



# Whistleblower Policy

Adopted December 2019

## Contents

1	Applicability
2	Purpose
3	Reportable conduct
4	Whistleblower Officer
5	Making a report
6	Investigation procedure
7	Protection of whistleblowers
8	Monitoring the welfare of whistleblowers and persons against whom allegations of reportable conduct have been made
9	Review

## 1 Applicability

A reference to Marenica in this policy is a reference to Marenica Energy Limited (the “Company”) and each of its subsidiaries (together the “Group”); and any joint ventures under a Group company’s operational control.

This policy applies to all directors, officers, employees, consultants and contractors of Marenica Energy (“Personnel”) and in addition, also applies, as far as is reasonably achievable, to third-party suppliers and contractors that interact with the Group (“Third Parties”). Any of these persons making a report under this policy are referred to as a whistleblower (“Whistleblower”).

All Personnel and any Third Parties will be provided with access to a copy of this policy via the Company’s website. Training or awareness sessions on this policy will be held from time to time, as required.

## 2 Purpose

As set out in the Company’s Code of Conduct, directors, officers, employees, consultants and contractors of the Company are expected to not only act in compliance with legal obligations, but also act ethically and responsibly, which involves acting with honesty, integrity and in a manner that is consistent with the reasonable expectations of investors and the broader community.

The purpose of this policy is to encourage anyone to whom the policy applies to raise concerns or report instances of potential breach of law, violations (or suspected violations) of the Company's Code of Conduct or any other legal or ethical concern without the fear of detriment.

In this policy detriment includes any of the following: dismissal of an employee; injury of an employee; alteration of an employee's position or duties to their disadvantage; discrimination between an employee and other employees of the same employer; harassment or intimidation of a person; harm or injury to a person, including psychological harm; damage to a person's property; damage to a person's reputation; damage to a person's business or financial position; and any other damage to a person.

Unethical, unlawful or undesirable conduct is referred to in this policy as Reportable Conduct, examples of which are set out in Section 3.

### **3 Reportable conduct**

A Whistleblower may make a report under this policy if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a person or persons connected with Marenica has engaged in conduct which is:

- a) a breach of the Company's Code of Conduct;
- b) dishonest, fraudulent or corrupt;
- c) illegal;
- d) in breach of applicable laws;
- e) unethical or in breach of Marenica's policies and procedures (either representing a breach of the Company's Code of Conduct or generally);
- f) conduct amounting to harassment, discrimination, victimisation or bullying;
- g) conduct that is potentially damaging to Marenica, its Personnel or Third Parties; such as unsafe work practices, environmental damage, health risks or abuse of Marenica's property or resources;
- h) any conduct which may cause financial or non-financial loss to Marenica or be otherwise detrimental to the interests of Marenica; or
- i) any other kind of misconduct or improper state of affairs or circumstances in relation to Marenica;

any of which will be referred to as Reportable Conduct within this document.

### **4 Whistleblower Officer**

The Board will appoint a senior employee to the position of "Whistleblower Officer", whose role will be to investigate the substance of any complaint Regarding Reportable conduct, to determine whether there is evidence in support of the conduct raised or, alternatively, to refute the allegations made in the Report.

The Whistleblower Officer has direct, unfettered access to independent financial, legal and operational advice as required for the purposes of effectively carrying out the role. The Whistleblower Officer also has a direct line of reporting to the Chairman.

The current Whistleblower Officer's contact details are as follows:

Shane McBride Chief Financial Officer/Company Secretary of Marenica Energy Limited

Office C1, 1139 Hay Street, West Perth, WA 6005; Telephone: + 61 8 6555 1816

Email: shane.mcbride@marenicaenergy.com.au

If the matter concerns the Whistleblower Officer they should contact the Company's Chairman, Andrew Bantock.

