



Great  
Southern  
Bank

# Board Charter

Helping all Australians own their own home

<b>Frequency of review:</b>	Biennial
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<b>Approving Body:</b>	Board

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## 1. Basis of Preparation

- 1.1. The following resources have been referenced in the preparation of this Charter:
- i. The Constitution of Credit Union Australia Ltd
  - ii. The Board Instrument of Delegations (BD2019-78)
  - iii. The Corporate Governance Policy (BD2019-72)<sup>1</sup>
  - iv. CPS 510 Governance (July 2019)
  - v. Corporations Act 2001
  - vi. Banking Act 1959 – Banking Executive Accountability Regime (Accountability Statements)
  - vii. Customer Owned Banking Code of Practice
  - viii. ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations 4th Ed. (Feb 2019)
- 1.2. In the event of any conflict between this Charter and any legal or regulatory requirements, or other Great Southern Bank key documents and policies, the order of precedence outlined in the Board Instrument of Delegations (section 2) will prevail.

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<sup>1</sup> Formerly the Governance & Policy Architecture Policy



## 2. Authority and Purpose

2.1. The Board of Credit Union Australia Ltd, trading as Great Southern Bank (the Board) obtains its authority from the Credit Union Australia Ltd Constitution (the Constitution) and the Corporations Act 2001 (Corporations Act)

The **Board** is responsible for developing and guiding a viable, mutually-owned business that will fulfil our purpose to, *“help all Australians to own their own home.”*

The **Board** does this by setting and modelling an appropriate culture, acting ethically and in the best interests of members/customers and stakeholders, as well as building and maintaining effective governance systems and processes to achieve strategic objectives, comply with applicable laws, and manage risks.

This **Board Charter** assumes, at a minimum, that all matters outlined in CPS 510 are incorporated, irrespective of whether or not those requirements are explicitly detailed within this Charter.

This **Board Charter** should be read in conjunction with the **Board Delegations**. The **Board Delegations** details those matters which the **Board** has reserved to itself and shows how those matters will flow through to the **Board** via the relevant **Board** sub-committees.

Figure 1



2.2. This Board Charter (the Charter) sets out the role, responsibilities, structure, and administration of the Board within our corporate governance framework<sup>2</sup>

2.3. Subject to any legal, regulatory and/or moral/ethical obligations to keep members, customers, regulators, and other key stakeholders informed of Great Southern Bank activities, the Board will deal with, resolve, determine and finally approve all matters relating to the Purpose.

## 3. Role and Responsibilities

3.1. The Board retains ultimate responsibility for the strategy, performance, and oversight of the culture of Great Southern Bank and its subsidiaries. These and other **Matters reserved to the Board** are outlined in the **Board Delegations**

3.1.1. The Board Delegations are in addition to matters that are required by law to be approved by the Board

3.1.2. From time to time the Board may

Matters **required** to be **Board** approved include:

- 1) The appointment or dismissal of the CEO
- 2) The strategic direction of the organisation
- 3) The annual business plan (inc. budget and resourcing)
- 4) Setting of the Risk Appetite
- 5) Culture, Values
- 6) Organisational structures
- 7) Employee agreements / Remuneration Frameworks
- 8) Acquisitions and divestitures
- 9) Capital Raising

Matters **required** to be **Member** approved include:

- 1) Election / appointment of Directors
- 2) Changes to the Constitution
- 3) Changes to the core business of the organisation
- 4) Changes to the legal structure of the organisation
- 5) Capital Raising



Figure 2

<sup>2</sup> As outlined in the Corporate Governance Policy



delegate certain tasks to Board Committees or Management on a temporary or ongoing basis

- 3.2. The Board has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the organisation operates in accordance with any duties and obligations imposed on the Board, including:
  - 3.2.1. Obligations imposed by law
  - 3.2.2. Directions from the regulator(s)
  - 3.2.3. Obligations imposed by the Constitution
  - 3.2.4. Duties and obligations imposed by the Customer Owned Banking Code of Practice
- 3.3. The Board approves Board Policies and other Key Documents in order to set out the objectives, requirements and directives of the Board
  - 3.3.1. The Board ensures that there exists a formal policy on all matters relating to the Board, over and above this Charter, covering all matters which pertain to the Board, its proper functioning, and to the Directors themselves<sup>3</sup>
  - 3.3.2. The Board establishes such policies as are necessary to set out the Board's requirements and expectations in relation to the management of the organisations operations and the risks inherent in these operations
  - 3.3.3. Unless otherwise stated in a Policy, all Board policies are reviewed on a biennial basis
  - 3.3.4. Management may adopt and implement any Standard and/or Procedure on any matter delegated to the CEO to support compliance with Board Policy
- 3.4. The Board is responsible for relationships with **Regulatory Bodies**
  - 3.4.1. The Board holds itself available to meet with Regulator(s) on request
  - 3.4.2. The Board supports team members, auditors and other related parties who contact Regulators for the purposes of whistleblowing<sup>4</sup>
- 3.5. The Board takes **collective accountability** for the matters it determines and resolves
  - 3.5.1. The Board may determine Directors' remuneration in accordance with the Constitution and the Corporations Act and following recommendation by the Remuneration & Nominations Committee
- 3.6. **Directors** are responsible for fulfilling their duties to members, stakeholders, and the Board through the exercise of their individual accountabilities as defined in the Corporations Act, as outlined in individual Accountability Statements, and in the Board & Non-Executive Directors Policy

