

## Background

The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited (“**Responsible Entity**”) is the responsible entity for the Vitalharvest Freehold Trust (“**Trust**”), a registered managed investment scheme that is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (“**ASX**”).

The Responsible Entity is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Perpetual Limited (ASX: PPT) (“**Perpetual**”).

The Responsible Entity is reliant on Perpetual for access to adequate resources including directors, management, staff, functional support (such as company secretarial, responsible managers, legal, compliance and risk, finance) and financial resources. As at the date of this Corporate Governance Statement, Perpetual has at all times made such resources available to the Responsible Entity.

In operating the Trust the Responsible Entity’s overarching principle is to always act in good faith and in the best interests of the Trust’s unitholders, in accordance with our fiduciary duty. The Responsible Entity’s duties and obligations in relation to the Trust principally arise from: the Constitution of the Trust; the Compliance Plan for the Trust; the Corporations Act 2001 (“**Act**”); the ASX Listing Rules; the Responsible Entity’s Australian Financial Services License; relevant regulatory guidance; relevant contractual arrangements; and other applicable laws and regulations.

## Corporate Governance

At Perpetual, good corporate governance includes a genuine commitment to the ASX Corporate Governance Council Principles and Recommendations (“**ASX Principles**”).

The Directors of the Responsible Entity are committed to implementing high standards of corporate governance in operating the Trust and, to the extent applicable to registered schemes, are guided by the values and principles set out in Perpetual’s Corporate Responsibility Statement and the ASX Corporate Governance Council’s Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations (“**Principles**”). The Responsible Entity is pleased to advise that, to the extent the Principles are applicable to registered schemes; its practices are largely consistent with the Principles.

As a leading independent responsible entity, the Responsible Entity operates a number of registered managed investment schemes (“**Schemes**”). The Schemes include the Trust as well as other schemes that are listed on the ASX. The Responsible Entity’s approach in relation to corporate governance in operating the Trust is consistent with its approach in relation to the Schemes generally.

The Responsible Entity addresses each of the Principles that are applicable to externally managed listed entities in relation to the Schemes, including the Trust, as at the date of this Corporate Governance Statement.

### **Principle 1 – Lay solid foundations for management and oversight**

The role of the Responsible Entity's Board ("RE Board") is generally to set objectives and goals for the operation of the Responsible Entity and the Schemes, to oversee the Responsible Entity's management, to regularly review performance and to monitor the Responsible Entity's affairs acting in the best interests of the unitholders of each of the Schemes. The RE Board is accountable to the unitholders of each of the Schemes, and is responsible for approving the Responsible Entity's overall objectives and overseeing their implementation in discharging their duties and obligations and operating the Schemes.

The role of the Responsible Entity's management is to manage the business of the Responsible Entity in operating the Schemes. The RE Board delegates to management all matters not reserved to the RE Board, including the day-to-day management of the Responsible Entity and the operation of the Schemes. Directors, management and staff are guided by Perpetual's Code of Conduct which is designed to assist them in making ethical business decisions.

### **Principle 2 – Structure the board to add value**

At present the RE Board consists of four executive directors and three alternate directors. The names of the current Directors and year of appointment is provided below:

| Name of Director              | Year of appointment |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Christopher Green             | 2014                |
| Michael Vainauskas            | 2015                |
| Glenn Foster                  | 2015                |
| Vikki Riggio                  | 2018                |
| Andrew Mclver (Alternate)     | 2017                |
| Gillian Larkins (Alternate)   | 2017                |
| Phillip Blackmore (Alternate) | 2018                |

As the RE Board consists of only executive directors, a Compliance Committee is appointed in relation to each of the Schemes (refer to Principle 7). The Compliance Committee comprises of a majority of independent members and is chaired by an independent member who is not the chair of the RE Board.

### **Principle 3 – Promote ethical and responsible decision-making**

The Responsible Entity has a Code of Conduct and espoused Core Values and a further values framework known as the "Way we Work" within which it carries on its business and deals with its stakeholders. These apply to all directors and employees of Perpetual, and the Responsible Entity. The Code of Conduct and Core Values supports all aspects of the way the Responsible Entity conducts its business and is embedded into Perpetual's performance management process. The Code of Conduct is available on Perpetual's website ([www.perpetual.com.au](http://www.perpetual.com.au)).

