

9. TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES AND MAJOR TRANSACTIONS

9.1 DISPOSAL OR ACQUISITION OF ASSETS

9.1.1 Approval of Resolution: An NZAX Issuer shall not (subject to NZAX Listing Rule 9.1.3) enter into any transaction or series of linked or related transactions to acquire, sell, lease, exchange, or otherwise dispose of (otherwise than by way of charge) assets of the NZAX Issuer or assets to be held by the NZAX Issuer:

- (a) which would change the essential nature of the business of the NZAX Issuer; or
- (b) in respect of which the gross value is in excess of 50% of the Average Market Capitalisation of the NZAX Issuer;

except:

- (c) with the prior approval of an Ordinary Resolution of the NZAX Issuer or a special resolution if that NZAX Issuer must obtain approval of the transaction or transactions by a special resolution under section 129 of the Companies Act 1993; or
- (d) following a Pre Break Announcement, and satisfaction of the other requirements of NZAX Listing Rule 10.2.

9.1.2 Contents of Notice: The notice of meeting containing the resolution to approve any transaction referred to in NZAX Listing Rule 9.1.1 shall contain or be accompanied by such information, reports, valuations, and other material as are necessary to enable the holders of Securities to appraise the implications of the transactions.

9.1.3 Exception: NZAX Listing Rule 9.1.1 shall not apply to:

- (a) a takeover offer made by an NZAX Issuer:
 - (i) in respect of a Code Company in accordance with any takeovers code approved under the Takeovers Act 1993; or

- (ii) in respect of an Issuer that is not a Code Company but to whom section 4 applies, in accordance with the Constitution or Trust Deed of that other Issuer which complies with section 4 where that other Issuer is not a Code Company; or
 - (iii) in relation to any other person, in accordance with any takeover law regime of a jurisdiction other than New Zealand which is applicable to that person and provides for prior notice, publicity and disclosure which in the opinion of NZX is at least as useful to the recipients of the offer as the requirements of one or more of the provisions referred to in (i) or (ii); or
- (b) any transaction entered into by an NZAX Issuer with a Bank as principal, on arms length terms and in the ordinary course of its banking business.

1. The attention of NZAX Issuers is drawn to:

- (a) **the provisions of section 129 of the Companies Act 1993, requiring the approval of a special resolution of shareholders to "major transactions" as defined in that section; and**
 - (b) **NZAX Listing Rule 1.9, dealing with conditions to be included in contracts relating to transactions subject to the approval of a resolution under NZAX Listing Rule 9.1 of the NZAX Listing Rules.**
- 2. The provisions of the definition of NZAX Issuer in NZAX Listing Rule 1.1.5 apply to NZAX Listing Rule 9.1 to deem references to the NZAX Issuer to extend to the group comprised of the NZAX Issuer and its Subsidiaries where the context permits.**
- 3. NZX may waive application of NZAX Listing Rule 9.1 where, due to deterioration in the financial position of the NZAX Issuer, the Average Market Capitalisation of the NZAX Issuer has reduced to such an extent that the NZAX Listing Rule imposes an unreasonable restriction on the ability of the NZAX Issuer to realise assets.**
- 4. The notice of meeting must be approved by NZX pursuant to NZAX Listing Rule 6.1.**

5. NZAX Listing Rule 9.1.3 stipulates that in the transaction in question the Bank must be acting as principal.

9.2 TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

9.2.1 Restriction: An NZAX Issuer shall not enter into a Material Transaction if a Related Party is, or is likely to become:

- (a) a direct or indirect party to the Material Transaction, or to at least one of a related series of transactions of which the Material Transaction forms part; or
- (b) in the case of a guarantee or other transaction of the nature referred to in paragraph (c) of the definition of Material Transaction, a direct or indirect beneficiary of such guarantee or other transaction,

unless that Material Transaction is approved by an Ordinary Resolution of the NZAX Issuer.

