



**2022**

WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION  
ABN 33 007 457 141

# Corporate Governance Statement

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**Westpac** GROUP

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# Our approach to governance

Corporate governance is the framework of systems, policies and processes by which we operate and through which our people are both empowered and accountable for making decisions that affect our business, operations, customers and stakeholders. The framework establishes the roles and responsibilities of Westpac's Board, management team, employees and suppliers. It also establishes the systems, policies and processes for monitoring and evaluating Board and management performance, and the practices for corporate reporting, disclosure, remuneration, risk management and engagement of security holders.

Our approach to corporate governance is based on a set of values and behaviours that underpin our day-to-day activities, and are designed to promote transparency, fair dealing, and the protection of stakeholder interests, including our customers, our shareholders, our employees and our community. It includes aspiring to the highest standards of corporate governance, which Westpac sees as fundamental to the sustainability of our business and our performance.

As Westpac's principal listing is on the ASX, we have followed the ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations (fourth edition) (ASXCGC Recommendations) published by the ASX Limited's Corporate Governance Council (ASXCGC) throughout the year. Westpac's ordinary shares are also quoted on the NZX Main Board, which is the main board equity security market operated by NZX Limited.

## Board areas of focus in FY22

This year the Board (including with assistance from its Board Committees) has focused on overseeing:

- the delivery of key strategic priorities as well as the review of the Group's purpose and strategy;
- the management of current and emerging risks arising from the evolving economic and geopolitical environment;
- the Group's capital position, including the completion of various capital management initiatives;
- measures taken to support our customers and our people due to the impacts of COVID-19, as well as the impacts of severe weather conditions;
- progressing the priorities outlined in our 2021-2023 Group Sustainability Strategy, including joining the Net-Zero Banking Alliance, approving 2030 financed emissions targets for certain sectors and approving the Group's updated Climate Change Position Statement and Action Plan;
- the continued implementation of the Customer Outcomes and Risk Excellence (CORE) program to uplift outcomes for customers and our governance of financial and non-financial risk;
- ongoing work to improve Westpac's management of financial crime risk;
- changes to the Westpac Group's management structure and executive team as part of initiatives to simplify the Group's operations and improve accountability;
- the ongoing consideration of Board and Board Committee composition and succession;
- the continued simplification of our business and operations through the exit of non-core businesses; and
- the ongoing program of work to reset the bank's cost base.

# The Board

## Board of Directors

The Board is comprised of 9 independent Non-executive Directors and the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

A profile of each Director can be found on our website at: [www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/board-of-directors/](http://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/board-of-directors/).



**JOHN MCFARLANE**  
Chairman and Independent Non-executive Director



**PETER KING**  
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer



**NERIDA CAESAR**  
Independent Non-executive Director



**AUDETTE EXEL**  
Independent Non-executive Director



**MICHAEL HAWKER**  
Independent Non-executive Director



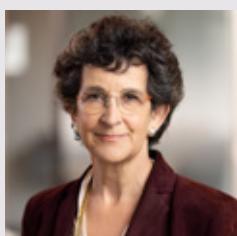
**CHRIS LYNCH**  
Independent Non-executive Director



**PETER MARRIOTT**  
Independent Non-executive Director



**PETER NASH**  
Independent Non-executive Director



**NORA SCHEINKESTEL**  
Independent Non-executive Director



**MARGARET (MARGIE) SEALE**  
Independent Non-executive Director

# Roles and responsibilities

## The Board

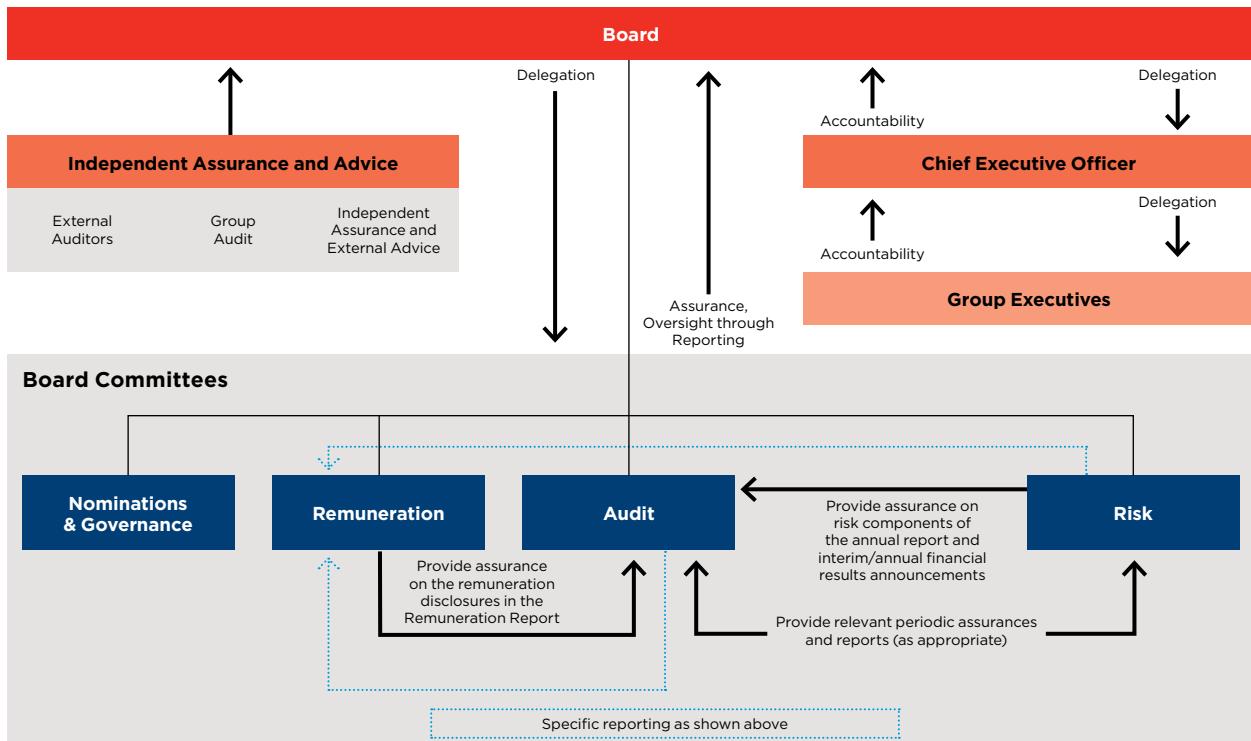
The role of the Board is to provide leadership and strategic guidance for Westpac and its related bodies corporate, in addition to overseeing the sound and prudent management of the Westpac Group. The Board Charter outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Board. Key responsibilities are:

- approving and overseeing management's implementation of the strategic direction of the Westpac Group, its business plan and significant corporate strategic initiatives;
- approving the appointment of the CEO, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Group Executives, the General Manager, Group Audit and any other person the Board determines;
- overseeing culture across the Group by setting the tone from the top, approving Westpac Group's values and receiving reporting on the Group's culture;
- assessing and reviewing the performance of the Board, its Board Committees, the CEO and the Group Executives;
- approving the Westpac Board Renewal Policy and determining Board size and composition;
- approving the Westpac Group Remuneration Policy;
- approving, in accordance with the Westpac Group Remuneration Policy, remuneration arrangements and variable remuneration outcomes and adjustments to variable remuneration where appropriate for Group Executives, other employees who are accountable persons under the Banking Executive Accountability Regime (BEAR), any person performing a role specified by APRA and any other person the Board determines;

- approving the annual financial targets and financial statements and monitoring financial performance against forecast and prior periods;
- determining our dividend policy and the amount, nature and timing of dividends to be paid;
- considering and approving our overall risk management framework for managing financial and non-financial risk;
- approving the Group Risk Management Framework, the Group Risk Management Strategy and the Board Risk Appetite Statement and monitoring the effectiveness of risk management by the Group;
- forming a view of our risk culture and overseeing the identification of, and steps taken to address any desirable changes to risk culture;
- considering the social, ethical and environmental impact of our activities including the effects of climate change, and setting standards and monitoring compliance with our sustainability policies and practices;
- providing oversight of the Group's technology strategy and the implementation of key technology initiatives;
- overseeing and monitoring workplace health and safety (WHS) issues in the Group and considering appropriate WHS reports and information;
- meeting with representatives from our principal regulators on a regular basis; and
- maintaining an ongoing dialogue with Westpac's external auditor.

The Board Charter is available on our website at: [www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/constitution-board/](http://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/constitution-board/).

## Westpac's Board and Board Committee structure



Board Committees will refer matters to the Board or other Board Committee where appropriate.

The Board has delegated to the CEO, and through the CEO to the Executive Team, responsibility for the day-to-day management of Westpac's business. These delegations are subject to the limitations and restrictions contained in the delegation instruments.

The Board is assisted in meeting its roles and responsibilities by its four standing Board Committees. Further information about each of the Board Committees is set out in the section titled 'Role of the Board Committees'.