### **Principle 4 – Safeguard integrity in financial reporting**

The functions of an audit committee are undertaken by the full RE Board with assistance from Responsible Entity's management.

The declarations under section 295A of the *Corporations Act 2001 (the Act)* provide formal statements to the RE Board in relation to the Trust (refer to Principle 7). The declarations confirm the matters required by the Act in connection with financial reporting. The Responsible Entity receives confirmations from the service providers involved in financial reporting and management of the Trust, including the Manager, which assist its staff in making the declarations provided under section 295A of the Act.

The Responsible Entity manages the engagement and monitoring of independent 'external' auditors for the Trust. The RE Board receives periodic reports from the external auditors in relation to financial reporting and the compliance plans for the Trust.

### **Principle 5 – Make timely and balanced disclosure**

The Responsible Entity has a continuous disclosure policy to ensure compliance with the continuous disclosure requirements of the Act and the ASX Listing Rules in relation to the Trust. The policy requires timely disclosure of information to be reported to the Responsible Entity's management and/or Directors to ensure that, information that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the unit price or would influence an investment decision in relation to any of the Schemes, is disclosed to the market. The Responsible Entity's employees assist management and/or the Directors in making disclosures to the ASX after appropriate consultation. The Responsible Entity requires service providers, including the Manager, to comply with its policy in relation to continuous disclosure for the Trust.

### **Principle 6 – Respect the rights of unitholders**

The Responsible Entity is committed to ensuring timely and accurate information about the Trust is available to security holders via the Trust's website. All ASX announcements are promptly posted on the Trust's website: [www.vitalharvest.com.au/investor](http://www.vitalharvest.com.au/investor). The annual and half year results financial statements and other communication materials are also published on the website.

In addition to the continuous disclosure obligations, the Responsible Entity receives and responds to formal and informal communications from unitholders and convenes formal and informal meetings of unitholders as requested or required. The Responsible Entity has an active program for effective communication with the unitholders and other stakeholders in relation to Trust.

The Responsible Entity handles any complaints received from unitholders in accordance with Perpetual's Complaints Handling Policy. The Responsible Entity is a member of the Financial Ombudsman Service, an independent dispute resolution body, which is available to unitholders in the event that any complaints cannot be satisfactorily resolved by the Responsible Entity in relation to the Trust.

### **Principle 7 – Recognise and manage risk**

The Responsible Entity values the importance of robust risk management systems and maintains a current risk register as part of its formal risk management program. The Responsible Entity has established a Compliance Committee, comprised of Michael Vainauskas, Michelene Collopy and Virginia Malley. The Compliance Committee meets at least quarterly. The Compliance Committee Charter sets out its role and responsibilities, which is attached to this Corporate Governance Statement. The Compliance Committee is responsible for compliance matters regarding the Responsible Entity's Compliance Plan and Constitution and the Corporations Act. Perpetual's Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee is responsible for oversight of the Perpetual's risk management and internal control systems. The Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee is comprised of Ian Hammond (Chair), Philip Bullock, Nancy Fox and Craig Ueland. The Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee terms of reference sets out its role and responsibilities. This can be obtained on the Perpetual website. The majority of the Compliance Committee and the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee members are independent. They are chaired by independent members.

The Responsible Entity manages the engagement and monitoring of independent external auditors for the Trust. The RE board receives periodic reports in relation to financial reporting and the compliance plan audit outcomes for the Trust.

Perpetual has a risk management framework in place which is reviewed annually. The declarations under section 295A of the Act provide assurance regarding 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 Responsible Entity also receives appropriate declarations from the service providers involved in financial reporting.

Perpetual has an internal audit function which reports to Perpetual's Audit and Risk Compliance Committee and is independent to the external auditor. For administrative purposes, the internal audit function also reports to Perpetual's Chief Risk Officer. Perpetual's Audit and Risk Compliance Committee reviews the annual Internal Audit Plan and also reviews reports issued by the Head of Internal Audit.

**Principle 8 – Remunerate fairly and responsibly**

The fees and expenses which the Responsible Entity is permitted to pay out of the assets of the Trust are set out in the Trust constitution. The Trust financial statements provide details of all fees and expenses paid by the Trust during a financial period.