



THE LAW SOCIETY  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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9 September 2015

General Manager  
Financial System and Services Division  
The Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
Parkes ACT 2600

By email: [smallptycompanies@treasury.gov.au](mailto:smallptycompanies@treasury.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Facilitating crowd-sourced equity funding and reducing compliance costs for small business – Consultation Paper**

I am writing on behalf of the Business Law Committee ("Committee") of the Law Society of New South Wales. The Committee represents the Law Society on business law issues and includes experts drawn from the ranks of the Law Society's membership.

The Committee has reviewed the Treasury Consultation Paper, 'Facilitating crowd-sourced equity funding and reducing compliance costs for small business' ("Consultation Paper") and appreciates the opportunity to provide comments.

The Committee notes that the Australian Government is committed to developing crowd-sourced equity funding ("CSEF") legislation, with the aim of introducing it to Parliament in the Spring parliamentary sittings of 2015. The legislation will include investment caps to protect investors.

**Law Council of Australia's SME Business Law Committee**

The Committee has reviewed the submission of the Law Council of Australia's Business Law Section SME Business Law Committee dated 31 August 2015 in response to the Consultation Paper ("SME Committee submission").

The Committee endorses the SME Committee submission, subject to the comments below. A copy of that submission is attached.

The SME Committee's position is that proprietary companies which access CSEF should comply with the obligations of large proprietary companies; that is, they must prepare annual financial reports and a directors' report, have the financial report audited and send both reports to shareholders and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission ("ASIC"). On balance, the Committee considers that this provides the appropriate level of disclosure and maintains consistency with the level of disclosure proposed for public companies.

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Law Council  
OF AUSTRALIA  
CONSTITUENT BODY

## Reducing compliance costs for small proprietary companies

### *The solvency resolution*

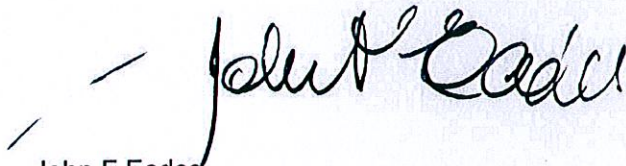
The Committee considers that the requirement for directors of small proprietary companies to make an annual solvency resolution is appropriate and an effective reminder to directors of their obligations. The Committee does not consider there is any benefit to aligning the making of the solvency declaration with the making of the company's tax return.

### *ASIC forms*

In response to Question 29, the Committee does not consider, at this time, that there are any forms that need to be removed, amended or streamlined to reduce the compliance burden on small proprietary companies.

The Committee would welcome an opportunity to be involved in any future stakeholder consultation. Any questions may be directed to Liza Booth, Policy Lawyer for the Committee on (02) 9926 0202 or by email to [liza.booth@lawsociety.com.au](mailto:liza.booth@lawsociety.com.au)

Yours faithfully,



John F Eades  
President



Law Council  
OF AUSTRALIA

*Business Law Section*

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Via email: [smallptycompanies@treasury.gov.au](mailto:smallptycompanies@treasury.gov.au)

31 August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Consultation Paper dated August 2015 on 'Facilitating crowd-sourced equity funding and reducing compliance costs for small businesses' (CSEF Paper)**

**Introduction**

The Law Council of Australia is the peak national body representing the legal profession in Australia.

The Small and Medium Enterprise Business Law Committee of the Business Law Section of the Law Council of Australia (**SME Committee**) makes this submission in response to the Consultation Paper dated August 2015, released by Treasury.

The SME Committee has as its primary focus the consideration of legal and commercial issues affecting small businesses and medium enterprises (**SMEs**) in the development of national legal policy in that domain. Its membership is comprised of legal practitioners who are extensively involved in legal issues affecting SMEs.

Please note that the SME Committee's submission may differ from those made by other Committees of the Law Council because of our Committee members' perspectives and experiences as advisers to SMEs.

**Other Submissions**

The Corporations Committee of the Business Law Section of the Law Council of Australia (**Corporations Committee**) is also lodging a submission on the CSEF Discussion Paper.

On 12 November 2013 the Corporations Committee lodged with the Corporations and Markets Advisory Committee (**CAMAC**) a Submission (**the CAMAC Submission**) to the CAMAC Discussion Paper on CSEF of September 2013. On 6 February 2015 each of the Corporations Committee and the SME Committee lodged with Treasury Submissions in

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**BLS**

response to the Discussion Paper dated December 2014 on 'Crowd-sourced Equity Funding'.