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<sup>3</sup> As set out in the Board & Non-Executive Director Policy

<sup>4</sup> As detailed in the Whistleblower Policy



- 3.6.1. Directors hold office in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. However Directors, if re-elected or reappointed, should service a maximum of 8 – 11 years contiguously, depending on the needs of the company.
  - 3.6.2. Directors are responsible for disclosing any **material personal interest / conflict of interest**<sup>5</sup> which may impact their ability to participate in any discussions or to vote on any matters before the Board
  - 3.6.3. Directors have the **right to access Board related documents** during their tenure and for a period following cessation of their tenure. Details as to directors' right of access to Board documents, insurance cover, and company indemnity are contained in individual directors' Deed of Access, Insurance, and Indemnity
- 3.7. The **Chair** provides leadership to the company and the Board by:
- 3.7.1. Facilitating the Board discharging its legal, ethical and governance responsibilities
  - 3.7.2. Driving and improving Board performance
  - 3.7.3. Ensuring information reaches the Board in a timely manner
  - 3.7.4. Helping to build Board consensus towards an agreed outcome or decision
- 3.8. The **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** reports directly to the Board and has management responsibility for the company (including the implementation of strategy)
- 3.8.1. The CEO may be an executive director on the Board
  - 3.8.2. The CEO should faithfully and diligently perform their duties and powers to members, stakeholders, and the Board through the exercise of their individual accountabilities as defined in the CEO Accountability Statement
- 3.9. In addition to the duties of the **Company Secretary** as defined in the Corporations Act, the Company Secretary is accountable directly to the Board for all governance matters that relate to the Board's proper functioning. All directors have access to the Company Secretary
- 3.10. The Board may from time to time establish standing and ad-hoc **Board Committees** to assist it in exercising its powers and responsibilities
- 3.10.1. Subject to requirements set out in the Constitution, each standing Board Committee shall have its own Committee Charter, approved by the Board, setting out the Committee's delegated authority, role and responsibilities, structure, and administration
  - 3.10.2. The Board will determine the membership and composition of Board Committees considering the responsibilities delegated to the Committee,

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<sup>5</sup> Requirements are set out in the Corporations Act, APRA Prudential Standards and the Constitution



the skills and experience of directors, legal requirements and industry best practice

3.10.3. Formal minutes of Committee meetings shall be prepared and circulated to all directors at a subsequent Board meeting. A verbal report by the Chairman of the relevant Committee, including details of Committee decisions and recommendations, shall also be provided at the next Board meeting

3.11. **Subsidiaries** are separate legal entities and have their own board(s) of directors which operate within the corporate governance framework set by the Board, for and on behalf of the Group.

3.12. The Board has access to **Independent Professional Advice**

3.12.1. The Board may engage any professional advisor, consultant, or other expert to provide advice on, or direct an investigation into, any matter that the Board considers appropriate in the discharge of its duties

3.12.2. Subject to the prior written approval of the Chairman, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, individual directors may invoke their right to seek independent professional legal advice in relation to any matter relating to the discharge of their duties as a director. The provision of such advice shall be at the organisation's expense

3.12.3. Nothing in this Charter precludes a director from obtaining and personally paying for their own independent professional legal advice, provided appropriate confidentiality is maintained

## 4. Membership

4.1. Membership of the Board will be in accordance with the Constitution

4.2. The majority of directors, including the Chairman, must be **independent**

4.2.1. To be 'independent' directors must meet the requirements in CPS 510

4.2.2. The Board may also consider the guidelines in the ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations when determining the independence of a director

4.2.3. Directors serving on the Board for more than 11 years may no longer be considered independent

4.2.4. A director of a subsidiary does not cease being independent because they are also a director of Great Southern Bank or another subsidiary, and a director of Great Southern Bank does not cease being independent because they are a director of a subsidiary

4.3. A majority of directors must be ordinarily resident in Australia



- 4.4. As required by legislation and regulation, prior to appointment and at regular intervals, the Board will assess the independence and the fitness and propriety of each director.
- 4.5. The CEO and Company Secretary shall attend Board meetings by standing invitation. They may be asked, either individually or jointly, to leave the meeting at any time.