## **Chairman**

The Board elects one of the independent Non-executive Directors as Chairman. Our Chairman is John McFarlane. His role includes:

- providing effective leadership to the Board in relation to all Board matters;
- guiding the agenda and conducting all Board meetings to facilitate discussions, challenge and decision-making;
- in conjunction with the Company Secretary, arranging regular Board meetings throughout the year and confirming that minutes of meetings accurately record decisions taken and, as required, the views of individual Directors;
- overseeing the process for appraising Directors and the Board as a whole;
- overseeing Board succession;
- acting as a conduit between management and the Board, and being the primary point of communication between the Board and CEO;
- representing the views of the Board to the public; and
- taking a leading role in creating and maintaining an effective corporate governance system.

## **CEO**

Our Managing Director and CEO is Peter King. His role includes:

- leadership of the management team and, with the Board, overseeing succession planning for the management team;
- developing strategic objectives for the business and achievement of the planned results; and
- the day-to-day management of the Westpac Group's operations, subject to the specified delegations of authority approved by the Board.

# Board skills, experience and attributes

Westpac seeks to maintain a Board of Directors with a broad range of relevant financial and other skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to guide the business of the Group. The Board uses a skills matrix to illustrate the key skills and experience the Westpac Board is seeking to achieve in its membership collectively and the number of Directors with each skill and experience. The skills matrix also assists in identifying focus areas for the continuing education and professional development of Directors. For example, in FY22, these focus areas included digitisation, decentralised finance, automation, privacy risk and climate change (amongst others). The skills matrix also assists in identifying areas where it may be desirable for specialist external expertise to be retained to supplement the Board's skills and experience.

As part of the regular review of the skills matrix, the matrix was amended this year, including through the addition of a new standalone skill category - 'Environment & Social'. The skills matrix is set out in Figure 1.

**Figure 1 – Board skills, experience and attributes as at 30 September 2022**

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF DIRECTORS
	<b>Customer focus</b> Experience in developing and overseeing the embedding of a strong customer-focused culture in large and complex organisations, and a demonstrable commitment to achieving customer outcomes	
	<b>Strategy</b> An ability to define strategic objectives, constructively question business plans, oversee the implementation of strategy using commercial judgement and bring a global perspective to bear	
	<b>Financial services</b> Experience working in, or advising, the banking and financial services industry with strong knowledge of its economic drivers and global business perspectives	
	<b>Financial acumen</b> Highly proficient in accounting or related financial management and reporting for businesses of significant size	
	<b>Risk</b> Experience in anticipating, recognising and managing risks, including financial, non-financial and emerging risks, and monitoring risk management frameworks and controls	
	<b>Technology, digital and data</b> Experience in developing or overseeing the application of technology in large and complex businesses, with particular reference to technology-innovation, disruptive technologies, data, cyber-security, digital transformation and customer experience	
	<b>Governance</b> Experience as a Director of a listed entity, with detailed knowledge of governance issues, with particular reference to the legal, compliance, regulatory and voluntary frameworks applicable to listed entities and highly regulated industries	
	<b>Environment and social</b> Experience in understanding and identifying potential risks and opportunities arising from environmental and social issues, including the transition to a climate resilient future, management of biodiversity, and addressing human rights and modern slavery within supply chains	
	<b>People and culture</b> Experience in people matters including workplace health and safety, cultures, morale, inclusion and diversity, management development, succession, remuneration and talent retention initiatives	
	<b>Executive leadership</b> Having held a CEO or a similar senior leadership role in a large complex organisation, and having experience in that position in managing the business through periods of significant change and delivering desired business outcomes	



Expert



General working experience and knowledge



Limited working experience and knowledge

In addition to the skills outlined above, the Westpac Board seeks to ensure that it operates as a cohesive team, bringing together a range of perspectives to guide the company and oversee management. The Westpac Board also expects its members to be committed to achieving our Purpose and upholding our Values.

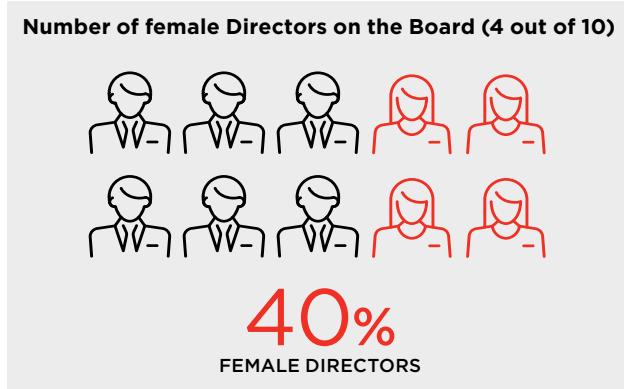
## Appointment of Directors

### Board diversity

A diverse group of skilled Directors make us a stronger organisation that makes better decisions. In relation to gender diversity, for 2022, the Board Nominations & Governance Committee has approved an objective of 40% women, 40% men and 20% any gender for the composition of the Westpac Board.

As Westpac has met its 2022 objective for Board gender diversity, the focus is on maintaining alignment with this objective, noting that our performance against it will vary at any given time depending on the timing of Board renewal and Board composition changes.

The Board gender diversity as at 30 September 2022 is set out below.



### Independence

All of our Non-executive Directors satisfy our criteria for independence, which aligns with the guidance provided in the ASXCGC Recommendations.

The Board assesses the independence of our Non-executive Directors on appointment and annually. Each Non-executive Director provides an annual attestation of their interests and independence. Directors are considered to be independent if they are independent of management and free from any business or other relationship that could materially interfere with, or could reasonably be perceived to materially interfere with:

- the exercise of their unfettered and independent judgement; and
- their ability to act in the best interests of Westpac as a whole rather than the interests of another party.

Materiality is assessed on a case-by-case basis by reference to each Non-executive Director's individual circumstances rather than by applying general materiality thresholds.

Each Non-executive Director is required to disclose any business or other relationship that they have directly, or as a partner, shareholder or officer of a company or other entity that has an interest or a business or other relationship with Westpac or a Group entity. The Board considers information about any such interests or relationships, including any related financial or other details, when it assesses the Non-executive Director's independence.

The Board Nominations & Governance Committee considers and makes recommendations to the Board on candidates for appointment as Directors. Such recommendations pay particular attention to:

- the mix of skills, experience, expertise, diversity, independence, and other qualities of existing Directors; and
- how the candidate's attributes will balance and complement those skills and qualities and address any potential skills gaps in relation to the current and future composition of the Board.

Subject to the Constitution and ASX Listing Rules, the Board may appoint a Director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing Directors. Except for the CEO, a Director appointed by the Board holds office only until the close of the next annual general meeting (AGM) but is eligible for election by shareholders at that meeting.

Our Constitution states that a Director (except for the CEO) must not hold office (without re-election) past the third AGM or for three years, whichever is longer. Retiring Directors hold office until the conclusion of the meeting at which they retire but are eligible for re-election at that meeting.

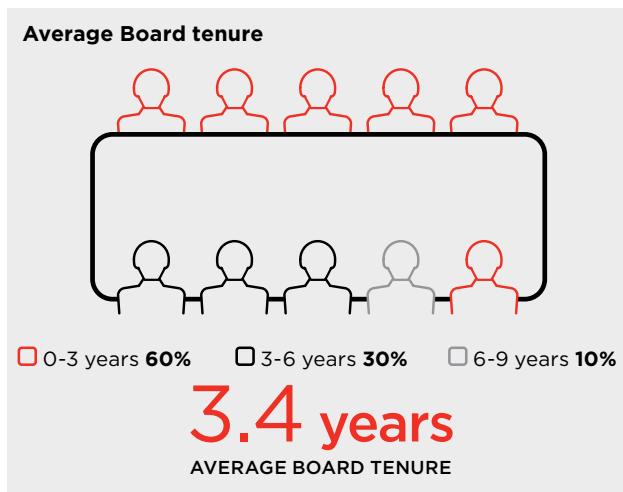
Our Constitution also provides that at least one Director must stand for election or re-election at each AGM. This requirement could be satisfied by a person standing for election as a new Director; a Director who has been appointed to fill a casual vacancy seeking election; or a Director seeking re-election because of the tenure limitation (referred to in the paragraph above). If there are no such Directors required to stand for election or re-election at the AGM, and no Director volunteers to stand for re-election, the Director who has served the longest in office since their last election or re-election must retire and stand for re-election. The CEO is not required to stand for re-election.

Prior to a Director's appointment or consideration for election or re-election by shareholders, the Board conducts due diligence and considers the results of the Board performance evaluation conducted during the year. Where a Director is seeking election or re-election, Westpac provides shareholders with all material information relevant to a decision on whether or not to elect or re-elect a Director.

New Directors receive an induction pack and letter of appointment setting out the expectations of the role, conditions of appointment including the expected term of appointment, and remuneration. This letter aligns to the ASXCGC Recommendations. All new Directors participate in an induction program to familiarise themselves with our business and strategy, culture and values and any current issues before the Board. The induction program includes substantial review of key documents and meetings with a range of representatives from the organisation, and includes meetings with the Chairman, the CEO, the Board Committee Chairs and each Group Executive.

The Westpac Board Renewal Policy limits the tenure of office that any Non-executive Directors other than the Chairman may serve to nine years, from the date of first election by shareholders. The maximum tenure for the Chairman is 12 years (which includes any term served as a Director prior to being elected as Chairman), from the date of first election by shareholders. The Board, on an exceptional basis, may extend the maximum terms specified above where it considers it would benefit the Group, on an annual basis, with the Director required to stand for re-election annually.

