FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDING POLICY

VAL_CORP_POL_010-PUB

PURPOSE

This policy establishes the principles and approval requirements for financial sponsorship, grant funding, project funding, research funding, and other funding arrangements entered by the Company.

The Company may provide, receive, or participate in funding arrangements where they support its strategic, technical, research, commercial, educational, community, or stakeholder objectives.

PUBLIC COMMITMENT

- Funding and sponsorship arrangements are to be transparent, appropriately documented and aligned with the Company's objectives and long-term interests.
- As a general guide, payment structures may include up to 35% upfront, progress payments of up to 35% in aggregate, and a final payment of at least 30%; indirect costs are ordinarily up to 10%, with an allowance above 10% and up to a maximum of 15% subject to Board approval.
- A funding arrangement with a total value exceeding $75,000 requires prior approval from the Board of Directors.

STATUS	Published
POLICY OWNER	Managing Director
PROPOSED APPROVER	Valhalla Board
PUBLICATION	Published v1.0

1. Policy Statement

The Company supports sponsorship and funding arrangements that are transparent, appropriately documented, and aligned with the Company's values, objectives, and long-term interests.

Funding and sponsorship activities should contribute to innovation, research, technology development, industry collaboration, community benefit, or strategic relationship building.

The Company seeks to work with reputable organizations that demonstrate appropriate standards of governance, professionalism, integrity, and capability.

2. Scope

This policy applies to sponsorship, funding, grant, contribution, and financial support arrangements involving the Company, including arrangements where the Company:

- provides financial sponsorship or project support;
- receives sponsorship, grant funding, research funding, or commercial funding;
- participates in co-funded projects, research programs, or innovation initiatives;
- enters into funding arrangements with government, academic, industry, community, Indigenous, financial, or commercial partners.

3. Eligible Partners

The Company may enter into sponsorship or funding arrangements with organizations including:

- universities, academic institutions, and research organizations;
- government departments, agencies, statutory bodies, and public funding bodies;
- industry associations, professional bodies, and innovation hubs;
- exploration, mining, energy, environmental, technology, and professional service organizations;
- Indigenous corporations, community groups, landholder groups, and not-for-profit organizations;
- financial institutions, investment partners, venture development organizations, and strategic commercial partners;
- other organizations approved by management or the Board.

4. Assessment Principles

When considering a sponsorship or funding arrangement, the Company should have regard to:

- alignment with the Company's strategic objectives;
- the credibility, reputation, and governance standards of the partner;
- potential benefits to research, innovation, technology development, commercialization, community outcomes, or stakeholder relationships;
- financial value, funding obligations, and value for money;
- legal, regulatory, operational, ethical, and reputational considerations;
- potential conflicts of interest or perceived conflicts;
- the Company's ability to deliver any funded activities or obligations.

5. Financial Sponsorship Parameters

Financial sponsorship arrangements should clearly identify the approved project scope, total sponsorship amount, eligible direct project costs, administration or indirect cost allowances, payment milestones, reporting obligations, and acquittal requirements.

Payment arrangements should support appropriate project delivery, cash flow management, accountability, and completion of agreed outcomes. Unless otherwise agreed, sponsorship payments should generally be staged across the life of the project and may include:

- an upfront payment upon execution of the agreement;
- progress payments linked to agreed milestones, deliverables, reporting periods, or evidence of expenditure; and
- a final payment upon completion of the project, final reporting, or satisfaction of acquittal requirements.

As a general guide, payment structures may include an upfront payment of up to 35% of the approved sponsorship amount, progress payments of up to 35% in aggregate, and a final completion or acquittal payment of at least 30%.

Administration, coordination, management, or other indirect costs associated with a sponsored or funded project will ordinarily be applied at a standard rate of up to 10% of the total direct project costs. An indirect cost allowance exceeding 10%, and up to a maximum of 15%, may be approved by the Board where appropriate, having regard to the nature, scale, complexity, delivery requirements, funding conditions, or strategic value of the project.

Alternative payment structures or indirect cost arrangements may also be considered and approved by management or the Board, as appropriate. In determining whether an alternative structure is suitable, regard may be had to the nature, scale, complexity, delivery requirements, funding conditions, and strategic alignment of the project, extended to include the longevity and strength of the relevant relationship, the history of prior sponsorship or funding arrangements, delivery expectations, and any other relevant commercial or relationship-based considerations.

6. Approval Requirements

Management may negotiate, approve, and administer sponsorship and funding arrangements within approved budgets and delegated authorities.

Any sponsorship, grant, funding agreement, project contribution, co-funding arrangement, or related financial obligation with a total value exceeding $75,000 must receive prior approval from the Board of Directors.

For the purposes of this policy, total value includes the full financial commitment, funding received, anticipated expenditure, in-kind contribution, contractual liability, or project obligation over the life of the arrangement.

The Board may request additional information before approval, including details of strategic value, expected outcomes, financial implications, due diligence, delivery requirements, or reputational considerations.

7. Documentation and Reporting

Material sponsorship and funding arrangements should be appropriately documented, including the purpose of the arrangement, parties involved, funding value, deliverables, reporting requirements, payment terms, and approval authority.

Management should monitor funded activities to support appropriate use of funds and the delivery of reporting, compliance, and acquittal obligations.

8. Accountability

The Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, is responsible for supporting compliance with this policy and for referring matters requiring Board approval to the Board of Directors.

9. Effective Date

This policy is effective upon approval by the Managing Director and remains in force until amended or replaced.

10. Review Procedure

The policy should be reviewed every 2 years, or earlier where required due to changes in the Company's operations, strategic objectives or governance requirements.

Related documents

- Governance and Board Oversight Statement
- Conflicts of Interest and Related-Party Principles
- Anti-Bribery and Integrity Policy
- Partnership and Sponsorship Acceptance Principles
- Research Integrity and Academic Independence Policy
- University and Research Collaboration Principles
- Research Data Governance Principles

Document control and approval

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Internal source	Financial Sponsorship and Funding Policy		

PUBLICATION CONTROL Published v1.0. This is the current website publication. The payment terms, indirect-cost limits and Board approval thresholds in this policy may be changed only through controlled review, approval and versioning.