

Filed: 6 July 2023 3:33 PM



Commercial List Statement

COURT DETAILS

Court Supreme Court of NSW

Division Equity
List Commercial

Registry Supreme Court Sydney

Case number 2018/00353304

TITLE OF PROCEEDINGS

First Plaintiff

Ashita Tomi Pty Ltd as trustee for Esskay Super Fund

ABN 79582038569

First Defendant RCR TOMLINSON LTD trading as RCR Tomlinson Ltd

ACN 008898486

Damian Scattini

Second Defendant Paul Joseph Dalgleish

Number of Defendants 3

FILING DETAILS

Filed for Ashita Tomi Pty Ltd as trustee for Esskay Super Fund, Plaintiff 1

Legal representative

Legal representative reference

Legar representative reference

Telephone (02)91463888

ATTACHMENT DETAILS

In accordance with Part 3 of the UCPR, this coversheet confirms that both the Lodge Document, along with any other documents listed below, were filed by the Court.

Commercial List Statement (2023.07.06 Further Amended Commercial List Statement.pdf)

[attach.]

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Filed: 06/07/2023 15:33 PM

FURTHER AMENDED COMMERCIAL LIST STATEMENT

COURT DETAILS

Court Supreme Court of New South Wales

Division Equity

List Commercial List

Registry Sydney

Case number 2018/00353304

TITLE OF PROCEEDINGS

First Plaintiff Ashita Tomi Pty Ltd as trustee for Esskay Super Fund

ABN 79 582 038 569

Number of Plaintiffs 3

First Defendant RCR Tomlinson Limited

ACN 008 898 486

Number of Defendants 3

FILING DETAILS

Filed for Ashita Tomi Pty Ltd, CJMcG Pty Ltd and Jorge Mayer,

Plaintiffs

Legal representative Damian Scattini

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan

Legal representative reference 08660-00001B

Contact name and telephone Meagan Bertolatti, +61 2 9146 3500

Contact email <u>meaganbertolatti@quinnemanuel.com</u>

TYPE OF CLAIM

Commercially misleading conduct

A. NATURE OF DISPUTE

- This is a representative proceeding brought by the Plaintiffs on behalf of themselves and on behalf of other shareholders who acquired an interest in shares of the First Defendant, RCR Tomlinson Limited (RCR), or who acquired a long exposure to RCR shares by entering into equity swap confirmations, between 24 August 2017 28 December 2016 and 12 November 2018.
- 2. RCR was an engineering and infrastructure company listed on the ASX.
- 3. From no later than 28 In around December 2016, RCR embarked upon a new strategy of pursuing substantial, fixed-price contracts for the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) of solar farms. Those contracts, by their nature, exposed RCR to a heightened risk of loss, including in the event of delay or unanticipated increases in the cost of completing the relevant project. That risk of loss was not disclosed to the market until after it had materialised, with devastating consequences for RCR's shareholders.
- 3A. On 24 August 2017, in conjunction with the publication of RCR's annual financial report for FY17, RCR provided earnings guidance to the market, announcing earnings of \$35.2 million for FY17 and forecasting earnings growth for FY18. At that time, the consensus estimate amongst analysts covering RCR was that RCR would achieve underlying EBIT of approximately \$57 million in FY18.
- 3B. At that time, however, RCR was experiencing delays and cost overruns in relation to two of its largest EPC Solar Contracts, such that it was likely that RCR's underlying EBIT for FY18 would fall materially short of the consensus expectation.
- 3C. By the end September 2017 (or alternatively October or November 2017), the situation had worsened. By that time, RCR was experiencing delays and cost overruns on several EPC Solar Projects, and it was likely not only that RCR's underlying EBIT for FY18 would fall materially short of the consensus expectation, but also that RCR would not experience earnings growth in FY18, contrary to the earnings guidance on foot.
- 3D. On 22 February 2018, in conjunction with the publication of RCR's half-year results, RCR and Dalgleish affirmed the earnings guidance that had been given in August 2017 (ie, forecasting earnings growth in FY18). The consensus expectation in respect of RCR's underlying EBIT for FY18 at this time remained above \$50 million. In truth, however, RCR was continuing to experience delays and cost overruns in relation to several EPC Solar Contracts, and, as a result, was on track to deliver substantially less

- earnings in FY18 than it had delivered in FY17, and less than half the underlying EBIT that the market was expecting.
- 3E. From February 2018 to August 2018, the performance of RCR's EPC Solar Contract business continued to deteriorate. RCR, however, failed to withdraw its earnings guidance or provide any updated earnings guidance to the market.
- 4. On 28 August 2018, following a 30 day the trading halt and suspension, in conjunction with the publication of RCR's full year results for FY18, RCR announced to the market that, its strategy of pursuing EPC solar contracts had exposed RCR to a heightened risk of contrary to the earning guidance given by RCR in August 2017 and February 2018 (forecasting earnings growth) and consensus expectations (which remained above \$50 million in relation to RCR's underlying EBIT for FY18), RCR had recorded underlying EBIT for FY18 of -\$4.2 million (i.e., a loss, including in the event of delay or unanticipated increases in the cost of completing the relevant project; and that it had in fact suffered substantial losses arising from). RCR stated that the loss was caused by operational issues in relation to one particular EPC sSolar eContract, known as Project Gretel. leading RCR to incur a net loss for FY18.
- 5. None of <u>Unsurprisingly</u>, that information had previously been disclosed result came as a shock to the market. Immediately upon the resumption of trading in RCR Shares on 30 August 2018, RCR's share price declined sharply, wiping hundreds of millions of <u>dollars</u> from its market capitalisation.
- 6. In the Also on 28 August 2018-disclosures, RCR also forecast substantial earnings for FY19, and announced to the market that it was conducting a \$100 million capital raising, pursuant to a prospectus. The prospectus indicated that the eapital raising would solve RCR's financial problems caused by the financial impact of the problems leading to the earnings surprise were confined to Project Gretel and had only recently been identified, and that RCR was not experiencing material delays or cost-overruns announced on 28 August 2018. on its other EPC Solar Projects. Those statements, the Plaintiffs contend, were misleading.
- 7. On 12 November 2018, just six weeks after the \$100 million capital raising was completed, RCR shares were placed into a second and final trading halt. On 22 November 2018, RCR was placed into voluntary administration. RCR has since been and subsequently, placed into liquidation. In April 2019, the Liquidators declared that they had reasonable grounds to believe that there was no likelihood that RCR shareholders would receive any distribution in respect of the shares they held in

- RCR. The liquidators do not expect that shareholders will receive any dividend in the liquidation.
- 8. In this proceeding, the Plaintiffs bring a number of claims <u>arising out of those alleged facts and circumstances</u>. First, the Plaintiffs claim that RCR contravened its continuous disclosure obligations under the ASX Listing Rules. RCR ought to have disclosed to the market prior to 28 August 2018 the information that was disclosed to the market on that date. Furthermore, as at and from 28 August 2018, RCR ought to have disclosed to the market information about RCR's perilous financial position and outlook.
- 8A. First, the Plaintiffs claim that RCR breached its continuous disclosure obligations. By no later than 24 August 2017, RCR was aware that, by reason of the delays and cost overruns it was experiencing in relation to its EPC Solar Contracts, RCR's underlying EBIT for FY18 was likely to fall materially short of consensus expectations. By no later than the end of September 2017 (or alternatively the end of October 2017 or November 2017), RCR was also aware that, by reason of the continued underperformance of its EPC Solar Projects, it was unlikely to deliver earnings growth in FY18, contrary to the earnings guidance provided to the market in August 2017. By no later than 22 February 2018, RCR was aware that its earnings were likely to be substantially less than its earnings in FY17, contrary to the earnings guidance on foot and affirmed on 22 February 2018, and contrary to the market's expectations.
- 8B. The delays and cost overruns that RCR was experiencing in respect of its EPC Solar Projects were evident from monthly, project-level reporting documents generated by RCR. Consistent with RCR's own reporting protocols, that information came, or ought to have come, to the attention of RCR's senior management, and, separately, should have formed the basis of RCR's monthly reporting to the board of directors, including monthly reporting of RCR's forecast underlying EBIT for FY18. Accordingly, it was information of which RCR was aware (within the meaning of ASX Listing Rule 19.12).
- 8C. The information described above was material, non-public information that RCR was required to disclose to the market upon becoming aware of it. RCR's failure to disclose that information to the market upon becoming aware of it caused the price of RCR shares to be inflated. The Plaintiffs and Group Members purchased RCR shares at an inflated price and thereby suffered a loss.
- 9. Secondly, the Plaintiffs claim that RCR, the Second Defendant (Dalgleish, RCR's CEO) and the Third Defendant (Bruce James, and RCR's interim CEO after Dalgleish resigned, James (being the Third Defendant) engaged in misleading or deceptive

conduct. The Between August 2017 and August 2018, RCR Defendants made misleading representations and omissions to the market concerning the risks to which RCR was exposed, RCR's compliance with its continuous disclosure obligations, the effectiveness of RCR's risk management systems, and RCR's financial position and outlook. Those representations were either misleading at the time they were made, or were continuing representations which became misleading, and which RCR failed to withdraw, correct or qualify, in light of the information described above. The Plaintiffs and Group Members purchased RCR shares at a price that was inflated by reason of the misleading conduct, or that they would not have otherwise purchased but for the misleading conduct, and thereby suffered a loss.

- 10. Thirdly, the Plaintiffs claim that the prospectus pursuant to which the \$100 million capital raising was conducted was misleading.
- 10A. Thirdly, the First and Second Plaintiffs claim that the Prospectus pursuant to which the \$100 million capital raising was conducted was misleading, exposing the RCR to liability for offering securities pursuant to a misleading disclosure document. Contrary to statements made in the Prospectus, at the time the Prospectus was issued, the problems leading to the earnings surprise announced on 28 August 2018 were not confined to Project Gretel and had not only recently been identified, and RCR was experiencing material delays and cost overruns on several EPC Solar Projects other than Project Gretel. Had the Prospectus not been misleading and accurately described the true position, the capital raising would not have proceeded, because no reasonably competent lead manager or underwriter would have supported it, and the First and Second Plaintiffs and Group Members would not have purchased shares in the capital raising. Further or in the alternative, even if the capital raising had gone ahead, the First and Second Plaintiffs and Group Members would not have purchased shares in it, had the Prospectus not been misleading. The shares purchased in the capital raising were essentially worthless, as confirmed by the Liquidators following the collapse of the company just six weeks after the shares were issued.
- 11. The Plaintiffs seek damages on behalf of themselves and Group Members for loss suffered as a result of: RCR's breaches of <u>its_continuous disclosure obligations</u>; the misleading conduct of RCR, <u>Dalgleish and James</u>; and RCR's disclosure document contraventions.

B. ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE

1. Adopting the defined terms in Part C below, the questions of law or fact common to the claims of the Group Members are:

In respect of the alleged breaches of RCR's continuous disclosure obligations:

- 1.1 When did RCR become aware, within the meaning of Rule 19.12 of the Listing Rules, of the information pleaded below in Section V of Part C?
- 1.2 Whether the information pleaded below in Section V of Part C was material non-public information of the kind that RCR was required to disclose, pursuant to its continuous disclosure obligations, upon becoming aware of such information.

In respect of the alleged misleading or deceptive conduct:

- 1.3 Whether the conduct pleaded below in Section VII, VIII IX of Part C was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of section 1041H of the Corporations Act, section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act and/or section 18 of the ACL?
- 1.4 Whether the conduct pleaded below in Sections VII, VIII, IX of Part C was conduct of RCR, Dalgleish and/or James respectively.
- 1.5 Whether the First and Third Defendants RCR contravened section 1041E of the Corporations Act by reason of the conduct pleaded below in Section X of Part C.

In respect of causation:

- 1.6 Whether, during the Relevant Period, the Market Contraventions pleaded below in Sections VI, VII, VIII, IX and XI of Part C (or any one or combination of them) caused the market price of RCR Shares to be, or materially contributed to the market price of RCR Shares being, substantially greater than their true value and/or the market price that would otherwise have been paid at the time of acquisition but for those Market Contraventions (or any one or combination of them).
- 1.7 Whether the decline in the price of RCR Shares pleaded in paragraphs 66 of Part C was caused or materially contributed to by the information communicated to the Affected Market by RCR in respect of the Market Contraventions.
- 1.8 Whether the price of RCR Shares would have fallen substantially if RCR had:
 - (a) disclosed the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information, the Grounds
 Condition Information, the Project Issues Information, the Costs
 Overrun Information, the Write-downs Information and/or the FY18
 Earnings Information prior to 28 August 2018;
 - (b) disclosed the FY19 Financial Information and the matters pleaded in paragraph 203 below prior to 12 November 2018; and/or

(c) not engaged in the conduct the subject of the Market Contraventions.

In respect of the 2017 Capital Raising:

1.9 Whether, during the Relevant Period, the 30 August 2017 Cleansing Notice Misleading Conduct Contravention pleaded below in Sections VII of Part C caused the offer price in the 2017 Capital Raising to be, or materially contributed to the offer price in the 2017 Capital Raising being, substantially greater than the offer price otherwise would have been but for the 2017 Cleansing Notice RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention.

In respect of the 2018 Capital Raising:

- 1.10 Whether the Prospectus contained statements that were misleading or deceptive.
- 1.11 Whether, but for the Prospectus Contravention pleaded below in Section XIII of Part C, the 2018 Capital Raising would have gone ahead. caused the offer price in the Prospectus to be, or materially contributed to the offer price in the Prospectus being, substantially greater than the offer price otherwise would have been but for the Prospectus Contravention.

In respect of all claims:

- 1.12 What is the proper methodology for assessing the quantum of the loss or damage suffered by the Plaintiffs and Group Members as a result of the impugned conduct of RCR?
- 2. The following additional questions will arise in respect of the Plaintiffs and some Group Members individually:
 - 2.1 Whether the Plaintiffs and Group Members acquired their respective interests in RCR Shares in reliance upon the conduct pleaded below in Sections VII, VIII, VIIII, V
 - 2.2 Whether the Plaintiffs and Group Members would not have acquired their respective interests in RCR Shares had they known:
 - (a) <u>had they known</u> of the information pleaded below in Section V of PartC; and/or
 - (b) that the representations but for misleading conduct pleaded below in Sections VII, VIII-IX of Part C-were false or misleading, or made without reasonable grounds; and/or.
 - (c) of the information the subject of the omissions pleaded below in Section VII, VIII, IX of Part C.

- 3. Whether the <u>Second and Third Plaintiffs</u> and Group Members who acquired an interest in RCR Shares in the 2017 Capital Raising would have acquired those shares at all, or in the volume in which they were acquired, but for the 30 August 2017 Cleansing Notice Misleading Conduct Contravention.
- 4. Whether the <u>First and Second Plaintiffs</u> and Group Members who acquired an interest in RCR Shares in the 2018 Capital Raising pursuant to the Prospectus would have acquired those shares at all, or in the volume in which they were acquired, but for the Prospectus Contravention.

C. PLAINTIFFS' CONTENTIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

(A) The Plaintiffs and Group Members

- This proceeding is commenced as a representative proceeding pursuant to Part 10 of the Civil Procedure Act 2005 (NSW) (CPA) on behalf of the Plaintiffs and all persons who or which:
 - 1.1 during the period from 28 December 2016 24 August 2017 to 12 November 2018 inclusive (**Relevant Period**), acquired:
 - (a) an interest in ordinary shares in the Defendant, RCR (RCR Shares), quoted on the financial market operated by the Australian Securities Exchange Limited (ASX), including, for the avoidance of doubt, as part of the 2017 Capital Raising and/or 2018 Capital Raising (as defined in this CLS as defined in paragraph 1.2 below); and / or
 - (b) long exposure to RCR Shares by entering into equity swap confirmations in respect of the RCR Shares during the Relevant Period, for a period extending beyond 28 August 2018 (RCR Equity Swaps);
 - 1.2 suffered loss or damage by or resulting from the contraventions by <u>RCR the</u> Defendants pleaded in this <u>Further Amended</u> Commercial List Statement (CLS); and
 - 1.3 are not any of the following:
 - (a) a related party (as defined by section 228 of the *Corporations Act 2001*(Cth) (Corporations Act) of RCR;
 - (b) a related body corporate (as defined by section 50 of the Corporations Act) of RCR;

- (c) an associated entity (as defined by section 50AAA of the Corporations Act) of RCR;
- (d) an officer or a close associate (as defined by section 9 of the Corporations Act) of RCR;
- (e) a Chief Justice, Justice or Registrar of the Supreme Court of New South Wales or the High Court of Australia; or
- (f) an officer or employee of, or other legal practitioner engaged by, the law firm Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan,

(collectively, Group Members).

- At the time of commencing this proceeding, seven or more persons being Group Members have claims against <u>RCR</u> the <u>Defendants</u> within the meaning of section 157 of the CPA.
- 3. The Plaintiffs have standing to commence proceedings on their own behalf against RCR the Defendants, within the meaning of section 158(1) of the CPA.
- 4. The First Plaintiff acquired an interest in RCR Shares <u>quoted</u> on the <u>financial market</u> <u>operated by the ASX</u> during the Relevant Period. As at 27 July 2018, tThe First Plaintiff <u>purchased held-3000 RCR Shares on 27 July 2018 on the secondary market, settling on 31 August 2018 and 1,819 RCR Shares, pursuant to the 2018 Capital Raising, <u>settling on 26 September 2018</u>. As at the commencement of this proceeding, the First Plaintiff continueds to hold those RCR Shares.</u>

Particulars

The First Plaintiff acquired RCR Shares as set out in the table below. The First Plaintiff did not dispose of RCR Shares during the Relevant Period.

Date	Buy/Sell	Number of RCR Securities	Average Price per Security	Amount (\$)
27 July 2018	BUY	3,000	\$2.79	\$8,370.00
19 September 2018	<u>BUY</u>	<u>1,819</u>	<u>\$1.00</u>	<u>\$1,819.00</u>

5. The Second Plaintiff acquired an interest in RCR Shares <u>quoted</u> on the <u>financial market</u> <u>operated by the ASX</u> during the Relevant Period. The Second Plaintiff purchased 4,225 RCR <u>Shares</u> pursuant to the 2017 Capital Raising settling on 21 September 2017, 10,137 RCR Shares pursuant to the 2018 Capital Raising, settling on 26 September

2018, and 23,128 RCR Shares on the financial secondary market operated by the ASX, settling on 13 November 2018. As at the filing of this CLS, commencement of this proceeding, the Second Plaintiff continuesed to hold those RCR Shares.

Particulars

The Second Plaintiff acquired RCR Shares as set out in the table below. The Second Plaintiff did not dispose of RCR Shares during the Relevant Period.

Date	Buy/Sell	Number of RCR Securities	Average Price per Security	Amount (\$)
21 September 2017	BUY	4,225	\$3.55	\$14,998.75
26 September 2018	BUY	10,137	\$1	\$10,137.00
13 November 2018	BUY	23,138	\$0.895	\$20,708.51

6. The Third Plaintiff acquired an interest in RCR Shares <u>quoted</u> on the <u>ASX_financial</u> <u>market operated by the ASX</u> during the Relevant Period. The Third Plaintiff jointly purchased 1,450 RCR Shares on the financial market operated by the ASX, settling on 29 May 2017, and 2,816 RCR Shares pursuant to the 2017 Capital Raising, settling on 21 September 2017. As at the <u>filing of this CLS</u>, <u>commencement of this proceeding</u>, the Third Plaintiff continue<u>se</u> to hold those RCR Shares.

Particulars

The Third Plaintiff acquired RCR Shares as set out in the table below. The Third Plaintiff did not dispose of RCR Shares during the Relevant Period.

Date	Buy/Sell	Number of RCR Securities	Average Price per Security	Amount (\$)
29 May 2017	BUY	1,450	\$3.50	\$5,075
21 September 2017	BUY	2,816	\$3.55	\$9,996.80

7. As to the requirements in section 161 of the CPA:

- 7.1 the Group Members to whom the proceedings relate are identified in paragraph 1 above;
- the claims made on behalf of Group Members are that RCR the First Defendant breached its continuous disclosure obligations, that all Defendants engaged in misleading or deceptive conduct during the Relevant Period, and that the Prospectus (as defined below in paragraph 63.2) was misleading, causing the Group Members loss, as further described in this CLS;
- 7.3 the relief claimed is set out in the Further Amended Summons:
- 7.4 the questions of law or facts common to the claims of the Group Members are as set out in Part B of this CLS, as further described in Part C of this CLS.