The average Board tenure as at 30 September 2022 is set out below. The length of service of each Director is set out in Section 1 of the Directors' report in our 2022 Annual Report.



## Conflicts of interest

All Directors are required to disclose to the Board any actual, potential or apparent conflicts of interest upon appointment and are required to keep these disclosures up to date.

Any Director with a material personal interest in a matter being considered by the Board must declare their interest and may not be present during any related boardroom discussions nor vote on the matter unless the Board resolves otherwise.

## Continuing education

Directors undertake continuing education and training to develop and maintain the skills and knowledge needed to perform their role effectively, including by participating in workshops held throughout the year, attending relevant site visits, and undertaking relevant external education.

These activities are planned each year and are included in the Board's/Board Committees' calendars. In addition, the Board and Board Committees consider whether additional education and professional development opportunities should be offered as part of the annual Board Effectiveness Review.

## Access to information

All Directors have unrestricted access to company records and information required to perform their duties, and receive regular detailed financial and operational reports from senior management. Each Director also enters into an access and indemnity agreement, which among other things, provides for access to documents for up to seven years after their retirement as a Director.

The Chairman and other Non-executive Directors regularly consult with the CEO, CFO and other senior executives, and may consult with, and request additional information from, any of our employees.

## Access to advice

All Directors have access to advice from senior internal legal advisors including the Group General Counsel.

The Board collectively, and all Directors individually, can also seek independent professional advice, at our expense, to help them carry out their responsibilities. While the Chairman's prior approval is needed, it may not be unreasonably withheld.

## Remuneration framework

Information about our remuneration framework, including policies and practices regarding the remuneration of Non-executive Directors, the CEO and other senior executives, is included in the Remuneration Report in the Directors' report (which is located in our 2022 Annual Report). The Remuneration Report also includes details of Westpac's hedging policy, which prohibits participants in equity plans from entering into transactions that mitigate the risk associated with the equity award.

## Performance reviews

### Board, Board Committees and Directors

The Board undertakes ongoing self-assessment as well as commissioning an annual performance review by an independent consultant.

The review process includes an assessment of the performance of the Board, the Board Committees and each Director, with outputs collected, analysed and presented to the Board. The Board will discuss the results and agree follow-up actions. Actions from the previous review related to matters regarding Board process, committee structure, Board priorities (including its focus on the Group's various strategic priorities), and continuing education.

Directors separately receive individual performance feedback collected about them during the review process and this feedback is discussed between the Chairman and each Director (and in the case of the Chairman, between the Chairman and another Board Committee Chair). At the time of this Corporate Governance Statement, the 2022 financial year evaluation of the full Board is being finalised and will be completed prior to the end of the 2022 calendar year.

### Board assessment of management performance

The Board, in conjunction with its Board Remuneration Committee, is responsible for:

- selecting, appointing, and determining terms of appointment of, the CEO;
- determining the CEO's goals and objectives, and evaluating the CEO's performance in light of these objectives;
- approving the appointment of Group Executives, the General Manager Group Audit, and any other person the Board determines; and
- approving individual remuneration arrangements, and adjustments to variable remuneration where appropriate for Group Executives and other senior executives, including in light of relevant matters brought to the attention of the Board Remuneration Committee from the CEO, Chief Risk Officer, Group Executive, Human Resources, General Manager Group Audit, Group General Counsel, and Chairs of the Board Risk Committee and Board Audit Committee.

All new senior executives receive an employment contract setting out the terms and conditions of their employment. Group Executives and certain General Managers that are Accountable Persons under the Banking Executive Accountability Regime Governance Policy also receive an Accountability Statement for their respective role. Briefing sessions are scheduled to discuss our strategies and operations, and the respective roles and responsibilities of the Board and senior management.

Under Westpac's executive remuneration framework, the performance of senior executives is assessed annually. Management performance evaluations for the financial year ended 30 September 2022 were conducted following the end of the financial year.

The process for reviewing the performance of senior executives, as well as further information on Westpac's executive remuneration framework, FY22 performance objectives and performance achieved is contained in the Remuneration Report in the Directors' report (which is located in our 2022 Annual Report).

# Role of the Board Committees

The Board is assisted by its four standing Board Committees and the key roles, responsibilities, and membership of each of the Board Committees are outlined in their respective Charter and are summarised in the table below. In 2022, changes were made to streamline the operation of the Board Committees. The Board Legal, Regulatory and Compliance Committee was recombined with the Board Risk Committee. In addition, the Board Technology Committee was dissolved with its responsibilities assumed by the Board and/or Board Risk Committee where appropriate.

The Board Committee Charters are available on our website at [www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/constitution-board](http://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/constitution-board) and outline the roles and responsibilities of each Board Committee. All of the Board Committees are currently comprised of independent Non-executive Directors.

Board Committee members are chosen for the skills and experience they can contribute to the respective Board Committees and their qualifications are set out in Section 1 of the Directors' report, in our 2022 Annual Report.

COMMITTEE	KEY RESPONSIBILITIES	COMPOSITION REQUIREMENTS	MEMBERSHIP
<b>Board Risk Committee (BRiskC)</b>	<p>To assist the Board to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– review and approve the Group's overall risk management framework for managing financial and non-financial risks as well as emerging risks;</li> <li>– oversee the risk culture across the Group;</li> <li>– review and approve the Group Risk Management Framework, the Group Risk Management Strategy, and the Board Risk Appetite Statement; and</li> <li>– make its annual declaration to APRA on risk management under APRA prudential standard CPS 220 Risk Management.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee is also responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– reviewing and monitoring the risk profile and controls of the Group for consistency with the Board Risk Appetite Statement;</li> <li>– reviewing and approving other risk management frameworks for financial and non-financial risks and monitoring performance under those frameworks (as appropriate);</li> <li>– reviewing and approving the limits and conditions that apply to the delegated credit risk and market risk approval authorities;</li> <li>– reviewing stress testing results, monitoring management responses and providing recommendations for future scenarios;</li> <li>– reviewing Group cyber risk and cybersecurity reporting, including information on the monitoring and performance of the Group's cyber risk management and controls;</li> <li>– providing oversight of the Group's management of other financial and non-financial risks, financial crime risk, reputation and sustainability risk; and</li> <li>– monitoring changes anticipated for the economic and business environment, including consideration of emerging risks and other factors.</li> </ul>	<p>At least three Non-executive Directors. Majority of Committee members must be independent. An independent Non-executive Director must be the Committee Chairman, who is not the Board Chairman.</p> <p>At least one member of the Board Audit Committee and at least one member of the Board Remuneration Committee must be members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Peter Marriott (Chairman)</li> <li>– Audette Exel</li> <li>– Mike Hawker</li> <li>– Peter Nash</li> <li>– Nora Scheinkestel</li> <li>– Margaret Seale</li> </ul>
<b>Board Audit Committee (BAC)</b>	<p>To assist the Board by overseeing the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– integrity of financial statements and financial reporting systems of Westpac and its related bodies corporate;</li> <li>– external audit engagement, including the external auditor's appointment, removal and rotation of the lead audit engagement partner, and the external auditor's qualifications, performance, independence and fees;</li> <li>– performance of the internal audit function; and</li> <li>– integrity of the Group's corporate reporting including the Group's financial reporting and compliance with prudential regulatory reporting and professional accounting requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>At least three Non-executive Directors. Majority of Committee members must be independent. An independent Non-executive Director must be the Committee Chairman, who is not the Board Chairman.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Peter Nash (Chairman)</li> <li>– Chris Lynch</li> <li>– Peter Marriott</li> </ul>

COMMITTEE	KEY RESPONSIBILITIES	COMPOSITION REQUIREMENTS	MEMBERSHIP
<b>Board Remuneration Committee (BRemC)</b>	<p>To assist the Board by reviewing and making recommendations in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the Group's remuneration framework (as articulated in the Group Remuneration Policy), as well as assessing its compliance with laws, regulations and prudential standards;</li> <li>– individual remuneration arrangements and variable remuneration outcomes of the CEO, Group Executives, other accountable persons under BEAR, and any other person the Board determines;</li> <li>– the remuneration framework, policies, and fee levels, (including superannuation) for Non-executive Directors on the Board and subsidiary Boards;</li> <li>– remuneration arrangements on a cohort basis (including variable remuneration outcomes) for certain employees;</li> <li>– in conjunction with the Board Chairman, evaluating the performance of the CEO, including their goals and objectives as assessed against the Group Performance Review; and</li> <li>– the design and terms of all Equity Plans.</li> </ul>	<p>At least three Non-executive Directors. Majority of Committee members must be independent.</p> <p>An independent Non-executive Director must be the Committee Chairman, who is not the Board Chairman.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Nora Scheinkestel (Chair)</li> <li>– Chris Lynch</li> <li>– Margaret Seale</li> </ul>
<b>Board Nominations &amp; Governance Committee (BNGC)</b>	<p>To assist the Board, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– recommending candidates for appointment as Non-executive Directors to the Board and the Boards of significant subsidiaries;</li> <li>– reviewing the process for the orientation and continuing education of Directors;</li> <li>– considering succession planning for Non-executive Directors;</li> <li>– assessing the overall skills, experience, expertise and diversity of the Board;</li> <li>– reviewing annually diversity generally within the Group, including approving measurable objectives for achieving diversity and the Group's progress in achieving such objectives; and</li> <li>– reviewing and, where required, approving the Group's corporate governance policies, including as they relate to tenure, independence and Board renewal/composition.</li> </ul>	<p>At least three Non-executive Directors. Majority of Committee members must be independent.</p> <p>The Board Chairman will be the Committee Chairman.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– John McFarlane (Chairman)</li> <li>– Peter Nash</li> <li>– Margaret Seale</li> </ul>

The Board Committee composition changes which have occurred in FY22 are set out in Section 9 of the Directors' report, in our 2022 Annual Report.

