO THE CONTINUOUS DISCLOSURE RULE

Disclosure to the market is not required where each of the following conditions is and remains satisfied:

- one or more of the following apply:
  - it would be a breach of a law to disclose the information;
  - the information concerns an incomplete proposal or negotiation;
  - the information comprises matters of supposition or is insufficiently definite to warrant disclosure;
  - the information is generated for the internal management purposes of Perpetual;
  - the information is a trade secret:
  - the information is confidential and ASX has not formed the view that the information has ceased to be confidential; and
  - a reasonable person would not expect the information to be disclosed.



When relying on an exception outlined above, appropriate confidentiality protocols must be adhered to. A leak of confidential information can immediately deny Perpetual the ability to withhold the information from the ASX and force Perpetual to make a 'premature' announcement.

The following are common examples of information which affects Perpetual or one of its subsidiaries in its personal capacity, that would require disclosure if deemed to be 'material' in accordance with the above guidelines:

- a material change in Perpetual's financial forecast or expectation;
- · senior management and organisational changes;
- the fact that Perpetual's earnings will be materially different from market expectations;
- · the appointment of a receiver, manager, or liquidator;
- the entry into, variation or termination of a material agreement;
- · a material acquisition or disposal;
- becoming a plaintiff or defendant in a material law suit;
- · the granting or withdrawal of a material licence;
- the commission of an event of default under, or other event entitling a financier to terminate, a material financing facility;
- a transaction that will lead to a significant change in the nature or scale of Perpetual's activities;
- · under-subscription or over-subscriptions to an issue of securities;
- · giving or receiving a notice of intention to make a takeover;
- a material change in accounting policy adopted by Perpetual;
- · a change in Perpetual's auditor; and
- any rating applied by a credit rating agency to the Company or securities it has issued on its own account (excluding any rating applied to any of its funds/trusts) and any change to such rating.

# 4. CONTRAVENTIONS

If Perpetual contravenes its continuous disclosure obligations under the Listing Rules, the ASX may suspend trading in Perpetual's shares or, in extreme cases, may delist Perpetual from the ASX.

It may also be liable under the Corporations Act and may face:

- · criminal liability which attracts substantial monetary fines; and
- civil liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of the failure to disclose any information to the ASX.

ASIC also has the power to issue infringement notices to Perpetual.

### 5. PERSONS INVOLVED IN A CONTRAVENTION

Perpetual's officers (including its directors), Employees or advisers who are involved in any contravention of Perpetual's continuous disclosure obligations may also face criminal penalties and civil liability. Substantial penalties or imprisonment, or both, may apply.

A person will not be considered to be involved in the contravention if the person proves that they:

- took all steps (if any) that were reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that Perpetual complied with its continuous disclosure obligations, and
- · after doing so, believed on reasonable grounds that Perpetual was complying with those obligations.



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