## **5 Making a report**

If Personnel or a Third Party to whom this policy applies becomes aware of any matter that they consider to be Reportable Conduct, they can:

- a) report directly to the Whistleblower Officer; or
- b) if the matter concerns the Whistleblower Officer they should contact the Company's Chairman, Andrew Bantock,

either of which will be referred to as a Report within this document.

Whistleblowers need to provide in the Report all the information on which they formed the view that they had reasonable grounds to suspect Reportable Conduct to assist in the investigation of the conduct. By way of example, information in the Report could include the date, time and location of the conduct, the name(s) of the persons involved (being the "Accused") and any witnesses to the events, evidence of the events (e.g. emails, documents) and any steps the Whistleblower or another person may have already taken to report or resolve the matter. Reports can be submitted verbally or in writing, although due to the potential seriousness of such Reports, a Report in writing will be the preferred method of lodgement.

Nothing in this policy restricts a person from reporting any matter or providing any information to a regulator (such as the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC)), the Company's auditor or any other person in accordance with any relevant law, regulation or other requirement.

A false report of Reportable Conduct is likely to have significant effects on Marenica's reputation, the reputation of Personnel and Third Parties and of the Accused; and may result in a considerable waste of money, time and effort. Any deliberately false reporting of Reportable Conduct will be treated as a serious disciplinary matter.

## **6 Investigation procedure**

The Whistleblower Officer will investigate all matters reported under this policy as soon as possible after the matter has been reported. A Whistleblower Officer may appoint a person to assist in the investigation of a matter raised in a Report. Where appropriate, the Company may provide feedback to the Whistleblower regarding the investigation's progress and/or outcome (subject to considerations of the privacy of the Accused).

The investigation will be conducted in an objective and fair manner and otherwise as is reasonable and appropriate having regard to the nature of the Reportable Conduct and the circumstances.

The Accused will be informed and given the opportunity to respond to the Report and will be presumed innocent until proven otherwise. Their defence will be fairly set out in any findings arising

from the investigation and they may be kept informed of the progress of the investigations and the outcome, as is reasonable and appropriate, having regard to the nature of the Reportable Conduct and any legal considerations, including considerations of the privacy of the Whistleblower and the Accused.

If the Report is not submitted anonymously, a Whistleblower may be contacted to discuss the investigation process. However, if a Report is submitted anonymously, the investigation will be conducted based on the information provided by the Whistleblower in their Report.

## **7 Protection of Whistleblowers and the Accused**

The Company is committed to ensuring confidentiality in respect of all matters raised under this policy, and that those who make a Report are treated fairly and do not suffer any detriment. The Company is also committed to ensuring the Accused is treated fairly.

### **7.1 No detriment**

A Whistleblower who reports Reportable Conduct will not personally suffer detriment by having made the Report. Where detriment is suffered, or is claimed to have been suffered by a Whistleblower, the Whistleblower should report it immediately to the Whistleblower Officer.

### **7.2 Confidentiality and privacy**

- a) Subject to compliance with legal requirements and paragraph (b) below, upon receiving a Report under this policy, the Company will not, nor will the Whistleblower Officer, disclose the Whistleblower's identity as a Whistleblower, or information that is likely to lead to the identification of the Whistleblower's identity as a Whistleblower unless:
  - i. the Whistleblower consents; or
  - ii. the disclosure is made to ASIC, the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (**APRA**), a member of the Australian Federal Police (as defined in the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979* (Cth)) or a legal practitioner for the purposes of obtaining legal advice or legal representation.
- b) If the Company needs to investigate a matter it may disclose information that may be likely to lead to the identification of a Whistleblower provided that the disclosure is not of the identity of the Whistleblower, the disclosure of the information is reasonably necessary for the purposes of investigating the matter and the Company takes all reasonable steps to reduce the risk that the Whistleblower will be identified as a result of the disclosure.
- c) Subject to compliance with legal requirements upon receiving a Report under this policy, the Company will not to the best of its ability, nor will the Whistleblower Officer to the best of their ability, disclose the identity of the Accused. Inevitably during the progress of the investigation the Accused's identity maybe disclosed but, until the accusation is proven, the Company and the Whistleblower Officer will protect the Accused's identity to the best of their ability.