From time to time, the Board may form other Committees or request Directors to undertake specific extra duties. In addition, the Board may participate (either directly or through representatives) in due diligence committees in relation to strategic decisions and capital and funding activities.

Each Board Committee:

- will refer to the Board or other Board Committee any matter that comes to their attention that is relevant for the Board or respective Board Committee; and
- is entitled to the resources and information it requires and has direct access to our employees and advisers.

## Board and Board Committee meetings

The number of meetings of the Board and Board Committees for the financial year ended 30 September 2022, and each Director's attendance is reported in Section 9 of the Directors' report, in our 2022 Annual Report.

Scheduled meetings of the Board Committees occur at least quarterly, with the Board Risk Committee meeting at least five times annually. All Board Committees are able to meet more frequently as necessary.

Non-executive Directors regularly meet without management present, so they can discuss issues appropriate to such a forum. Senior executives and other selected employees are invited, where considered appropriate, to participate in Board and Board Committee meetings. They are also available to be contacted by Directors between meetings.

All Directors can receive all Board Committee papers and can attend any Board Committee meeting, provided there is no conflict of interest.

The CEO attends all Board Committee meetings, except where he has a material personal interest in a matter being considered.

## Board Audit Committee financial knowledge

All BAC members have appropriate financial experience, an understanding of the financial services industry and satisfy the independence requirements under the ASXCGC Recommendations, *Securities Exchange Act of 1934* (US) (as amended) and its related rules.

The Board has determined that Mr Nash is an 'audit committee financial expert' and independent in accordance with US securities law.

The designation of Mr Nash as an audit committee financial expert does not impose duties, obligations or liability on him that are greater than those imposed on him as a Board Audit Committee member, and does not affect the duties, obligations or liability of any other BAC member or Board member. Audit committee financial experts are not deemed as an 'expert' for any other purpose.

## Meeting with Regulators

The Directors also met with representatives from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre, and the Monetary Authority of Singapore during the course of the year.

## Role of the Company Secretary

Westpac's Company Secretary attends Board and Board Committee meetings and is responsible for the operation of the Secretariat function, including advising the Board on governance and, in conjunction with management, giving practical effect to the Board's decisions. The Company Secretary is accountable to the Board, through the Chairman, on all matters to do with the proper functioning of the Board.

A profile for the Company Secretary can be found in the Directors' report, in our 2022 Annual Report.

# Diversity

At Westpac we're focused on building a workplace that fosters a diverse and inclusive workforce where our people feel valued, respected and safe.

We seek to embrace everything that makes people unique in their identity like age, cultural background, disability, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, marital or family status, religious belief, sexual orientation or socio-economic background.

Our Inclusion and Diversity Strategy and Policy sets out our objective to make Westpac an inclusive place for our employees and our customers. We are focused on attracting, recruiting, developing and retaining our people in a culture that embraces individual differences and allows people to feel safe to be themselves at work.

## Our Inclusion and Diversity priorities for 2021-23

Our Executive Team oversees the Group-wide Inclusion and Diversity Plan and reviews progress twice a year. Our 2021-23 Inclusion and Diversity plan has three priority areas:

- gender balance across the organisation, including in our most senior roles;
- improved understanding of cultural diversity; and
- build engaging career opportunities for Indigenous people.

## Making Inclusion happen

We expect all employees to foster a culture which values diversity and includes everybody.

The Board Nominations & Governance Committee annually reviews diversity within the Westpac Group, including approving diversity and inclusion objectives and overseeing progress in achieving these objectives.

Westpac is a signatory to the 40:40 Vision, and the Board Nominations & Governance Committee approved the Group's measurable objectives (which were in place for this reporting period) for achieving gender diversity in the composition of the Board, Executive Team, General Managers, and workforce generally as follows:

- achieve 40:40:20 on the Westpac Board;
- achieve 40:40:20 in our Executive Team;
- achieve 40% (+/- 2%) women in our General Manager population<sup>2</sup>;
- maintain 50% (+/- 2%) Women in Leadership positions<sup>3</sup>; and
- maintain at least 50% (+/- 2%) women in our workforce generally.

At 30 September 2022, the proportion of women employed by the Group was as follows:

- Board of Directors: 40%;
- Executive Team: 45%;

- General Managers 39%;
- Women in Leadership positions: 50%; and
- total Westpac workforce: 55%.

For FY23 the Board Nominations & Governance Committee approved a change to the measurable objectives for gender diversity to enhance our focus on gender balance in our most senior roles. An objective of 50% (+/- 2%) women in Senior Leadership<sup>4</sup> positions will replace the 'Women in Leadership' positions measurable objective that was in place over this reporting period.

We aim to achieve gender pay equity, affirming that equal pay must be given for equal work. We undertake a remuneration gap analysis annually to identify issues and take steps to investigate and address any pay gaps. We are also increasing transparency around pay. This year we removed pay secrecy clauses from employee contracts allowing employees to openly discuss their pay with other employees if they choose to.

We seek to ensure that our workplaces are free from sexual harassment and that we treat each other with dignity, courtesy, and respect. Our Sexual Harassment Policy includes a 'No Bystander rule' reminding our people, especially people leaders, of our obligation to speak up and our zero tolerance for sexual harassment. A copy of our Sexual Harassment Policy is available at the following link: [www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/inclusion-and-diversity](http://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/inclusion-and-diversity).

This year we launched our fifth Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). This will be Westpac's third Elevate-level RAP and outlines our actions and commitments to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our ten employee action groups help us strengthen an inclusive culture across a broad range of areas including by focusing on gender, LGBTQ+, young and mature-age employees, cultural diversity in leadership, accessibility, Indigenous employees, veterans, skilled volunteering and supporting victims of domestic and family violence.

Westpac offers workplace flexibility and provides employees with a variety of leave options, such as parental leave (including support for those who experience pregnancy loss), carers leave, wellbeing and lifestyle leave, career breaks, purchased leave, uncapped domestic and family violence support leave, gender transition leave, Sorry Business leave, volunteer leave and emergency services leave.

A copy of Westpac's Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) report is available on WGEA's website at [www.wgea.gov.au/](http://www.wgea.gov.au/).

Further information on our inclusion and diversity programs and performance, as well as a copy of our Inclusion & Diversity Policy can be found on our website at [www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/inclusion-and-diversity/](http://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/inclusion-and-diversity/).

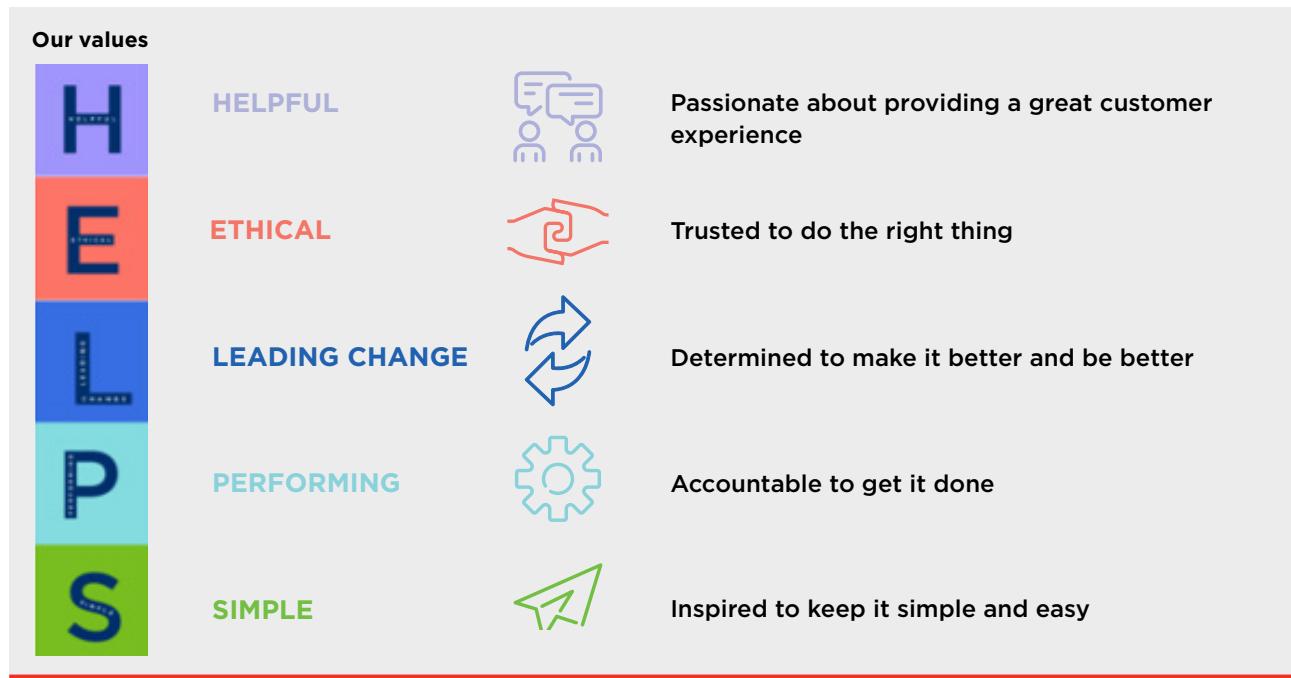
1. Includes the full Executive Team other than the CEO.
2. Update to GM Target – The 40:40 Vision is an initiative to ensure diversity in Executive Leadership, the Target for GMs was revised to align with all other Gender Diversity metrics. We have set the same 40:40 Vision Target for the Board.
3. Women in Leadership refers to the proportion of women (permanent and maximum term) in leadership roles across the Group. It includes the CEO, Group Executives, General Managers, senior leaders with significant influence on business outcomes (direct reports to General Managers and their direct reports), large (3+) team people leaders three levels below General Manager, and Bank Managers and Assistant Bank Managers.
4. Senior Leadership refers to the proportion of women (permanent and maximum term) in senior leadership roles across the Group. It includes the Executive Team, General Managers, and direct reports to General Managers, excluding administrative or support roles.

