# **BERONI GROUP LIMITED**

# **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023**

### PRINCIPLE 1 – LAY SOLID FOUNDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT

Recomm	nendations	Comply	Explanation
1.1	A listed entity should disclose:  (a) the respective roles and responsibilities of its board and management; and  (b) those matters expressly reserved to the board and those delegated to management.	YES	Information about the respective roles and responsibilities of our board and management (including those matters expressly reserved to the board and those delegated to management) is found under the Board Charter in the Corporate Governance Plan located at <a href="https://www.beronigroup.com/corporate-governance/">https://www.beronigroup.com/corporate-governance/</a>
1.2	A listed entity should:     (a) undertake appropriate checks before appointing a person, or putting forward to security holders a candidate for election, as a director; and     (b) provide security holders with all material information in its possession relevant to a decision on whether or not to elect or re-elect a director.	YES	The Company, through the Remuneration and Nominations Committee conducts indepth assessments of potential director candidates. When directors are nominated for election or re-election shareholders are provided a summary of the individual's relevant professional background sufficient to enable an informed decision.
1.3	A listed entity should have a written agreement with each director and senior executive setting out the terms of their appointment.	YES	Letters of appointment setting out the terms of appointment, duties, rights and responsibilities for each director and senior executive have been executed by the Company.
1.4	The company secretary of a listed entity should be accountable directly to the board, through the chair, on all matters to do with the proper functioning of the Board.	YES	The Board Charter outlines the roles, responsibility and accountability of the Company Secretary. In accordance, the Company Secretary is accountable directly to the Board, through the Chair, on all matters to do with the proper functioning of the Board.

Recomm	nendations	Comply	Explanation
1.5	<ul> <li>A listed entity should: <ul> <li>(a) have and disclose a diversity policy;</li> <li>(b) through its board or a committee of the board set measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity in the composition of its board, senior executives and workforce generally; and</li> <li>(c) disclose in relation to each reporting period: <ul> <li>(1) the measurable objectives set for that period to achieve gender diversity;</li> <li>(2) the entity's progress towards achieving those objectives; and</li> <li>(3) either: <ul> <li>(A) the respective proportions of men and women on the board, in senior executive positions and across the whole workforce (including how the entity has defined "senior executive" for these purposes); or</li> <li>(B) if the entity is a "relevant employer" under the Workplace Gender Equality Act, the entity's most recent "Gender Equality Indicators", as defined in and published under that Act.</li> </ul> </li> <li>If the entity was in the S&amp;P / ASX 300 Index at the commencement of the reporting period, the measurable objective for achieving gender diversity in the composition of its board should be to have not less than 30% of its directors of each gender within a specified period.</li> </ul> </li> </ul></li></ul>	PARTIALLY	<ul> <li>(a) The Company has adopted a Diversity Policy which provides a framework for the Company to establish and achieve measurable diversity objectives, including in respect of gender diversity. The Diversity Policy allows the Board to set measurable gender diversity objectives, if considered appropriate, and to assess annually both the objectives if any have been set and the Company's progress in achieving them.</li> <li>(b) The Diversity Policy is available, as part of the Corporate Governance Plan, on the Company's website.</li> <li>(c) The Board did not set measurable gender diversity objectives for the past financial year because the Board considered the application of a measurable gender diversity objective requiring a specified proportion of women on the Board and in senior executive roles would, given the small size of the Company and the Board, unduly limit the Company from applying the Diversity Policy as a whole and the Company's policy of appointing based on skills and merit.</li> <li>The respective proportions of men and women on the Board, in senior executive positions and across the whole organisation (including how the entity has defined "senior executive" for these purposes) for the past financial year is disclosed below –</li> <li>Female Male</li> <li>Board 0% 100%</li> <li>Senior Executive* 33% 67%</li> <li>Whole organisation 58% 42%</li> <li>* The Senior Executives are the individuals at the highest level of organisational management who have the day-to-day responsibilities of managing the Company below the Board. The Senior Executives include the Company's CFO and the Company Secretary.</li> </ul>
1.6	A listed entity should:     (a) have and disclose a process for periodically evaluating the performance of the Board, its committees and individual directors; and     (b) disclose, in relation to each reporting period, whether a performance evaluation was undertaken in the reporting period in accordance with that process during or in respect of that period.	YES	Process for Evaluating Board Performance is detailed in the Board Charter of the Corporate Governance Plan.  The Board aims to review its performance and that of its committees and individual directors on an annual basis. Performance is reviewed against the Board Charter and any other Board responsibilities. Evaluation will have regard to, amongst other things, ensuring proper and effective management and performance of financial, operational and compliance indicators. During the reporting period no evaluation took place.

