



**I AND L TOPP SMSF  
2019-2020 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY**



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## **1 Introduction**

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The crucial area of responsibility for a Trustee of a Self-Managed Superannuation fund (“SMSFs”) is investment management of the fund. Under the Superannuation Laws (the *Superannuation Industry Supervision Act 1993* - SISA) the Trustee of every SMSF is required to set an investment objective and in addition prepare and implement an investment strategy for the fund. The investment objective and strategy must reflect the purpose and circumstances of the particular super fund and have particular regard to:

- Investing in such a way as to maximise investment returns for retirement purposes for all members of the SMSF and in that regard consider the risk associated in holding the investment.
- Ensuring that there is appropriate diversification in investments and consideration of the benefits of investing across a number of different asset classes (for example shares, property, fixed interest, cash, etc);
- The ability of the super fund to pay benefits as well as other costs of the superannuation fund as they become due and payable which may include the repayment of principal and interest where the Trustee of the fund undertakes Limited Recourse Borrowing Arrangement.
- The necessity of the Trustee to consider the insurance needs and requirements of all members of the SMSF.

An appropriate investment strategy should set out the investment objectives of the super fund and detail the investment methods the Trustee of the fund may use to achieve those objectives. Trustees must ensure all investment decisions are made in accordance with the investment strategy and that they are in writing – *this is the law*. Trustee also needs to ensure that they prepare, implement and regularly review the SMSF’S investment strategy.

Investment Rules are one of the most important requirements of the SISA and breaches of this requirement can result in the Trustee being fined or sued for loss or damages. In addition, the super fund can lose its complying status.

Whilst Trustees are not prevented from engaging or authorising other persons to act on or to do certain things on their behalf (e.g. engaging the services of an investment adviser or financial planner), they are bound to retain control over the fund. Ultimate responsibility and accountability for running the fund in a prudent manner lies with the Trustees.

For more information go to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) website.

## **2 Investment Strategy Guideline – The Commissioners View**

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The ATO has released important guidelines in relation to investment objectives and investment strategies for Trustees of an SMSF and their advisers. An investment strategy should set out the investment objectives of the fund and detail the investment methods the Trustees may adopt to achieve these objectives.

The key obligations raised by the ATO concerning the fund’s investment objectives and investment strategy are as follows:

- The Trustees of an SMSF are solely responsible and directly accountable for the prudential management of their member’s benefits. They can use an adviser but ultimately, it is the Trustee who retains responsibility;
- As part of this prudential responsibility, the Trustees of an SMSF are required to prepare and implement an investment strategy for the superannuation fund;
- The strategy must reflect the purpose and circumstances of the fund and have particular regard to the membership profile, benefit structure, tax position and liquidity requirements of the fund;



- An investment strategy should set out the investment objectives of the fund and detail the investment methods the Trustees may adopt to achieve those objectives;
- It is the Trustees duty to make, implement and document decisions about investing fund assets and to carefully monitor the performance of those assets;
- The Trustees must ensure all investment decisions are made in accordance with the investment strategy;
- The investment strategy must be regularly reviewed;
- Insurance must be considered for all members of the fund; and
- Breaches of the investment strategy requirement may result in the Trustees being fined or sued for loss or damages. In addition, the fund could lose its complying status.

### **WHY AN INVESTMENT STRATEGY IS IMPORTANT**

Where the fund does not complete an investment strategy or the ATO is of the view that the purported investment strategy does not amount to an investment strategy at all then there may be a breach of SIS Reg 4.09.

The breach may result, as noted in the ATO guidelines, in the following:

- The Trustee being liable to a monetary fine; the Trustee being able to be sued for any loss or damage caused as a consequence of the Trustee making an investment not covered by an investment strategy;
- The Superannuation Laws provide a defence to Trustees against an action for loss or damage suffered as a result of the Trustee making an investment. This defence is available when the Trustee can show that the investment was made in accordance with an investment strategy formulated and implemented under the investment strategy rules. If there is no investment strategy then members of the fund may sue the Trustee for any loss or damage to their member benefits as a result of the Trustee making an investment not in accordance with the fund's investment strategy.
- The existence of a statutory defence allows Trustees to focus on the overall risks of the total investments, rather than the risk attached to each investment in isolation. This enables the Trustee to invest fund assets according to the investment strategy in what might, when considered in isolation, appear to represent a rather risky investment.

