

# **Guidance Statement GS 008**

## ***The Auditor's Report on a Remuneration Report Under Section 300A of the Corporations Act 2001***

Issued by the **Auditing and Assurance Standards Board**

*Draft*

### **DISCLAIMER**

This document contains draft proposals to be considered at a meeting of the AUASB, and does not necessarily reflect the final decisions and/or proposals to be contained in a published Exposure Draft or Auditing Standard. No responsibility is taken by the AUASB for the results of reliance, actions or omissions to act on the basis of any information contained in this document (including appendices), or for any errors or omissions in it.



**Australian Government**

**Auditing and Assurance Standards Board**

## **Obtaining a Copy of this Guidance Statement**

This Guidance Statement is available on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) website: [www.auasb.gov.au](http://www.auasb.gov.au)

### **Contact Details**

Auditing and Assurance Standards Board  
Podium Level 14, 530 Collins Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000  
AUSTRALIA

Phone: (03) 8080 7400  
E-mail: [enquiries@auasb.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@auasb.gov.au)

**Postal Address:**  
PO Box 204, Collins Street West  
Melbourne Victoria 8007  
AUSTRALIA

*Draft*

### **COPYRIGHT**

© 2019 Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB). The text, graphics and layout of this Guidance Statement are protected by Australian copyright law and the comparable law of other countries. Reproduction within Australia in unaltered form (retaining this notice) is permitted for personal and non-commercial use subject to the inclusion of an acknowledgment of the source as being the AUASB.

Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and rights for commercial purposes should be addressed to the Technical Director, Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, PO Box 204, Collins Street West, Melbourne, Victoria 8007 or sent to [enquiries@auasb.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@auasb.gov.au). Otherwise, no part of this Guidance Statement may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the AUASB except as permitted by law.

ISSN 1833-7600

*Important Note*

Guidance Statements are developed and issued by the AUASB to provide guidance to auditors and assurance practitioners on certain procedural, entity or industry specific matters related to the application of an AUASB Standard(s).

Guidance Statements are designed to provide assistance to auditors and assurance practitioners to assist them in fulfilling the objective(s) of the audit or other assurance engagement. Accordingly, Guidance Statements refer to, and are written in the context of specific AUASB Standard(s); and where relevant, legislation, regulation or other authoritative publication. Guidance Statements are not aimed at providing guidance covering all aspects of the audit or other assurance engagement. Further, Guidance Statements do not establish or extend the requirements under an existing AUASB Standard(s).

Guidance Statement *The Auditor's Report on a Remuneration Report Under Section 300A of the Corporations Act 2001* is not, and is not intended to be, a substitute for compliance with the relevant AUASB Standard(s) and auditors and assurance practitioners are required to comply with the relevant AUASB Standard(s) when conducting an audit or other assurance engagement.

Draft

**CONTENTS**

**AUTHORITY STATEMENT**

	<i>Paragraphs</i>
<b>Application</b> .....	1-2
<b>Issuance Date</b> .....	3
<b>Introduction</b> .....	4-5
<b>Auditor’s Reporting Requirements</b>	
Responsibility to Express an Opinion on the Remuneration Report.....	6-9
Materiality .....	10
Modifications.....	11
<b>The Auditor’s Report</b> .....	12
<b>Conformity with International Pronouncements</b> .....	13
Appendix 1: Illustrative Example of an Unmodified Auditor’s Report Addressing the Auditor’s Additional Reporting Responsibilities Pursuant to Section 308(3C) of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i>	
Appendix 2: Illustrative Example of a Modified Auditor’s Report Addressing the Auditor’s Additional Reporting Responsibilities Pursuant to Section 308(3C) of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> – Qualified Opinion	

*Draft*

### **AUTHORITY STATEMENT**

The Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) formulates Guidance Statement GS 008 *The Auditor's Report on a Remuneration Report Under Section 300A of the Corporations Act 2001* pursuant to section 227B of the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001*, for the purposes of providing guidance on auditing and assurance matters.

This Guidance Statement provides guidance to assist the auditor to fulfil the objectives of the audit or assurance engagement. It includes explanatory material on specific matters for the purposes of understanding and complying with AUASB Standards. The auditor exercises professional judgement when using this Guidance Statement.

This Guidance Statement does not prescribe or create new requirements.