The Company will also ensure that any records relating to a Report of Reportable Conduct are stored securely and are only able to be accessed by authorised staff.

Unauthorised disclosure of:

- a) the identity of a Whistleblower; or

- b) information that is likely to lead to the identification of the Whistleblower, will be a breach of this policy and the offender(s) will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include termination.

Conversely, unauthorised disclosure of:

- a) the identity of the Accused ; or
- b) information that is likely to lead to the identification of the Accused,

prior to an accusation being proven, will be a breach of this policy and the offender(s) will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include termination.

### **7.3 Compensation and other remedies**

A Whistleblower can seek compensation and other remedies through the courts if they suffer loss, damage or injury as a result of the Report and Marenica has failed to take reasonable precautions and exercise due diligence to prevent the detrimental conduct.

### **7.4 Civil, criminal and administrative liability protection**

A Whistleblower is protected by law from civil, criminal or administrative liability in relation to their disclosures in the Report, however, these protections do not grant immunity for any misconduct that a Whistleblower has engaged in that is revealed in their Report or as a result of the Report.

### **7.5 Personal work-related grievances**

Disclosures in Reports that relate to personal work-related grievances do not qualify for protection under the Corporations Act.

### **7.6 Special protection under the Corporations Act and the Taxation Administration Act**

The Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (“Corporations Act”) and the Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth) (“Taxation Administration Act”) provide special protections to disclosures about breaches of those Acts and other Acts, (as set out in Annexures A and B) provided certain conditions are met. Please refer to Annexures A and B for further details.

## **8 Monitoring the welfare of whistleblowers and the Accused**

The Company acknowledges that both Whistleblowers and the Accused, may suffer stress and emotional reactions. The Company will take reasonable steps to maintain processes to monitor the welfare of both Whistleblowers and the Accused.

## **9 Review**

The Board will review this policy annually and update it as required.

## **Annexure A – Protections for whistleblowers under the Corporations Act**

Part 9.4AAA of the Corporations Act contains a whistleblower protection regime. Under this regime, disclosure about any misconduct or improper state of affairs relating to Company or an Australian incorporated or registered subsidiary (Regulated Company) will qualify for the protections provided under the Corporations Act if the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1 Eligible whistleblower : The whistleblower is or has been: (a) an officer or employee of the Regulated Company; (b) an individual who supplies services or goods to the Regulated Company (whether paid or unpaid) or an employee of a person who supplies services or goods to the Regulated Company (whether paid or unpaid); (c) an individual who is an associate of the Regulated Company; (d) a relative of an individual referred to in any of paragraphs (a) to (c); a dependant of an individual referred to in any of paragraphs (a) to (c), or of such an individual's spouse.
- 2 Eligible recipient: The report is made to: (a) an officer or senior manager of the Regulated Company or of a related body corporate; (b) an auditor, or a member of an audit team conducting an audit of the Regulated Company or a related body corporate; (c) an actuary of the Regulated Company or a related body corporate; (d) a person authorised by the Regulated Company to receive disclosures that may qualify for protection under the Corporations Act, e.g. the Whistleblower Officer; (e) a legal practitioner for the purposes of obtaining legal advice or legal representation; (f) ASIC; or (g) APRA.
- 3 Reasonable grounds: The whistleblower has reasonable grounds to suspect that the information being disclosed concerns misconduct, or an improper state of affairs or circumstances, in relation to the Regulated Company or a related body corporate of the Regulated Company. This may include a breach of legislation including the Corporations Act<sup>1</sup>, an offence against the Commonwealth punishable by imprisonment for 12 months or more or conduct that represents a danger to the public or financial system.