This emphasises the importance for Trustees to document their considerations and approaches to investment decision. An investment strategy must be reviewed regularly.

### **3 Investment Restrictions for SMSF trustees**

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SMSFs are restricted in the investments they can make. These restrictions aim to protect superannuation fund members from being overly exposed to risk and aim to ensure that the assets of the fund may be available to provide retirement income rather than providing current day support. In accordance with SISA the Trustees may not:

- Lend money or give other financial assistance to a member or a relative of a member of the fund. The use of superannuation assets by a member or members relative for no cost or on a guarantee to secure a personal loan would be in breach of the investment restrictions [SISA S65(1)].
- Intentionally acquire an asset from a member or a relative of a member of the fund (related party) unless it meets the following criteria: [SISA S66]
  - The asset is business real property, or a listed security; and
  - Is acquired at market value;
  - The asset is an "in-house asset" which, after being acquired by the Trustees would not result in the level of "in-house assets" of the fund exceeding more than 5% of the superannuation fund assets.



- Borrow any funds, other than to overcome cash flow problems in the payment of benefits or surcharge liabilities. Any borrowings may be restricted to a period not exceeding 90 days and may not exceed 10% of the market value of the fund's total assets. [SISA section 67]. However, the trustee of the fund may borrow pursuant to a limited recourse loan arrangement under SISA sections 67A and 67B to acquire a single acquirable asset that is allowed to be acquired by the Trustee of the fund.
- Acquire any fund assets for amounts other than arm's length consideration. Investments must be made and maintained on a strict commercial basis and any related party arrangement must not favour the related party although in certain conditions it may favour the Trustee of the SMSF. The purchase and sale price of super fund assets and the income from the assets should duly reflect a true market rate [SISA section 109].
- Trustees should consider the costs associated with the asset (i.e.: insurance costs particularly where there is an SMSF Borrowing). Also, where a fund acquires an asset which is utilised by the member at no cost, a breach of the Sole Purpose Test may have occurred.

#### **4 The fund's Investment Guidelines**

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Trustees of SMSFs are responsible for determining investment strategies and selecting investments for each strategy consistent with the fund's investment objectives and more importantly the fund's purpose. The Trustee is responsible for monitoring on an ongoing basis whether investments remain consistent with investment strategies and remain appropriate for the fund. The Trustees are also responsible for periodically informing members of the fund's investment strategies and objectives. The Trustee of the fund may make and maintain an investment strategy for a single member of the fund or a specific superannuation interest in the fund such as a member's pension.

The governing rules of the fund allow the Trustee to invest in any or all (but not limited) to the following investment types:

##### **Cash Management Trust**

Prior to investing in any cash management trust, the Trustee should consider the rate of return and security of such investment against the expected rate of return offered by alternative investments to cash.

##### **Debenture/Mortgage Funds**

Prior to investing in any debenture/first or even second mortgage, the Trustee may consider the period of investment, the security offered, the accessibility of funds, the return, and likely interest rate movements. As there have been a number of failed debenture and mortgage funds in the past decade the Trustee should seek professional advice before investing in this type of asset class.

