

# NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK LIMITED (Company) ACN 004 044 937

# **BOARD AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

# 1 Operating Rules

- 1.1 The NAB Board Committee Operating Rules apply to the Board Audit Committee (Committee) and are incorporated into this Charter, except when expressly excluded.
- 1.2 The Committee may recommend changes to the Operating Rules to the Board Nomination & Governance Committee, which will, if appropriate, endorse the proposed changes to the Board for approval.

# 2 Purpose

- 2.1 This Charter sets out the responsibilities of the Committee.
- 2.2 The purpose of the Committee is to assist the Board in discharging its responsibilities by providing objective, non-executive review and oversight of the effectiveness of the Company's financial and external reporting<sup>1</sup> and tax risk management frameworks.

## 3 Duties and Responsibilities

In performing its role, the Committee will undertake the following:

- 3.1 In summary:
  - (a) Oversee the integrity of the financial statements and review the adequacy of the financial and external reporting processes of the Company and its controlled entities (Group) (responsibilities are described in more detail in 3.2);
  - (b) Review the Group's external audit processes, including the appointment, evaluation, management and removal of the Group's external auditor;
  - (c) Review the Group's internal audit processes, including appointment and removal of the Executive, Internal Audit;
  - (d) Review compliance with applicable accounting standards, policies and statutory and regulatory reporting requirements to give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Group;
  - (e) Review the policy and related procedures in relation to whistleblower disclosures; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In this Charter, a reference to 'financial and external reporting' means:

<sup>(</sup>a) corporate reporting including the annual directors report, annual and half yearly financial statements, sustainability report or other periodic corporate report prepared for the benefit of investors; and

<sup>(</sup>b) regulatory reporting in Australia to the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in accordance with APRA Reporting Standards, including statistical reports and survey submissions.

(f) Review tax risk and tax governance arrangements.

## 3.2 Accounting Practices and External Reporting

#### Financial Statements

- (a) Review the audited annual and half-yearly financial statements and any reports that accompany published financial statements and, following discussion with management and the external auditor, recommend their approval by the Board.
- (b) Review and consider, with management, significant accounting and financial reporting matters raised by Internal Audit and/or the external auditor.
- (c) Review and approve Group accounting policies and changes proposed by management in relation to the application of those policies. Where material or required by law, make recommendations to the Board for approval of any new policies or changes to existing policies.
- (d) Review and consider material judgements made by management in relation to the quality and appropriateness of the Group's accounting principles and their application.
- (e) Assess the adequacy of the review processes relating to credit impairment provisioning.
- (f) Review the controls and processes supporting the financial reporting certifications of the Group Chief Executive Officer (Group CEO) and Group Chief Financial Officer (Group CFO) and the disclosures made in those certifications.

#### Corporate Reporting

(g) Review reports on how management satisfies itself that periodic corporate reports are materially accurate, balanced and provide investors with appropriate information to make informed investment decisions.

## Regulatory Reporting

- (h) Review reports on how management satisfies itself that regulatory reports are materially accurate.
- (i) Review and consider, with management, significant regulatory reporting matters raised by Internal Audit and/or the external auditor.

## Sustainability Reporting

(j) Review reports on how management satisfies itself that sustainability reports provide stakeholders with appropriate information to make informed decisions about the Group's performance and position related to sustainability.

#### 3.3 Whistleblower Disclosures

- (a) Review and approve the Company's Group Whistleblower Protection Policy (Policy) and any related procedures for the receipt of confidential information regarding accounting, internal control, compliance, audit and other matters.
- (b) Oversee the Group's ongoing compliance with the Policy, including reviewing processes for ensuring employee awareness of the Policy and for dealing with matters raised under the Policy by disclosing persons.
- (c) Review management reports informing of: (i) any significant incidents, themes and trends reported under the Policy; and (ii) summarising the outcomes of investigations of significant matters raised under the Policy including overseeing management's actions.

#### 3.4 External Audit

#### Financial Statements

- (a) Review, with management, the integrity and effectiveness of the Group's financial reporting systems and controls with the external auditor.
- (b) Review, with management, the scope of the external audit plan and oversee the scope of work of the external auditor performed for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report. This includes annually reviewing the external audit plan so that relevant material risks and financial reporting requirements are covered and that the external auditor is present at the annual general meeting to answer questions from shareholders.
- (c) Regularly review the external audit findings with management, and monitor that matters are being managed and addressed in an appropriate and timely manner by management.
- (d) Meet privately, on at least an annual basis, with the external auditor.

## Prudential Reporting

(e) Review, and consider the adequacy of, assurance from management and the external auditor over the effectiveness of the processes and controls adopted for the Group's regulatory reporting obligations.