## 5. Meetings

- 5.1. The Board meets on a regular basis to discharge its responsibilities. Special or ad-hoc board meetings shall be convened as necessary in accordance with the Constitution.
- 5.2. Board meetings may be called in accordance with the Corporations Act and the Constitution.
- 5.3. A quorum for Board meetings is determined in accordance with the Constitution.
- 5.4. A majority of directors present and eligible to vote at Board meetings must be independent directors.<sup>6</sup>
- 5.5. Meetings will be conducted in person, electronically or a combination of both. The authority to attend meetings in this manner is a standing authority.<sup>7</sup>
- 5.6. Resolutions of the Board (either Directors' Resolutions or Circulating Resolutions) will be passed in accordance with the Constitution.
- 5.7. The agenda for meetings shall be determined by the Chairman, in consultation with the CEO and Company Secretary, and in accordance with business requirements and other matters requiring consideration on the annual Board Reporting Calendar.
- 5.8. Any director may ask the Chairman to include an item on the agenda.
- 5.9. The Secretary will circulate Minutes of the Board Meeting to Directors as soon as reasonable post the Board Meeting and following review by the Chairman.

## 6. Reporting and Performance

- 6.1. In performing its responsibilities, the Board will, always lead by example and act in a manner that:
  - 6.1.1. Is consistent with the Code of Conduct
  - 6.1.2. Is consistent with the Great Southern Bank Values
  - 6.1.3. Is in the best interests of Great Southern Bank, its members/customers, and stakeholders
  - 6.1.4. Is in accordance with legal requirements and the Constitution

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<sup>6</sup> CPS 510

<sup>7</sup> Any director may withdraw their consent, on reasonable notice, to the use of certain technology for the holding of directors' meetings at any time (refer Corporations Act).



6.1.5. Complies with all relevant Board policies

## 7. Review of and Amendments to Charter

- 7.1. This Charter will be reviewed at least biennially or as required, subject to legislative or regulatory requirements, to ensure:
- 7.1.1. currency, relevance, and accuracy
  - 7.1.2. it continues to meet the needs, strategic imperatives and cultural alignment intentions of Great Southern Bank and its subsidiaries.
- 7.2. Appendices and boxed information may be amended by management and NOTED by the Board at the next scheduled meeting
- 7.3. Minor and immaterial changes (e.g. grammar) may be amended by management

## 8. Document Control

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### Document History

This Charter has been in place since 2013 with various revisions and re-writes made in 2015, 2016, 2019 and 2021. Previous versions of this Charter are available on request.