##### **Unit Trusts**

Prior to acquiring or disposing of any units in an unlisted unit trust the Trustee may:

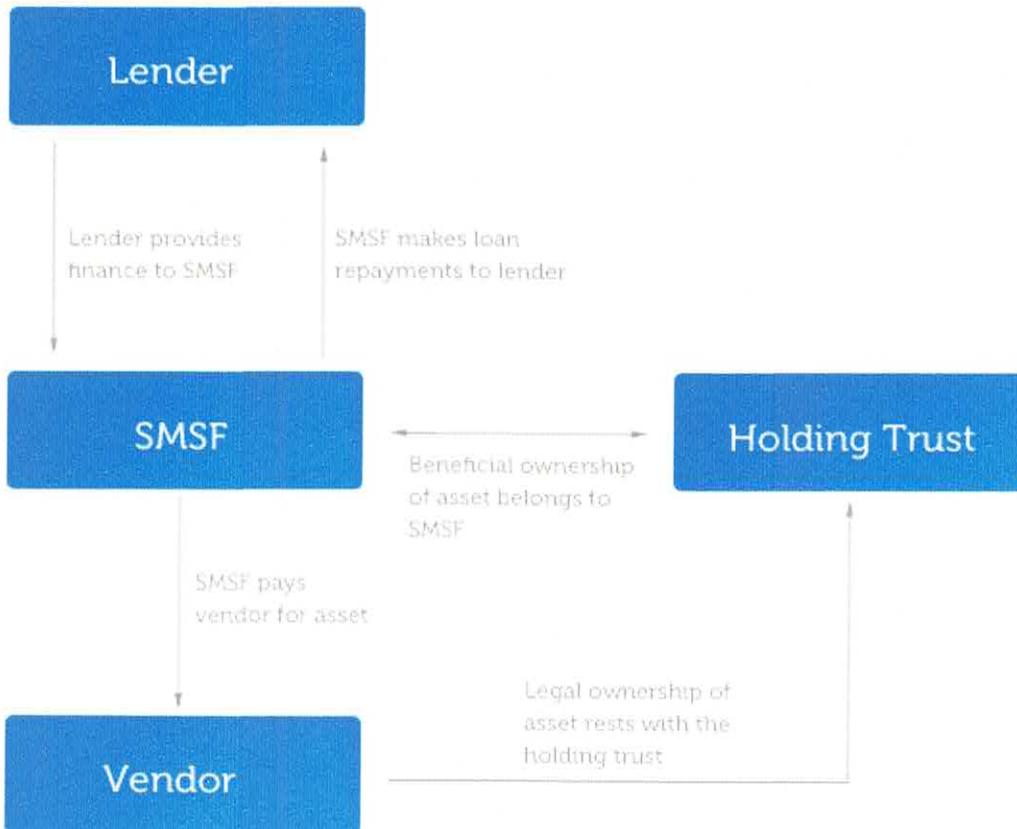
- Obtain appropriate advice on whether the investment would constitute an impermissible in-house asset of the fund under SISA; and
- Obtain and consider valuations of all real and other property held by the unit trust to ensure the price of the units reflect true market value.

The Trustee may also ascertain the intentions of the Trustee of the unit trust in relation to borrowings (if any) and the use of the property as security.



**Limited Recourse Borrowing Arrangement – SMSF Borrowing**

SMSFs can now borrow via a limited recourse loan arrangement pursuant to section 67A of SISA. This must be done with the following structure:



Prior to using a Holding Trust for the purposes of a limited recourse loan the Trustee of the fund is to secure appropriate borrowing from a bank, credit union or even a related party and at the same time ensure the arrangement meets the limited recourse lending rules under the Superannuation Laws, does not breach any other laws and that the underlying property to be acquired is one that can be acquired by the Trustee. It must be a single acquirable asset such as commercial property or residential property.

The trustee is to include the value of the attached liability for the purposes of this investment strategy either directly or as a net value of the single acquired asset subject to the limited recourse loan arrangement.

**Shares – Public Company**

Prior to acquiring (or disposing) of any shares in public companies, the Trustee may consider the portfolio profile of the fund and the diversification of shareholding across different market sectors (industrial, retail, banking, mining and other sectors) with a view to attempting to obtain a reasonable diversification within the available assets. The Trustee may also consider advice in relation to expected capital growth and dividend income from the shareholding.

**Shares – Private Company**

Prior to acquiring or disposing of any shares in non-associated proprietary companies, the Trustee may obtain a valuation to satisfy itself that the price of the shares reflects true market values and constitute a prudent investment/disposal.