(B) The Defendants RCR and other relevant persons

- 8. The First Defendant, RCR is, and, at all times during the Relevant Period was:
 - 8.1 duly incorporated pursuant to the Corporations Act and capable of being sued;
 - 8.2 a corporation included in the official list of the financial market operated by the ASX and whose ordinary shares are ED securities (that is, enhanced disclosure securities) for the purposes of sections 111AE and 111AC of the Corporations Act;
 - 8.3 a listed disclosing entity within the meaning of section 111AL(1) and Chapter6CA of the Corporations Act;
 - in respect of the conduct described in this CLS in relation to financial services, a person that, in trade or commerce, engaged in conduct in relation to financial services within the meaning of the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001* (Cth) (ASIC Act); and
 - 8.5 a corporation within the meaning of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) (**CCA**);
 - 8.6 in respect of the conduct described in this CLS other than in relation to financial services, a person that, in trade or commerce, engaged in conduct within the meaning of the *Australian Consumer Law* (**ACL**).

9. The Second Defendant, Paul Dalgleish, was:

- 9.1 Chief Executive Officer of RCR from 25 May 2009 to 6 August 2018;
- 9.2 the Managing Director of RCR from 20 October 2011 to 6 August 2018; and

9.3 an officer of RCR within the meaning of section 9 of the Corporations Act and Listing Rule 19.12, at all times during the Relevant Period until 6 August 2018.

10. The Third Defendant Bruce, James, was:

- 10.1 a Director of RCR from 28 January 2014;
- 10.2 the Interim Chief Executive Officer of RCR from 7 August 2018; and
- an officer of RCR within the meaning of section 9 of the Corporations Act and Listing Rule 19.12, at all times during the Relevant Period.

11. Andrew **Phipps** was:

- 11.1 the Chief Financial Officer of RCR at all material times during the Relevant Period until about 7 November 2018; and
- an officer of RCR within the meaning of section 9 of the Corporations Act and Listing Rule 19.12, at all times during the Relevant Period until about 7 November 2018.

12. Conal **McCullough** was:

- the Chief Operating Officer-East of RCR at all material times during the Relevant Period; and from about February 2017 to about May 2018;
- 12.2 the Chief Operating Officer of RCR from about May 2018 to about December 2018; and
- officer of RCR within the meaning of section 9 of the Corporations Act and Listing Rule 19.12, at all times during the Relevant Period from about February 2017.

12A. <u>Judd **Adams** was:</u>

- 12A.1 Executive General Manager Finance at all material times during the Relevant Period; and
- an officer of RCR within the meaning of section 9 of the Corporations Act and Listing Rule 19.12, at all times during the Relevant Period.

Particulars

Adams was a person who participated in making decisions that affected a substantial part of the business of RCR and/or had the capacity to affect significantly RCR's financial standing.

12B. Andrew Batch was:

- 12B.1 Group Financial Controller from the beginning of the Relevant Period until about 7 November 2018, when he became interim Chief Financial Officer; and
- 12B.2 <u>an officer of RCR within the meaning of section 9 of the Corporations Act and Listing Rule 19.12, at all times during the Relevant Period.</u>

Particulars

Batch was a person who participated in making decisions that affected a substantial part of the business of RCR and/or had the capacity to affect significantly RCR's financial standing.

12C. <u>David **Scafaro** was:</u>

- <u>12C.1 Operations Manager RCR Infrastructure East; and</u>
- an officer of RCR within the meaning of section 9 of the Corporations Act and Listing Rule 19.12, at all times during the Relevant Period.

<u>Particulars</u>

Scafaro was a person who participated in making decisions that affected a substantial part of the business of RCR and/or had the capacity to affect significantly RCR's financial standing.

12D. Nick Notley was:

- 12D.1 General Manager Finance at all times during the Relevant Period; and
- an officer of RCR within the meaning of section 9 of the Corporations Act and Listing Rule 19.12, at all times during the Relevant Period.

<u>Particulars</u>

Notley was a person who participated in making decisions that affected a substantial part of the business of RCR and/or had the capacity to affect significantly RCR's financial standing.

(C) Application of section 674(2) of the Corporations Act

- 13. At all times during the Relevant Period:
 - 13.1 RCR Shares were able to be acquired and disposed of by investors and potential investors on the financial market operated by the ASX (**Affected Market**);
 - 13.2 RCR was bound by the Listing Rules of the ASX (**Listing Rules**);

- 13.3 Rule 3.1 of the Listing Rules provided that once an entity is or becomes aware of any information concerning it that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of the entity's securities, the entity must immediately tell the ASX that information, unless the exceptions in Listing Rule 3.1A apply; and
- 13.4 Rule 19.12 of the Listing Rules provided that an entity becomes aware of information if, and as soon as, an officer of the entity has, or ought reasonably to have, come into possession of the information in the course of the performance of their duties as an officer of that entity-; and
- 13.5 section 674(2) of the Corporations Act applied to RCR by reason of:
 - (a) the matters set out in paragraph 8.2 above and section 111AP(1) of the Corporations Act; and
 - (b) the matters set out in this paragraph 13 and section 674(1) of the Corporations Act,

(collectively, Continuous Disclosure Obligations).

II. RCR'S BUSINESS

(A) EPC Solar Contracts

- 14. RCR was a diversified engineering and infrastructure company that provided engineering and other services to the infrastructure, energy and resources sectors.
- 15. In the period up to about mid-2016, a substantial part of RCR's business involved providing engineering and other services to the coal sector.
- 16. In April 2016, RCR announced to the market that, following a strategic review, RCR would undertake a re-organisation pursuant to which it would reduce its exposure to the coal sector, and increase its exposure to the renewable energy sector.

Particulars

ASX Announcement and Media Release dated 4 April 2016 entitled "RCR exits coal services and significantly reduces fabrication capacity and regional presence in major cost-out and strategic re-organisation".

- 17. As at mid to late 2016, the renewable energy sector was:
 - 17.1 a new sector for RCR;
 - 17.2 a new and emerging market;
 - 17.3 a market in which RCR did not have substantial experience in delivering engineering, procurement or construction services.

Particulars

The Plaintiffs refer to RCR's 2017 Annual Report, p 11, and the Prospectus at p 16.

- 18. By no later than 28 December 2016, RCR had embarked upon a business strategy of pursuing contracts relating to the engineering, procurement and construction of solar farms (EPC Solar Contracts) (EPC Solar Contracts Strategy).
- 19. From about 28 December 2016 until about April 2018, pursuant to the EPC Solar Contracts Strategy, RCR entered into at least <u>fifteen-fourteen</u> EPC Solar Contracts, having an aggregate award value of approximately \$1.5 billion.

Particulars

- (a) The Plaintiffs refer to the Administrators' Report (as defined in paragraph 72 below) at p 8.
- (b) Further particulars may be provided The EPC Solar Contracts included contracts for the following discovery and evidence. projects:

<u>Project</u>	Relevant section of Report of
	George Tsipis dated 25 March
	2022 (Tsipis Report)
Project Gretel, comprising two	Section 6.3; Appendix D
projects: the Daydream Solar	
Farm and the Hayman Solar	
<u>Farm</u>	
Clermont Solar Farm	Section 6.4; Appendix E
Darling Downs Solar Farm	Section 6.5; Appendix F
Emerald Solar Farm	Section 6.6; Appendix G
Gannawarra Solar Farm	Section 6.7; Appendix H
Greenough Solar Farm	Section 6.8; Appendix I
Haughton Solar Farm	Section 6.9; Appendix J
Canadian Solar, comprising two	Section 6.10; Appendix K
projects: the Oakey Solar Farm	
and the Longreach Solar Farm	
Manildra Solar Farm	Section 6.11; Appendix L
Sun Metals Solar Farm	Section 6.12; Appendix M

Swan Hill Solar Farm	Section 6.13; Appendix N
Wemen Solar Farm	Section 6.14; Appendix O

- 20. The EPC Solar Contracts generally had the following characteristics:
 - 20.1 they were fixed price contracts, which exposed RCR to risks including delays and unanticipated increases in the cost of delivering the project;
 - 20.2 they had high working capital requirements in the later stages of the project;
 - 20.3 cash receipts were dependent upon certain milestones being met, giving rise to timing differences from a cash collection point of view;
 - 20.4 they had a cash profile pursuant to which upfront payments were received to fund the working capital, but the majority (if not all) of the gross margin was received at completion of the project;
 - 20.5 there was limited recourse for RCR to force timely approvals of extension of time requests, variations and milestone approvals, coupled with requirements on RCR to progress with construction to avoid adverse delay claims.

(EPC Solar Contract Risks Information).

Particulars

The Plaintiffs refer to:

- (a) the 28 August 2018 Announcements (as defined at paragraph 57 below);
- (b) the Prospectus (as defined at sub-paragraph 63.2 below) at pp 42-43,53-54; and
- (c) Administrators' Report at p 48-; and
- (d) Tsipis Report at [64]-[72]ff.

Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence.

(B) RCR Reporting Protocol

- 21. At all material times prior to and during the Relevant Period: RCR had in place processes and systems to monitor the -progress and financial performance of EPC Solar Contracts (RCR Reporting Protocol): Pursuant to the RCR Reporting Protocol:
 - 21.1 RCR had in place processes and project-level systems relating to procurement commitments to monitor the time and cost to complete EPC Solar Contracts (RCR Protocol);

- 21.2 monthly reviews were prepared by management in order to monitor percentage completion and forecast costs to complete EPC Solar Contracts; and
- 21.3 monthly project meetings were held and updates were provided to RCR's board of directors,
- 21.4 <u>the progress and financial performance of all EPC Solar Contracts was to be</u> reviewed on a monthly basis;
- 21.5 <u>the Project Manager of an EPC Solar Contract was required at the end of each month, inter alia, to forecast costs to complete and prepare a spreadsheet recording the forecast costs to complete (CTC Spreadsheet);</u>
- 21.6 the forecast costs to complete as recorded in the CTC Spreadsheet were to be inputted into RCR's enterprise resource planning system, known, relevantly, as **Pronto**, such that, for any given EPC Solar Contract in any given month, the forecast costs to complete as recorded in Pronto matched the forecast costs to complete as recorded in the CTC Spreadsheet;
- 21.7 <u>information in Pronto was to be used to prepare a monthly project report</u>

 (MPR) for each EPC Solar Contract, which MPR included forecast costs to complete, such that, for any given EPC Solar Contract in any given month, the forecast costs to complete as recorded in the MPR matched the forecast costs to complete as recorded in the CTC Spreadsheet;
- 21.8 in respect of each EPC Solar Contract, a 'project review meeting' was to be convened each month with invitations and documentation sent to senior managers (including, relevantly the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, the Business Division COO/EGM, and the Line of Business Operations Manager), at which meeting the progress and financial performance of the project was to be discussed, and the MPR for the month prior was to be reviewed;
- 21.9 <u>information in Pronto was to be used by RCR to prepare monthly</u> management accounts for RCR, which accounts:
 - included forecast earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) for the current financial year for each operating segment within RCR, and for RCR as a whole;
 - (b) <u>were to be provided or otherwise made available to RCR's senior</u>
 <u>management; and</u>
 - (c) were to be included in the materials distributed to RCR's board of directors prior to board meetings.