- 1. NZX may waive the requirement to obtain the approval of a resolution for the purposes of NZAX Listing Rule 9.2.1 if it is satisfied that the personal connections with, or involvement or personal interest of a Related Party are immaterial or plainly unlikely to have influenced the promotion of the proposal to enter into the transaction or its terms and conditions.**
- 2. NZX may waive the requirement to obtain the approval of a resolution for the purposes of NZAX Listing Rule 9.2.1 in respect of the annual or other renewal or re-negotiation of transactions which have been approved by a resolution under NZAX Listing Rule 9.2.1, if the NZAX Issuer produces a report from a suitable independent person as to the fairness of the terms of the renewal or re-negotiation.**
- 3. Any agreement involving a transaction referred to in this NZAX Listing Rule must comply with NZAX Listing Rule 1.9.**

4. **The relevant time for an NZAX Issuer to determine whether or not a Related Party is or is likely to become a direct or indirect party to a Material Transaction, or at least one of a related series of transactions of which the Material Transaction forms part is at the time of entry into that transaction.**

9.2.2 **Definition of Material Transaction:** For the purposes of NZAX Listing Rule 9.2.1, "**Material Transaction**" means a transaction or a related series of transactions whereby an NZAX Issuer:

- (a) purchases or otherwise acquires, gains, leases (as lessor or lessee) or sells or otherwise disposes of, assets having an Aggregate Net Value in excess of 10% of the Average Market Capitalisation of the NZAX Issuer; or
- (b) issues its own Securities or acquires its own Equity Securities having a market value in excess of 10% of the Average Market Capitalisation of that Issuer; or
- (c) borrows, lends, pays, or receives, money, or incurs an obligation, of an amount in excess of 10% of the Average Market Capitalisation of the NZAX Issuer; or
- (d) enters into any guarantee, indemnity, or similar obligation, or gives any security, for or of obligations which could expose the NZAX Issuer to liability in excess of 10% of the Average Market Capitalisation of the NZAX Issuer; or
- (e) provides or obtains any services (including without limitation the underwriting of Securities or services as an employee) in respect of which the actual gross cost to the NZAX Issuer in any financial year (ignoring any returns or benefits in connection with such services) is likely to exceed an amount equal to 1.5% of the Average Market Capitalisation of the NZAX Issuer or;
- (f) amalgamates, except for amalgamations of a wholly owned Subsidiary with another wholly owned Subsidiary or with the NZAX Issuer.

For the purposes of this NZAX Listing Rule, “**Aggregate Net Value**” as used in NZAX Listing Rule 9.2.2 means the net value of those assets calculated as the greater of the net tangible asset backing value (from the most recently published financial statements) or market value.

1. **Transactions in Securities are to be treated as transactions in the assets the value of which underlies or is reflected in the Securities.**
2. **In assessing whether payments under an employment agreement with a Related Party are likely to exceed the thresholds in NZAX Listing Rule 9.22(e), the NZAX Issuer must have regard to the total maximum amount that could become payable in any one financial year.**

9.2.3 Definition of Related Party: For the purposes of NZAX Listing Rule 9.2.1, “**Related Party**” means a person who is at the time of a Material Transaction, or was at any time within six months before a Material Transaction:

- (a) a Director or executive officer of the NZAX Issuer or any of its Subsidiaries; or
- (b) the holder of a Relevant Interest in 10% or more of a class of Equity Securities of the NZAX Issuer carrying Votes; or
- (c) an Associated Person of the NZAX Issuer or any of the persons referred to in (a) or (b), other than a person who becomes an Associated Person as a consequence of the Material Transaction itself (or an intention or proposal to enter into the Material Transaction itself); or
- (d) a person in respect of whom there are arrangements other than the Material Transaction itself, intended to result in that person becoming a person described in (a), (b), or (c), or of whom the attainment of such a status may reasonably be expected, other than as a consequence of the Material Transaction itself;

but a person is not a Related Party of an Issuer if:

- (e) the only reason why that person would otherwise be a Related Party of the Issuer is that a Director or executive officer of the Issuer is also a Director of that person, so long as:
 - (i) not more than one third of the Directors of the Issuer are also Directors of that person; and
 - (ii) no Director or executive officer of the Issuer has a material direct or indirect economic interest in that person, other than by reason of receipt of reasonable Director's fees or executive remuneration; or
- (f) that person is a Subsidiary of, incorporated joint venture of, or unincorporated joint venture participant with, the Issuer and:
 - (i) no Related Party of the Issuer has or intends to obtain a material direct or indirect economic interest in that Subsidiary, joint venture, or joint venture participant, other than by reason of receipt of reasonable Director's fees or executive remuneration; and
 - (ii) the Issuer is entitled to participate, directly or indirectly, in at least one half of the income or profits, and the assets, of that person.

