

## Peninsula Mutual Limited Peninsula Protect - Target Market Determination

### Important Information

The purpose of this target market determination (**TMD**) is to describe the class of consumers for which Peninsula Protect has been designed, having regard to the likely needs, objectives and financial situation of that class of consumers. This TMD is not intended to provide any financial product advice, and does not consider any individual consumer's personal needs, objectives or financial situation. This TMD does not replace existing terms and conditions in the Peninsula Protect Product Disclosure Statement (**PDS**). Please refer to the PDS before making a decision about the product.

### Effective date

22 January 2025

### Product Disclosure Statement to which this TMD applies

This TMD applies to the discretionary protection described in the Peninsula Protect Product Disclosure Statement (document numbers 01072024 AU/01072024.2 NZ) that has been issued by Peninsula Mutual Limited, AFS Licensee 544232 (**the Mutual**). The PDS is issued by the Mutual and distributed on its behalf by Peninsula Australia Pty Ltd Authorised Representative 001274577 in Australia. Peninsula Protect is distributed by Peninsula Group NZ Limited in New Zealand.

Peninsula Protect is regulated as a financial product in Australia, issued by the Mutual for the sole benefit of its Members who are both the owners and customers of the Mutual. The Mutual and Peninsula Protect were created exclusively for clients of Peninsula Australia Pty Ltd in Australia and Peninsula Group NZ Limited in New Zealand (jointly **Peninsula**). Peninsula Protect is not available to entities that are not clients of Peninsula.

Peninsula provides employment relations and health and safety advice and consultancy for small to medium sized businesses. The Peninsula service is not a financial product and thus Peninsula is not subject to the Design and Distribution Obligations, nor required to undertake a TMD. However, for the Mutual to comply with its obligations to undertake and publish a TMD, it is necessary to have regard to the client selection criteria applied by Peninsula as the target market is framed by Peninsula's client base in Australia and New Zealand.

### The class of consumers that fall within the target market

The employment relations and health and safety advice and consultancy provided by Peninsula is available to small to medium sized businesses that meet the following criteria:

- are an 'employer' within the meaning of the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) in Australia or the Employment Relations Act 2000 in New Zealand (employment relations protection only),
- currently employ or are expecting to employ at least 1 or more employees or engage 1 or more independent contractors,
- are located in Australia, the employee/s must work in Australia,
- are located in New Zealand, the employee/s must work in New Zealand, and

It follows that all businesses meeting the above criteria who become clients of Peninsula are eligible to join the Mutual as Members and purchase Peninsula Protect (subject to product or industry exclusions).

### **Likely needs, objectives and financial situation**

All clients of Peninsula have an exposure to the risk of employment relations claims by employees and, in some cases, independent contractors as well as an exposure to health and safety investigation or prosecution for alleged breaches of the relevant health and safety legislation. The claims can range from a few thousand dollars to hundreds of thousands of dollars. The majority of Peninsula clients are small businesses and the financial exposure to employment relations and health and safety risks is difficult to manage within the business. Traditional risk transfer mechanisms, such as insurance, are limited and can be expensive. Peninsula Protect is designed to provide an affordable alternative with broad cover, no deductible and meaningful limits. Consumers within the target market will be in a financial position to pay for Peninsula's services and the required contribution payable to Peninsula Mutual to gain access to protection through Peninsula Protect.

### **Class of consumers for whom Peninsula Protect has not been designed**

Peninsula Protect is not designed for consumers who do not meet the eligibility criteria, including consumers who:

- operate a business however do not engage any employees or independent contractors,
- are individuals who do not operate a business,
- are businesses located outside of Australia and New Zealand,
- operate in an industry which is excluded from protection pursuant to the Mutual's excess of loss insurer and is not otherwise eligible for discretionary protection pursuant to the Mutual's policies.

### **Product description and key attributes**

The financial product issued by the Mutual is discretionary protection offered as Peninsula Protect. Full details of the product are included in the PDS which is provided to all Members and potential Members of the Mutual.

There are two types of protection available to Members of the Mutual, Employment Relations (Section A) and Health and Safety Statutory Liability (Section B).

Section A provides discretionary protection to Members (and their declared subsidiaries) for losses resulting from employment claims. Protection is available where the claim is made against the Member and notified to the Mutual during the protection period. When a claim for protection is granted, the benefit provided includes legal costs and expenses incurred in defending the Member.