(RCR Reviews).

Particulars

The Plaintiffs refer to:

- (a) the Administrators' Report at p 47; and
- (b) the Prospectus at pp 9, 38; and
- (c) <u>Tsipis Report, Section 5.6 and the policy documents there</u>
 <u>referred to including: RCR.0004.0043.0816;</u>
 <u>RCR.0004.0072.9685; RCR.0004.0052.8339;</u>
 <u>RCR.0004.0261.9241-9242;</u>

Further particulars may be provided following discovery and service of RCR's evidence.

- 21A. By reason of the RCR Reporting Protocol, throughout the Relevant Period:
 - 21A.1 information concerning the progress and financial performance of the EPC

 Solar Contracts on a month-to-month basis came, or ought reasonably to have come, into the possession of:
 - (a) Dalgleish;
 - (b) James;
 - (c) Phipps;
 - (d) McCullough;
 - (e) Adams;
 - (f) Batch
 - (g) Scafaro;
 - (h) Notley; and
 - (i) RCR's board of directors; and
 - 21A.2 <u>information concerning RCR's forecast EBIT, and the impact of the financial performance of the EPC Solar Contracts on RCR's forecast EBIT, on a month-to-month basis came, or ought reasonably to have come, into the possession of:</u>
 - (a) Dalgleish;
 - (b) James;
 - (c) Phipps;

- (d) McCullough;
- (e) Adams;
- (f) Batch;
- (g) Notley; and
- (h) RCR's board of directors.

Particulars

The particulars to paragraph 21 are repeated.

- 21B. From time to time throughout the Relevant Period, the RCR Reporting Protocol was not complied with (RCR Reporting Protocol Breaches), such that:
 - 21B.1 <u>the forecast costs to complete inputted into Pronto did not match the forecast costs to complete as recorded in the CTC Spreadsheets;</u>
 - 21B.2 <u>the forecast costs to complete as recorded in the MPRs did not match the forecast costs to complete as recorded in the CTC Spreadsheets:</u>
 - 21B.3 RCR's monthly management accounts did not accurately reflect the forecast costs to complete in respect of the EPC Solar Contracts as recorded in the CTC Spreadsheets; and
 - 21B.4 the forecast EBIT for the current financial year in RCR's monthly management accounts did not accurately reflect the forecast costs to complete in respect of the EPC Solar Contracts as recorded in the CTC Spreadsheets.

<u>Particulars</u>

The failure, from time-to-time, of the MPRs and monthly management accounts to incorporate and reflect the forecasts recorded in the CTC Spreadsheets for the corresponding EPC Solar Project in relation to the corresponding month is reflected in the "Reported Forecast Cost at Completion" tables and figures in the Tsipis Report. These include the following months.

Project	Month(s)	Tsipis Report
Gretel	Oct 2017 – Jul 2018	Figure 8 & Table 4, pp
		<u>47-49</u>
Clermont	Jun 2018, Sep 2018	Figure 10 & Table 7, pp
		<u>55-58</u>

Darling Downs	Apr 2018	Figure 12 & Table 11,
		pp 64-65
Emerald	Nov 2017 – Mar 2018,	Figure 14 & Table 15,
	May – Jun 2018	pp 73-74
Canadian Solar	<u>Jun 2017 – Apr 2018</u>	Figure 22 & Table 30,
		pp 100-101
<u>Manildra</u>	Jun 2017 - Apr 2018,	Figure 24 & Table 36,
	Aug 2018	pp 108-109
Swan Hill	Oct 2017 – Jun 2018	Figure 28 & Table 44,
		pp 125-126
<u>Wemen</u>	May – Jun, Sep 2018	Figure 30 & Table 48,
		pp 132-133

The effect of this failure upon the forecast EBIT in RCR's monthly management accounts is described in answer to Question 3 in the report of Martin Cairns (Cairns Report) – e.g. Table 4 and Figure 2, pp 18-19.

The failure to incorporate up-to-date forecast costs to complete in MPRs,

Pronto and management accounts is also reflected in contemporaneous

documents, including the following by way of example:

- (a) Email of Robinson of 21 August 2017 in respect of Manildra: "It is important to note that the PET report reflects Pronto and shows us maintaining margin as reported in June. The CTC spreadsheet highlights the current position as impacted by the short falls in realisation of projected buying gains" RCR.0001.0006.7175;
- (b) <u>Email of Robinson of 17 October 2017 in respect of Manildra: "As briefed the PET report reflects Pronto and shows us maintaining margin, whereas the CTC spreadsheet highlights the current position"-RCR.0004.0160.3630;</u>
- (c) Email of Scafaro of 6 November 2017 in respect of Canadian Solar:

 "Note that we decided to take a position of \$1M on claims on Oakey
 and reduce CTC on Oakey by just under \$3M as per highlighted
 subjobs in the attached. This will be reversed after Jan 18." –
 RCR.0004.0033.9281;
- (d) <u>Email of Tasharofi of 4 December 2017 in relation to Gretel: "I need your advice on whether we indicate Project's negative balance in the</u>

- NOV CTC or not. I have not inserted costs in Pronto pending this decision." RCR.0004.0310.6789;
- (e) Email of Scafaro of 4 December 2017 in relation to Gretel: "Can we please run pronto as per budget and keep CTC sheet as accurate as possible so we can discuss internally" RCR.0004.0310.6789;
- (f) <u>Email of Scafaro of 8 December 2017 in relation to Gretel: "Maintain our margin in Pronto. Run the forecast CTC spread sheet as accurately as you can warts and all." RCR.0004.0310.6789;</u>
- (g) Email of Butler of 10 January 2018 in relation to Gretel: "As instructed in your email of 8 Dec, the Financial report has been run as per pronto budget showing full margin. The CTC will be different and has margin slippage since November CTC report."— RCR.0004.0021.8981. This email was then forwarded to Phipps—RCR.0004.0021.8981. Mr Butler tendered his resignation the next morning, on 11 January 2018: RCR.0004.0116.0511; RCR.0004.0148.5977;
- (h) <u>Email of Butler of 16 January 2018 in relation to Gretel: "The report shows full 10% margin this is produced this way as instructed. The cost to complete sheets show significantly different picture, with significant margin loss" RCR.0004.0066.5269;</u>
- (i) Email of Malam of 14 February 2018 in relation to Canadian Solar:

 "Can you send me the real CTC file, I'll review it then provide guidance
 on where to adjust the numbers to reflect the corporate reported CTC"

 RCR.0008.0053.4542;
- (j) Email of Jayatilaka of 1 March 2018 in relation to Clermont: "Could you please recheck CTC update in Pronto. My understanding was, we hold our position to report project @ 9.72% margin (same as budget)" RCR.0008.0057.8622
- (k) <u>Email of Kirkland of 2 March 2018 in relation to Clermont: "Irrespective we have updated the CTC forecasts as per discussion to maintain forecast budget margin..." RCR.0008.0057.8664;</u>
- (I) The February 2018 CTC for the Manildra Project records both a "Pronto" forecast and an "Actual" forecast – RCR.0007.0004.6000 at .6020;
- (m) Email of Daniel Campbell of 14 June 2018 in relation to Manildra: "The financial tables are showing a \$1.768M movement in the month but my CTC is showing a \$17k movement. Is this because I updated the CTC at the start of last month to show the real position and not the \$2M we reported in Pronto." RCR.0008.0057.2926.

(n) Aspects of the failures to adhere to adhere to the RCR Reporting

Protocol in respect of Solar Projects are described in an Internal Audit

Report with an audit date of July 2018 finalised on 14 November 2018

- RCR.0001.0013.2261.

III. PROJECT GRETEL DAYDREAM AND HAYMAN SOLAR FARMS PROJECT

- 22. At a time presently unknown to the Plaintiffs, but prior to 11 August 2017, In April 2017, RCR submitted a tender to enter into a contractual arrangement, for the engineering, procurement, construction, operation and maintenance of two 'solar farms' located in Collinsville, Queensland, known as the 'Daydream Solar Farm' and the 'Hayman Solar Farm' (together, the Project Gretel).
- 23. The Project Gretel required, among other things:
 - 23.1 approximately 110,000 piles to be installed on the <u>Project project</u> sites by driving the piles into the ground; and
 - 23.2 approximately 2.2 million solar panels to be mounted upon the driven piles.
- 24. In submitting a tender for the Project Gretel and in negotiating with the counterparty, RCR made an estimate estimates of total costs in relation to the Project Gretel (Tender Estimate) which allowed for particular, or a range of particular, sub-surface ground conditions at the Project site. estimated rates of "piling refusals".

Particulars

The quantum of the Tender Estimate and the particular, or range of particular, sub-surface ground conditions at the Project site allowed for in the Tender Estimate are presently unknown to the Plaintiffs. Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence.

<u>The Tender Front Sheet dated 5 June 2017 allowed for "1% refusal" – RCR.0004.0175.1979.</u>

An email of Keith Robertson of 30 October 2018 records that "the final allowance in the estimate for pre-drilling was nil" – RCR.0004.0194.5029.

- 25. On or around 11 August 2017, RCR was awarded the contracts for the Project Gretel.
- 26. In September 2017, construction of the Project Gretel commenced.
- 26A. By no later than 19 December 2017, Phipps was aware that the project management of Project Gretel was poor and those involved did not understand basic reporting dynamics.

Particulars

Email of Phipps of 7 May 2018 - RCR.0004.0074.0703.

- 27. By August 2018, construction of the Project Gretel was substantially complete.
- IV. RELEVANT ANNOUNCEMENTS, DISCLOSURES AND EVENTS
- (A) 23 February 2017 Announcements
- 28. On 23 February 2017, RCR:
 - 28.1 published and released an ASX Announcement and Media Release entitled "RCR Exceeds Consensus and Resumes Growth Cycle as Revenue, Earnings and Order Book Rebound From Previous Six Months" (23 February 2017 ASX Announcement):
 - published and released to the ASX an audio recording entitled "Boardroom Radio Broadcast HY17 Results" (23 February 2017 Audio Recording),

(the 23 February 2017 Announcements).

