

What does your elected director do on the Board?

Some members might be surprised to know that a director is not a representative. At the Board table, diverse views, skills and experience come together to collectively make decisions. Each director brings a unique perspective that adds to the Board's decision making but each decision is owned by the Board as a whole.

The role of the Board is to provide oversight to the organisation's management. In a nutshell, we balance compliance (legal, financial) with performance. The management team, led by the CEO, is delegated to execute the strategy within parameters and performance measures set by the Board. The Board sets the strategy but does not execute it. That is the role of the executive team.

TTNQ is a not-for-profit, public company limited by guarantee. Being a director means you have a legal and fiduciary responsibility first and foremost to the organisation – not to any other interests. TTNQ has up to seven Board meetings a year of about four hours' duration with each requiring at least four to five hours of preparation. Some directors also sit on subcommittees such as Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee and Human Resources Committee. Three of our meetings are held outside Cairns (where possible) so the Board can meet up with people from the regions. Of the nine elected directors, four are zone directors and five are general directors. Appointed director positions may be added to allow for special skills or expertise to be brought onto the Board, for example the Cairns Airport CEO for their expertise in aviation.

A diverse, skilled and engaged Board is key to an organisation. There is an excellent avenue to learning more about good directorship through membership or courses run by the Australian Institute of Company Directors. The Board undertakes governance workshops from time to time to keep abreast of corporate governance and Board requirements.

By all means, talk to directors about industry issues, however the TTNQ team are members' primary point of contact. Board email – board@ttnq.org.au.