### **SME Committee Position**

The SME Committee notes that fundraising on-line is also done through receipt of small gifts or donations to start ups and innovators or persons or entities with projects or causes that require monetary support. These gifts are not made in return for an issue of any equity (or debt) interest and it appears the donors are not concerned to participate in any success or growth of the enterprise, although some of these enterprises do provide the donors with a service or reward, such as an opportunity to meet the innovator or the receipt of a sample good or service.

Aside from such money raising enterprises having to ensure they are not misleading or deceptive with regard to consumers (donors) or fraudulent, there is currently no regulatory structure that applies to them because no equity or debt interests are issued to donors. As no interest issues to donors, the legislation on anti-hawking and disclosures does not apply.

Clearly there are opportunities for unscrupulous operators to take advantage of the generosity of consumers (donors) in this unregulated environment and the risk accepted by donors would be dependent on each donor's appetite and funding ability.

The SME Committee considers that this 'online donation' funding should also be looked at by government given how accessible this method is both to willing donors and to unscrupulous operators.

With regard to CSEF, the SME Committee recognizes that in order for SME start ups and innovators to be able to access equity funding of small amounts from large numbers of investors, particularly through social media forums, which is the basis behind crowd-sourced funding, changes need to be made to the existing legislation, particularly to the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

The existing corporate legislation was drafted to provide regulatory relief for small numbers of investors through restricting the number of shareholders in proprietary companies to less than 50. Where there are more than 50 shareholders, which takes the entity into the public company domain, complex and costly disclosures are required to protect investors (subject to some carve outs which don't assist crowd sourced funding). Likewise, offers to large numbers of small value investors through a trust is also regulated by similar legislation that covers governance and disclosure requirements designed to protect investors.

In the following Submission responses, the SME Committee will be limiting its comments to those issues which it believes are relevant for SME businesses and for which the SME Committee has knowledge.

### **Responses**

The SME Committee responds to the Consultation Questions asked in the Consultation Paper as follows:

## Appropriateness of the shareholder limit

1. Should the law be amended to increase the permitted number of non-employee shareholders in a proprietary company and what would be an appropriate limit?

### Answer

*The SME Committee's position is that the law should be amended. In the Committee's view the appropriate limit on the increased number of shareholders should be a calculation as a consequence of the minimum and maximum investment amounts considered suitable to enable small business start ups and entrepreneurs to raise sufficient capital to allow their company to commence and gain traction in its activities over a reasonable period of time, while protecting the investors.*

*If, for example, CSEF allowed a company (whether proprietary or public) to raise a maximum of \$5 million over a 5 year period, and also wanted to set a cap of, say, \$10,000 on the amount an investor could contribute, then the company would need to be able to have at least 500 shareholders, each investing the maximum.*

Or do companies with more than 50 non-employee shareholders have a sufficiently diverse ownership base with limited access to information or ability to influence the affairs of the company to justify the greater governance requirements currently placed on them?

### Answer

*Currently, companies with more than 50 non-employee shareholders, that is public companies, do have a sufficiently diverse ownership base, although often with limited access to management information and ability to influence the affairs of the company. The investors tend to be advised as the public company requires the increased governance placed on them as they currently can only raise capital (subject to certain exceptions) with costly regulated disclosure and tend to do so from the public through professional investment intermediaries.*

2. What are the benefits and risks? For example, would raising the limit expose risks to shareholder protection?

### Answer

*The SME Committee considers that raising the permitted number of non-employee shareholders for proprietary companies should not raise risks for shareholder protection ability so long as the maximum amount of investment is set at an acceptable level that recognises an amount an investor could be prepared to risk with information receipt less than currently available in a prospectus.*

3. Have there been changes to market practice or the broader operating environment such that shareholders and investors now have greater access to management or information about a company's performance?

### Answer

*In essence, the SME Committee notes that although in recent years social media and web-based access to information has changed the environment in which companies conduct their operations, shareholders and investors do not really have any greater*

*access to management or information about a company's performance than they have had in the past. Information provided to investors remains vetted by management with increased professional messaging resources to ensure the position of the company remains as attractive as possible. The only constraint on this messaging is the obligation not to be misleading or deceptive....which applies for all companies whether public or proprietary.*

What are the ways by which management now remains accountable to shareholders or shareholders otherwise have access to information about a company?