The Trustee may also consider the saleability, security and dividend return of the shares and may ensure that the acquisition is not an in-house asset beyond acceptable limits.

### **Direct Property**

Prior to acquiring or disposing of any property to be held directly by the fund both within and outside Australia, the Trustee may obtain and consider property and rental valuations to satisfy the Trustee that the price of the property reflects the true market value and constitutes a prudent investment/disposal on an arm's length basis.

In obtaining a tenant (if any) for any property held by the fund, the Trustee may only enter into a lease with a fund member-, employer sponsor or their SISA Part 8 Associates where to do so would not constitute an impermissible in-house asset of the fund under SISA and provided that a written lease agreement is made, and the transaction is entered into on an arm's length basis with regular rental reviews. The Trustee should seek legal advice where a lease to a related party is contemplated.

In determining the proportion of fund assets to be invested directly in property, the Trustee may consider the liability profile and liquidity requirements of the fund.

### **Agribusiness Investment**

Prior to investing in Agribusiness, the Trustee should consider the profile of the fund and seek expert advice on the appropriateness of the investment. Trustees should consider the protection, performance, risk and return (capital growth, liquidity and potential income) before acquiring investments in agribusiness. The Trustee should also consider the costs associated with the asset such as ongoing rent and maintenance and insurance costs.

### **Derivatives**

Prior to investing in derivatives, the Trustee should have in place appropriate policies for their use, adequate controls on the use of derivatives and adequate checks on compliance with those controls.

For a derivative transaction to be allowed on existing investments, the Trustee must have prepared a Derivatives Risk Statement and only be entering into such a transaction for the purposes of:

- hedging against risk, not for speculation and;
- ensuring that the fund is not exposed to an asset class outside the limits set out in the investment strategy.

### **In-House Assets and Acquisition Restrictions**

An in-house asset is where the Trustee of the fund invests, lends money or otherwise permits a related party of the fund to use an asset of the fund. Although an in-house investment is not directly prohibited – excluding loans to members or their relatives, there is a 5% limit on the amount of in-house assets an SMSF can hold.

The Trustee must not acquire an asset contrary to the restrictions contained in SISA with respect to fund members, employer sponsors or their Part 8 associates under SISA.

If in any doubt about the validity of an investment decision, the Trustee should seek professional advice or contact the ATO for assistance.



## **5 The Fund's Valuation Requirements**

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SIS Regulation 8.02B requires that when preparing accounts and statements required by subsection 35B(1) of the SISA, an asset must be valued at its market value. The term 'market value' takes the same meaning as provided in subsection 10(1) of the SISA, that is, the amount that a willing buyer of an asset could reasonably be expected to pay to acquire the asset from a willing seller if the following assumptions were made:

- that the buyer and seller dealt with each other at arm's length in relation to the sale;
- that the sale occurred after proper marketing of the asset; and
- that the buyer and seller acted knowledgeably and prudentially in relation to the sale.

## **6 Insurances in the Fund**

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As noted previously the SISR has been changed to include a requirement for Trustees of the fund to investigate whether the trustees of the fund should hold a contract of insurance that provides insurance cover for one or more members of the fund. In that regard the Explanatory Memorandum to the Regulation changes provides that:

"Regulation 4.09 requires trustees to formulate, regularly review and give effect to an investment strategy having regard to the whole circumstances of the fund. One circumstance SMSF trustees must have regard to is whether the trustees should hold insurance for their members, such as life insurance.

The Super System Review panel noted that less than 13 percent of SMSFs have insurance and that SMSF members were more likely to hold appropriate levels of insurance, or be able to hold insurance outside their superannuation, than members of other superannuation funds. In making its recommendation, the panel wanted to ensure that trustees consider holding insurance for SMSF members.

Trustees of SMSFs are expected to be self-reliant in determining the type and level of insurance cover members might require whether within or outside their SMSF. In meeting this requirement, trustees should have regard to the personal circumstances of their members and other legislative requirements such as the sole purpose test in section 62 SISA. Trustees may evidence this requirement by documenting decisions in the fund's investment strategy or minutes of trustee meetings that are held during the income year."

