



## RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Policy sets out Noble Mineral Resources Ltd's ("Noble" or the "Company") system of risk oversight, management of material business risks and internal control.
- 1.2 Noble recognises that risk is inherent to any business activity and that managing risk effectively is critical to the immediate and future success of the Company.
- 1.3 As a result, the Company's policy on, and approach to, risk management has regard to the Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard, AS/NZS 4360:2004, *Risk management*.
- 1.4 To the extent practicable, the Company has followed the ASX Corporate Governance Council's *Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition).

### 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- (i) encourage an appropriate level of risk tolerance throughout the Company;
- (ii) establish procedures to analyse risks within agreed parameters across the Company;
- (iii) establish appropriate risk delegations and corresponding risk management framework across the Company; and
- (iv) ensure Noble has a risk management framework that can measurably react should the risk profile of the Company change.

### 3. RISK APPETITE

- 3.1 A critical element of the Company's Risk Management Framework is the risk appetite, which is defined as the extent of willingness to take risks in pursuit of the business objectives.
- 3.2 The key determinants of risk appetite are as follows:
- (i) shareholder and investor preferences and expectations;
  - (ii) expected business performance (return on capital);
  - (iii) the capital needed to support risk taking;
  - (iv) the culture of the organisation;
  - (v) management experience along with risk and control management skills;
  - (vi) longer term strategic priorities.
- 3.3 Risk appetite is communicated through the Company's strategic plans. The Board and management monitor the risk appetite of the Company relative to Noble's actual results to ensure an appropriate level of risk tolerance throughout the Company.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

4.1 Noble believes that risk should be managed and monitored on a continuous basis. As a result, the Company has designed a dynamic risk management framework to allow Noble to manage its risks effectively and efficiently, enabling both short term and long term strategic and business objectives to be met.

4.2 The Company's approach to risk management is summarised below:

### *4.2.1 Identification of risks*

To ensure key risks are identified, Noble:

- defines risks in the context of the Company's strategy;
- documents risk profiles, including a description of the material risks; and
- regularly reviews and updates the risk profiles.

The Company's Risk Profile is summarised below.

### *4.2.2 Assessment of risks*

The likelihood and impact of identified risks are assessed using a common methodology.

### *4.2.3 Measurement and control*

Identified risks are then analysed and the manner in which the risk is to be managed and controlled is then determined and agreed. The generally accepted options are:

- accept the risk (where it is assessed the risk is acceptable or if avoiding the risk presents a greater risk through lost opportunity)
- manage the risk (through controls and procedures)
- avoid the risk (stop the activity)
- transfer the risk (outsourcing arrangements)
- finance the risk (through insurance)

### *4.2.4 Continuous assessment*

The Company's Risk Management Framework requires a continuing cycle of implementing, monitoring, reviewing and managing risk management processes.

## **5. RISK PROFILE**

The identification and effective management of risks is critical in Noble's achieving strategic and business objectives. The Company's activities give rise to a broad range of risks which are considered under the following key categories of risk:

### **5.1 Strategic Risks**

- Lack of responsiveness to changing economic or market conditions, including commodity prices and exchange rates, that impact the Company's operations;
- Ineffective or poor strategy developed;
- Ineffective execution of strategy.

## **5.2 Financial Risks**

- Financial performance does not meet expectations;
- Capital is not effectively utilised or managed;
- Cash flow is inadequate to meet financial obligations;
- Financial results are incorrectly accounted for or disclosed; and
- Credit, market and/or tax risk is not understood or managed effectively.

## **5.3 Operational Risks**

- Failure to locate or identify mineral deposits;
- Failure to achieve predicted grades in exploration and mining;
- Operational and technical difficulties encountered in mining;
- Difficulties in commissioning and operating plant and equipment;
- Mechanical failure or plant breakdown;
- Unexpected shortages or increases in the costs of consumables, spare parts, plant and equipment;
- Unanticipated metallurgical problems which may affect extraction costs;
- Adverse weather conditions;
- Industrial and environmental accidents;
- Industrial disputes;
- Failure to meet expenditure commitments on prospecting and exploration licences and mining leases;
- Inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems, including from external events.

## **5.4 Investment Risks**

- Failure to provide expected returns for defined objectives and risk such as under-performing to the stated objectives and/or benchmarks.

## **5.5 People Risks**

- Inability to attract and retain quality and appropriate people;
- Inadequate succession planning; and
- An inappropriate culture.

## **5.6 Legal and Regulatory Risks**

- Legal and commercial rights and obligations are not clearly defined or understood; and
- Commercial interests not adequately protected by legal agreements.

## **5.7 Compliance Risks**

- Non conformance with or inability to comply with rules, regulations, prescribed practices, internal policies and procedures or ethical standards.

## **6. RISK OVERSIGHT**

### **6.1 Governance Structure**

Noble's Risk Management Framework is supported by the Board of Directors, management and the Audit and Risk Committee.

## **6.2 Board of Directors**

The Board is responsible for approving and reviewing Noble's risk management strategy and policy.

## **6.3 Management**

- 6.3.1 To assist the Board in discharging its responsibility in relation to risk management, the Board has delegated certain responsibilities to management.
- 6.3.2 Management are responsible for monitoring that appropriate processes and controls are in place to effectively and efficiently manage risk, so that the strategic and business objectives of the Company can be met.
- 6.3.3 When considering the Audit and Risk Committee's review of financial reports, the Board receives a written statement, signed by the Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer (or equivalents), that the Company's financial reports give a true and fair view, in all material respects, of the Company's financial position and comply in all material respects with relevant accounting standards. This statement also confirms that the Company's financial reports are founded on a sound system of risk management and internal control and that the system is operating effectively in relation to financial reporting risks.
- 6.3.4 Similarly, in a separate written statement the Managing Director and the Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee also confirm to the Board that the Company's risk management and internal control systems are operating effectively in relation to material business risks for the period, and that nothing has occurred since period-end that would materially change the position.

## **6.4 Audit and Risk Committee**

- 6.4.1 The Audit and Risk Committee is a committee of the Board, with delegated responsibilities in relation to risk management and the financial reporting process at Noble.
- 6.4.2 The Committee is also responsible for monitoring overall compliance with laws and regulations.
- 6.4.3 The responsibilities of this Committee are contained in the Committee's charter, a copy of which is available on the Company's website: [www.nobleminres.com.au](http://www.nobleminres.com.au).

## **6.5 Assurance**

- 6.5.1 There are different levels of assurance in relation to the effectiveness and efficiency of Noble's Risk Management Framework and associated processes and controls.
- 6.5.2 At first instance, assurance is provided from management through management reports and process.

- 6.5.3 Assurance also comes from the monitoring, oversight and reporting undertaken by the Audit and Risk Committee, as well as from the independent testing, review and reporting undertaken by external audit. Independent external auditors are engaged by Noble to provide an audit opinion as required by law.
- 6.5.4 Process, surveillance, controls or other reviews are performed as required.
- 6.5.5 Reviews are also performed by regulators.

## **6.6 People and Culture**

Having the right people and promoting an appropriate risk culture are critical to the future success of Noble. As a result, the Company is committed to fostering a culture of risk awareness, transparency and responsiveness.

## **7. REVIEW OF POLICY**

The Board will review this Policy from time to time to ensure it remains consistent with the Board's objectives and responsibilities.

## **8. PUBLICATION OF POLICY**

This Policy will be available on the Company's website and the key features will be published in the annual report.

**Approved by the Board of Noble Mineral Resources Ltd on 8 June 2009.**