# Ethical decision making

Ethical and responsible decision making is critical to decision making at Westpac. Our Purpose, Values and Behaviours, together with our Code of Conduct and related policies and frameworks, are focused on instilling and reinforcing an ethical and responsible decision-making culture across the Group.

## Purpose, Values and Behaviours

Westpac's purpose is helping Australians and New Zealanders succeed. In working to fulfil our purpose, we are guided by our 'HELPS' values. Our Purpose, Values and Behaviours set the direction for our culture by providing clarity about what is valued most and what our people need to do.



Underpinning our values are 16 behaviours. We are focusing on the following six key behaviours:

- I act, 'If I say it, I do it'
- I always ask 'Should We?' as well as 'Can We?'
- I constructively challenge when something doesn't feel right
- I am clear on my role and the decisions I can make
- I am accountable for managing risk
- I always ask, 'Can this be simpler?'

Westpac's Purpose, Values and Behaviours were launched in August 2020. Since then, significant initiatives have been undertaken (with some ongoing) to embed them, including a comprehensive communications agenda, leader-led initiatives and alignment of systems, processes and policies, which impacts on our day-to-day activities, and in respect of our Purpose, ongoing work to consider whether the way we express our Purpose could be adjusted so that it further resonates with our people and our customers.

## Code of Conduct

The Westpac Group Code of Conduct (Code) sets out a consistent standard and establishes the expectations of our people to do what is right. The Code goes beyond an obligation to comply with laws and policies and is a key aspect of improving conduct to seek to ensure fair outcomes for customers, communities and each other.

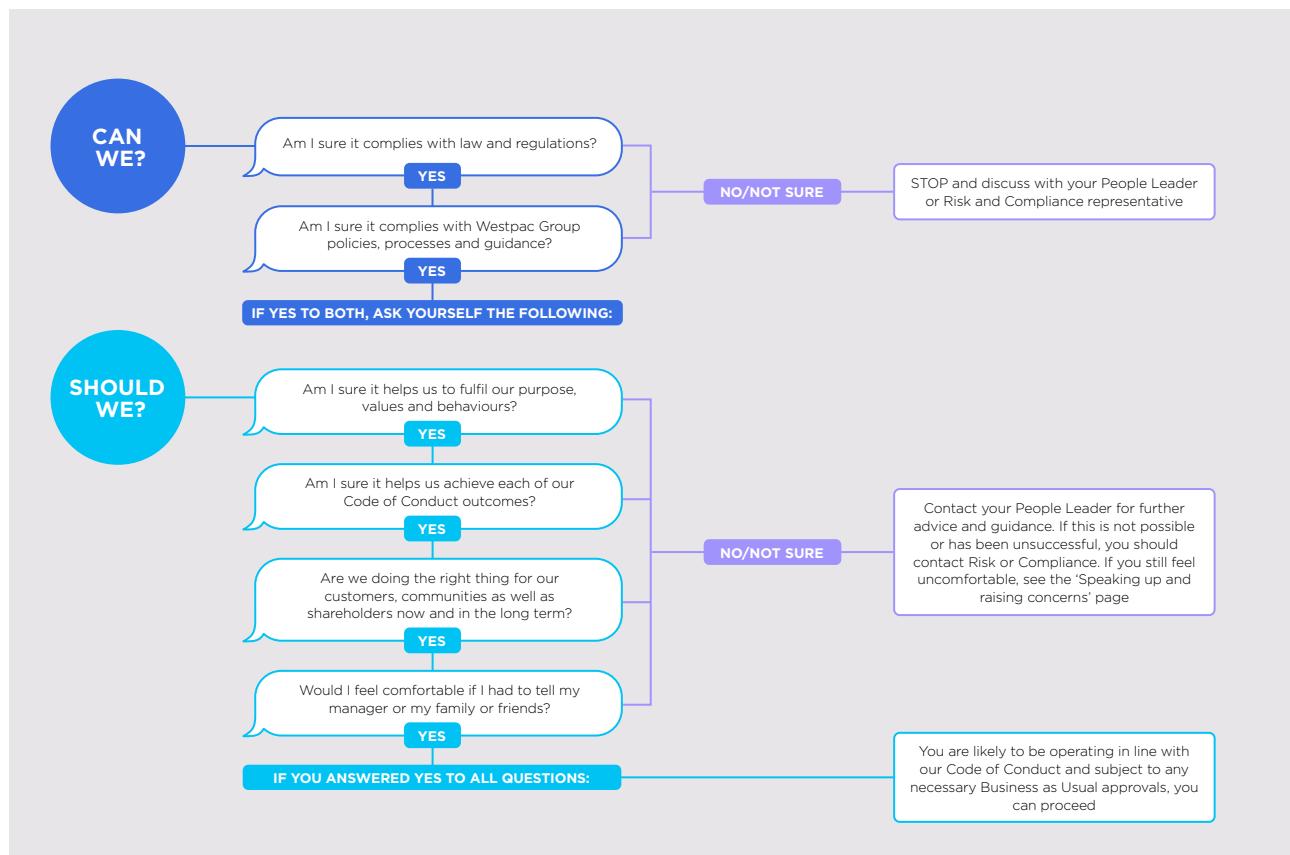
The Code requires us to apply the 'Should We?' test (see Figure 2 below) when making decisions and encourages our people to speak up when our standards are not being met.

We take non-compliance with the Code seriously. Material breaches of the Code are reported to the Board Risk Committee (BRiskC).<sup>1</sup>

Supporting the Code are numerous frameworks and policies outlining our commitment to sustainable business practices and behaviours. These include our Purpose, Values and Behaviours, policies, and position statements addressing sustainability themes such as human rights, climate change and other environmental and social impacts.

The Code is available on our website at: [www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/principles-policies/](http://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/principles-policies/).

**Figure 2 – The 'Should We?' test**



1. Prior to the recombination of the Board Legal, Regulatory and Compliance Committee (BLRCC) and the Board Risk Committee, material breaches were to be reported to the BLRCC.

# Key policies

We have a number of key policies to manage our regulatory compliance and human resource requirements. We are also subject to a range of external industry codes, such as the Banking Code of Practice and the ePayments Code.

## **Code of Ethics for Senior Finance Officers**

Our Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (COAPFR) complements our Code of Conduct. It is designed to assist our CEO, CFO and other principal financial officers to apply the highest ethical standards to their duties and responsibilities with respect to accounting and financial reporting. The COAPFR requires those officers to:

- act honestly and ethically, particularly with respect to conflicts of interest;
- provide full, fair, accurate and timely disclosure in reporting and other communications;
- comply with applicable laws, rules and regulations;
- promptly report violations of the COAPFR; and
- be accountable for adherence to the COAPFR.

The COAPFR is available on our website at [www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/principles-policies/](http://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/principles-policies/).

## **Delegated authority**

The Delegated Authority Policy Framework outlines the principles Westpac has adopted to govern decision making within the Westpac Group, including channels of escalation and reporting to the Board.

The scope of, and limitations to, authority delegated by the Board to the CEO and through the CEO to other Group Executives, is articulated in formal delegation instruments and covers areas such as expenditure, funding and securitisation, and lending. These delegations have been implemented with a view to balancing effective oversight with appropriate empowerment and accountability of management.

Any matters or transactions outside the delegations of authority given to management are required to be referred to the Board or relevant Board Committee for approval.

## **Securities trading**

Westpac's Group Securities Trading Policy prohibits Directors, employees, secondees and contractors from dealing in any securities and other financial products that they possess inside information on. They are also prohibited from passing on inside information to others who may use that information to trade in securities or from procuring others to trade.

In addition, Directors and any employees, secondees or contractors (and their 'associates') who, because of their seniority or the nature of their position, may have access to material non-public information about Westpac (known as Prescribed Employees) are subject to further restrictions, including prohibitions on trading prior to and immediately following annual and half year results announcements.