Answer

*Management remains accountable to shareholders through the disclosure regime applicable to the type of company, and through share price and required reporting regimes, which is also how shareholders obtain information not available through a company's web pages.*

4. If the shareholder limit were increased, how should the law treat public companies which become eligible to be registered as proprietary companies but have issued shares under a disclosure document?

Answer

*Public companies that become eligible to be proprietary companies but have issued shares under a disclosure document should remain obligated to comply with the information as set out in that disclosure document for those shareholder who invested as a consequence of that disclosure document.*

**Small scale offerings and other exceptions to the disclosure requirements**

5. Should the law be amended to increase the 20 investor limit and/or the \$2 million cap? What would be an appropriate limit? Should the \$2 million cap be linked to increase in line with the consumer price index (CPI)?

Answer

*The SME Committee considers that the small scale offerings limits may prove redundant should a CSEF regime become law. Alternatively, the limits on small scale offerings would need to be aligned to those available under CSEF. If the small scale offerings provisions are to be used to provide for CSEF, then the 20 investor limit and the \$2million funding cap would need to be increased as set out on the Committee's answer to Question 1.*

6. What are the benefits and risks of increasing the 20 investor limit and/or the \$2 million cap? Who would benefit or bear the risk? Could there be unintended consequences from altering these limits, for example in terms of the definition of a sophisticated investor?

Answer

*The Committee considers this will depend on which regulatory compliance requirements for public companies are maintained for exempt public companies. So long as the CSEF regime only maintains those requirements necessary to ensure appropriate investor protection in light of investor value loss risk, compliance costs for*

*the exempt public company itself should reduce so as to become viable compared with current compliance costs.*

7. Could other exceptions to the requirement to issue a disclosure document provide benefits to small proprietary companies if amended?

Answer

*In the Committee's view, so long as limits are imposed as proposed, even if companies use exempt public company structure for regulator arbitrage, the impact would be minimal.*

**Increasing flexibility in capital raising**

8. Would increasing the shareholder limit for proprietary companies and/or expanding the small scale offerings exception to the disclosure requirements provide small proprietary companies with sufficient additional flexibility to raise capital?

Answer

*The SME Committee considers that so long as the proposed caps and thresholds are appropriate to provide investor protection reflective of the value risk, and the appropriate limit on the increased number of shareholders is a calculation as a consequence of the minimum and maximum investment amounts considered suitable to enable small business start ups and entrepreneurs to raise sufficient capital to allow their company to commence and gain traction in its activities, while protecting the investors, increasing the shareholder limit for proprietary companies and/or expanding the small scale offerings exception to the disclosure requirements for public companies should enable small proprietary companies that are start ups or entrepreneurs sufficient additional flexibility to raise the capital they require.*

*However, if the funding is to be enabled from the 'crowd', it may be that a minimum value limit needs to be imposed and a larger number of shareholders allowed to enable a small company looking to raise a large amount of money from a large number of very small investors.*

**Crowd-sourced equity funding**

9. Should proprietary companies be able to access CSEF?

Answer

*It is the position of the SME Committee that proprietary companies should be able to access CSEF in order to enable small business start ups and entrepreneurs to raise sufficient capital to allow their company to commence and gain traction in their activities, while protecting the investors.*

*The SME Committee considers that proprietary companies are the most appropriate vehicle for small business start ups and entrepreneurs to look to raise funds through as the compliance obligations for public companies require increased support costs.*

*Consequently the Committee supports proprietary companies being able to access CSEF, but recognises that without an increase in shareholder number limits, the ability to raise funds would not be improved from the current position.*

What are the implications for the corporate law framework of permitting proprietary companies to do so?

Answer

*In the SME Committee's view, this does not change the principles upon which the Corporate Law framework is based, yet recognises the rapidly changing commercial environment in which companies operate and the public investors' increasing appetite to assist start ups and entrepreneurs, which also currently occurs through unregulated donation funding.*

10. If the shareholder limit is not changed for all proprietary companies, should proprietary companies be able to access CSEF?

Answer

*The benefit for proprietary companies in accessing CSEF would be lost if shareholder numbers are not increased to allow the raising of sufficient capital to allow a company to commence and gain traction in their activities.*

If so, should the shareholder limit be changed specifically for proprietary companies using CSEF? What are the benefits and risks of this approach? Would the benefits outweigh the additional complexity of increasing the shareholder limit for a subset of proprietary companies?