Section B provides discretionary protection to Members (and its directors and officers acting in the course of their duties) for statutory liabilities arising from an alleged health and safety breach. Protection is available where the claim is made against the Member and notified to the Mutual during the protection period. When a claim for protection is granted, the benefit provided includes legal costs and expenses incurred in defending the Member or its directors or officers and, where permitted by law, may include penalties or reparation costs.

Both sections A and B provide limits of \$400,000 per claim and \$2,000,000 in any protection period (12 months). There is no deductible.

## **Consistency between target market and Peninsula Protect**

Peninsula Protect provides broad cover and generous limits to Members at very affordable prices (average less than \$1,000 per protection period). This enables Members to economically transfer large financial risk exposures thereby improving the sustainability of their business.

Prior to the establishment of the Mutual and Peninsula Protect, Peninsula had an arrangement with a commercial insurer that provided similar cover for Peninsula's clients. The cover was widely taken up, demonstrating a strong demand for the product. Through establishment of the Mutual, substantially increased limits and expansion of cover were able to be offered to Members whilst maintaining price levels, which have not increased in three years.

The volume and value of claims processed by the Mutual is strong evidence of the value of the product to Members. In the 2023/2024 financial year, over 1,180 employment claims and over 230 notifiable health and safety incidents were received by the Mutual with a value of \$9.5 million. The Mutual is run for the benefit of Members on a not-for-profit basis which ensures that the price of the product is maintained as close as possible to cost. The success of the Mutual in being able to maintain broad cover, generous limits and economic pricing is predicated on the strong risk management of employment relations and health and safety practices which is provided through the core services delivered by Peninsula. As a group, Peninsula's clients should exhibit a superior risk profile, and therefore Membership of the Mutual is limited to Peninsula's clients. For these reasons, the product is likely to be consistent with the likely objectives, financial situation and needs of the class of consumers within the target market. This is based on an evaluation of the key terms, features and attributes of Peninsula Protect and our view that these are consistent with the identified target market.

## **Marketing and Distribution**

The Mutual as the AFS License holder and its authorised representative, Peninsula, advise on and arrange for the issue of Peninsula Protect. Peninsula Protect is thus only offered to clients and potential clients of Peninsula, however there is no requirement to take out protection. Peninsula clients can select whether to opt for no protection, protection for Employment Relations (Section A) only or Health and Safety Statutory Liability (Section B) only, or for both classes.

The Mutual utilises excess of loss insurance to cap liabilities for claims and the insurer imposes some restrictions on certain industries which it will not accept. The Mutual imposes the same restrictions on Peninsula and thus not all clients of Peninsula are eligible for protection.

Peninsula offers its clients one-year to five-year service agreement. Membership of the Mutual and protection is issued to align with the same period, where taken out in conjunction with a service agreement up to five years with Peninsula, the protection with the Mutual will automatically be offered for renewal. Members can opt out of renewal and in addition have the option to cancel protection at any time by giving 30 days' notice.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Mutual reviews performance annually and in the event of claims frequency or systemic issues, may decline to renew protection where this is not in the best interests of the Membership.

## **TMD Reviews**

The amount and values of claims accepted, and the number of claims declined are reviewed quarterly by the Board and as part of the annual review. This enables the protection to be evaluated with consideration of scope of cover, limits, and price to be adjusted if necessary, so that the product continues to meet the needs of the Membership.

The first review of the TMD will occur within 12 months from the date of this TMD. Subsequent reviews will occur at least every three years after the end of the previous review.

Review triggers that could reasonably suggest the TMD is no longer appropriate would include:

- changes in legislation to reduce or limit the availability of protection or limit the liability of employers for employment relations or health and safety liabilities
- sudden and unexpected change in claims volume and values
- a material change in the design or distribution of the product, including a material change to the PDS
- low take-up of the protection
- high levels of complaints about the protection and/or distribution
- any significant dealings that are inconsistent with the TMD

### **Reporting and monitoring this TMD**

The sales and distribution process are subject to a high level of governance by Peninsula and the Mutual. As complaints arise, Peninsula will provide information to the Mutual about complaints regarding Peninsula Protect. Complaints are handled in accordance with the Mutual's Internal Dispute Resolution Policy. The Mutual will closely monitor the level of complaints about the product and distribution as well as rectification action undertaken and will intervene if necessary.

Members can directly contact the Mutual, as AFS Licensee, or any director of the Mutual. The Mutual is a Member of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority.

Dealings of this product outside of the TMD will be investigated and reported as soon as practicable within 10 business days. Any feedback, regulatory orders or directions received from a regulator such as ASIC or AFCA in respect of this product will be investigated and reported to the Board as soon as practicable within 10 business days.