The Westpac Group Securities Trading Policy is available in the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/principles-policies/](http://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/principles-policies/).

## **Concern reporting and whistleblower protection**

The Westpac Group Speaking Up Policy encourages our employees, contractors, secondees, former employees, brokers, service providers and suppliers to raise any concerns about our activities or behaviours that may be unlawful or unethical. Our senior management are committed to supporting anyone reporting wrongdoing, and protecting their dignity, wellbeing, career and reputation. Westpac does not tolerate detrimental conduct related to a Speaking Up report.

A person can raise a concern using our whistleblowing channels, including our reporting system 'Concern Online' and our Whistleblower Hotline. Both channels enable anonymous reporting.

Westpac's Whistleblower Protection Officers are responsible for protecting whistleblowers against personal disadvantage as a result of speaking up. They also engage with whistleblowers to address risks of reprisal. Whistleblowers may also raise a concern directly with a Whistleblower Protection Officer.

The Speaking Up Policy requires that we investigate concerns in a confidential, fair and objective manner. If the investigation shows that wrongdoing occurred, we are committed to taking action, such as changing our processes and imposing consequences on those involved in wrongdoing. Outcomes may also involve reporting the matter to relevant authorities and regulators.

The Board Audit Committee, in conjunction with the Board Risk Committee oversees Westpac's Whistleblower Program. The Board Risk Committee receives regular reporting on whistleblowing (which includes key metrics, measures and themes that provide insights into the performance of the Whistleblower Program).

Material whistleblower matters reported under the Westpac Group Speaking Up Policy are reported to the Board Risk Committee.<sup>1</sup>

Westpac's Speaking Up Policy is available on our website at: [www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/principles-policies/](http://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/principles-policies/).

1. Prior to the recombination of the BLRCC and the BRiskC, whistleblower reporting was provided to the BLRCC.

### **Anti-Bribery and Corruption**

The Westpac Group has an Anti-Bribery and Corruption (ABC) Policy, an ABC Standard, and bribery prevention procedures and systems. Material breaches of the ABC Policy are reported to the Board Risk Committee.<sup>1</sup> The ABC Policy is available on our website at [www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/anti-bribery-corruption-policy-procedures/](http://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/anti-bribery-corruption-policy-procedures/).

Westpac has no tolerance for any form of bribery or corruption. This includes a ban on facilitation payments and offering or soliciting secret commissions.

Westpac is committed to preventing, detecting and deterring bribery and corruption by managing its bribery and corruption risk and complying with relevant ABC legislation in all jurisdictions in which it operates or has dealings. This includes the Australian *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth), the *Bribery Act 2010* (UK) and the *Foreign Corrupt Practices Act 1977* (US).

Under the ABC Policy, Westpac expects that its officers, Directors, employees, agents, contractors, service providers and subsidiaries and third parties acting for or on behalf of Westpac will comply with all applicable ABC laws and will not offer, provide, authorise, request or receive a bribe or anything which may be viewed as a bribe.

Westpac is required to design a system of internal controls, maintain accurate books and records and keep accurate records under the *Foreign Corrupt Practices Act 1977* (US).

Westpac must also put in place adequate procedures as a defence to bribery under legislation including the *Bribery Act 2010* (UK). Adequate procedures must be proportionate to the bribery and corruption risks that Westpac may reasonably face.

### **Fit and Proper Person assessments**

Westpac's Board approved Group Fit and Proper Policy (F&P Policy) outlines how we assess the fitness and propriety of our Directors, Accountable Persons under BEAR, and other individuals in key positions of responsibility.

The F&P Policy supports Westpac in complying with APRA Prudential Standards CPS 520 and SPS 520, the *Banking Act 1959* (Cth) (including BEAR), *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993* (Cth), relevant ASIC licensing requirements (Australian Financial Services Licence and Australian Credit Licence) and equivalent offshore regulations as applicable.

The Chairman of the Board (and in the case of the Chairman, the Board as a collective) is responsible for assessing the fitness and propriety of our CEO and Non-executive Directors. A Fit and Proper Committee is responsible under delegated authority from the Board for undertaking a fit and proper assessment of all other individuals in key positions of responsibility. In all cases, a fit and proper assessment will be undertaken prior to their initial appointment and be re-assessed annually. This involves the relevant individual providing a declaration and background checks (including police and bankruptcy checks) being undertaken as appropriate.

### **Conflicts of interest**

Westpac's conflicts of interest framework is designed to identify and manage conflicts of interest. The conflicts of interest framework includes the Group Conflicts of Interest Policy, along with supporting policies, standards and procedures.

Under our conflicts of interest framework, any person who acts on behalf of the Westpac Group must:

- promptly identify, declare, assess, manage and record conflicts of interest appropriately;
- discharge their duties concerning conflicts of interest with integrity, fairness, honesty and due skill, care and diligence;
- avoid a conflict of interest where it cannot be effectively managed; and
- not solicit, accept or offer money, gifts, favours or entertainment that might influence, or might be seen to influence, their professional judgement.

### **Modern Slavery**

Under the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth) and *Modern Slavery Act 2015* (UK), Westpac is required to prepare an annual statement describing the risks of modern slavery practices in our operations and supply chain, and the actions taken to address these risks. Westpac published a joint statement for FY21 on behalf of itself and certain reporting entities that addressed the requirements of both Acts.

The Westpac Group's 2021 Modern Slavery Statement was published in March 2022 and can be located at [www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/sustainability](http://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/sustainability).

### **Customer Advocate**

Westpac's Customer Advocate advises and guides our complaints team regarding complaints raised by customers in relation to personal banking, small business, wealth and insurance matters. In addition, the Customer Advocate recommends changes to bank policies, procedures and processes, arising from the complaints made by customers, and in particular focuses on how we can best support our vulnerable customers.

1. Prior to the recombination of the BLRCC and BRiskC, material breaches of the ABC Policy were to be reported to the BLRCC.

# Sustainability

We view sustainable and responsible business practices as important for our business, our customers, our community and shareholder value. Sustainability is about managing environmental and social risks and opportunities in a way that seeks to balance the long-term needs of all our stakeholders – our customers, employees, suppliers, investors and community partners – together with the needs of the wider community and the environment.

We aim to address the matters that we believe are the most material for our business and stakeholders, now and in the future. We understand that environmental and social risks and opportunities continue to evolve so we seek to monitor and progressively embed the management of sustainability into business practice. While striving to deliver against our sustainability strategy, we also work to anticipate and shape our response to emerging social and environmental issues where we believe we have the skills and experience to make a meaningful difference and drive business value.

## Reporting

We report on the most material sustainability matters (including environmental and social risks and opportunities), identified in our annual materiality assessment, to internal and external stakeholders. Details of how we seek to manage the associated risks and opportunities and our performance against our sustainability strategy are contained in our half and full year reporting suite, available on our website.

We participate in a number of voluntary initiatives including the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), the Equator principles and the UN Global Compact.

Our sustainability reporting is subject to independent limited and reasonable assurance, performed in accordance with the Australian Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information (Revised) ('ASAE 3000'). The assurance provider also assesses whether our sustainability reporting is based on the GRI Universal Standards 2021 and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), and aligned with the reporting and self-assessment requirements of the Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB).

## Material exposure to sustainability risks

Westpac is exposed to environmental and social risks such as climate change risk. We seek to manage our material exposures to these risks in accordance with our risk management strategy and frameworks.

Further details about the risks we face, and how we seek to manage them, are referred to in our 2022 Annual Report (see pages 34 to 51 and pages 134 to 152). In addition our Climate Change Position Statement and Action Plan, our Human Rights Position Statement and Action Plan, and our Modern Slavery Statement are available on our website at [www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/sustainability/](http://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/sustainability/).

# Risk Management

Our Risk Management Framework describes our approach for managing the material risks we face, and has nine components underpinned by a strong risk culture and a Three Lines of Defence model with customers at the centre. This is represented in the diagram on page 18.