Answer

*The SME Committee considers that the number of non-employee shareholders needs to be assessed based upon the proposed caps and thresholds that are appropriate to provide investor protection reflective of the value risk, so that the appropriate limit on the increased number of shareholders is a calculation as a consequence of the minimum and maximum investment amounts considered suitable to enable small business start ups and entrepreneurs to raise sufficient capital to allow their company to commence and gain traction in its activities. The SME Committee considers that the proposed investor funding caps do adequately balance protecting investors and limiting investor choice, by limiting the investment value risk for the proposed 'crowd' investors and thereby should result in the maintenance of investor confidence in CSEF and therefore its sustainability as a fundraising model.*

If the shareholder limit were to be increased only for proprietary companies using CSEF, is 100 non-employee shareholders an appropriate cap?

Answer

*The Committee does not consider 100 non-employee shareholders to be a sufficient number to enable funding of the amounts proposed. The Committee notes that the number of shareholders contributes to the company's ability to raise capital. If the amount each investor is allowed to invest is capped, as is proposed to limit investment risk, and the total amount a company is allowed to raise is capped for CSEF purposes, then it should not be necessary to cap the number of shareholders; or if that number is to be capped, it should be large, for eg some thousands, to provide for large numbers of small value investors.*



*For example, to raise \$5 million with a cap per investor of \$10,000 would require 500 investors. If a minimum investment was set at, say \$1,000, then that would require 5,000 investors at that minimum amount.*

11. Should any increase in the shareholder limit solely for proprietary companies using CSEF be temporary, based on time and size limits? What are the benefits and risks of this approach?

Answer

*An increase in shareholder number limits only for proprietary companies that access CSEF would, in the Committee's view, be quite appropriate given the purpose of CSEF. There would not be any increased complexity other than a proprietary company accessing CSEF by meeting the CSEF disclosure rules, and maintaining appropriate records of investors/shareholders. Benefits would outweigh any additional complexity for those proprietary companies that choose to access CSEF.*

If the increased shareholder limit is temporary, what arrangements should apply when a company is no longer eligible for the higher shareholder limit (owing either to the expiry of the time limit or exceeding the caps on company size)? Should it be required to convert to a public company? Or should it have the option to conform with the general proprietary company obligations, including the non-employee shareholder limit?

Answer

*The Committee considers that an increase in the shareholder limited for proprietary companies using CSEF should not be temporary. However, if after a period of time (eg 5 years) the company has increased its value to a set level, the CSEF regime perhaps should require the company to convert to a public company and take on the applicable compliance obligations. Alternatively, the Committee acknowledges that such a company should be given the option of repurchasing shares so as to revert to conforming with general proprietary company obligations rather than having to convert to a public company.*

12. If permitted to access CSEF, should proprietary companies using CSEF be subject to additional transparency obligations when raising funds via CSEF?

Answer

*The SME Committee's position is that the disclosure obligations for proprietary companies that access CSEF should be the same as that of public companies that access CSEF. The investor protection requirements should be the same and should be kept to the minimum required to enable an investor to be sufficiently informed to make a capped investment without being misled or deceived into doing so.*

*These obligations should only apply while the proprietary company accesses CSEF, and, as in the answer to Question 11, should the company after a period of time either revert to the general proprietary company regime or convert to be a public company, those CSEF obligations would cease to apply.*

Do you agree with the proposals for annual reporting and audit? Should these be implemented by requiring proprietary companies that have used CSEF to comply with the obligations of large proprietary companies? Should any other obligations apply?

Answer

*The SME Committee's position is that the disclosure obligations for proprietary companies that access CSEF should be the same as that of public companies that access CSEF and that, in both cases, the obligations should be more than currently applies for small proprietary companies but less than for public companies, The Committee considers the obligations of large proprietary companies would be appropriate.*

Given the Government has committed to introducing a CSEF framework for public companies that will include certain reporting exemptions, what are the benefits of permitting proprietary companies to use CSEF when they would be subject to additional transparency obligations?

Do you agree that these obligations should be permanent?

Answer

*The Committee believes that additional reporting requirements for proprietary companies that access CSEF should be acceptable to enable proprietary companies that are small business start ups and entrepreneurs to raise sufficient capital to allow their company to commence and gain traction in its activities. The benefits of being able to raise capital would outweigh any additional complexity for those proprietary companies that choose to access CSEF.*

13. Do you consider that an annual fundraising cap of \$5 million, and eligibility caps of \$5 million in annual turnover and gross assets, are appropriate for proprietary companies using CSEF? If not, what do you consider would be appropriate fundraising caps and eligibility criteria?