### **Summary of protections**

When the above conditions are met, the Corporations Act provides the following protections:

- 1 The whistleblower is immune from any civil, criminal or administrative legal action (including disciplinary action) for making the disclosure.
- 2 No contractual or other remedy may be enforced, and no contractual or other right may be exercised, against the whistleblower on the basis of the disclosure.
- 3 In certain circumstances<sup>2</sup>, the information will not be admissible in evidence against the whistleblower in criminal proceedings for the imposition of a penalty, other than proceedings in respect of the falsity of the information.
- 4 Anyone who causes or threatens to cause detriment to a whistleblower or another person in the belief or suspicion that a report has been made, or may have been made, proposes to or

---

<sup>1</sup> Examples of conduct which may amount to a breach of the Corporations Act include insider trading, insolvent trading, breach of continuous disclosure obligations, failure to keep accurate financial records; breach of director duties by a director or directors (e.g. duty exercise their powers and discharge their duties with the care and diligence that a reasonable person would exercise; duty not to improperly use position or information; duty to act in the best interests of the company and for a proper purpose.

<sup>2</sup> For example where the disclosure has been made to ASIC or APRA, or where the disclosure qualifies as a public interest or emergency disclosure under section 1317AAD of the Corporations Act.

could be made, may be guilty of an offence and may be liable for damages.

- 5 A whistleblower's identity, or information that is likely to lead to the identification of the whistleblower, cannot be disclosed to a Court or tribunal except where it is necessary to do so to give effect to Part 9.4AAA of the Corporations Act (which contains the whistleblower protection regime) or the Court or tribunal thinks it is necessary in the interests of justice to do so.
- 6 The person receiving the report commits an offence if they disclose the identity of the whistleblower, information that is likely to lead to the identification of the whistleblower, unless the whistleblower consents; or the disclosure is made to ASIC, APRA, a member of the Australian Federal Police (as defined in the Australian Federal Police Act 1979 (Cth)) or a legal practitioner for the purposes of obtaining legal advice or legal representation.

Except as provided for in paragraph 3 above, the protections do not prevent the whistleblower being subject to any civil, criminal or administrative liability for conduct of the whistleblower that is revealed by the disclosure.

The offence in paragraph 6 does not apply if the disclosure is not of the identity of the whistleblower and is reasonably necessary for the purposes of investigating a matter and all reasonable steps are taken to reduce the risk that the whistleblower will be identified as a result of the disclosure.

#### **'Public interest' and 'emergency' disclosure**

A 'public interest disclosure' may be made 90 days after the original disclosure where the whistleblower has reasonable grounds to believe that their original disclosure is not being acted on. Where the whistleblower has reasonable grounds to believe that a further disclosure is in the public interest, they must then give notice of their intent to go public before telling a member of Parliament and/or a journalist.

An 'emergency disclosure' is one in which the whistleblower 'has reasonable grounds to believe that the information concerns a substantial and imminent danger the health or safety of one or more persons, or to the natural environment'. To be protected, the whistleblower must notify the Regulated Company of their intent to make an emergency disclosure before telling a member of Parliament and/or a journalist.

This Annexure A set out a summary of the whistleblower protection regime in Part 9.4AAA of the Corporations Act. A person seeking to rely on the protections afforded in Part 9.4AAA of the Corporations Act should seek specific legal advice.