Dated: <TypeHere>

R Simnett AO  
Chair - AUASB

*Draft*

## GUIDANCE STATEMENT GS 008

### *The Auditor's Report on a Remuneration Report Under Section 300A of the Corporations Act 2001*

#### Application

1. This Guidance Statement has been formulated by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) to provide guidance to auditors reporting pursuant to section 308(3C) of the *Corporations Act 2001* ("the Act") regarding the Remuneration Report required to be included in the annual directors' report pursuant to section 300A of the Act ("the Remuneration Report").

#### Issuance Date

2. This Guidance Statement is issued on 1 October 2019 by the AUASB and replaces GS 008 *The Auditor's Report on a Remuneration Report Under Section 300A of the Corporations Act 2001* issued in March 2010.

#### Introduction

3. Section 300A of the Act specifies information to be provided by listed companies<sup>1</sup> in the annual directors' report. This information includes a Remuneration Report. The auditor's objective is to express an opinion on whether the Remuneration Report complies with section 300A of the Act.

#### Auditor's Reporting Requirements

##### Responsibility to Express an Opinion on the Remuneration Report

4. Section 308(3C) of the Act requires that, if the directors' report for the financial year includes a Remuneration Report, the auditor must also report to members on whether the auditor is of the opinion that the Remuneration Report complies with section 300A of the Act. If not of that opinion, the auditor's report must state why.
5. The requirement to express a distinct opinion on the Remuneration Report in the directors' report is additional to the auditor's responsibility to express an opinion on the financial report. In accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 700 *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on a Financial Report*, the auditor is required to address other reporting responsibilities in a separate section of the auditor's report that follows the opinion paragraph on the financial report, in order to clearly distinguish them from the auditor's primary responsibility to express an opinion on the financial report.<sup>2</sup>
6. Where a company has included a Remuneration Report in the annual directors' report pursuant to section 300A of the Act, the auditor's report identifies clearly the paragraph numbers or pages of the directors' report that have been audited pursuant to section 308(3C) of the Act. This is necessary to avoid any misunderstanding by users as to which part of the directors' report has been subjected to audit.
7. Furthermore, the auditor's report describes the respective responsibilities of the directors and the auditor in relation to the Remuneration Report. See Appendix 1 for an illustrative example of an unmodified report.

---

<sup>1</sup> Listed companies is defined in the *Corporations Act 2001*.  
<sup>2</sup> See ASA 700, paragraph 38.

### **Materiality**

8. The suggested form of opinion on the Remuneration Report, included in the Appendices to this Guidance Statement, does not make reference to materiality. An auditor exercises professional judgement in considering reporting responsibilities under the Act, including considering additional regulatory reporting obligations, such as under section 311 of the Act, for significant breaches of the Act.

### **Modifications**

9. Modifications to the auditor's report in relation to the Remuneration Report are made in accordance with ASA 705 *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report*. See Appendix 2 for an illustrative example of a modified report.

### **The Auditor's Report**

10. The example of an unmodified auditor's report, included as [Aus] Illustration 1A in Appendix 1 of ASA 700 incorporates the audit reporting requirements of the Act and the Auditing Standards. This auditor's report format has been used in the Appendices to this Guidance Statement to illustrate example wording regarding the auditor's reporting responsibilities over the Remuneration Report, pursuant to section 308(3C) of the Act.

### **Conformity with International Pronouncements**

11. As this Guidance Statement relates to Australian legislative requirements under the Act, there is no equivalent International Standard on Auditing or Auditing Practice Statement to this Guidance Statement.

## **Appendix 1**

(Ref: Para. 9)

### **ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE OF AN UNMODIFIED AUDITOR'S REPORT ADDRESSING THE AUDITOR'S ADDITIONAL REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 308(3C) OF THE *CORPORATIONS ACT 2001***

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of the financial report of a single listed company. The audit is not a group audit (i.e. ASA 600 does not apply).
- The financial report is prepared by the directors of the company in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (a general purpose framework) and under the *Corporations Act 2001*.
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of the directors' responsibility for the financial report in ASA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e. "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ASA 570.
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ASA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- In addition to the audit of the financial report, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under section 308(3C) of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The auditor's reporting requirements over the Remuneration Report are additional to the auditor's reporting requirements regarding the financial report and, accordingly, are contained in a separate section of the auditor's report following the opinion paragraph on the financial report—see ASA 700, paragraphs 43-45.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of ABC Company Ltd. (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 20X1, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of ABC Company Ltd., is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 20X1 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.\*

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the financial report of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ASA 701.]

#### **Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ASA 720 – see [Aus] Illustration 1A in Appendix 3 of ASA 720.]