## **7 Investment Policy Statement**

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The SISA places certain duties, responsibilities and restrictions on Trustees when making investment decisions. They aim to protect and increase the member benefits for retirement, transition to retirement income stream and estate planning purposes. All investments must be made in accordance with the investment strategy.

### **A. Details of the fund**

- The I AND L TOPP SMSF
- The trustee of the fund is I AND L TOPP SMSF PTY LTD - ACN 641 098 802

The fund has been established to provide retirement benefits for the members of the fund. Membership of the fund is voluntary, and upon joining, members are required to provide certain minimum information to the Trustees. The fund is maintained as an SMSF under SISA and regulated by the ATO.

### **A.1 Members**



The Members of The I AND L TOPP SMSF are:

Name of Member	Date of Birth
Ian Brett Topp	31/12/1979
Leeanne Susan Topp	25/06/1979

## **A.2 Benefits**

The current intention is to pay one or more benefits before or at retirement of the member provided the Superannuation Laws allow including the payment of:

- A lump sum
- An Accounts Based Pension
- A Transition to Retirement Income Stream, or
- Such other superannuation benefits as the Superannuation Laws allow.

The Trustee may invest fund assets having regard to the need to realise the investments at the members' dates of retirement, age preservation age, 60 (or such later date as the member nominates in accordance with the rules governing the payment of benefits from complying superannuation funds) or in the event of disability – whether permanent or temporary or upon the death of a member of the fund.

## **B. Investment Objective of the fund**

The Trustees of the fund have the objective of maintaining the fund in line with the governing rules of the fund and SISA and through its investment strategy seeking to maximise the superannuation benefits of all members of the fund having regard to risk and reward.

## **C. Asset Management Strategy**

In order to give effect to the investment objective of the fund, the Trustee may have regard to the investment principles outlined in the fund Rules in the implementation of its strategy and the actual making of its investments.

The Trustee must also satisfy that the proposed investment:

- Is permitted by the Trust Deed
- Complies with the law
- Is within the asset allocation of the adopted investment strategy

The Trustee may generally accept the following investments provided they comply with the investment strategy:

- Private or closely held unit trusts
- Private or unlisted companies
- Private business premises
- Domestic and international residential and commercial property
- Domestic companies listed on other exchanges
- Listed International securities
- Limited - Collectables, including art, coins, antiques
- Agribusiness investments



- Derivatives with limited investment risk

**The Trustee may not accept these investments unless authorised by the Regulator:**

- Family home
- Any mortgage where the family home is security
- Derivatives that have unlimited investment risk unless a Risk Management Strategy has been put in place by the Trustee
- In-house assets exceeding more than 5% of the superannuation fund's assets
- Assets not considered at arm's length or on a strictly commercial basis

**D. Asset Class**

It was resolved that the fund may also be permitted to invest in any or all of (but not limited to) the following investment types:

**D.1 Investment Type**

- Cash
- Property – both commercial and residential
- Australian Shares – both listed and unlisted shares
- International Shares – both listed and unlisted shares
- Australian Fixed Interest
- International Fixed Interest
- Mortgages
- Other

It was resolved that investments may be made directly or indirectly via unit trusts, instalment warrants, holding trusts or other vehicles as permitted under relevant statutes and regulations that may be deemed suitable by the Trustees.

Given the Trustees desire to maintain the flexibility of the fund, the Trustee has reserved the right to alter the investment mix of the fund at any time, in the manner they believe is the best at that time for the purpose of achieving the fund's objectives. The Trustees reserve the right to invest in any asset class not covered in the tables above.

**D.2 Investment Risk and Return**

It has been noted and accepted by the Trustees that growth assets such as Australian and International shares and property present greater potential risk and volatility than cash and fixed interest investments.