Recomm	endations	Comply	Explanation
1.7	A listed entity should:     (a) have and disclose a process for periodically evaluating the performance of its senior executives; and     (b) disclose, in relation to each reporting period, whether a performance evaluation was undertaken in the reporting period in accordance with that process during or in respect of that period.	YES	It is the Company's policy that performance evaluations of senior executives are undertaken on an annual basis and will form part of the remuneration assessment.  The Board meets annually to review the performance of senior executives. This review includes:  The performance of the senior executive in supplying the Board with information in a form, timeframe and quality that enables the Board to effectively discharge its duties;  Feedback from other senior executives;  Any particular concerns regarding the senior executive; and  Remuneration objectives.  A performance evaluation did not take place during the reporting period.

### PRINCIPLE 2 - STRUCTURE THE BOARD TO BE EFFECTIVE AND ADD VALUE

Recomm	endations	Comply	Explanation
2.1	The Board of a listed entity should:  (a) have a nomination committee which:	YES	The Company's Corporate Governance Plan includes a Nomination Committee Charter. The Corporate Governance Plan is available on the Company's website.
	<ul> <li>(1) has at least three members, a majority of whom are independent directors; and</li> <li>(2) is chaired by an independent director, and disclose:</li> <li>(3) the charter of the committee;</li> <li>(4) the members of the committee; and</li> </ul>		The primary purpose of the Nomination Committee is to support and advise the Board in maintaining a Board with an appropriate mix of skills and experience and ensuring the Board is comprised of Directors who contribute to the successful management of the Company and discharge their duties having regard to the law and the highest standards of corporate governance.
	(5) as at the end of each reporting period, the number of times the committee met throughout the period and the individual attendances of the members at those meetings; or		The Company complied with this recommendation in the year ended 31 December 2023 whereby the committee comprised of three non-executive independent directors.
	(b) if it does not have a nomination committee, disclose that fact and the processes it employs to address board succession issues and to ensure that the board has the appropriate balance of skills, knowledge, experience, independence and diversity to enable it to discharge its duties and responsibilities effectively.		

Recomm	endations	Comply	Explanation							
2.2	A listed entity should have and disclose a Board skills matrix setting out the mix of skills and diversity that the board currently has or is looking to achieve in its membership.	YES	The Board has ic members on the having substantia geology, corpora The Board Skills	Board to al skills a te law, fina	operate nd experie ance, liste	effectively ence in op d compar	and ef peration nies, equ	ficiently is al manage	achieve ment, e	ed by directors
				Zhang	Huang	Wong	Guo	Buchta	Ong	
			Operational management	✓	~	✓	✓	<b>√</b>	-	
			Corporate law	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	
			Accounting & finance	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	
			Marketing	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	
			Equity markets	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	
			Bioscience & life science technology	✓	<b>✓</b>	-	✓	✓	-	
		V50				\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \				
2.3	A listed entity should disclose:	YES	The Company considers that Messrs. Yin, Guo, Buchta and Ong a directors. The length of service of each independent director is se 31 December 2023:  - Guo: 7 years 1 month.							
	<ul><li>(a) the names of the directors considered by the Board to be independent directors;</li><li>(b) if a director has an interest, position, association or relationship of the type</li></ul>									
	described in Box 2.3 but the board is of the opinion that it does not compromise the independence of the director, the nature of the interest, position, association or relationship in question and an explanation of why the board is of that opinion; and		- Buchta		6 months					
	(c) the length of service of each director.									

Recomm	endations	Comply	Explanation
2.4	A majority of the Board of a listed entity should be independent directors.	YES	The Company's Board Charter requires that, where practical, the majority of the Board should be independent. The Board has seven members as at 31 December 2023. Mr Zhang is the Chairman is Executive and considered not independent. Messrs. Wong and Huang are Executive Directors hence not independent. The remaining four directors, namely Messrs. Yin, Guo, Ong and Buchta are non-executive and considered as independent. The Board has nevertheless determined that the composition of the current Board represents an appropriate mix of directors that have a range of qualifications and expertise enabling them to understand and effectively deal with issues faced by the Company. The Board considers that the non-executive directors can effectively review and challenge the performance of management. The Board is satisfied that all directors bring an independent judgment to bear on Board decisions. In addition, each director is entitled to seek independent professional advice at the Company's expense on matters directly related to his director responsibilities, in accordance with Company's constitution.  Moving into FY2024, due to the passing Dr John Chiplin, the Board will consider including another new non-executive and independent director, meaning an increased majority of independent directors.
2.5	The chair of the Board of a listed entity should be an independent director and, in particular, should not be the same person as the CEO of the entity.	NO	Chairman throughout the year was Mr Zhang, an Executive Director and CEO of the Company. However, the Board believes that Mr Zhang was able to and does bring expertise and judgment to all relevant issues falling within the scope of his role as Chairman.
2.6	A listed entity should have a program for inducting new directors and provide appropriate professional development opportunities for directors to develop and maintain the skills and knowledge needed to perform their role as directors effectively.	YES	New directors are inducted into the Company's processes and policies in a suite of ways, including the provision of a 'Board manual', interviews with senior management to build awareness of the issues facing the business, and out of session meetings with other directors. All directors are encouraged to undertake ongoing professional development both in their area of technical expertise and in the skills required to effectively execute the role of director.