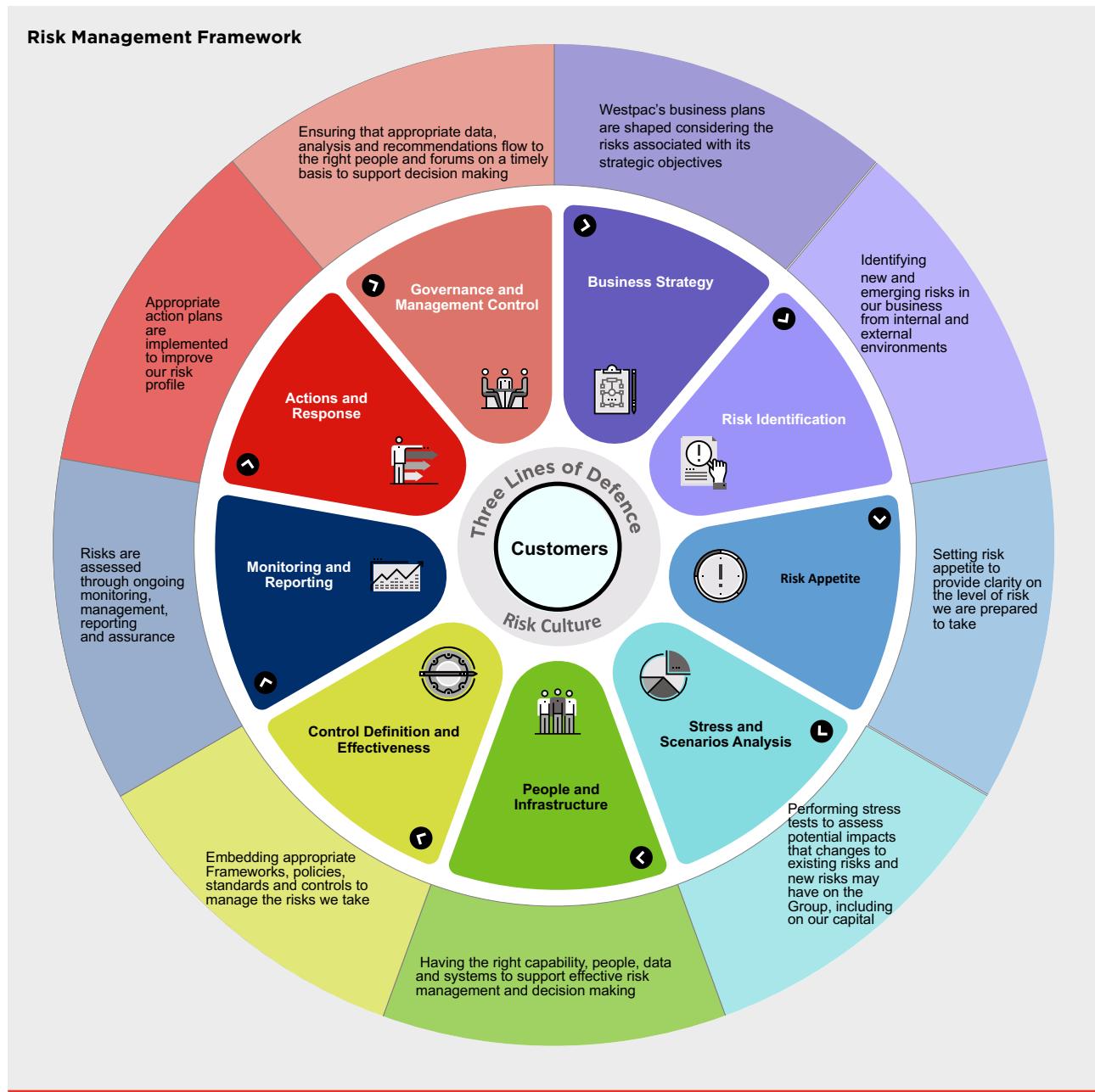
Effective risk management requires all the elements of our framework to operate independently and interactively to provide a complete approach for managing risk and to deliver fair customer outcomes.

Westpac remains focused on implementing our integrated CORE program, which is designed to deliver a sustained uplift in outcomes for customers and how we manage risk. Key elements of the CORE program involve embedding our Risk Management Framework and strengthening our risk culture.

The Group Risk Management Framework, Group Risk Management Strategy and Board Risk Appetite Statement are reviewed annually by the Board Risk Committee. The Board Risk Committee also oversees that Westpac is operating with due regard to risk appetite. The review of the Risk Management Framework includes consideration of whether the framework continues to be sound. The Group Risk Management Framework, Group Risk Management Strategy and Board Risk Appetite Statement were approved by the Board, on the recommendation of the Board Risk Committee, during the financial year ended 30 September 2022.

The CEO and Executive Team are responsible for implementing our Risk Management Framework and Risk Management Strategy, and for developing frameworks, policies, controls, processes and procedures for identifying and managing risk in Westpac's activities.

To support our management of risk, Westpac has an Executive Risk Committee (RISKCO) that assists accountable individuals in making risk related decisions in respect of the Group. It monitors material risk exposures, their alignment to risk appetite approved by the Board and related actions. RISKCO also oversees the implementation and performance of the Risk Management Framework and execution of the Risk Management Strategy, as well as required controls and actions. RISKCO is supported by a number of management risk committees. RISKCO and these committees provide an important channel for senior management to communicate and report on risk matters.



## Risk Culture

Westpac considers that a strong risk culture is essential for the Group's Risk Management Framework to operate effectively. Building and maintaining a strong risk culture is a continuing focus of the Board and will help us create a simpler, stronger bank.

Westpac is working to enhance and improve its risk culture, which APRA had identified as being immature and reactive.

As part of this ongoing work, Westpac has developed and implemented processes and tools to continue to improve risk culture, and track progress towards our goal of a risk culture that proactively identifies, manages and mitigates risks, learns from risk events and continuously anticipates new risks and opportunities. We have also implemented a Group-wide learning program which provides an opportunity for employees to spend time on the specifics of risk management.

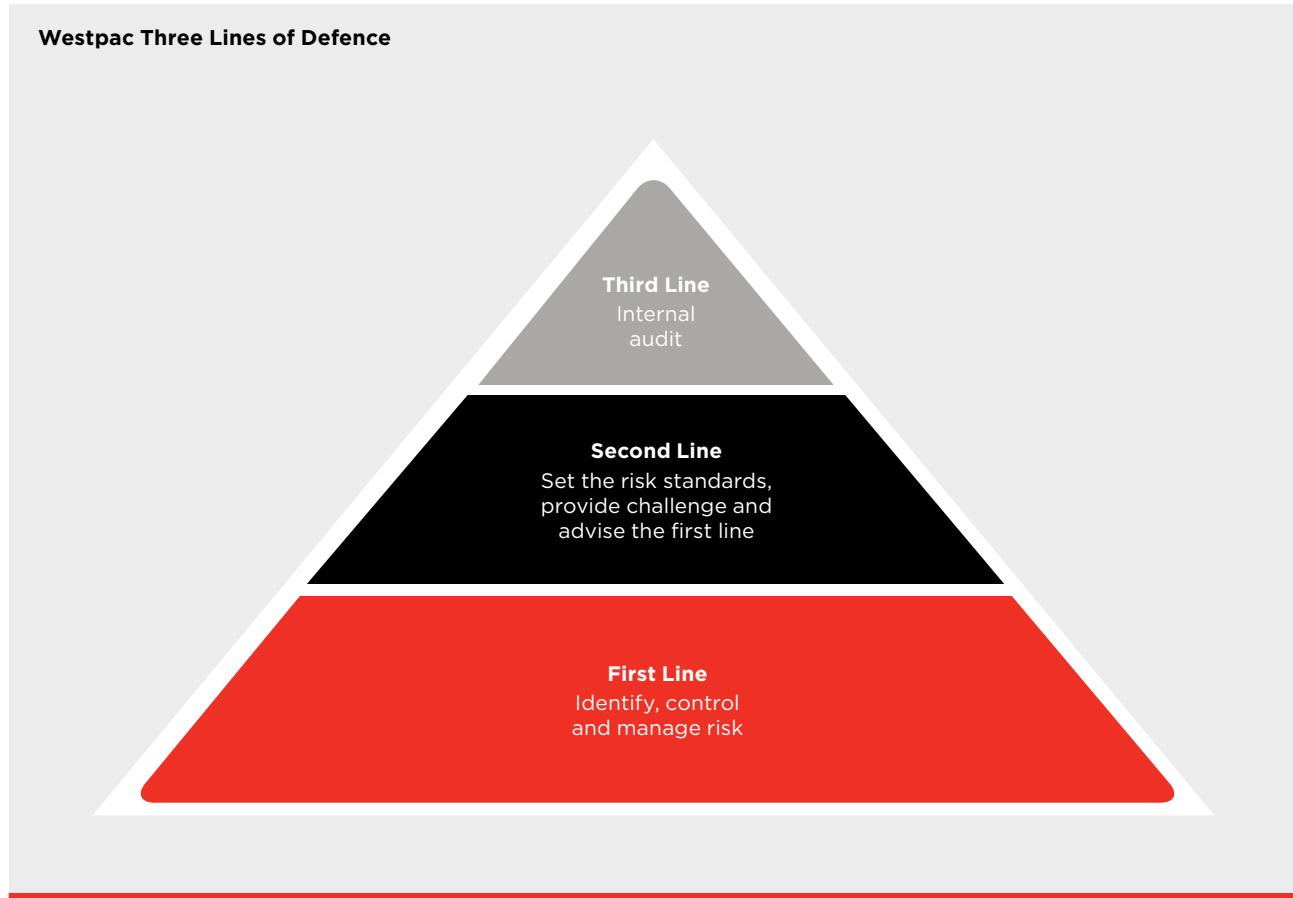
Further information about this work is available in the Strategic Review in our 2022 Annual Report.

## Three Lines of Defence

We have adopted and continue to embed a Three Lines of Defence model which is designed to enable all our people to understand their own role and responsibilities in the active management of risk.

Westpac is continuing to upgrade its end-to-end risk management capabilities as part of an ongoing program of work that spans both financial and non-financial risk. A key component of this work is embedding our Three Lines of Defence approach to improve accountability, the control environment and risk management awareness. For further information about the CORE program, refer to the Strategic Review in our 2022 Annual Report.