- 29. Dalgleish:
 - 29.1 authorised the publication and release of the 23 February 2017

 Announcements:
 - 29.2 provided statements for inclusion in the 23 February 2017 ASX Announcement, which statements were quoted therein;
 - 29.3 was identified as the contact person for investors in relation to the 23 February 2017 ASX Announcement; and
 - 29.4 spoke the words in the 23 February 2017 Audio Recording.
- 30. In the 23 February 2017 Announcements, Dalgleish RCR made the following representations to the Affected Market:
 - 30.1 RCR's revenue for HY17 was \$484.4 million;
 - 30.2 RCR's earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) for HY17 was \$13.7 million;
 - 30.3 RCR's strategy to move away from the coal sector has paid dividends;
 - 30.4 we are expecting revenues to continue to grow and margins to improve over the next six months;
 - 30.5 RCR's growth is being driven by the development of renewable energy projects, and RCR is currently the preferred tenderer on over 350MW of renewable energy projects;

- 30.6 conversion of the pipeline of preferred tenders into contracted revenue will position RCR well for revenue growth in FY18;
- 30.7 RCR will continue to focus on opportunities in the renewable energy market; and
- 30.8 in recent times, I have not seen better conditions for the business or a better outlook; and
- 30.9 on the back of over \$500 million in recent contract wins, a growing pipeline and a record order book and preferred status of \$1.8 billion, RCR expects to have stronger revenue and earnings growth in the second half of FY17 and into FY18,

(23 February 2017 Dalgleish Representations).

Particulars

The 23 February 2017 Dalgleish Representations were express.

- 31. In the 23 February 2017 Announcements, RCR made the following representations to the Affected Market:
 - 31.1 the 23 February 2017 Dalgleish Representations; and
 - 31.2 on the back of over \$500 million in recent contract wins, a growing pipeline and a record order book and preferred status of \$1.8 billion, RCR expects to have stronger revenue and earnings growth in the second half of FY17 and into FY18,

(23 February 2017 RCR Representations).

Particulars

The 23 February 2017 RCR Representations were express.

- (B) 3 May 2017 Presentation
- On 3 May 2017, RCR published and released to the ASX an investor presentation entitled "Macquarie Conference 2017 Investor Presentation" (3 May 2017 Presentation).
- 33. Dalgleish:
 - 33.1 authorised the publication and release of the 3 May 2017 Presentation; and
 - 33.2 was identified as the presenter in the 3 May 2017 Presentation.
- 34. In the 3 May 2017 Presentation, Dalgleish and RCR made the following representations to the Affected Market:

- 34.1 RCR's revenue for HY17 was \$484.4 million;
- 34.2 RCR's earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) for HY17 was \$13.7 million;
- 34.3 RCR is positioned for, and expects, stronger earnings growth in the second half of FY17 and into FY18;
- 34.4 RCR's strategic objectives include expansion into new market sectors, including renewable energy, and
- 34.5 RCR has developed an advanced system delivery approach for large solar projects; and
- 34.6 newly won major projects and preferred contractor status are expected to increase RCR's revenue and earnings,

(3 May 2017 Representations).

Particulars

The 3 May 2017 Representations were express.

(C) 11 August 2017 Announcement

- 35. On 11 August 2017, RCR issued an ASX Announcement and Media Release entitled "RCR awarded \$315m for Daydream and Hayman solar farm projects" (11 August 2017 Announcement).
- 36. Dalgleish:
 - 36.1 authorised the publication and release of the 11 August 2017 Announcement;
 - 36.2 provided statements for inclusion in the 11 August 2017 Announcement, which statements were quoted therein; and
 - 36.3 was identified as the contact person for investors in relation to the 11 August 2017 Announcement
- 37. In the 11 August 2017 Announcement, Dalgleish RCR made the following representations to the Affected Market:
 - 37.1 RCR now has over half a Gigawatt of large-scale solar projects in our order book and more than a Gigawatt currently being developed or progressed under early contractor involvement processes;
 - 37.2 RCR has firmly positioned itself as one of Australia's leading developers and EPC providers of large-scale solar and other renewable energy infrastructure; and

- 37.3 RCR is currently preferred on a number of additional renewable energy projects that will support our further growth in FY18 and into FY19,
- 38.1 RCR has been awarded the contracts for the Project Gretel;
- 37.4 the value of the Project Gretel on award was \$315 million,

(11 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations).

Particulars

The 11 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations were express.

- 38. The 11 August 2017 Announcement, RCR made the following representations to the Affected Market:
 - 38.2 the 11 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations; and
 - 38.3 RCR has been awarded the contracts for the Project Gretel:
 - 38.4 the value of the Project Gretel on award was \$315 million,

(11 August 2017 RCR Representations).

Particulars

The 11 August 2017 RCR Representations were express.

- (D) 24 August 2017 Announcements
- 39. On 24 August 2017, RCR published and released to the ASX its FY17 audited annual financial report (**FY17 Financial Report**), which included a Managing Director's Report from Dalgleish (**FY17 Managing Director's Report**).
- 40. On 24 August 2017, RCR also:
 - 40.1 issued an ASX Announcement and Media Release entitled "RCR Announces Strong Full Year Result and a Capital Raising to Support Future Growth" (24 August 2017 ASX Announcement);
 - 40.2 published and released to the ASX an investor presentation entitled "FY17 Results & Capital Raising to Support Future Growth" (24 August 2017 Presentation); and
 - 40.3 published and released to the ASX an audio recording entitled "RCR FY17 Results and Capital Raising to Support Future Growth" (24 August 2017 Audio Recording).

(24 August 2017 Announcements).

41. Dalgleish:

- 41.1 authorised the publication and release of the 24 August 2017
 Announcements;
- 41.2 provided statements for inclusion in the 24 August 2017 ASX Announcement, which statements were quoted therein;
- 41.3 was identified as the contact person for investors in relation to the 24 August 2017 ASX Announcement:
- 41.4 was identified as a presenter of the 24 August 2017 Presentation; and
- 41.5 spoke the words in the 24 August 2017 Audio Recording.
- 42. In the 24 August 2017 Announcements, and the FY17 Managing Director's Report and the FY17 Annual Report, Dalgleish RCR made the following representations to the Affected Market:
 - 42.1 RCR's revenue for FY17 was \$1.3 billion; and
 - 42.2 RCR's EBIT for FY17 was \$35.2 million;
 - 42.3 RCR now has half a gigawatt of solar energy projects under construction and RCR's momentum is being driven, in substantial part, by its renewable energy projects;
 - 42.4 there will likely be substantial growth in the large-scale solar project market, and RCR is in a strong position to capitalise on that growth;
 - 42.5 given RCR's access to projects within the solar energy sector and our technical expertise and understanding of the generation market, RCR is favourably positioned to invest capital to deliver additional value for RCR shareholders;
 - 42.6 low net debt and a strong balance sheet will provide growth for FY18 and FY19:
 - 42.7 RCR expects to experience, and is positioned for, significant and continued strong growth through FY18;
 - 42.8 we believe that our strategic position as market leader in the renewable energy sector will see our business enjoy significant growth opportunities over the next decade from new, large-scale, solar, wind and storage power projects;
 - 42.9 we expect the infrastructure business to provide the strongest and most predictable path for growth over the next decade;
 - 42.10 our strength in engineering and project delivery, which has stood us in good stead in servicing the traditional energy markets, has been readily

- translatable to the new and emerging renewable energy market, and this has enabled us to position RCR as a market leader in the design and construction of large scale utility photovoltaic solar, wind and battery storage projects and benefit from the rapid growth in renewable energy infrastructure;
- 42.11 RCR's success in the renewable energy sector has been enviable; and
- there is a reasonable basis to expect that RCR's earnings for FY18 will exceed RCR's earnings for FY17;
- 42.13 RCR is on track, and well positioned, to deliver further revenue and earnings growth in FY18;
- 42.14 RCR is now the market leader in the design and construction of large scale solar farms in the rapidly evolving renewable energy sector;
- 42.15 RCR will undertake a capital raising of up to \$90 million, with \$75 million to be raised by way of an institutional placement and the balance to be raised by a non-underwritten share purchase plan offer to existing shareholders (2017 Capital Raising).

(24 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations).

Particulars

- (a) The 24 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations pleaded at subparagraphs 42.1 to 42.11 <u>and 42.13 to 42.15</u> were express.
- (b) The 24 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations pleaded at subparagraph 42.12 was implied.
- 43. In the 24 August 2017 Announcements and the FY17 Annual Report, RCR made the following representations to the Affected Market:
 - 43.1 the 24 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations;
 - 43.2 43.2 RCR is on track, and well positioned, to deliver further revenue and earnings growth in FY18;
 - 43.3 43.2 RCR is now the market leader in the design and construction of large scale solar farms in the rapidly evolving renewable energy sector;
 - 43.4 43.3 RCR will undertake a capital raising of up to \$90 million, with \$75 million to be raised by way of an institutional placement and the balance to be raised by a non-underwritten share purchase plan offer to existing shareholders (2017 Capital Raising).

(24 August 2017 RCR Representations).

Particulars

- (a) The Plaintiffs repeat the particulars to paragraph 42.
- (b) The 24 August 2017 RCR Representations pleaded at sub-paragraph 43.2 to 43.4 were express.

(E) 30 August 2017 Cleansing Notice

- 44. On 25 August 2017, RCR announced the successful completion of the institutional placement component of the 2017 Capital Raising.
- 45. On 30 August 2017, RCR gave notice purporting to comply with the requirements of s 708A(5)(e) of the Corporations Act (**Cleansing Notice**).
- 46. In the Cleansing Notice, RCR made the following representations to the Affected Market:
 - 46.1 as at the date of the Cleansing Notice, RCR has complied with s 674 of the Corporations Act; and
 - as at the date of the Cleansing Notice, there is no excluded information of the type referred to in s 708A(7) and (8) of the Corporations Act,

(Cleansing Notice Representations).

47. On 20 September 2017, RCR announced the successful completion of the 2017 Capital Raising.

(F) 22 February 2018 Announcements

- 48. On 22 February 2018, RCR published and released to the ASX its HY18 financial report (**HY18 Financial Report**).
- 49. On 22 February 2018, RCR also:
 - 49.1 published and released an ASX Announcement and Media Release entitled "RCR Delivers Record Half Revenues, Cash Conversion and Earnings Growth" (22 February 2018 ASX Announcement);
 - 49.2 published and released to the ASX an investor presentation entitled "HY18 Results and Company Update" (22 February 2018 Presentation); and
 - 49.3 published and released to the ASX an audio recording entitled "RCR Half Year Results and Company Update" (22 February 2018 Audio Recording),

(22 February 2018 Announcements).