---

\* Or, alternatively, include statements (a) to the effect that circumstances have changed since the declaration was given to the relevant directors; and (b) setting out how the declaration would differ if it had been given to the relevant directors at the time the auditor's report was made. [Section 307C (5A)(d) of the *Corporations Act 2001*.]

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 20X1, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report**

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

[A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.]

Paragraph 41(b) of ASA 700 explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report.

Paragraph 41(c) of ASA 700 explains that when law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below. When the auditor refers to a description of the auditor's responsibilities on a website, the appropriate authority is the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and the website address is <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx> (Ref: Para. Aus A57.1 of ASA 700)

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the directors, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

## **Report on the Remuneration Report**

### *Opinion on the Remuneration Report*

We have audited the Remuneration Report included in [paragraphs a to b or pages x to y] of the directors' report for the year ended 30 June 20X1.

In our opinion, the Remuneration Report of ABC Company Ltd., for the year [period] ended 30 June 20X1, complies with section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

### *Responsibilities*

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Remuneration Report in accordance with section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Remuneration Report, based on our audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

[Auditor's name and signature]\*

[Name of Firm]

[Date of the auditor's report]#

[Auditor's address]

---

\* The auditor is required, under the *Corporations Act 2001*, to sign the auditor's report in both their own name and the name of their firm [section 324AB(3)] or the name of the audit company [section 324AD(1)], as applicable.

# The date of the auditor's report is the date the auditor signs the report.

## **Appendix 2**

(Ref: Para. 11)

### **ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE OF A MODIFIED AUDITOR'S REPORT ADDRESSING THE AUDITOR'S ADDITIONAL REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 308(3C) OF THE *CORPORATIONS ACT 2001*—QUALIFIED OPINION**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of the financial report of a single listed company. The audit is not a group audit (i.e. ASA 600 does not apply).
- The financial report is prepared by the directors of the company in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (a general purpose framework) and under the *Corporations Act 2001*.
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of the directors' responsibility for the financial report in ASA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e. "clean") opinion on the financial report is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ASA 570.
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with ASA 701.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- In addition to the audit of the financial report, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under section 308(3C) of the *Corporations Act 2001*.
- The auditor's reporting requirements regarding the Remuneration Report are additional to the auditor's reporting requirements regarding the financial report and, accordingly, are contained in a separate section of the auditor's report following the opinion paragraph on the financial report—see ASA 700, paragraphs 43-45.
- The auditor has concluded a qualified opinion on the remuneration report is necessary based on the audit evidence obtained.

Note: As the example below relates to a qualified opinion, the report on the Remuneration Report will need to be amended accordingly where an adverse or disclaimer of opinion is required.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of ABC Company Ltd. (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 20X1, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of ABC Company Ltd., is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 20X1 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.\*

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the financial report of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with ASA 701.]

**Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in ASA 720 – see [Aus] Illustration 1A in Appendix 3 of ASA 720.]

---

\* Or, alternatively, include statements (a) to the effect that circumstances have changed since the declaration was given to the relevant directors; and (b) setting out how the declaration would differ if it had been given to the relevant directors at the time the auditor's report was made. [Section 307C (5A)(d) of the *Corporations Act 2001*.]

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 20X1, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report**

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

[A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.]

Paragraph 41(b) of ASA 700 explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report.

Paragraph 41(c) of ASA 700 explains that when law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below. When the auditor refers to a description of the auditor's responsibilities on a website, the appropriate authority is the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and the website address is <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx> (Ref: Para. Aus A57.1 of ASA 700)

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the directors, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

## **Report on the Remuneration Report**

### *Qualified Opinion on the Remuneration Report*

We have audited the Remuneration Report included in [paragraphs a to b or pages x to y] of the directors' report for the year ended 30 June 20X1.

In our opinion, except for the effect(s) on the Remuneration Report of the matter(s) referred to in the following paragraph, the Remuneration Report of ABC Company Ltd., for the [period] ended 30 June 20X1, complies with section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

### *Basis for Qualified Opinion on the Remuneration Report*

[Include a clear description of all the substantive reasons for the modification].

### *Responsibilities*

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Remuneration Report in accordance with section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Remuneration Report, based on our audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

[Auditor's name and signature]\*

[Name of Firm]

[Date of the auditor's report]#

[Auditor's address]

---

\* The auditor is required, under the *Corporations Act 2001*, to sign the auditor's report in both their own name and the name of their firm [section 324AB(3)] or the name of the audit company [section 324AD(1)], as applicable.  
# The date of the auditor's report is the date the auditor signs the report.