## PRINCIPLE 3 – INSTILL A CULTIRE OF ACTING LAWFULLY, ETHICALLY AND RESPONSIBLY

Recomm	nendations	Comply	Explanation
3.1	A listed entity should articulate and disclose its values.	YES	The Board has adopted a set of values which are the foundation for how the Company achieves its business objectives. Our values are supported by the Code of Conduct and other key governance principles and policies which are approved by the Board. The Company has disclosed its value in its Corporate Governance Plan which can be found on the Company's website.
3.2	A listed entity should:     (a) have and disclose a code of conduct for its directors, senior executives and employees; and     (b) ensure that the board or a committee of the board is informed of any material breaches of that code by a director or senior executive; and     (2) any other material breaches of that code that call into question the culture of the organisation.	YES	The Company has a Code of Conduct in its Corporate Governance Plan. The Code of Conduct sets out the principles and standards which the Board, management and employees of the Company are encouraged to strive to abide by when dealing with each other, shareholders and the broad community.
3.3	A listed entity should:  (a) have and disclose a whistleblower policy; and  (b) ensure that the board or a committee of the board is informed of any material incidents reported under that policy.	YES	The Company has a Whistleblower Policy contained within its Corporate Governance Plan. The Whistleblower Policy sets out the reporting process to be followed.
3.4	A listed entity should:  (a) have and disclose an anti-bribery and corruption policy; and  (b) ensure that the board or committee of the board is informed of any material breaches of that policy.	YES	The Company has an Anti-bribery and Corruption Policy contained within its Corporate Governance Plan which can be found on the Company's website.

### PRINCIPLE 4 – SAFEGUARD INTEGRITY OF CORPORATE REPORTS

Recomm	endations	Comply	Explanation
4.1	The board of a listed entity should:  (a) have an audit committee which:  (1) has at least three members, all of whom are non-executive directors and a majority of whom are independent directors; and  (2) is chaired by an independent director, who is not the chair of the board, and disclose:  (3) the charter of the committee;  (4) the relevant qualifications and experience of the members of the committee; and  (5) in relation to each reporting period, the number of times the committee met throughout the period and the individual attendances of the members at those meetings; or  (b) if it does not have an audit committee, disclose that fact and the processes it employs that independently verify and safeguard the integrity of its corporate reporting, including the processes for the appointment and removal of the external auditor and the rotation of the audit engagement partner.	YES	The Company's Corporate Governance Plan includes an Audit and Risk Committee Charter. The Corporate Governance Plan is available on the Company's website.  (a) The Company complied with this recommendation in the year ended 31 December 2023 whereby the committee comprised of three non-executive independent directors.
4.2	The board of a listed entity should, before it approves the entity's financial statements for a financial period, receive from its CEO and CFO a declaration that, in their opinion, the financial records of the entity have been properly maintained and that the financial statements comply with the appropriate accounting standards and give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the entity and that the opinion has been formed on the basis of a sound system of risk management and internal control which is operating effectively.	YES	The Audit Committee receives declarations from the Board in relation to full year and half year statutory financial reports during the reporting period in accordance with section 295A of the Corporations Act.

Recomm	endations	Comply	Explanation
4.3	A listed entity should disclose its process to verify the integrity of any periodic corporate report it releases to the market that is not audited or reviewed by an external auditor.	YES	The Company's Corporate Governance Plan provides that the Company must have policies and comprehensive practices in place to verifying the integrity of the Company's periodic reports which are not audited or reviewed by an external auditor, to satisfy the Board that each periodic report is materially accurate, balanced and provides investors with appropriate information to make informed investment decisions.
			Where a periodic corporate report, such the Company's quarterly report, are not required to be audited or reviewed by an external auditor, the Company conducts an internal verification process to confirm the integrity of the report, to ensure that the content of the report is materially accurate, and to provide investors with appropriate information to make informed investment decisions. Appropriate supporting information for such corporate reports are sought and retained on preparation of the report and the full Board reviews and approves the release of such reports.
			Copies of all market announcements are also required to be circulated to the Board promptly, to ensure the Board has timely oversight of the nature and quality of information being disclosed to the market.