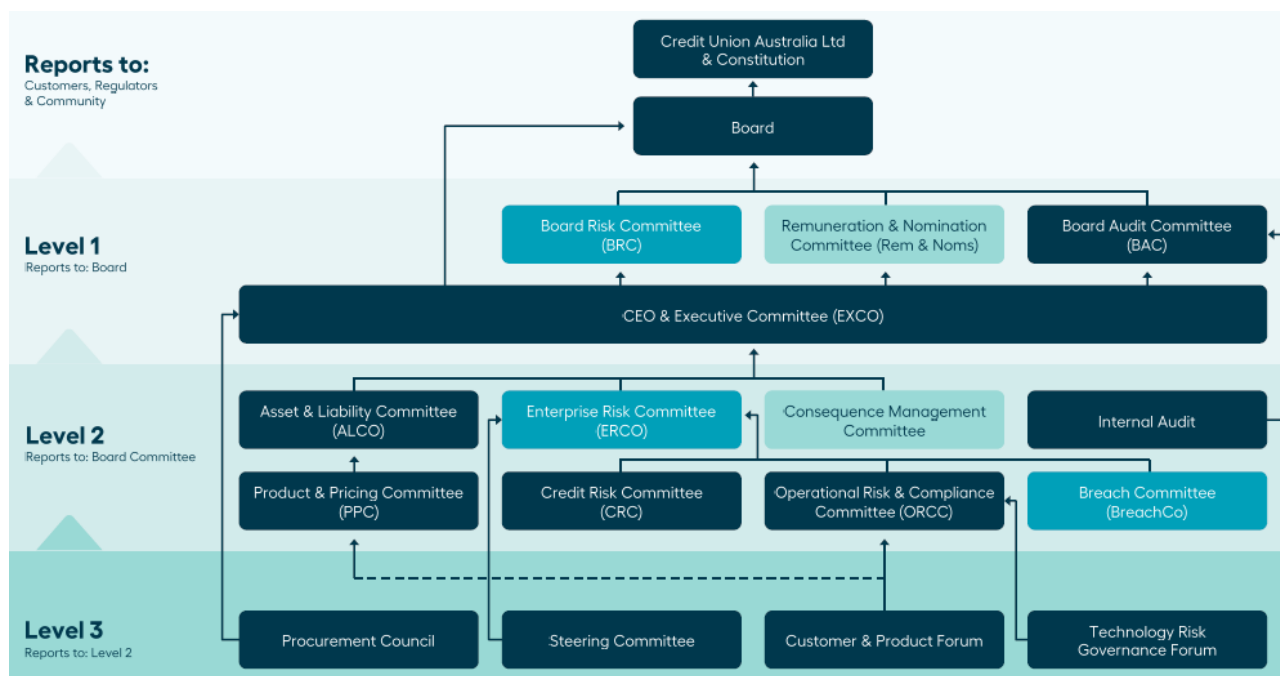
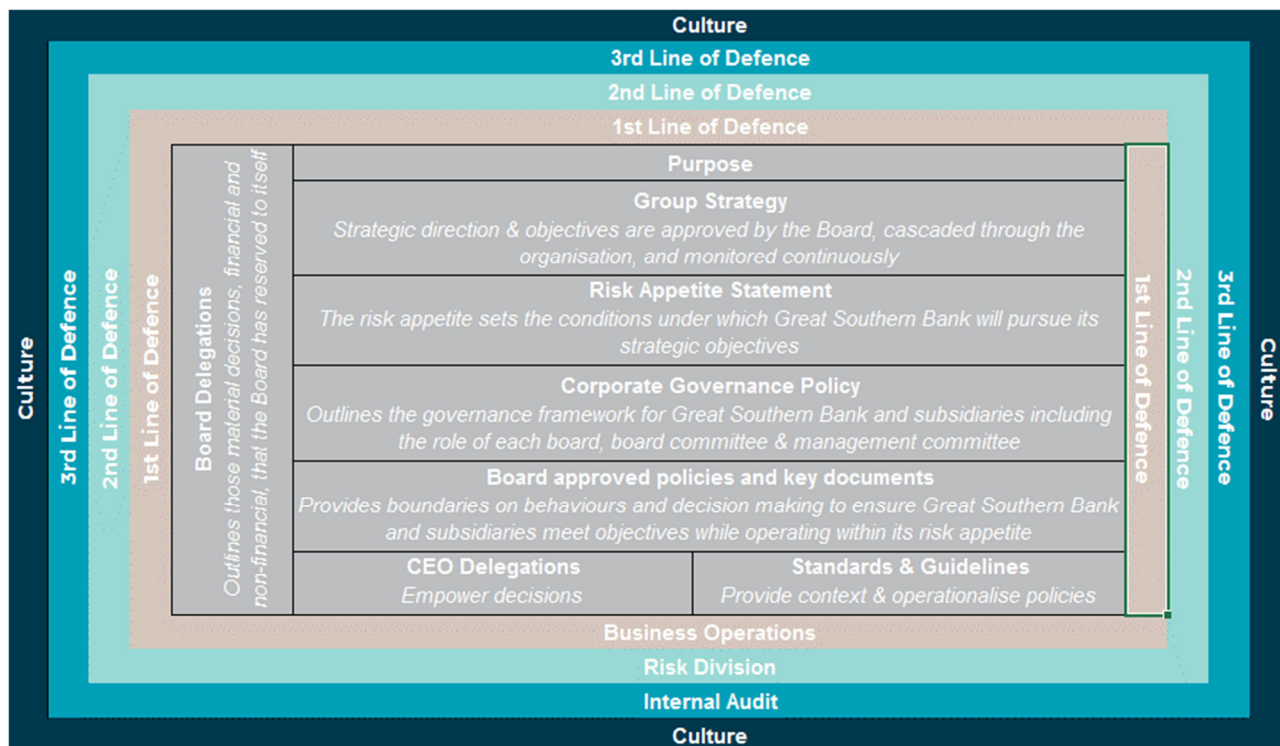
### Document Location

<http://infocentral.cua.com.au/corporate-governance-toolbox/constitutions-and-charters>





# Appendix 1: Group Corporate Governance Framework<sup>8</sup>



<sup>8</sup> Found in the Corporate Governance Policy

