

# STATEMENT OF POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN RELATION TO THE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE OF CDL HOSPITALITY BUSINESS TRUST

CDL Hospitality Business Trust (“**HBT**”) was activated on 31 December 2013 by M&C Business Trust Management Limited, as the trustee-manager of HBT (the “**HBT Trustee-Manager**”), to be the master lessee of Raffles Maldives Meradhoo, a property which was acquired by a wholly-owned subsidiary of CDL Hospitality Real Estate Investment Trust (“**H-REIT**”) and which was leased to a wholly-owned subsidiary of HBT. Since then, HBT has proceeded to act as the master lessee of Hotel MyStays Asakusabashi and Hotel MyStays Kamata, Japan and on 1 October 2015, acquired Hilton Cambridge City Centre, United Kingdom. On 4 May 2017, HBT added The Lowry Hotel to its portfolio and operates it as an owner-operator. On 16 July 2020, H-REIT completed the acquisition of W Singapore – Sentosa Cove (“**W Hotel**”) and a wholly-owned subsidiary of HBT is the master lessee and business owner of W Hotel. On 30 April 2021, wholly-owned subsidiaries of HBT have acquired business assets of Ibis Perth and Mercure Perth (the “**Perth Hotels**”) as well as entered into separate leases with subsidiaries of H-REIT, to act as lessor of the Perth Hotels.

HBT’s principal investment strategy include references to real estate which is primarily used for other accommodation and/or lodging purposes including, without limitation, properties used for rental housing, co-living, student accommodation and senior housing. On 31 August 2021, HBT entered into a land purchase agreement and a development funding agreement for The Castings, a residential build-to-rent property in the United Kingdom, which is expected to be completed by 3Q 2024.

The Board of Directors of the HBT Trustee-Manager (the “**HBT Trustee-Manager Board**”) is responsible for safeguarding the interests of the unitholders of HBT (the “**HBT Unitholders**”) as a whole and managing the business of HBT. The HBT Trustee-Manager has general power of management over the business and assets of HBT and its main responsibility is to manage HBT’s assets and liabilities for the benefit of the HBT Unitholders as a whole. In the event of a conflict between the interests of the HBT Unitholders as a whole and its own interests, the HBT Trustee-Manager will give priority to the interests of the HBT Unitholders as a whole over its own interests.

The HBT Trustee-Manager Board is also obliged to exercise due care to comply with the relevant provisions of all applicable legislations and regulations, the listing manual of Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (the “**Listing Manual**”), the trust deed constituting HBT dated 12 June 2006 (as amended from time to time) (the “**HBT Trust Deed**”), the stapling deed dated 12 June 2006 (as amended from time to time) (the “**Stapling Deed**”) and all relevant contracts entered into by HBT.

The HBT Trustee-Manager, in exercising its powers and carrying out its duties as trustee-manager of the HBT, is required to, and will:

- treat the HBT Unitholders who hold units of HBT (“**HBT Units**”) in the same class fairly and equally and HBT Unitholders who hold HBT Units in different classes (if any) fairly;
- ensure that all payments out of the trust property of HBT (the “**HBT Trust Property**”) are made in accordance with the Business Trusts Act 2004 (the “**BTA**”), the HBT Trust Deed and the Stapling Deed;
- report to Monetary Authority of Singapore (“**MAS**”) any contravention of the BTA or Business Trusts Regulations by any other person that:
  - o relates to HBT; and
  - o has had, has or is likely to have, a material adverse effect on the interests of all the HBT Unitholders, or any class of HBT Unitholders, as a whole,

as soon as practicable after the HBT Trustee-Manager becomes aware of the contravention;

- ensure that the HBT Trust Property is properly accounted for; and
- ensure that the HBT Trust Property is kept distinct from the property of the HBT Trustee-Manager held in its own capacity.

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In addition, the HBT Trustee-Manager will:

- at all times act honestly and exercise reasonable diligence in the discharge of its duties as the trustee-manager of the HBT in accordance with the BTA, the HBT Trust Deed and the Stapling Deed;
- act in the best interests of all the HBT Unitholders as a whole and give priority to the interests of all HBT Unitholders as a whole over its own interests in the event of a conflict between the interests of all HBT Unitholders as a whole and its own interests;
- not make improper use of any information acquired by virtue of its position as the HBT Trustee-Manager to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for itself or for any other person to the detriment of the HBT Unitholders;
- hold the HBT Trust Property on trust for all HBT Unitholders as a whole in accordance with the terms of the HBT Trust Deed;
- adhere with the business scope of HBT as set out in the HBT Trust Deed;
- review interested person transactions in relation to HBT;
- review expense and cost allocations payable to the HBT Trustee-Manager in its capacity as trustee-manager of HBT out of the HBT Trust Property and ensure that fees and expenses charged to HBT are appropriate and in accordance with the HBT Trust Deed; and
- comply with the BTA and the Listing Manual.

