Appendix 2

(Ref: Para. 138)

EXAMPLE OF A SELF‑MANAGED SUPERANNUATION FUND TRUSTEE REPRESENTATION LETTER

*This illustrative letter is provided as an example only and may need to be modified according to the individual requirements and circumstances of each engagement. Representations by the trustees will vary between SMSFs and from one period to the next. In the event that the trustees do not provide requested written representations the auditor should make reference to ASA 580 in determining the effect on the audit.*

[SMSF letterhead]

Date

[Addressee - Auditor]

Dear [Sir/Madam],

###### Trustee Representation Letter

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial report of the [SMSF Name] (the Fund) and the Fund’s compliance with the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993* (SISA) and *SIS Regulations* (SISR), for the [period] ended [date], for the purpose of you expressing an opinion as to whether the financial report is, in all material respects, presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies adopted by the Fund and the Fund complied, in all material respects, with the relevant requirements of SISA and SISR.

The trustees have determined that the Fund is not a reporting entity for the [period] ended [date] and that the requirement to apply Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory reporting requirements do not apply to the Fund.[[1]](#footnote-2) Accordingly, the financial report prepared is a special purpose financial report which is for distribution to members of the Fund and to satisfy the requirements of the SISA and SISR. We acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that the financial report is in accordance with the accounting policies as selected by ourselves and requirements of the SISA and SISR, and confirm that the financial report is free of material misstatements, including omissions.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following representations made to you during your audit.

[Include representations relevant to the Fund. Such representations may include the following examples.]

1. Sole purpose test

The Fund is maintained for the sole purpose of providing benefits for each member on their retirement, death, termination of employment or ill‑health.

1. Trustees are not disqualified

No disqualified person acts as a director of the trustee company or as an individual trustee.

**Disqualified person**

A person (including a director of a corporate trustee) must not intentionally be, or act as, a trustee or a director of a corporate trustee of a superannuation fund if they are, and know that they are, a disqualified person [section 126K of the SISA].

An individual is a disqualified person if they:

- have been convicted of an offence involving dishonest conduct in any country;

- have been subject to a civil penalty order under the SISA;

- are an undischarged bankrupt; or

- have been disqualified by the Regulator.

A body corporate is a disqualified person if:

- a responsible officer of the body corporate is a disqualified person;

- a receiver, receiver and manager, administrator or provisional liquidator has been appointed

to the body corporate, or

- action has commenced to wind up the body corporate.

**Acting while disqualified**

If a trustee of a SMSF becomes, a disqualified person, they must immediately inform the ATO Commissioner in writing, and must resign as a trustee of the SMSF as soon as practicable.

If a disqualified person acts as an individual trustee or a director of a corporate trustee of a SMSF, this will not result in a fund failing to meet the definition of a SMSF until 6 months after the person become disqualified; however, it will result in the disqualified person contravening section 126K of the SISA.

Penalties can be applied to those who act as trustees while disqualified, including imprisonment for two years.

1. Fund’s governing rules, Trustees’ responsibilities and Fund conduct

The Fund meets the definition of a self‑managed superannuation fund under SISA, including that no member is an employee of another member, unless they are relatives and no trustee [or director of the corporate trustee] receives any remuneration for any duties or services performed by the trustee [or director] in relation to the Fund.

The Fund has been conducted in accordance with its governing rules at all times during the year and there were no amendments to the governing rules during the year, except as notified to you.

The trustees have complied with all aspects of the trustee requirements of the SISA and SISR.

The trustees are not subject to any contract or obligation which would prevent or hinder the trustees in properly executing their functions and powers.

The Fund has been conducted in accordance with SISA, SISR and the governing rules of the Fund.

The Fund has complied with the requirements of the SISA and SISR specified in the approved form auditor’s report as issued by the ATO, which are sections 17A, 35AE, 35B, 35C(2), 62, 65, 66, 67, 67A, 67B, 82‑85, 103, 104, 104A, 105, 109 and 126K of the SISA and regulations 1.06(9A), 4.09, 4.09A, 5.03, 5.08, 6.17, 7.04, 8,02B, 13.12, 13.13, 13.14 and 13.18AA of the SISR.

All contributions accepted and benefits paid have been in accordance with the governing rules of the Fund and relevant provisions of the SISA and SISR.

There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning non‑compliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices that could have a material effect on the financial report [or we have disclosed to you all known instances of non‑compliance or suspected non‑compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report and the Auditor’s/actuary’s contravention report].

1. Investment strategy

The investment strategy has been determined and reviewed taking into account the circumstances of the fund as a whole, with due regard to risk, return, liquidity and diversity. We have ensured the assets of the Fund have always been invested in line with this strategy. We have considered the insurance needs of Fund members in determining the investment strategy.