50. Dalgleish:

- 50.1 authorised the publication and release of the 22 February 2018

 Announcements;
- 50.2 provided statements for inclusion in the 22 February 2018 ASX Announcement, which statements were quoted therein;
- 50.3 was identified as the contact person for investors in relation to the 22 February 2018 ASX Announcement;
- 50.4 was identified as a presenter of the 22 February 2018 Presentation;
- 50.5 spoke the words in the 22 February 2018 Audio Recording.
- 51. In the 22 February 2018 Announcements <u>and the HY18 Financial Report, Dalgleish</u>

 <u>RCR</u> made the following representations to the Affected Market:
 - 51.1 RCR's revenue for HY18 was \$940 million; 44X.2-RCR's EBIT for HY18 was \$22.8 million;
 - 51.2 RCR's cash flows have improved significantly over the past year, and RCR now has a record \$84.7 million in net cash;
 - 51.3 RCR has delivered record revenues and earnings growth;
 - 51.4 RCR's success in the renewable energy sector over the past year is expected to contribute to RCR's continuing growth momentum;
 - 51.5 RCR is well placed for expected revenue and earnings growth, with a number of contracts to flow through to support FY19 revenue;
 - there is a reasonable basis to expect that RCR's earnings for FY18 would exceed RCR's earnings for FY17,
 - 51.7 <u>in RCR's infrastructure business, revenue was growing rapidly, predominantly as a result of the renewable energy projects;</u>
 - 51.8 RCR's net cash of up to \$84.7 million will support a growing pipeline in renewable energy;
 - 51.9 RCR expects to deliver revenue and earnings growth in FY18 and FY19;
 - 51.10 RCR's financial position remains strong;
 - 51.11 solar energy contracts awarded to RCR in the past 12 months are expected to contribute strongly to RCR's continuing growth momentum; and
 - 51.12 <u>key contracts contributing to the performance of RCR's infrastructure business include Project Gretel,</u>

(22 February 2018 Dalgleish Representations).

Particulars

- (a) The 22 February 2018 Dalgleish Representations pleaded in subparagraphs 51.1 to 51.5 and 51.7 to 51.12 were express.
- (b) The 22 February 2018 Dalgleish Representations pleaded in subparagraph 51.6 was implied.
- 52. In the 22 February 2018 Announcements and the HY18 Financial Report, RCR made the following representations to the Affected Market:
 - 52.12 the 22 February 2018 Dalgleish Representations;
 - 52.13 in RCR's infrastructure business, revenue was growing rapidly, predominantly as a result of the renewable energy projects;
 - 52.14 RCR's net cash of up to \$84.7 million will support a growing pipeline in renewable energy;
 - 52.15 RCR expects to deliver revenue and earnings growth in FY18 and FY19;
 - 52.16 RCR's financial position remains strong;
 - 52.17 solar energy contracts awarded to RCR in the past 12 months are expected to contribute strongly to RCR's continuing growth momentum; and
 - 52.18 key contracts contributing to the performance of RCR's infrastructure business include the Project Gretel,

Particulars

The Plaintiffs repeat the particulars to paragraph 51.

The 22 February 2018 RCR Representations pleaded at sub-paragraphs 52.12 to 52.18 were express.

(G) 30 July 2018 Trading halt and suspension

- 53 On 30 July 2018, at the request of RCR, trading in RCR Shares on the ASX was halted pending an announcement by RCR to the market regarding its FY18 earnings.
- On 1 August 2018, at the request of RCR, RCR Shares were suspended from quotation on the ASX pending an announcement by RCR to the market concerning the likely financial impact of cost overruns in relation to the Project Gretel.
- 55 On 7 August 2018:
 - at the Request of RCR, the suspension of RCR's shares from quotation on the ASX was continued; and
 - 61.3 RCR announced to the market that its CEO, Dr Paul Dalgleish, would step down as Managing Director and CEO of RCR and its related companies.

(H) 28 August 2018 disclosures

- 56 On 28 August 2018, RCR released and published to the ASX its FY18 audited annual financial report (FY18 Financial Report).
- 57 On 28 August 2018, RCR also:
 - published and released to the ASX an ASX Announcement and Media Release, entitled "RCR Announces FY18 Results and a Capital Raising to Strengthen Balance Sheet" lodged with the ASX (28 August 2018 ASX Announcement); and
 - 57.3 published and released to the ASX an investor presentation entitled "Project Update and Capital Raising Investor Presentation" (28 August 2018 Investor Presentation); and
 - 57.3 <u>published and released to the ASX a report of the directors of RCR signed</u> by Roderick Brown on behalf of the directors,

(28 August 2018 Announcements).

58 James:

- 58.2 authorised the publication and release of the 28 August 2018
 Announcements; and
- 58.3 provided statements for inclusion in the 28 August 2018 ASX Announcement, which statements were quoted therein;
- 58.4 was identified as the contact person for investors in relation to the 28 August 2018 ASX Announcement; and
- 58.5 was identified as a presenter of the 28 August 2018 Presentation.
- 59 The 28 August 2018 Announcements stated, and it was the fact, that:
 - 59.2 the following issues had been encountered in relation to the Project Gretel:
 - (a) materially worse sub-surface ground conditions at the site than RCR had allowed for in its Tender Estimate, which resulted in an underestimation of site piling requirements;
 - revisions to construction plans, due to the interdependence between construction and piling, which resulted in an increase in subcontractor costs and logistics costs;
 - (c) external delays, which resulted in 'extension of time submissions'; and
 - (d) adverse weather conditions,

(together, Project Gretel Issues);

- 59.3 the Project <u>Gretel</u> Issues had caused significant cost overruns in relation to the Project (Cost Overruns); <u>Gretel</u>:
- 59.4 the cost overruns on Project Gretel resulted in cumulative write-downs of \$57 million from the tendered margin on the Project-(Write-downs);
- 59.5 RCR's underlying EBIT for FY18 was \$4.2 million (i.e. a loss of \$4.2 million);
- 59.6 RCR had suffered a statutory net loss of \$16.1 million for FY18, which loss was largely driven by the Cost Overruns-Project Gretel cost overruns;
- 59.7 in the 12 months prior to 28 August 2018, RCR's revenue had been largely derived from fixed price EPC Solar Contracts, which expose RCR to potential risks including delays, unanticipated increases in the cost of delivering the relevant project and high working capital requirements in the later stages of the project; and
- 59.8 cash receipts on EPC Solar Contracts are dependent on certain milestones being met, which may cause timing differences from a cash collection point of view.
- The 28 August 2018 Announcements also stated that:
 - 60.2 a large proportion of the Write write-downs on Project Gretel were only recently identified;
 - the reasons reason why a large proportion of the Write write-downs on Project Gretel were only recently identified was because RCR personnel circumvented RCR's standard processes and project-level systems relating to procurement commitments Protocol;
 - 60.4 the <u>Breach breach</u> of <u>RCR Protocol protocol</u> made it extremely difficult to accurately determine cost<u>s</u>-to-date and forecast cost<u>s</u>-to-complete on a timely basis;
 - 60.5 several actions and additional measures were being implemented to mitigate the risk of project-level systems being circumvented and cost overruns going undetected in the future; and
 - the Board was taking immediate action to enhance the Company's systems and to reposition the Company towards a more acceptable risk profile, including by shifting RCR's project portfolio away from EPC Solar Contracts and towards 'alliance style' contracts, which offer a more favourable risk allocation to RCR and provide a higher degree of margin predictability.
- 61 In the 28 August 2018 Announcements, James-<u>RCR</u> made the following representations to the Affected Market:

- with the 2018 Capital Raising (defined below at sub-paragraph <u>63.1</u>), and the support from RCR's financiers announced today (ie 28 August 2018), RCR can move forward in a position of strength; and
- 61.2 the outlook for RCR remains positive;
- 61.3 <u>the cost overruns experienced on Project Gretel were caused by project-specific issues;</u>
- 61.4 <u>a large proportion of the \$57 million of write-downs realised on Project Gretel</u> were only recently identified;
- 61.5 this was due to onsite procedures adopted by a limited number of site personnel, which had the effect of circumventing RCR's standard processes;
- outside the cost overruns experienced on Project Gretel, the variance to tendered margins experienced across RCR's other projects was typical of a contracting business;
- 61.7 with the support of RCR's existing financiers and the 2018 Capital Raising,
 RCR is in a strong financial position, trading on a business as usual basis,
 and is well placed to deliver for its customers and shareholders; and
- 61.8 RCR is targeting FY19 underlying EBIT in the range of \$40 million to \$48 million,

(28 August 2018 James Representations).

Particulars

- (a) The 28 August 2018 James Representations pleaded at subparagraphs 61.1 to 61.7 were express.
- (b) The 28 August 2018 Representation pleaded at sub-paragraph 61.8 was implied
- 62 In the 28 August 2018 Announcements, RCR made the following representations to the Affected Market:
 - 62.1 the 28 August 2018 James Representations;
 - 62.2 the Cost overruns were caused by project-specific issues;
 - 62.3 with the support of RCR's existing financiers and the 2018 Capital Raising,
 RCR is in a strong financial position, trading on a business as usual basis,
 and is well placed to deliver for its customers and shareholders; and
 - 62.4 RCR is targeting FY19 underlying EBIT in the range of \$40 million to \$48 million.

62. 5 there is a reasonable basis to expect that RCR's underlying EBIT for FY19 will be between \$40 to \$48 million.

(28 August 2018 RCR Representations).

Particulars

- (a) The Plaintiffs repeat the particulars to paragraph 61.
- (b) The 28 August 2018 RCR Representations pleaded at sub paragraphs 62.1 to 62.4 were express.
- (c) The 28 August 2018 RCR Representation pleaded at subparagraph 62.5 was implied.

(I) Capital raising

- 63 On 28 August 2018, RCR:
 - announced a \$100 million capital raising, by way of an underwritten 1 for 1.65 accelerated pro-rata non-renounceable entitlement offer at an offer price of \$1.00 per new share (**2018 Capital Raising**), to strengthen its balance sheet and address the financial impacts of the Cost Ooverruns announced on 28 August 2018; and
 - 63.2 released and published to the ASX a prospectus, as part of the 2018 Capital Raising (**Prospectus**).
- On 30 August 2018, RCR announced that it had successfully completed the institutional component of the 2018 Capital Raising, pursuant to which approximately \$70 million was raised.

(J) Share price decline

- 65 On 30 August 2018, the suspension of trading in RCR Shares was lifted and RCR Shares were reinstated to quotation on the ASX.
- On 30 August 2018, following the reinstatement of RCR Shares to quotation on the ASX, the price of RCR Shares declined substantially from the price immediately before the suspension and failed to recover.