The MAS has also granted the HBT Trustee-Manager an exemption from compliance with Section 10(2)(a) of the BTA and the directors of the HBT Trustee-Manager (the "**HBT Trustee-Manager Directors**") from compliance with Section 11(1)(a) of the BTA subject to the condition that for the duration of the time that the HBT Units are stapled to the units of H-REIT, the HBT Trustee-Manager and HBT Trustee-Manager Directors shall act in the best interests of all the holders of the stapled securities of CDL Hospitality Trusts.

The HBT Trustee-Manager Board, in exercising its power and carrying out its duties as trustee-manager of HBT, has put in place measures to ensure that:

- the HBT Trust Property is properly accounted for and is kept distinct from the property held by the HBT Trustee-Manager in its own capacity;
- the business scope of HBT as set out in the HBT Trust Deed has been adhered to;
- potential conflicts between the interests of the HBT Trustee-Manager and the interests of the HBT Unitholders as a whole are appropriately managed;
- interested person transactions are transparent, properly recorded and disclosed;
- expenses and cost allocations payable to the HBT Trustee-Manager out of the HBT Trust Property, and the fees and expenses charged to HBT are appropriate and are made in accordance with the HBT Trust Deed; and
- the BTA, Business Trusts Regulations and the Listing Manual have been complied with.

The HBT Trustee-Manager has also adopted a set of corporate governance practices as set out on pages 124 to 148 of this Annual Report.

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## HBT Trust Property Properly Accounted For

To ensure that the HBT Trust Property is properly accounted for and is kept distinct from the property held by the HBT Trustee-Manager in its own capacity, the accounting records of HBT are kept separate and distinct from the accounting records of the HBT Trustee-Manager. The Trustee-Manager maintains different bank accounts in its own capacity and in its capacity as the Trustee-Manager of HBT. Regular internal reviews are also carried out to ascertain that all Trust Property of HBT has been fully accounted for.

Each of the financial statements of HBT and HBT Trustee-Manager are approved by the HBT Trustee-Manager Directors on a half-yearly basis. Each of the financial statements of HBT and HBT Trustee-Manager are also kept separate and distinct and are duly audited by external auditors on an annual basis to ensure that the HBT Trust Property is properly accounted for and the HBT Trust Property is kept distinct from the property of the HBT Trustee-Manager held in its own capacity.

## Adherence to Business Scope

The HBT Trustee-Manager Board reviews and approves all authorised businesses undertaken by HBT so as to ensure its adherence to the business scope under the HBT Trust Deed. Such authorised businesses include:

- (i) the investment in, development of, operation of and/or management of real estate and real estate related assets and all activities, concerns, functions and matters reasonably incidental thereto;
- (ii) acquisition, disposition, ownership, management, operation, finance leasing and leasing of real estate and real estate related assets and all activities, concerns, functions and matters reasonably incidental thereto; and
- (iii) any business, undertaking or activity associated with, incidental and/or ancillary to the carrying on of the businesses referred to in paragraphs (i) and (ii),

whether directly, indirectly through subsidiaries or in the form of joint ventures together with other parties.

Management provides regular updates to the Board and the Audit and Risk Committee of the HBT Trustee-Manager about potential projects that it is looking into on behalf of HBT and the Board and the Audit and Risk Committee of the HBT Trustee-Manager ensure that all such projects are within the permitted business scope under the HBT Trust Deed. Prior to the carrying out of any significant business transactions, the Board, the Audit and Risk Committee and/or management of the HBT Trustee-Manager will have careful regard to the provisions of the HBT Trust Deed and when in doubt, will seek advice from professional advisers.

## Potential conflicts of interest

The HBT Trustee-Manager is not involved in any other businesses other than managing HBT. All potential conflicts of interest, as and when they arise, will be identified by the HBT Trustee-Manager Board and management, and will be reviewed accordingly.

As the HBT Trustee-Manager is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Millennium & Copthorne Hotels Limited (the "**Sponsor**"), being the sponsor and controlling unitholder of HBT, there may be potential conflicts of interest between HBT, the HBT Trustee-Manager and the Sponsor.