## **Annexure B – Protections for whistleblowers under the Taxation Administration Act**

Part IVD of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* (Cth) (Taxation Administration Act) contains a whistleblower protection regime. Under this regime, disclosure about any misconduct or improper state of affairs or circumstances, in relation to the tax affairs<sup>3</sup> of a Regulated Company or an associate within the meaning of section 318 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1946* (Cth) (Associate) of the Regulated Company if the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1 Eligible whistleblower : The whistleblower is or has been: (a) an officer or employee of the Regulated Company; (b) an individual who supplies services or goods to the Regulated Company (whether paid or unpaid) or an employee of a person who supplies services or goods to the Regulated Company (whether paid or unpaid); (c) an individual who is an Associate of the Regulated Company; (d) a spouse or child of an individual referred to in any of paragraphs (a) to (c); a dependant of an individual referred to in any of paragraphs (a) to (c), or of such an individual's spouse.
- 2 Eligible recipient: The report is made to: (a) an auditor, or a member of an audit team conducting an audit of the Regulated Company; (b) a registered tax agent or BAS agent who provides tax agent services or BAS services to the Regulated Company; (c) a person authorised by the Regulated Company to receive disclosures that may qualify for protection under the Corporations Act, e.g. the Whistleblower Officer; (d) a director, secretary or senior manager of the Regulated Company; (e) any other employee or officer of the Regulated Company who has functions or duties that relate to the tax affairs of the Regulated Company; (f) the Commissioner of Taxation; (g) a legal practitioner for the purpose of obtaining legal advice or legal representation in relation to the operation of Part IVD of the Taxation Administration Act. The persons referred to paragraphs (a) to (e) are Company recipients.
- 3 Reasonable grounds where report made to a Company recipient: The whistleblower has reasonable grounds to suspect that the information indicates misconduct, or an improper state of affairs or circumstances, in relation to the tax affairs of the Regulated Company or an Associate and the whistleblower considers that the information may assist the eligible recipient to perform functions or duties in relation to the tax affairs of the Regulated Company or an Associate of the Regulated Company.
- 4 Reasonable grounds where report made to the Commissioner of Taxation: The whistleblower considers that the information may assist the Commissioner of Taxation to perform his or her functions or duties under a taxation law in relation to the Regulated Company or an Associate of the Regulated Company.

### **Summary of protections**

When the above conditions are met, the Taxation Administration Act provides the following protections:

- 1 The whistleblower is immune from any civil, criminal or administrative legal action (including disciplinary action) for making the disclosure.

---

<sup>3</sup> Tax affairs means affairs relating to any tax imposed by or under, or assessed or collected under, a law administered by the Commissioner of Taxation.



- 2 No contractual or other remedy may be enforced, and no contractual or other right may be exercised, against the whistleblower on the basis of the disclosure.
- 3 If the disclosure was a disclosure of information to the Commissioner of Taxation – the information will not be admissible in evidence against the whistleblower in criminal proceedings for the imposition of a penalty, other than proceedings in respect of the falsity of the information.
- 4 Anyone who causes or threatens to cause detriment to a whistleblower or another person in the belief or suspicion that a report has been made, or may have been made, proposes to or could be made, may be guilty of an offence and may be liable for damages.
- 5 A whistleblower's identity, or information that is likely to lead to the identification of the whistleblower, cannot be disclosed to a Court or tribunal except where it is necessary to do so to give effect to Part IVD of the Taxation Administration Act (which contains the whistleblower protection regime) or the Court or tribunal thinks it is necessary in the interests of justice to do so.
- 6 The person receiving the report commits an offence if they disclose the identity of the whistleblower, information that is likely to lead to the identification of the whistleblower, unless the whistleblower consents; or the disclosure is made to a member of the Australian Federal Police (as defined in the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979* (Cth)) or a legal practitioner for the purposes of obtaining legal advice or legal representation.

Except as provided for in paragraph 3 immediately above, the protections do not prevent the whistleblower being subject to any civil, criminal or administrative liability for conduct of the whistleblower that is revealed by the disclosure.

Without limiting the protections in paragraphs 1 to 3 immediately above, the whistleblower has qualified privilege in respect of the disclosure and a contract to which the whistleblower is a party may not be terminated on the basis that the disclosure constitutes a breach of the contract.

The offence in paragraph 6 immediately above does not apply if the disclosure is not of the identity of the whistleblower and is reasonably necessary for the purposes of investigating a matter and all reasonable steps are taken to reduce the risk that the whistleblower will be identified as a result of the disclosure.

This Annexure B set out a summary of the whistleblower protection regime in Part IVD of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* (Cth). A person seeking to rely on the protections afforded in Part IVD of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* (Cth) should seek specific legal advice.