Answer

*In the SME Committee's view an annual fundraising cap of \$5 million, and eligibility caps of \$5 million in annual turnover and gross assets are currently appropriate for SME proprietary start ups and entrepreneurs. The Committee suggests that these amounts be increased annually in line with the CPI.*

14. Are there any other elements of the CSEF framework for public companies that should be amended if proprietary companies were permitted to use CSEF?

Answer

*The SME Committee's position is that the disclosure obligations for proprietary companies that access CSEF should be the same as that of public companies that access CSEF. The investor protection requirements should be the same and should be kept to the minimum required to enable an investor to be sufficiently informed to make a capped investment without being misled or deceived into doing so.*

*These obligations should only apply while the proprietary company accesses CSEF, and, as in the answer to Question 11, should the company after a period of time either revert to the general proprietary company regime or convert to be a public company, those CSEF obligations would cease to apply.*

*In the Committee's opinion obstacles to CSEF that exist under the status quo would certainly drive potential issuers, intermediaries and investors to move to jurisdictions that have implemented CSEF regimes. Further, as 'crowd' sourced funding has developed through social media forums, the jurisdictional location of the platform hosting the 'issue' may not be Australia.*

*The SME Committee queries whether it would be appropriate for SME Start ups and entrepreneurs to utilise intermediaries looking to assist companies accessing CSEF by providing access to investors through the intermediary's platform. Such an access structure would require the SME Start up or entrepreneur to suffer fees payable to the intermediary. The intermediary industry no doubt is enthusiastic to assist companies that wish to access CSEF but given the objective of raising small amounts (up to \$5 million) the fees charged by intermediaries would of necessity be a cost an SME start up or entrepreneur would often choose best not to incur.*

### **The solvency resolution**

15. Should the requirement to make a solvency resolution be removed or modified? Is there a more effective way to remind directors of their obligations? For example, would aligning the timing of the resolution with tax or other obligations with fixed timing reduce the regulatory burden?

#### **Answer**

*The SME Committee considers that the requirement for directors of small proprietary companies to make an annual solvency resolution is appropriate and a useful reminder to directors of their obligations to ensure their company does not trade whilst insolvent. The Committee considers that it may be beneficial to align the timing of the making of the resolution with the making of the company's tax return so that the minds of directors can focus on the financial position of the company at the same time.*

16. What is the extent of the burden imposed on small proprietary companies to make the resolution, in terms of time and/or financial cost?

#### **Answer**

*The SME Committee from the experience of its members does not consider the making of a solvency resolution to impose any unreasonable time or costs on directors of small proprietary companies.*

17. What is the value to directors of the annual solvency resolution in reminding them of their ongoing solvency obligations?

#### **Answer**

*The SME Committee considers the making of an annual solvency resolution to be a very valuable opportunity to remind directors of small proprietary companies of their obligation to not allow the company to trade whilst insolvent.*

18. Would removing the requirement to make a solvency resolution be likely to increase rates of insolvency or business failure among small proprietary companies? Would unsecured creditors be exposed to increased risk? Are there other risks associated with removing the requirement?

#### **Answer**

*In the SME Committee's view, removing the requirement to make a solvency resolution would likely increase the risk of insolvency or business failure among small proprietary companies and expose unsecured creditors to increased risk of company failure.*

Could the risks be mitigated adequately by ASIC reminding directors periodically (say, annually) of their duty to prevent insolvent trading by the company? Are there other ways to mitigate the risks?

Answer

*ASIC could look to mitigate such risks with reminders, but from the Committee's experience, the passing of the directors' resolution of itself focusses directors on the solvency position and valuably reminds them of their obligations in a way the receiving of a reminder from ASIC would not do.*

**The share register**

19. What is the extent of the burden imposed on small proprietary companies to establish and maintain a share register, in terms of time and/or financial cost?

Answer

*The SME Committee does not consider the time and financial costs for proprietary companies to maintain a share register to be burdensome. It is more a matter of those who manage such companies recognising that they are required to maintain a share register.*

20. What is the value to small proprietary companies of maintaining a share register? Would companies need to maintain similar records even if the law did not require them to?

Answer

*The Committee considers that it is essential for a small proprietary company to maintain a share register so that accounting and tax records can ensure the right people receive dividends and to enable entitlement shareholders to vote to determine appointment of directors and other shareholder decisions.*

21. Should the requirement to maintain a share register be removed for small proprietary companies with up to 20 shareholders, given that ASIC's records duplicate the information in the share register of such companies?