The HBT Trustee-Manager has instituted, among others, the following procedures to deal with issues of conflicts of interest:

- The HBT Trustee-Manager Board comprises four independent directors who do not have management or business relationships with the HBT Trustee-Manager and are independent from the substantial shareholder of the HBT Trustee-Manager. The independent directors form the majority of the HBT Trustee-Manager Board. This allows the HBT Trustee-Manager Board to examine independently and objectively, any potential issue of conflicts of interest arising between the HBT Trustee-Manager in its own capacity and the HBT Unitholders as a whole.
- Employees, if any, are directly employed by the HBT Trustee-Manager.
- All resolutions in writing of the HBT Trustee-Manager Directors in relation to matters concerning HBT must be approved by all the HBT Trustee-Manager Directors.
- In respect of matters in which the Sponsor and/or its subsidiaries has an interest, direct or indirect, any nominees appointed by the Sponsor and/or its subsidiaries to the HBT Trustee-Manager Board to represent its/their interests will abstain from voting. In such matters, the quorum shall comprise a majority of the independent HBT Trustee-Manager Directors and shall exclude nominee director of the Sponsor and/ or its subsidiaries.

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- In respect of matters in which an HBT Trustee-Manager Director or his Associates (as defined in the Listing Manual) has an interest, direct or indirect, such interested Director shall abstain from voting. In such matters, the quorum must comprise a majority of the HBT Trustee-Manager Directors and must exclude such interested director.
- Where matters concerning HBT relate to transactions to be entered into by the HBT Trustee-Manager for and on behalf of HBT with an interested person of the HBT Trustee-Manager or HBT (which would include relevant associates thereof), the Audit and Risk Committee is required to consider the terms of such transactions (except transactions under agreements which are deemed to have been specifically approved by HBT Unitholders upon purchase of HBT Units) to satisfy itself that such transactions are conducted on normal commercial terms, are not prejudicial to the interests of HBT and the HBT Unitholders, and are in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Listing Manual and the BTA relating to the transactions in question. If the HBT Trustee-Manager is to sign any contract with an interested person of the HBT Trustee-Manager or HBT, the HBT Trustee-Manager will review the contract to ensure that it complies with the provisions of the Listing Manual and the BTA relating to interested person transactions (as may be amended from time to time) as well as any other guidelines as may from time to time be prescribed to apply to business trusts.

### **Present and Ongoing Interested Person Transactions**

#### **(i) Exempted Agreements**

The fees and charges payable by HBT to the HBT Trustee-Manager under the HBT Trust Deed are considered interested person transactions which are deemed to have been specifically approved by the HBT Unitholders upon their purchase of the HBT Units, to the extent that there are no subsequent changes to the rates and/or bases of the fees charged thereunder which will adversely affect HBT.

#### **(ii) Future Interested Person Transactions**

Depending on the materiality of the transaction, HBT may make a public announcement of or obtain prior approval of the HBT Unitholders for such a transaction. If necessary, the HBT Trustee-Manager Board may make a written statement in accordance with the resolution of the HBT Trustee-Manager Board and signed by at least two HBT Trustee-Manager Directors on behalf of the HBT Trustee-Manager Board certifying that, *inter alia*, such interested person transaction is not detrimental to the interests of the HBT Unitholders as a whole, based on the circumstances at the time of the transaction.

The HBT Trustee-Manager may, in future, seek an annual general mandate from the HBT Unitholders for recurrent transactions of revenue or trading nature or those necessary for the day-to-day operations with interested persons, and all transactions would then be conducted under such a general mandate for that relevant financial year. In seeking such an annual general mandate, the HBT Trustee-Manager may appoint an independent financial adviser to render an opinion as to whether the methods or procedures for determining the transaction prices contemplated under the annual general mandate are sufficient, in an effort to ensure that such transactions will be carried out on normal commercial terms and will not be prejudicial to the interests of HBT and the HBT Unitholders.

The HBT Trustee-Manager has in place an internal control system as well as policies and procedures to ensure that all future interested person transactions will be undertaken on an arm's length basis, on normal commercial terms, will not be prejudicial to the interests of HBT and its minority Unitholders, and will be in accordance with all applicable requirements of the BTA, the Listing Manual and all applicable guidelines as may from time to time be prescribed to apply to business trusts relating to the transaction in question.

Management identifies interested person transactions in relation to HBT. The HBT Trustee-Manager maintains a register to record all interested person transactions which are entered into by HBT. The HBT Trustee-Manager incorporates into its plan a review of all interested person transactions entered into by HBT during the financial year. The Audit and Risk Committee reviews at least quarterly in each financial year the interested person transactions entered into during such quarterly period to ascertain that the guidelines and procedures established to monitor interested person transactions have been complied with. The review includes the examination of the nature of the transactions and their supporting documents or such other data that the Audit and Risk Committee deems necessary. If a member of the Audit and Risk Committee has an interest in a transaction, he or she will abstain from participating in the review and approval process in relation to that transaction.

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In addition, all such interested person transactions conducted and any contracts entered into by the HBT Trustee-Manager on behalf of HBT with an interested person of the HBT Trustee-Manager or HBT, shall comply with and be in accordance with all applicable requirements of the Listing Manual, Business Trusts Regulations and the BTA as well as such other guidelines as may from time to time be prescribed to apply to business trusts.