9.2.4 Exception: NZAX Listing Rule 9.2.1 shall not apply to:

- (a) any transaction entered into by an NZAX Issuer with a Bank which is a Related Party of that NZAX Issuer as principal, on arm's length terms and in the normal course of its banking business; or
- (b) the issue, acquisition or redemption by an NZAX Issuer of Securities of that NZAX Issuer, or the giving by an NZAX Issuer of financial assistance for the purposes of, or in connection with, the purchase of Securities, or the payment of a distribution to holders of Securities, if all holders of Securities of the Class in question are treated in the same way, so that each such holder has an opportunity to receive the same benefit in respect of each Security held by that holder except to the extent that an issue excludes holders outside New Zealand in accordance with NZAX Listing Rule 7.3.4(g). For the purposes of

this paragraph, the transfer, by an NZAX Issuer which is a company registered under the Companies Act 1993, of shares held by that company in itself, shall be deemed to constitute an issue of Securities; or

- (ba) the issue of Equity Securities by an Issuer under NZAX Listing Rule 7.3.4(ba) or NZAX Listing Rule 7.3.9(e); or
- (c) an employment contract or contract for personal services with an Issuer which is a Material Transaction under Rule 9.2.2(e), where:
 - (i) the terms of the contract are set on an arm's length, commercial basis and have been approved by the Independent Directors of the Issuer; and
 - (ii) the Independent Directors approving the contract sign and deliver to NZX a certificate stating Rule 9.2.4(c)(i) has been complied with; and
 - (iii) material particulars of the contract (including the Issuer's use of this exception) are disclosed in the next annual report of the Issuer; or
- (d) any transaction indemnifying any Director or Employee (as defined in NZAX Listing Rule 7.3.6) of the NZAX Issuer or any Related Company which would be a Material Transaction under NZAX Listing Rule 9.2.2(d), where such Director or Employee, at the time the indemnity is to be granted, has not been involved in any proceedings, threatened proceedings or circumstances in any capacity which are likely to result in a claim by the Director or Employee under the proposed indemnity; or
- (e) arrangements, amalgamations or compromises pursuant to Part XV of the Companies Act 1993; or
- (f) in relation to any Non Standard NZAX Issuer which is a co-operative company, any transaction or proposed transaction with a Related Party which is in the ordinary course of business of that NZAX Issuer and which falls within section 29(g) of the Co-operative Companies Act 1996; or

- (g) a Material Transaction that is an employment agreement with a natural person who is not a director within the meaning of section 126 of the Companies Act 1993 of the Issuer or any of its Subsidiaries.

1. **Where the Independent Directors of an Issuer are satisfied that the criteria in Rule 9.2.4(a) are satisfied no application need be made by that Issuer to NZX for approval of that transaction and no shareholder ratification of that transaction is required. The Rule stipulates that in the transaction in question the Bank must be acting as principal. The intention of this is to exclude a transaction such as one in which a Bank acts as agent of a third party.**
2. **Rule 9.2.4(c) allows the Independent Directors to approve an employment contract or contract for personal services. The material particulars required to be disclosed in the annual report will include particulars entered in a company's interests register under section 161 of the Companies Act 1993.**

9.2.5 Notice of Meeting: The text of any resolution to be put to a meeting of an NZAX Issuer for the purposes of NZAX Listing Rule 9.2.1 shall be set out in the notice of the relevant meeting. That notice shall:

- (a) be approved by NZX in accordance with NZAX Listing Rule 6.1; and
- (b) be accompanied by a certificate from the Directors (other than any Director who is interested in the transaction) certifying that the terms of the transaction are fair and reasonable to shareholders and in the best interests of the NZAX Issuer; and
- (c) contain such other material as is necessary to enable the holders of Securities of the NZAX Issuer to decide whether the transaction price and terms are fair.