The Trustees recognise that the taxation benefits associated with the use of growth assets such as Australian and International shares and property may assist in achieving the fund's investment objectives. If the Trustee of the fund enters into a limited recourse loan or other borrowing arrangements in respect of the acquisition of a fund asset, then return may be enhanced however any market risk on the downside may be magnified. The Trustees of the fund are authorised to borrow and will take into account the benefits of leverage in their risk/return profile for the fund's investments.

**E. Investment Management and Review**

To monitor the success of the investment policy in achieving the investment objective, the Trustee may take the following action:

- a) compare the investment performance of the fund against a specific index;



- b) compare investment returns against cash rates available over a 12-month period.

The fund's investment strategy is to be reviewed at least annually to ensure that it remains appropriate to the objectives and circumstances of the fund and its member(s). The Trustee undertakes to communicate with the members should they feel that any change in strategy should be contemplated in order to better achieve the fund objective.

## **F. Investment Strategy**

In order to achieve the investment objective of the fund, the Trustee wishes to adopt and pursue the strategy set out hereunder. The Trustee reserves the right to implement more than one strategy as it sees fit, and to offer separate strategies to members and even for member superannuation interests. The Trustee also reserves the right to implement separate and different action plans in the acquisition and disposal of assets pursuant to this strategy.

The Trustee may consider the implementation of this objective through a single asset strategy where it considers it to be appropriate, provided all other investment strategy criteria are met.

### **F.1 Detailed Investment Strategy**

The investment strategy detailed below is a plan for making, holding and realising the assets of the fund to meet the specific objective of the Trustee of the fund as outlined above. It focuses on key parameters relating to making an investment in the fund with the purpose of maximising member's retirement balances or income streams.

### **F.2 Portfolio Allocation**

In order to meet the investment objective of the fund the Trustee has determined The I AND L TOPP SMSF shall broadly be invested in the following asset classes and managed around the following ranges:

<b>Asset Class</b>	<b>Asset Allocation Range (%)</b>
Australian Shares	0-70
Real Property	0-90
Cash	0-100
International Shares	0-75
Fixed Interest	0-90
Other	0-30

### **F.3 Portfolio Diversification**

In considering the degree of diversification appropriate to the fund, the Trustee has taken into account the following:

- a) the existing assets of the fund;
- b) the existing assets of the family other than assets held in the fund;
- c) its access to expert investment advice;
- d) the existing and projected membership and assets of the fund; and



- e) the current and expected future liabilities, cash flows and liquidity requirements of the fund

The Trustee is satisfied that the likely return and the potential gains to members retirement benefits from any inadequate diversification of its investments, including any geographical concentration of investments, outweigh the risks associated with the lack of diversification

#### **F.4 Liabilities**

The fund will need to have adequate funds held in cash/fixed interest to meet short term liabilities including insurance premiums, pension payments, lumpsum payments, tax liabilities, annual return fees, accounting fees, audit fees and other operational expenses of the fund. Further monies may be retained from time to time in cash/fixed interest in order to take advantage of investment opportunities as they arise. The Trustees of the fund are of the opinion that the investment strategy is structured in such a manner that the fund is sufficiently liquid to discharge its current and future liabilities.

Where the Trustee of the fund has undertaken a limited recourse lending arrangement the Trustee will need to ensure that it maintains cash flow to cover any interest and principal repayments, insurance premiums and other expenses associated with the arrangement.

#### **F.5 Cash Flow and Liquidity**

Cash flow requirements for the fund depend on the payment of expenses, pensions, insurance premiums and any loan repayments and it is the Trustee's intention to hold enough cash on hand to ensure these and other cash payments are made.

#### **F.6 Fund Demographics**

The Trustee has implemented its strategy taking into account the dates of retirement of the members of the fund. It has also taken into account the expressed intention of the members to receive their benefits as a lump sum / account-based pensions upon retirement.

#### **F.7 Performance Monitoring**

To monitor the success of the investment strategy in achieving the investment objectives, the Trustee may take the following action:

- compare investment returns against cash rates and CPI available over a 12-month period or a specific investment index; and
- may review this strategy on an annual basis or on such other basis as it believes appropriate.