### Westpac Three Lines of Defence



# Financial reporting and audit

## Approach to financial reporting

Our approach to financial reporting reflects three core principles:

- that our financial reports present a true and fair view of our financial position and performance;
- that our accounting methods comply with applicable accounting standards and policies; and
- that our external auditor is independent and serves security holders' interests.

The Board, through the Board Audit Committee, has regard to Australian and international developments relevant to these principles when reviewing our practices.

The Board delegates oversight responsibility for the integrity of financial statements and financial reporting systems to the Board Audit Committee. The Board Risk Committee provides relevant periodic assurances and reports (as appropriate) to the Board Audit Committee. Similarly, the Board delegates oversight responsibility for the preparation of remuneration reports and disclosures to the Board Remuneration Committee, which recommends remuneration reports and related disclosures, and provides relevant assurances, through the Board Audit Committee to the Board for approval.

## CEO and CFO assurance

The Board receives regular reports from management about our financial condition and operational results, as well as that of our controlled entities. Before the Board approves the half year and full year financial statements, the CEO and the CFO declare to the Board that in all material respects:

- Westpac's financial records:
  - correctly record and explain its transactions, and financial position and performance;
  - enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared and audited; and
  - are retained for seven years after the transactions covered by the records are completed;
- the financial statements and notes comply with applicable accounting standards;
- the financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of Westpac's and its consolidated entities' financial position and of their performance;
- any other matters that are prescribed by the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) and regulations as they relate to the financial statements and notes are satisfied; and
- the declarations above have been formed on the basis of a sound system of risk management and internal control, and that the system is operating effectively in all material respects in relation to financial reporting risks.

The CEO and CFO have provided such statements for the financial year ended 30 September 2022.

## External auditor

Our external auditor is PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), appointed by shareholders at the 2002 AGM. Prior to 2002, individuals who were partners of PwC or its antecedent Firms were our external auditors from 1968. Our PwC lead audit partner is Mr Colin Heath. Mr Colin Heath assumed responsibility for this role in December 2021.

The external auditor receives all Board Audit Committee and Board Risk Committee papers, attends all meetings of these committees and is available to Committee members at any time. The external auditor also attends the AGM to answer questions from shareholders regarding the conduct of its audit, the audit report and financial statements and its independence.

PwC is required to confirm its independence and compliance with specified independence standards at our half and full financial year, however in practice it confirms its independence on a quarterly basis.

We strictly govern our relationship with the external auditor, including restrictions on employment, business relationships, financial interests and use of our financial products by the external auditor.

Periodically, the Board Audit Committee consults with the external auditor without the presence of management about internal controls over financial information, reporting and disclosure and the fullness and accuracy of the Group's financial statements. The Board Audit Committee also meets with the General Manager, Group Audit without other members of management being present.

## Engagement of the external auditor

To avoid possible independence or conflict issues, our 'Pre-approval of engagement of PwC for audit and non-audit services' policy (NAS Policy) prohibits the external auditor from carrying out certain types of non-audit services for Westpac. The NAS policy also limits the extent to which PwC can perform other non-audit services. Use of PwC for any non-audit services must be assessed and approved in accordance with the pre-approval process set out in the NAS Policy.

## Group Audit (internal audit)

Group Audit is Westpac's internal 3rd line assurance function that provides the Board and Board Committees and the CEO with independent and objective evaluation of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Group's governance, risk management and internal controls.

Group Audit is governed by a charter approved by the Board Audit Committee that sets out its purpose, role, scope and responsibilities. The General Manager, Group Audit has a direct reporting line to the Chairman of the Board Audit Committee and an administrative line to the CFO.

Group Audit also has the right to unrestricted and private access to the CEO, the Board Chairman and Chairman of the Board Audit Committee, and other Board members where relevant and external regulators. Group Audit's responsibilities include regularly reporting to the relevant Board Committees.

## Board Audit Committee dialogue with management, external audit and Group audit

The Board Audit Committee maintains an ongoing dialogue with management, the external auditor and Group Audit, including regarding those matters that are likely to be designated as Key Audit Matters in the external auditor's report. Key Audit Matters are those matters which, in the opinion of the external auditor, are of the most significance in their audit of the financial report.

As part of its oversight responsibilities, the Board Audit Committee also conducts discussions with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders including:

- the external auditor, about our major financial reporting risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures;
- Group Audit and the external auditor concerning their reports regarding significant findings in the conduct of their audits, and oversee that any issues identified are rectified by management in an appropriate and timely way or reported to the Board Risk Committee (with the Board Risk Committee overseeing management's response to rectifying those issues);
- management and the external auditor concerning the half year and full year financial statements;
- management and the external auditor regarding any correspondence with regulators or government agencies, and any published reports which raise material issues or could impact on matters regarding the Westpac Group's financial statements or accounting policies; and
- the Group General Counsel regarding any legal matters that may have a material impact on, or require disclosure in, the financial statements.

# Market disclosure and shareholder communication

## Verification of periodic corporate reports

For periodic corporate reports released to the market which are not required to be audited or reviewed by our external auditor, we have verification and approval processes to support the integrity of the information disclosed. The process varies depending on the report and generally involves the individuals with responsibility for the information confirming to the best of their knowledge and belief that the information is considered to be accurate and not misleading. The process may also involve review by internal subject matter experts (and as appropriate, our external advisers); and review by and confirmation from the individual responsible for the corporate report that it is appropriate for release. Such periodic corporate reports may also, depending upon the report, be required to be approved by the Disclosure Committee or the Board under Westpac's Market Disclosure Policy. Further details regarding Westpac's Market Disclosure Policy are in the paragraph below.

## Market disclosure

We seek to provide all investors with equal, timely, accurate, balanced and meaningful information.

Consistent with these standards, the Group maintains a Board-approved Market Disclosure Policy, which governs how we communicate with our shareholders and the investment community. The Market Disclosure Policy is available on our website at [www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/principles-policies/](http://www.westpac.com.au/about-westpac/westpac-group/corporate-governance/principles-policies/).

The policy provides a framework for how we manage our disclosure obligations and satisfy the disclosure requirements of the ASX, NZX, and other relevant offshore securities exchanges, as well as relevant securities and corporations legislation. Under our policy, and in accordance with our obligations, information that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of our securities must first be disclosed via the ASX unless an exception applies under regulatory requirements.

Our Disclosure Committee is responsible for (among other things) determining whether matters within management's authority should be disclosed publicly under the policy, and for assisting employees in understanding what information may require disclosure to the market on the basis that it is market sensitive.

Certain disclosure decisions (for example, relating to matters of fundamental importance to the Group including announcements concerning financial results or material equity raisings, transactions or changes in strategic direction) are the responsibility of the Board.

## Market disclosure (continued)

The Disclosure Committee is comprised of the Disclosure Officer (who is the CFO), the Group General Counsel and at least one of the following: the CEO, the Chief Risk Officer, the Group Executive, Corporate Services, the Company Secretary of Westpac and the General Manager, Investor Relations.

The Disclosure Officer is ultimately responsible for all disclosure related communication with relevant securities exchanges. The Company Secretary or their delegate is authorised to give any documents to the ASX once they have been approved pursuant to the Market Disclosure Policy or by the Board. A copy of announcements on material issues will also be provided to the Board promptly after release to the ASX, unless previously provided.

Before Westpac gives a new and substantive investor or analyst presentation, we will release a copy of that presentation to the market. Once relevant information is disclosed to the market and available to investors, it may also be published on our website. This includes investor discussion packs, and presentations on, and explanations about, our financial results.

Our website also contains Annual Reports, results announcements, speeches and support material given at investor conferences or presentations, notices of meetings and key media releases.

## Shareholder communication and participation

We are committed to keeping shareholders fully informed about Westpac in compliance with our obligations – from our strategy, operations and performance, to our governance and sustainability approach. As part of our investor relations program – and consistent with our Market Disclosure Policy – we carry out a range of activities to facilitate two-way communication with shareholders, including:

- providing relevant company information online via our Investor Centre on our website;
- giving shareholders the option to receive information and communications electronically or via hardcopy;
- responding to shareholder queries directly via phone, email and mail; and
- enabling shareholders to view major market briefings and maintaining that information in our Investor Centre.

Our financial calendar in our Investor Centre lists all major market briefings and shareholder meetings. Announcements on these events may also be made on the ASX.

Westpac seeks to facilitate shareholder participation at general meetings. We aim to choose a time and venue for meetings that is convenient to shareholders, and we typically move our AGM across capital cities. We also include explanatory notes in the notice of meeting which is sent to shareholders. The meeting is also made available via webcast and is archived for later viewing in our Investor Centre.

Ahead of a meeting, Westpac typically engages with shareholders and shareholder groups to gather feedback and questions, and then seeks to respond to their needs and queries in our reporting and/or at our meeting.

Westpac intends to hold a ‘hybrid AGM’ this year, with shareholders being able to attend the AGM venue in person or participate online.

Shareholders taking part in our 2022 AGM online (and their proxies, corporate representatives and attorneys) will be able to ask questions and make comments (either through the AGM Online Platform or via the teleconference) and vote on the resolutions.

In addition, shareholders can lodge a direct vote before the AGM. Consistent with our practice for voting at meetings of shareholders, voting on all resolutions will be conducted by a poll.

[westpac.com.au](http://westpac.com.au)

 **Westpac** GROUP