### PRINCIPLE 5 – MAKE TIMELY AND BALANCED DISCLOSURE

Recomm	endations	Comply	Explanation
5.1	A listed entity should have and disclose a written policy for complying with its continuous disclosure obligations under listing rule 3.1.	YES	The Company's Corporate Governance Plan includes a continuous disclosure program. The Corporate Governance Plan is available on the Company's website.
5.2	A listed entity should ensure that its board receives copies of all material market announcements promptly after they have been made.	YES	Contained within the Company's Continuous Disclosure Policy. Copies of all market announcements are circulated by the Managing Director or Company Secretary promptly to the Board, to ensure the Board has timely oversight of the nature and quality of information being disclosed to the market.
5.3	A listed entity that gives a new and substantive investor or analyst presentation should release a copy of the presentation materials on the ASX Market Announcements Platform ahead of the presentation.	YES	Contained within the Company's Continuous Disclosure Policy, which forms part of the Company's Corporate Governance Plan. The policy provides that stipulates that any new and substantive investor or analyst presentations will be released on the NSX Market Announcements Platform ahead of the presentation. The Chairman and Company Secretary ensure that any new and substantive investor or analyst presentations are released to NSX ahead of the presentation.

### PRINCIPLE 6 – RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF SECURITY HOLDERS

Recomn	nendations	Comply	Explanation
6.1	A listed entity should provide information about itself and its governance to investors via its website.	YES	The Company's website provides information on the Company including its background, objectives, projects and contact details. The Corporate Governance page provides access to key policies, procedures and charters of the Company, such as the Board and Committee charters, securities trading policy, diversity policy and the latest Corporate Governance Statement.  ASX announcements, Company reports and presentations are uploaded to the website following release to the NSX and editorial content is updated on a regular basis.
6.2	A listed entity should design and implement an investor relations program to facilitate effective two-way communication with investors.	YES	The Company's Corporate Governance Plan states that the Board is committed to open and accessible communication with holders of the Company's securities. Disclosure of information and other communication is made as appropriate by mail or email. Security holders are given the option to receive communication from, and send communications to, the Board and its security registry electronically. The Company's security holder communications strategy aims to promote and facilitate effective two-way communication with investors. The Corporate Governance Plan outlines a range of ways in which information is communicated to shareholders and is available on the Company's website.
6.3	A listed entity should disclose the policies and processes it has in place to facilitate and encourage participation at meetings of security holders.	YES	The Company encourages shareholders to attend all general meetings of the Company and sets the time and place of each meeting to promote maximum attendance by Shareholders.  The Company encourages Shareholders to submit questions in advance of a general meeting, and for the responses to these questions to addressed through disclosure relating to that meeting.  The Company's Corporate Governance Plan includes a Shareholder Communication Policy. The Corporate Governance Plan is available on the Company's website.
6.4	A listed entity should ensure that all substantive resolutions at a meeting of security holders are decided by a poll rather than by a show of hands.	YES	It is the Company's desire that shareholders receive communications electronically in the interests of the environment and constraining costs. In an endeavour to drive this objective the Company has a policy of providing hard materials at cost (which will generally involve a black and white presentation even where the electronic version is full colour).
6.5	A listed entity should give security holders the option to receive communications from, and send communications to, the entity and its security registry electronically.	YES	Contained within the Company's Shareholder Communication Strategy. The Shareholder Communication Strategy provides that security holders can register with the Company to receive email notifications when an announcement is made by the Company to the NSX, including the release of the Annual Report and half yearly reports.  Links are made available to the Company's website on which all information provided to the NSX is immediately posted. Shareholders queries are referred to the Company Secretary in the first instance.