Particulars

According to information obtained from Computershare Investor Services Pty Ltd, which manages RCR's share register, RCR's share price in the period from 27 July 2018 to 5 September 2018 was as follows:

Date	Opening price	Closing price
Friday 27 July 2018	\$2.80	\$2.80
Monday 30 July 2018 - Wednesday 29 August 2018	Trading halted and thereafter suspended	
30 August 2018	\$1.05	\$ <u>1.20</u>
31 August 2018	\$1.12	\$1.12
3 September 2018	\$1.12	\$1.05
4 September 2018	\$1.07	\$1.04
5 September 2018	\$1.04	\$1.06

(K) Voluntary administration and liquidation

67 On 21 September 2018, RCR announced that it had successfully completed the 2018 Capital Raising, pursuant to which it raised \$100 million.

Particulars

RCR raised approximately \$70 million from institutional investors, approximately \$14.4 million from retail investors, and the balance from underwriters and/or sub-underwriters of the 2018 Capital Raising.

- 68 On 12 November 2018, at the request of RCR, trading in RCR Shares on the ASX was halted pending an announcement by RCR to the market on 14 November 2018. The closing price of RCR Shares on 12 November 2018 was \$0.87.
- 69 On 14 November 2018, at the request of RCR, RCR Shares were suspended from quotation on the ASX pending an announcement by RCR to the market concerning its earnings for FY19 and the associated consequences for its funding.
- 70 On 20 November 2018:
 - 70.2 at the request of RCR, the suspension of RCR Shares from quotation on the ASX was continued; and
 - 70.3 RCR announced to the market the commencement of this proceeding.

- 71 On 22 November 2018, RCR announced to the market, and it was the fact, that Jason Preston, William Harris and Robert Brauer and Matthew Caddy of McGrathNicol had been appointed as administrators of RCR (**Administrators**).
- 72 On 19 March 2019, the Administrators published a report to creditors (**Administrators**' **Report**).
- 73 On 26 March 2019, the Administrators were appointed as Joint and Several Liquidators of RCR (**Liquidators**).
- 74 On 9 April 2019, the Liquidators declared that they had reasonable grounds to believe that there is no likelihood that shareholders of RCR will receive any distribution in respect of the shares they hold in RCR.

Particulars

Update to Shareholders of RCR issued by the Liquidators.

V. INFORMATION OF WHICH RCR WAS AWARE

(A) EPC Solar Contract Risk Information

75 By no later than the start of the Relevant Period, RCR was aware of the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information.

75.2.1 The EPC Solar Contract Risk Information was information of which:

- (1) Dalgleish, James, Phipps came, or alternatively ought reasonably to have come, into possession in the course of the performance of their duties as officers of RCR by no later than the start of the Relevant Period; and
- (2) McCullough came, or alternatively ought reasonably to have come, into possession in the course of the performance of his duties as officers of RCR by no later than February 2017.
- 75.2.2 The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 16 to II(B) and 60 to 61 above.
- 75.2.3 Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence.

(B) Ground Conditions Information

76 By no later than 41 August 24 August 2017, or alternatively 30 November 2017; or alternatively 31 December 2017, RCR was aware that:

- 76.2 sub-surface ground conditions at the Project <u>Gretel</u> site were materially worse than RCR had allowed for in its Tender Estimate (**Ground Conditions Issue**); and
- 76.3 there it was a material risk likely that the profitability of the Project Gretel would be adversely affected by reason of the Ground Conditions Issue,

(Ground Conditions Information).

- (a) By reason of the Ground Conditions Issue, there it was a material risk likely that:
 - (1) RCR would incur increased costs in relation to the installation of the piles at the Project <u>Gretel</u> site;
 - (2) RCR would encounter delay in the installation of the piles at the Project Gretel site;
 - (3) RCR would encounter delay in the completion of the construction of the Project Gretel, by reason of the interdependence of the installation of the piles and other aspects of the construction of the Project Gretel;
 - (4) RCR would be required to make revisions to its construction plans and/or execution methodologies, in order to mitigate the delays pleaded in particulars (a)(2) and (a)(3) to this paragraph 76, which in turn would increase subcontractor costs and logistics costs; and/or
 - (5) as a consequence of any one or combination of the matters set out above, RCR would encounter significant cost overruns in relation to the Project Gretel.
- (b) there was a material risk that the profitability of the Project would be adversely affected by reason of the Ground Conditions Issue,
- (c) <u>The Ground Conditions Information was information of which officers of</u>

 RCR came into possession of:
 - (1) Comments of Scafaro on a "pricing evaluation" spreadsheet on or around 6 June 2017 "Would like to get an opinion on pile depth as none of our current projects have 1.5m pile depth and David Hng is concerned at reactive soils which will only increase pile depth. If Depth increases then productivity will suffer" RCR.0004.0088.8192;

- (2) Email of Maher to Scafaro of 23 August 2017 "The size change discussed today by David Hng based on the Aquasoli information would be a 6.7 million over budget" RCR.0004.0015.9157;
- (3) <u>Email of Eigenmann to Scafaro of 23 November 2017 "50%</u> refusals after 200 piles driven... Lots of deformed pile heads... 3 damaged rigs" RCR.0001.0064.7527;
- (4) The Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director's Monthly Report for November 2017 reported that "Piling progress has been slow, with a higher than expected number of refusals. This is despite all of the site pull-out test showing only a 2% refusal. There will be a need for nightshift to catch up on progress, and as such it is anticipated that the project contingency will be potentially utilised in some part, if not all, over the coming months" RCR.900.003.2009 at .2023;
- (5) <u>emails to which officers were party concerning delays on Project</u>

 <u>Gretel including: RCR.0004.0019.7702, RCR.0004.0040.7893,</u>

 <u>RCR.0005.0005.3764, RCR.0004.0120.6649;</u>
- (d) Further or in the alternative, the Ground Conditions Information was information which officers of RCR, including Scafaro, McCullough, Phipps and Dalgleish, ought to have come into possession of in the course of performance of their duties, including by reason of the RCR Reporting Protocol, in light of:
 - (1) the documents referred to at (c) above;
 - (2) <u>Preliminary report of Aquasoli of 21 June 2017 RCR.200.034.0095;</u>
 - (3) Report of Aquasoli of 20 July 2017 RCR.200.008.9099;
 - (4) <u>Letter of Aquasoli of 7 August 2017 RCR.200.005.3626; and</u>
 - (5) Email of Tasharofi to Butler of 23 November 2017 stating "Piling: as per the budget- no visibility on the actual costs and risk of refusals" RCR.0004.0305.3976.
- 77. RCR was aware of the Ground Conditions Information by no later than:
 - 77.1 August 2017; or
 - 77.2 alternatively, the point in time at which the installation of the piles commenced.

- (a) The Ground Conditions Information was information of which Dalgleish, James, Phipps and McCullough came, or ought reasonably to have come, into possession in the course of the performance of their duties as officers of RCR by no later than 11 August 2017, including by reason of the RCR Reviews.
- (b) Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence

(C) Project Issues Information

78. At a time presently unknown to the Plaintiffs, but materially prior to 28 August 2018, RCR was aware of the Project Issues (**Project Issues Information**).

Particulars

- (a) Each of the Project Issues had, or had substantially, arisen or occurred materially prior to 28 August 2018.
- (b) In April 2018, as a consequence of the Project Issues, RCR readjusted its forecast time and cost to completion for the Project, reducing the forecast margin from approximately \$28.5 million to approximately \$11.5 million.
- (c) The Project Issues Information was information of which Dalgleish,
 James, Phipps and McCullough came, or ought reasonably to have
 come, into possession in the course of the performance of their duties
 as officers of RCR by a date materially prior to 28 August 2018,
 including by reason of the RCR Reviews.
- (d) Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence.

(CA) August 2017 Information

- 78A. By no later than 24 August 2017, RCR was aware, and it was the case, that:
 - 78A.1 RCR was experiencing difficulties in respect of two of its largest EPC Solar Contracts, Canadian and Manildra, such that RCR was not on track to achieve its budgeted margin in respect of those solar projects, and it was unlikely that either project would be profitable; and
 - 78A.2 <u>it was likely, or alternatively there was a material risk, that the underperformance of those EPC Solar Projects would adversely impact upon RCR's earnings for FY18;</u>
 - 78A.3 <u>it was likely, or alternatively there was a material risk, that RCR's FY18 EBIT</u>
 <u>would fall materially short of the consensus expectation of professional</u>
 analysts covering the RCR securities listed on the ASX; and

78A.4 RCR was on track to deliver FY18 EBIT of not more than \$50 million,

(August 2017 Information)

- (a) <u>Tsipis Report, Table 34, p 106; Table 38, p 113; Appendices K</u>
 (Canadian Solar) and L (Manildra) and the documents referred to therein:
- (b) Cairns Report, Table 99, p 230;
- (c) The market consensus EBIT expectation was approximately \$57 million Bowers Report, Figure 2;
- (d) <u>The August 2017 Information was information which officers of RCR</u> came into possession of:
 - (1) on 21 and 23 August 2017 emails were sent to Scafaro attaching CTCs for Canadian Solar and Manildra: RCR.0004.0015.9506; RCR.0001.0006.7175; and
 - (2) on 23 August 2017, Phipps, McCullough and others attended

 Project Review meetings for Manildra and Canadian Solar:

 RCR.0004.0016.7500; RCR.0004.0024.7534;

 RCR.0004.0053.0485;
- (e) Further or in the alternative, the August 2017 Information was information which officers of RCR, including Scafaro, McCullough, Phipps and Dalgleish, and the Board of Directors, ought to have come into possession of in the course of performance of their duties, including by reason of the RCR Reporting Protocol, in light of:
 - (1) the information referred to at (a)-(d) above;
 - (2) <u>the allegations and particulars pleaded in paragraph 76 above concerning the Ground Conditions Information;</u>
 - (3) on 11 August 2017 an email was sent to Tasharofi attaching CTCs for Gretel: RCR.0004.0278.6880; and
 - (4) on 25 August 2017, Maher sent an email extracting tables from the MPRs for Canadian Solar stating "Need a chat about where we are getting these figures from as they are clearly not correct?

 We cannot be reporting to be on track for Engineering & procurement for both, surely?": RCR.0008.0042.1024

(D) Cost Overruns Information

79. At a time presently unknown to the Plaintiffs, but materially prior to 28 August 2018, RCR was aware that RCR would incur, and/or had incurred, substantial cost overruns in relation to EPC Solar Contracts, including by reason of the Project Issues (Cost Overruns Information).