9.3 VOTING RESTRICTIONS

9.3.1 Restriction: Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the NZAX Listing Rules, on any resolution of the nature listed in column 1 of the table below, no Vote in favour of any such resolution shall be cast on any Securities held

by a person of the nature listed in respect of that resolution in column 2 of the table below, or by any Associated Person of such a person.

Column 1 RESOLUTION	Column 2 DISQUALIFIED PERSON
Resolutions under Rules 3.5.1 and 3.5.2	The Director intended to receive a payment.
Resolution under Rule 7.3.1	Subject to Rule 9.3.2: (a) Any person to whom it is proposed to issue the new Securities referred to in the resolution; or (b) If the resolution does not specify the persons to whom it is proposed to issue Securities, any Director of the Issuer who is not excluded by the terms of the resolution from participation in the issue.
Resolution under Rule 7.3.1 to approve a Rights issue of Equity Securities which is not Renounceable	Any Director of the Issuer.
Resolution under Rule 7.3.5(b)(iii)	Any person who has been issued, or has acquired, Securities the subject of ratification by that resolution.
Resolution under Rule 7.3.6	Any Director intended or likely to benefit from the issue referred to in the resolution.
Resolution under Rule 7.5	Any person whose effective control of the Issuer would be materially increased.
Resolution under Rule 8.4	Any person who is intended to benefit from the reduction, deferral, or cancellation, unless the reduction, deferral, or cancellation benefits all holders of Equity Securities of the Issuer on the same basis.

Column 1 RESOLUTION	Column 2 DISQUALIFIED PERSON
Resolution under Rule 9.2.1	Any person referred to in Rule 9.2.3 who is a party or beneficiary (in terms of Rule 9.2.1(a) or (b)) to or of the transactions the subject of the resolution.

9.3.2 Exception: On a resolution under NZAX Listing Rule 7.3.1, a person to whom it is proposed to issue the new Securities referred to in that resolution is not disqualified from voting if the new Securities are to be offered on the same basis to all holders of Securities of the same Class as the Securities held by that person.

9.3.3 Proxies or Representatives: NZAX Listing Rule 9.3.1 shall not prevent a person disqualified from Voting under that NZAX Listing Rule, who has been appointed as a proxy or Voting representative by another person who is not disqualified from Voting under that NZAX Listing Rule, from Voting in respect of the Securities held by that other person in accordance with the express instructions of that other person.

1. NZAX Listing Rule B4.6.2 prohibits a disqualified person from exercising discretionary proxies. Disqualified persons are only able to exercise proxies where the Security holder has provided that disqualified person with an express instruction setting out how to exercise that Security holder’s vote. “Express instructions” exclude instructions that give the proxy holder a discretion how to exercise that Security holder’s vote as that proxy holder sees fit.

2. Examples of express instructions include:

- an instruction to vote for or against a particular resolution; or
- an instruction that the proxy holder should vote for or against a resolution in accordance with the Chairperson’s vote on that resolution.

9.3.4 Discovery of Disqualified Persons: Each NZAX Issuer shall use reasonable endeavours to ascertain, no later than five Business Days before any meeting to consider a resolution referred to in NZAX Listing

Rule 9.3.1, the identity of holders of Security who are disqualified from voting on that resolution pursuant to NZAX Listing Rule 9.3.1, and on request shall supply a list of such holders to NZX and any holder of Equity Securities of the NZAX Issuer.

9.3.5 Deadline for Challenge: Without prejudice to any remedy (other than those which take legal effect against the NZAX Issuer concerned) which any holder of Securities may have against any disqualified person who casts a Vote at a meeting in breach of NZAX Listing Rule 9.3.1, no resolution of, or proceeding at, that meeting shall be impugned on the basis of a breach of NZAX Listing Rule 9.3.1. Any objection by a holder of Securities to the accuracy or completeness of any list provided pursuant to NZAX Listing Rule 9.3.1 shall be disregarded by the NZAX Issuer and the chairman of the relevant meeting if it is notified to the NZAX Issuer later than one full Business Day before the time fixed for commencement of the meeting.