## Adequacy and Independence

- (f) Review and provide Board with an assessment of the adequacy, independence and effectiveness of the external audit function.
- (g) Maintain oversight of and approve all auditing services and all permitted other services (including fees and terms thereof) to be performed for the Group by the external auditor, to the extent required by law, according to established Committee procedures.
- (h) The Committee may delegate to one or more of its members, or to management as it sees fit, the authority to grant pre-approvals for audit and permitted other services to be performed for the Group by the external auditor. A summary of all pre-approvals is to be presented to the Committee at least every six months.
- (i) At least annually, review the external auditor's engagement and assess whether the external auditor meets the Audit Independence tests set out in APES Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, as well as the additional auditor independence requirements set out in applicable regulatory standards or guidelines.
- (j) Approve the external auditor's annual fees.
- (k) Review and approve the Group External Auditor Independence Policy and review reports from management and the external auditor on compliance with that Policy.

## Relationship/Term

- (l) Select, evaluate, approve compensation of and, where appropriate, replace the external auditor, subject to shareholder approval where required.
- (m) Review the performance of the external auditor annually, including the value delivered to shareholders and the Group under the audit plan, its cost effectiveness based on fee benchmarking, independence and performance against key indicators.
- (n) Ensure that controls are in place regarding the term of appointment of the external audit engagement partner and lead review partner, including, approving (where applicable) the rotation or extension of the appointment in compliance with the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

## 3.5 Financial Risk Management and Compliance

- (a) Taking into account the Board's allocation of responsibility for review of risk to the Board Risk & Compliance Committee (BRCC), review the internal financial control systems and processes for assessing the effectiveness of those systems for accounting, financial and external reporting, and tax.
- (b) Review findings of identification of significant internal financial control deficiencies identified by management, the Internal Audit or the external auditor and monitor that such matters are being resolved in an appropriate and timely manner.
- (c) Review material findings of financial sector regulators that relate to financial and external reporting of the Group and management's response.

#### 3.6 Internal Audit

## Management and Oversight

- (a) Annually review and approve the scope of the Internal Audit Plan, in consultation with management and the external auditor. This includes the responsibilities, budget and resourcing (capabilities and capacity) of the Internal Audit function, and if appropriate, recommend changes to management.
- (b) Review Internal Audit reports on: (i) operational matters, including the adequacy of resourcing (capabilities and capacity); (ii) execution of the Internal Audit Plan, including any recommended changes to that plan during the year; and (iii) significant audit issues and insights specific to financial and external reporting (to the extent that these are not the responsibility of the BRCC).
- (c) Meet privately with Internal Audit and annually with the Internal Audit strategic partner.

#### Adequacy and Independence

- (d) Review and provide the Board with an assessment of the adequacy, independence and effectiveness of the Internal Audit function.
- (e) Assess whether the Internal Audit function is independent of management and the external auditor and whether there is the appropriate level of access to management and rights to seek information.
- (f) At least annually, evaluate activities that are outsourced by the Internal Audit function.

## Relationship

- (g) Following consultation with management, recommend to the Board the appointment and, if relevant, dismissal of the Executive, Internal Audit. Provide input to management and the Board on the periodic assessment of the Executive, Internal Audit's performance, development and remuneration.
- (h) Review and approve the Internal Audit charter on a bi-annual basis or as needed.
- (i) Review and approve the Group Whistleblower Committee charter on a bi-annual basis or as needed and approve changes to the composition of that Committee.
- (j) Resolve any disputes escalated by Internal Audit to the Committee Chair.

#### 3.7 Tax

- (a) In consultation with management, review the effectiveness of the tax risk management framework and governance arrangements.
- (b) Endorse tax risk settings and the Group Tax Policy to the Board for approval, having regard to management recommendations.

(c) Oversee and monitor tax risks.

## 3.8 Other Responsibilities

- (a) Maintain and encourage open lines of communication with subsidiary audit committees.
- (b) Monitor that post-acquisition reviews of all new significant businesses acquired are conducted no later than 12 months after settlement of each acquisition. A summary of the review will be provided to Board.

#### Limitation

- 3.9 The Committee does not have the duty to:
  - (a) conduct audits (it is the external auditor's responsibility, in consultation with management, to plan and conduct the audit, although the Committee does review audit plans); or
  - (b) determine that the Group's financial statements and disclosures are complete and accurate and in accordance with general accepted accounting principles and applicable rules and regulations (it is the Board's responsibility, in consultation with management and the external auditor, to do this).

# 4 Composition

- 4.1 All members of the Committee must be financially literate.
- 4.2 The Committee is required to have at least one member with accounting or financial expertise (i.e. such a member must be a qualified accountant or other financial professional with appropriate experience of financial and accounting matters), as required by applicable laws, corporate governance guidelines and listing standards.

# 5 Meetings

- 5.1 The Group CFO and Deputy Group CFO are expected to attend each scheduled meeting of the Committee.
- 5.2 Senior representatives of the external auditor and Internal Audit are expected to attend each scheduled meeting of the Committee.

## 6 Direct Access

- 6.1 To draw appropriate matters to the attention of the Committee and foster open communication, the following individuals have direct and unfettered access to the Committee: Group CEO; Group CFO; Deputy Group CFO; Group Chief Risk Officer; Group Executive, Legal & Commercial Services (or delegate); Executive, Internal Audit (or the equivalent roles) and the external auditor.
- 6.2 The Executive, Internal Audit has a direct reporting line to the Committee Chair, while maintaining an administrative reporting line to the Group CFO.

This Charter supersedes any terms of reference previously in force.