### PRINCIPLE 7 – RECOGNISE AND MANAGE RISK

Recomm	nendations	Comply	Explanation
7.1	The board of a listed entity should:  (a) have a committee or committees to oversee risk, each of which:  (1) has at least three members, a majority of whom are independent directors; and  (2) is chaired by an independent director, and disclose:  (3) the charter of the committee;  (4) the members of the committee; and  (5) as at the end of each reporting period, the number of times the committee met throughout the period and the individual attendances of the members at those meetings; or  (b) if it does not have a risk committee or committees that satisfy (a) above, disclose that fact and the processes it employs for overseeing the entity's risk management framework.	YES	The Company's Corporate Governance Plan includes an Audit and Risk Committee Charter. The Corporate Governance Plan is available on the Company's website.  The Company complied with this recommendation in the year ended 31 December 2023 whereby the committee comprised of three non-executive independent directors.  The Company's Corporate Governance Plan includes a Risk Management Policy. The Corporate Governance Plan is available on the Company's website.
7.2	The board or a committee of the board should:  (a) review the entity's risk management framework at least annually to satisfy itself that it continues to be sound and that the entity is operating with due regard to the risk appetite set by the board; and  (b) disclose, in relation to each reporting period, whether such a review has taken place.	YES	Risk management is specifically discussed at the Company's board meetings. The Company reviews its risk management framework annually. The Company will disclose if it has any material exposure to risks.
7.3	A listed entity should disclose:  (a) if it has an internal audit function, how the function is structured and what role it performs; or  (b) if it does not have an internal audit function, that fact and the processes it employs for evaluating and continually improving the effectiveness of its risk management and internal control processes.	YES	<ul> <li>(a) The Board believes it is not of a size to justify having an internal audit function for efficiency purposes but will monitor the need for an internal audit function as the size of the Company and its operations grow having regard to the size, location and complexity of the Company's operations.</li> <li>(b) The Company did not have an internal audit function for the past financial year. The Board as a whole is ultimately responsible for establishing and reviewing the Company's policies on risk profile, oversight and management and satisfying itself that management has developed and implemented a sound system of risk management and internal control.</li> </ul>

Recommendations		Comply	Explanation
7.4	A listed entity should disclose whether it has any material exposure to economic, environmental and social sustainability risks and, if it does, how it manages or intends to manage those risks.	YES	The Board determines whether the Company has any material exposure to economic, environmental and social sustainability risks and, if it does, how it manages or intends to manage those risks. The Company's Corporate Governance Plan requires the Company to disclose whether it has any material exposure to economic, environmental and social sustainability risks and, if it does, how it manages or intends to manage those risks. The Company has made disclosures on environmental rehabilitation liabilities in its annual report.

### PRINCIPLE 8 – REMUNERATE FAIRLY AND RESPONSIBLY

Recommendations		Comply	Explanation
8.1	The board of a listed entity should:  (a) have a remuneration committee which:  (1) has at least three members, a majority of whom are independent directors; and  (2) is chaired by an independent director, and disclose:  (3) the charter of the committee;  (4) the members of the committee; and  (5) as at the end of each reporting period, the number of times the committee met throughout the period and the individual attendances of the members at those meetings; or  (b) if it does not have a remuneration committee, disclose that fact and the processes it employs for setting the level and composition of remuneration for directors and senior executives and ensuring that such remuneration is appropriate and not excessive.	YES	The Company's Corporate Governance Plan includes a Remuneration Committee Charter. The Corporate Governance Plan is available on the Company's website.  (a) The Company complied with this recommendation in the year ended 31 December 2023 whereby the committee comprised of three non-executive independent directors.
8.2	A listed entity should separately disclose its policies and practices regarding the remuneration of non-executive directors and the remuneration of executive directors and other senior executives.	YES	The Company's Corporate Governance Plan requires the Board to disclose its policies and practices regarding the remuneration of Directors and senior executives, which is disclosed in the remuneration report contained in the Company's 31 December 2023 Annual Report as well as being disclosed on the Company's website.

Recommendations		Comply	Explanation
8.3	A listed entity which has an equity-based remuneration scheme should:     (a) have a policy on whether participants are permitted to enter into transactions (whether through the use of derivatives or otherwise) which limit the economic risk of participating in the scheme; and     (b) disclose that policy or a summary of it.	YES	The Company did not have an equity-based remuneration scheme during the past financial year.

### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS THAT APPLY ONLY IN CERTAIN CASES

Recommendations		Comply	Explanation
9.1	A listed entity with a director who does not speak the language in which board or security holder meetings are held or key corporate documents are written should disclose the processes it has in place to ensure the director understands and can contribute to the discussions at those meetings and understands and can discharge their obligations in relation to those documents.	YES	The Company's Corporate Governance Plan includes a Board Charter that deals with foreign directors and languages.
9.2	A listed entity established outside Australia should ensure that meetings of security holders are held at a reasonable place and time.	N/A	
9.3	A listed entity established outside Australia, and an externally managed listed entity that has an AGM, should ensure that its external auditor attends its AGM and is available to answer questions from security holders relevant to the audit.	N/A	