Answer

*The SME Committee does not consider it would be sensible to remove the requirement for small proprietary companies to maintain a share register and would be concerned about small proprietary companies maintaining accurate ASIC records, with no company record with which to reconcile the ASIC records.*

*This would become particularly relevant for small proprietary companies that choose to access CSEF.*

22. If the requirement were removed for small proprietary companies with up to 20 shareholders:
- how could share ownership be transferred? Could transfer take effect via a different mechanism, such as on notification to ASIC or on acknowledgment from the company?

- how would shareholders be able to ascertain the identity of the other shareholders of a company? Would it be reasonable to require shareholders to obtain the information from ASIC (including paying the required fee)?

Are there other situations or circumstances where small proprietary companies with up to 20 shareholders need to have an up-to-date share register?

Answer

*In the SME Committee's view, if the requirement were removed for small proprietary companies with up to 20 shareholders, share ownership could be transferred by notification to ASIC and a change on the electronic registry records, as is currently done for listed companies.*

*Shareholders should be able to ascertain the identity of other shareholders by request, although paying a fee does not seem appropriate to the SME Committee given that the records are for a proprietary company.*

*Small proprietary companies require an up to date share register for dividend payments and shareholder voting requirements. The SME Committee considers that relying on ASIC to maintain the share registry of small proprietary companies is not appropriate as set out above.*

23. Alternatively, should the requirement for small proprietary companies to maintain a share register be modified? If so, how? For example, should small proprietary companies with up to 20 shareholders continue to retain a share register but no longer be required to notify ASIC each time shareholder details change?

Answer

*The SME Committee sees no need to modify the requirement for small proprietary companies to maintain a share register or for them to notify ASIC of changes to shareholding. This obligation to notify ASIC should cause them to ensure their share register is maintained as up to date.*

24. Would removing/modifying the requirement to maintain a share register be likely to increase the risk of minority shareholder or property rights disputes for small proprietary companies? Are there other risks associated with removing the requirement?

Answer

*In the SME Committee's view and from its experience, removing or modifying the requirement for small proprietary companies to maintain a share register will almost certainly increase the risk of minority shareholder or proprietary rights disputes without there being any record of proof as there currently is.*

### **Execution of documents**

25. Does the current law cause problems and/or increase compliance costs for sole director/no secretary companies and their counterparties in executing documents? What is the extent of the burden imposed on sole director/no secretary small proprietary companies in terms of time and/or financial cost?

Answer

*From the SME Committee's experience the current law does not cause any problems or increase compliance costs or require increased time or costs for sole director/no secretary companies or their counterparties in executing documents.*

26. Is it appropriate to amend the law to specify that a company with a sole director and no company secretary may execute a document without using a common seal if the document is signed by the director or with a company seal if the fixing of the seal is witnessed by the director?

Are there any risks associated with this approach? Are there any alternative approaches?

Answer

*The SME Committee considers the suggested amendment to the law would be appropriate.*

27. Is there an issue regarding split execution? What is the extent of the burden imposed on small proprietary companies in terms of time and/or financial cost?

What are the benefits and risks of specifying in the law that split execution is acceptable?

Answer

*The SME Committee has no issue with split execution and does not see any additional time or costs would apply. In practice, split execution, as with documents executed in counterpart, is more efficient than having to pass the document around for execution by all signatories on the same copy.*

28. Is there an issue regarding the execution of deeds by foreign companies? What is the extent of the burden imposed on small proprietary companies in terms of time and/or financial cost?

Should the UK approach be adopted in the Corporations Act? Should a similar approach be taken to other bodies corporate? What are the benefits and risks?

Answer

*The SME Committee is unable to answer these questions as it has not has experience in the topic.*

**ASIC forms**

29. Could any forms which are used by small proprietary companies and prescribed by the Corporations Act or Corporations Regulations be removed, amended or streamlined to reduce the compliance burden? How much time/money would it save you?

Answer

*The SME Committee is unable to answer this question.*

**Other ways to reduce compliance costs**

30. Are there any other requirements under the Corporations Act which impose unnecessary compliance burdens on small proprietary companies? What is the extent of the burden in terms of time and/or financial cost? How could the burden be reduced?

Answer

*The SME Committee is unable to answer this question.*

**Further discussion**

The SME Committee would be happy to discuss any aspect of this submission.

Please contact Coralie Kenny, the Chair of the SME Committee, on 0409 919 082 if you would like to do so.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Keeves', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Keeves, Chairman  
**Business Law Section**