#### **F.8 Benchmarks**

The Trustee may measure its success criteria against certain benchmarks and indices although there is no requirement to do so. The nominated benchmarks for performance may be as follows:

- a) Australian shares - all ordinaries accumulation index;
- b) Liquid assets - average cash management trusts;
- c) Australian fixed trusts - commonwealth all series, all maturities and accumulation index;
- d) Property trusts - average of composite property accumulation index;
- e) Such loans as may not be prohibited by SIS, and whether or not the loan may also count as an in-house asset of the fund - average rate for comparable loans from major banks;



- f) Such leases of fund property as may be permitted by SISA, and whether or not the lease may also count as an in-house asset of the fund – at a commercial rate obtained by the Trustee from a qualified source;
- g) Such acquisitions of assets as may not be prohibited by SISA, and whether or not the acquisition may also count as an in-house asset of the fund - for a commercial price reflected in comparable markets.
- h) Moses/Myer index for Investment Grade Artwork
- i) A residential property index in the area where the Trustee invests.

#### **F.9 Insurance**

As was noted and emphasised earlier in this investment strategy – insurances play an important role in protecting the fund’s and a member’s superannuation benefits. Superannuation law requires trustees to formulate, regularly review and have regard to whether the trustees should hold insurance for their members, such as life insurance.

The Trustees of the fund have reviewed the member’s superannuation benefits, their family and other circumstances and have decided to implement the following insurance strategy for the fund:

#### **F.10 Risk Management Strategy**

The Trustee of the Fund maintains reserves for various purposes. For the purposes of section 52B(2)(g) of the *Superannuation Industry Supervision Act 1993* the Trustee - if there are any reserves of the entity—to formulate and to give effect to a strategy for their prudential management, consistent with the entity’s investment strategy and its capacity to discharge its liabilities (whether actual or contingent) as and when they fall due. In that regard the Trustee has decided at the outset and continuum to maintain the reserves consistent with and contiguous with the fund’s investment strategy. As the reserves do not form a significant part of the fund nor are required to undergo actuarial analysis, the Trustee has decided this is the best, most efficient and least expensive option than maintaining a separate prudential investment strategy for any reserves.”

The Trustee has decided to hold insurance for its members to cover possible insurable events in relation to the fund’s members where premiums and age warrant it prudent for the Trustee of the fund to do so. Where permissible and relevant, the insurance may be used to manage repayment of limited recourse borrowing arrangements (for example, to ensure there is sufficient cashflow to fund pension payments to a dependent of a deceased member).



## Resolution of the Trustee of The I AND L TOPP SMSF

**Date:**

**Present:** Ian Brett Topp and Leeanne Susan Topp

**Held:** 19 Lord Byron Parade, STRATHPINE, QLD 4500

The Trustee of the above fund DO HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

### ADOPTION OF INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT, OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGY

It is noted that the Trustees have formulated investment objectives for the fund and an investment strategy to achieve those objectives, (the investment objectives and investment strategy together as attached) having regard to the whole of the circumstances of the fund, including:

- (i) the risk involved in making, holding and realising, and the likely return from the entity's investments having regard to its objectives and its expected cash flow requirements;
  - (ii) the composition of the entity's investments as a whole including the extent to which the investments are diverse or involve the entity in being exposed to risks from inadequate diversification;
  - (iii) the liquidity of the entity's investments having regard to its expected cash flow requirements;
- the ability of the entity to discharge its existing and prospective liabilities;
  - the fund profile;
  - anticipated future contributions;
  - past investment performance; and
  - the current investment portfolio and asset mix,

The Trustee resolved to adopt the investment objectives of the fund being "The Trustees of the fund have the objective of maintaining the fund in line with the governing rules of the fund and SISA and through its investment strategy seeking to maximise the superannuation benefits of all members of the fund having regard to risk and reward" and adopt and implement the investment strategy herein.

**Executed by:**

**The Directors**

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Signed by Ian Brett Topp and Leeanne Susan Topp:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ian Brett Topp  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leeanne Susan Topp  
Director

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