In particular, when HBT acquires assets from the Sponsor or parties related to the Sponsor in future, the HBT Trustee-Manager will obtain valuations from independent parties. In any event, interested person transactions entered into by HBT, depending on the materiality of such transactions, may be publicly announced or, as the case may be, approved by HBT Unitholders, and will, in addition, be:

- reviewed and recommended by the Audit and Risk Committee of the HBT Trustee-Manager, which comprises only independent directors; and
- decided by the HBT Trustee-Manager Board, of which more than half of the directors are independent directors.

## **Fees and expenses charged to HBT are appropriate and in accordance with the HBT Trust Deed**

The HBT Trustee-Manager is entitled under the HBT Trust Deed to a management fee comprising a base fee of up to a maximum of 0.25% per annum of the value of the HBT's Deposited Property and a performance fee of 5.0% per annum of HBT's net property income. For the purpose of calculating the management fee, if HBT holds only a partial interest in an investment from which such profit is derived, such profit shall be pro-rated in proportion to the partial interest held.

The management fee is payable to the HBT Trustee-Manager in the form of cash and/or Stapled Securities as the HBT Trustee-Manager may elect, and in such proportion and for such period as may be determined by the HBT Trustee-Manager.

Under the HBT Trust Deed, if the value of the HBT Trust Property is at least S\$50.0 million, a maximum of 0.1% per annum of the value of the HBT's Deposited Property (if any), subject to a minimum fee of S\$10,000 per month, excluding out-of-pocket expenses and goods and services tax, is payable to the HBT Trustee-Manager as trustee fee. For the purpose of calculating the trustee fee, if HBT holds only a partial interest in any of HBT's Deposited Property, such HBT's Deposited Property shall be pro-rated in proportion to the partial interest held.

The trustee fee is payable to the HBT Trustee-Manager in arrears on a monthly basis in the form of cash.

The HBT Trustee-Manager is also entitled to receive an acquisition fee at the rate of 0.75% of the acquisition price for acquisition from interested persons and at a rate of 1.0% of the acquisition price for all other acquisitions directly or indirectly by HBT (pro-rated if applicable to the proportion of HBT's interest in the authorised investment acquired).

The acquisition fee is payable to the HBT Trustee-Manager in the form of cash and/or Stapled Securities as the HBT Trustee-Manager may elect, and in such proportion and for such period as may be determined by the HBT Trustee-Manager.

The HBT Trustee-Manager is also entitled to a divestment fee at the rate of 0.5% of the sale price of any divestment directly or indirectly by HBT (pro-rated if applicable to the proportion of HBT's interest).

The divestment fee is payable to the HBT Trustee-Manager in the form of cash and/or Stapled Securities as the HBT Trustee-Manager may elect, and in such proportion and for such period as may be determined by the HBT Trustee-Manager.

Any increase in the rate or any change in structure of the HBT Trustee-Manager's management fee, trustee fee, the acquisition fee or the divestment fee, must be approved by an extraordinary resolution passed at a meeting of HBT Unitholders duly convened and held in accordance with the provisions of the HBT Trust Deed.

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The table below sets out the fees earned by the HBT Trustee-Manager for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

Fee	Amount (S\$'000)	% in Cash	% in Units
Management Fee	1,015	20	80
Trustee Fee	272	100	0

For the financial year ended 31 December 2022, the HBT Trustee-Manager will receive 100% of trustee fee in cash while the management fee is in the form of 20% cash and 80% Stapled Securities. No expenses were paid to the HBT Trustee-Manager during the financial year ended 31 December 2022 and any out-of-pocket expenses incurred were funded by HBT's working capital.

Fees payable to the HBT Trustee-Manager by HBT will be put up to the HBT Trustee-Manager Board for approval every quarter.

The HBT Trustee-Manager Board will meet every quarter to review the material expenses, cost allocations and fees charged to HBT and to ensure that the fees and expenses payable to the HBT Trustee-Manager out of the HBT Trust Property are appropriate and in accordance with the HBT Trust Deed.

### Compliance with the Business Trusts Act and Listing Manual

The HBT Trustee-Manager has an internal compliance manual which serves to summarise all the applicable rules and regulations as well as key internal policies and processes which HBT needs to comply with. The manual will be consistently updated whenever there are changes to the rules and regulations and such policies and processes, and this will help management to ensure that applicable rules and regulations are being complied with.

The HBT Trustee-Manager will also engage the services of and obtain advice from professional advisers and consultants from time to time, and in particular when dealing with acquisitions and capital raising, to ensure compliance with the requirements of the BTA and the Listing Manual.