1. Asset form and valuation

Investments are carried in the books at market value. We consider the valuations within the financial report are reasonable in light of present circumstances.

We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying values, or classification, of assets and liabilities.

There are no commitments, fixed or contingent, for the purchase or sale of long term investments other than those disclosed in the financial report.

1. Accounting policies

All the significant accounting policies of the Fund are adequately described in the financial report and the notes attached thereto. These policies are consistent with the policies adopted last year by the trustee in accordance with legislative requirements and the fund’s trust deed.

1. Fund books and records

All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial report. We have made available to you all financial records and related data, other information, explanations and assistance necessary for the conduct of the audit; and minutes of all meetings of the trustees.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implementation of internal control to prevent and detect error and fraud. We have established and maintained an adequate internal control structure to facilitate the preparation of reliable financial reports, and adequate financial records have been maintained. There are no material transactions that have not been properly recorded in the accounting records underlying the financial report.

We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial report may be materially misstated as a result of fraud. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Fund and involves the trustees or others.

In instances where the Fund uses a custodian, we confirm we have not been advised of any fraud, non-compliance with laws and regulations or uncorrected misstatements that would affect the financial report of the fund.

Information retention obligations have been complied with, including:

* accounting records and financial reports are being kept for five years;
* minutes and records of trustees’ [or directors of the corporate trustee] meetings [or for sole trustee: decisions] are being kept for 10 years;
* records of trustees’ [or directors of the corporate trustee] changes and trustees’ consents are being kept for at least 10 years;
* copies of all member or beneficiary reports are being kept for 10 years; and
* trustee declarations in the approved form have been signed and are being kept for each trustee appointed after 30 June 2007.

1. Safeguarding Assets

We have considered the importance of safeguarding the assets of the fund, and we confirm we have the following procedures in place to achieve this:

* authorised signatories on bank and investment accounts are regularly reviewed and considered appropriate; and
* tangible assets are, where appropriate, adequately insured and appropriately stored.

1. Significant assumptions

We believe that significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates are reasonable.

1. Uncorrected misstatements

We believe the effects of those uncorrected financial report misstatements aggregated by the auditor during the audit are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial report taken as a whole. A summary of such items is attached.

1. Ownership and pledging of assets

The Fund has satisfactory title to all assets appearing in the statement of [financial position/net assets]. All investments are registered in the name of the Fund, where possible, and are in the custody of the respective manager/trustee.

There are no liens or encumbrances on any assets or benefits, and no assets, benefits or interests in the Fund have been pledged or assigned to secure liabilities of others.

All assets of the Fund are held separately from the assets of the members, employers and the trustees. All assets are acquired, maintained and disposed of on an arm’s length basis and appropriate action is taken to protect the assets of the Fund.

1. Related parties

We have disclosed to you the identity of the Fund’s related parties and all related party transactions and relationships. Related party transactions and related amounts receivable have been properly recorded or disclosed in the financial report. Acquisitions from, loans to, leasing of assets to and investments in related parties have not exceeded the in‑house asset restrictions in the SISA at the time of the investment, acquisition or at year end.

The Fund has not made any loans or provided financial assistance to members of the Fund or their relatives.

1. Borrowings

The Fund has not borrowed money or maintained any borrowings during the period, with the exception of borrowings which were allowable under SISA.

1. Subsequent events

No events or transactions have occurred since the date of the financial report, or are pending, which would have a significant adverse effect on the Fund's financial position at that date, or which are of such significance in relation to the Fund as to require mention in the notes to the financial report in order to ensure the financial report is not misleading as to the financial position of the Fund or its operations.

1. Outstanding legal action

We confirm you have been advised of all significant legal matters, and that all known actual or possible litigation and claims have been adequately accounted for and appropriately disclosed in the financial report.

There have been no communications from the ATO concerning a contravention of the SISA or SISR which has occurred, is occurring, or is about to occur.

1. Going Concern

We confirm we have no knowledge of any events or conditions that would cast significant doubt on the fund’s ability to continue as a going concern.

1. Additional matters

[Include any additional matters relevant to the particular circumstances of the audit, for example:

‑ the work of an expert has been used; or

‑ justification for a change in accounting policy.]

We understand that your examination was made in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and applicable Standards on Assurance Engagements and was, therefore, designed primarily for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial report of the Fund taken as a whole, and on the compliance of the Fund with specified requirements of the SISA and SISR, and that your tests of the financial and compliance records and other auditing procedures were limited to those which you considered necessary for that purpose.

Yours faithfully

(signed)

………………………..

[Director/Trustee]

[Date]

………………………..

[Director/Trustee]

[Date]

1. If the SMSF is a reporting entity then it will be required to prepare a GPFR in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and this paragraph will need to be adapted accordingly. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)