Particulars

- (e) The Cost Overruns Information was information of which Dalgleish,

 James, Phipps and McCullough came, or ought reasonably to have
 come, into possession in the course of the performance of their duties
 as officers of RCR by a date materially prior to 28 August 2018,
 including by reason of the RCR Reviews.
- (f) In April 2018, as a consequence of the Project Issues, RCR readjusted its forecast time and cost to completion for the Project, reducing the forecast margin from approximately \$28.5 million to approximately \$11.5 million.
- (g) By July 2018, the cumulative cash flow had fallen to -\$50.8 million, a \$203.4 million net cash outflow in seven months, due to the combined impact of delayed milestone receipts, an increase in costs, and the upfront weighted nature of the payment profile of the contracts (Administrators' Report p 50).
- (h) The Administrators note that Management became aware of a number of cost overruns which it identified during 2018 and reported to the Board (Administrators' Report p 51).
- (i) Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence:

(DA) September/October/November 2017 Information

- 79A. <u>By no later than 30 September 2017, or alternatively 31 October 2017, or alternatively 30 November 2017, RCR was aware, and it was the case, that:</u>
 - 79A.1 RCR was experiencing difficulties in respect of several of its EPC Solar Contracts and RCR was not on track to achieve its budgeted margin in respect of several of its EPC Solar Projects;
 - 79A.2 <u>it was likely, or alternatively there was a material risk, that the underperformance of the EPC Solar Projects would adversely impact upon RCR's FY18 EBIT;</u>

- 79A.3 <u>it was likely, or alternatively there was a material risk, that RCR's FY18 EBIT</u>
 would fall materially short of the consensus expectation of professional
 analysts covering RCR securities listed on the ASX;
- 79A.4 RCR was not on track to deliver FY18 EBIT in an amount materially in excess of FY17 EBIT, such that RCR was not on track to deliver material earnings growth in FY18;
- 79A.5 <u>a substantial part of RCR's forecast FY18 EBIT (approximately \$7.6 million by 30 September 2017, \$7.6 million by 31 October 2017 and \$15.9 million by 30 November 2017)</u> was to be achieved through buying gains; and
- 79A.6 RCR was on track to deliver FY18 EBIT in an amount not exceeding RCR's FY17 EBIT of \$35.2 million,

(September/October/November 2017 Information).

<u>Particulars</u>

- (a) <u>Tsipis Report, Table 6, p 53; Table 34, p 106; Table 38, p 113;</u>
 <u>Appendices D (Gretel), K (Canadian Solar) and L (Manildra) and the documents referred to therein;</u>
- (b) Cairns Report, Table 99, p 230;
- (c) The market consensus EBIT expectation was approximately \$55 million as at 30 September, 31 October and 30 November 2017: Bowers Report, Figure 2; RCR "Earnings Guidance & Consensus" Board Briefing Paper of 23 October 2017 (\$55.3 million) RCR.900.003.5028 at .5282 and 21 November 2017 (\$56.0 million) RCR.900.003.3203 at .3361;
- (d) <u>The September/October/November 2017 Information was information</u> <u>which officers of RCR came into possession of:</u>
 - (1) on 8 September 2017 Batch sent an email to Adams and Giumelli expressing concern about projected cashflows on Project Gretel: "This impacts the group's forecast and what is currently being provided cannot be correct so I need this updated so I can finalise the group forecast for Board reporting" RCR.0004.0220.1042;
 - (2) <u>on 11 and 19 September 2017, emails were sent to Scafaro</u> <u>attaching CTCs for Manildra and Canadian Solar:</u> <u>RCR.0001.0006.7084; RCR.0004.0035.4179;</u>

- (3) on or about 19 September 2017, Phipps, Scafaro and others
 attended Project Review meetings for Manildra and Canadian
 Solar: RCR.0004.0041.6268; RCR.0004.0022.3029;
 RCR.0004.0041.6400; RCR.0004.0022.2821;
 RCR.0004.0022.3149;
- (4) on 14 October 2017, a construction project manager, Werner Oeder, sent an email to Scafaro entitled "Gretel Projects Concerns" with high importance listing serious concerns about Project Gretel, including (a) "There is not sufficient personnel on this project, and it was started months too early, as there are absolutely no plans or options in place, to even start the project"; (b) "personnel, that have no idea of how to build one of these"; (c) "the company is losing money, hand over fist, because knee jerk decisions are being made. Contractors are locked in way too late (due to no design), and prices skyrocket as a result, and ultimately blowing the budget"; (c) "no control of spending, as there is no effective and realistic budget to measure against"; (d) "no one in the world has built at 15Mw per week (single axis tracker), even with experienced crews, ever, and it is an impossible task with no experience on site": RCR.0001.0165.8892;
- (5) <u>on 16 October 2017, an email was sent to Scafaro and others</u> <u>which indicated Project Gretel was approximately 20 days</u> <u>behind schedule: RCR.0004.0067.4376;</u>
- (6) on 17 October 2017, emails were sent to Scafaro attaching
 CTCs for Gretel, Manildra and Canadian Solar:
 RCR.0004.0079.2779; RCR.0004.0013.6954;
 RCR.0004.0160.3630. The email in relation to Manildra noted
 that "As briefed the PET report reflects Pronto and shows us
 maintaining margin, whereas the CTC spreadsheet highlights
 the current position";
- (7) <u>on 18 October 2017, McCullough, Scafaro and others attended</u>

 <u>Project Review meetings for Gretel, Manildra and Canadian</u>

 <u>Solar: RCR.0004.0041.5679; RCR.0004.0041.5794;</u>

 <u>RCR.0004.0105.1411; RCR.0004.0051.1860;</u>

 <u>RCR.0004.0099.1849; RCR.0004.0268.5174;</u>

 RCR.0004.0268.5179; RCR.0004.0268.5182;

- (8) on 19 October 2017, Phipps sent an email to McCullough Scafaro and others which included the following: "October will need to recognise zero margin on Manildra and Canadian need to review if there are possible improvements to this but as it currently stands this will need to occur. This will mean a loss on these 2 jobs for the margin taken to date in October": RCR.0004.0098.1455;
- (9) on 23 October 2017, Adams sent an email to Notley attaching a photo of a whiteboard concerning buying gains positions and their effect on profit margin that had been drawn by Phipps and an accompanying spreadsheet: RCR.0004.0268.7680;
- "Solar Jobs Concerns" stating "Twice this morning I have had emails where BDM's are agreeing to module deliveries for projects without consulting anyone... These programs are already extremely tight due to our aggressive business development strategy & cannot accommodate such delays. We are not taking any of our learnings from actual projects into our new tenders, a huge mistake if you ask me. Our BDM's are still promising the sun, moon & stars to clients when we clearly cannot deliver. I am extremely concerned by this strategy as to date none of our solar projects are on time. Things have gotten so bad that I can tell you our latest tenders (Emerald, Clermont, Wemen) will be late before these projects have barely started": RCR.0004.0167.1079;
- on 1 November 2017, Notley sent emails to Scafaro, Adams and others concerning the accounting treatment of certain equipment for Manildra, Gannawarra, Swan Hill, Darling Downs and Sun Metals, which stated "we will transfer the attached... capital equipment from the project in October, this will be a permanent reduction in the cost of the Project, which can be taken up in contingency as additional buying gains":

 RCR.0004.0013.9481;

 RCR.0004.0269.2357; RCR.0004.0268.4931;
- (12) <u>on 3 November 2017, Grainger sent an email to Scafaro and others attaching draft CTCs for Canadian Solar RCR.0004.0033.3733;</u>

- (13) on 6 November 2017, Scafaro sent an email attaching a revised CTC for Oakey, stating "we have reduced CTC by just under \$3M". Scafaro subsequently forwarded the email stating: "Note that we decided to take a position of \$1M on claims on Oakey and reduce CTC on Oakey by just under \$3M as per highlighted subjobs in the attached. This will be reversed after Jan 18.": RCR.0004.0033.9281;
- (14) on 7 November 2017, Scafaro sent an email to Notley, Adams and others in relation to the CTC for Sun Metals which asked Gary Flaherty and Bert Kisnorbo to "please modify the R&O to show the \$3,532K decrease in CTC as a buying gain in your R&O for the month": RCR.0004.0033.9278;
- (15) on 14 November 2017, the October 2017 MPR for Manildra was sent to Scafaro. It noted that the tender relied upon "extremely aggressive buying gains applied to the majority of the major procurement packages" and that the "projected buying gains have not been realised. There is now no potential to recover tendered margin based on this strategy": RCR.0004.0140.0139;
- (16) on 14 November 2017, McCullough, Phipps, Scafaro and others attended a Project Review for Manildra: RCR.0004.0267.8686.

 The minutes record that discussion that "Plan piling installation is 250 per day and we are currently achieving 167 per day. The site is very challenging with high refusal rates";
- (17) <u>on 14 November 2017, McCullough and Scafaro attended a</u> <u>Project Review for Canadian Solar: RCR.0008.0070.7629;</u>
- (18) <u>on 16 November 2017, Phipps sent a draft report to Pitkin which</u>
 <u>noted in respect of Project Gretel that "Significant rains in</u>
 <u>September and October affected a lot of the civil progress":</u>
 RCR.0004.0022.1049, RCR.0004.0022.1051 at .1055;
- (19) on 3 and 28 November 2017, emails were sent to Scafaro attaching CTCs for Canadian Solar and Gretel: RCR.0004.0033.3733; RCR.0004.0031.3851;
- (e) Further or in the alternative, the September/October/November 2017
 Information was information which officers of RCR, including Scafaro,
 McCullough, Phipps and Dalgleish, and the Board of Directors, ought
 to have come into possession of in the course of performance of their
 duties, including by reason of the RCR Reporting Protocol, in light of:

- (1) the information referred to at (a)-(d) above;
- (2) <u>the allegations and particulars pleaded in paragraph 76 above</u> concerning the Ground Conditions Information;
- (3) <u>on 9 November 2017, Grainger sent an email to Notley attaching</u> CTCs for Canadian Solar: RCR.0004.0268.3699;
- (4) <u>on 10 November 2017, Tasharofi sent an email to Butler</u> <u>attaching CTCs for Project Gretel and stating "Unfortunately we</u> are overall \$10M off the Cost of Sales": RCR.0004.0306.5864;
- (5) on 23 November 2017, Tasharofi sent an email to Butler attaching CTCs for Project Gretel and stating "Nearly \$14.3m off the margin. Some assumptions... Piling: as per the budget- no visibility on the actual costs and risk of refusals" RCR.0004.0305.3976; and
- (6) on 24 November 2017, Eigenmann sent an email to Tasharofi in relation to Project Gretel stating "I apologise for the disorganisation and poor reporting from site. We are all very overworked with not enough resources as you are well aware of" RCR.0004.0296.9603.

(E) Write-downs Information

80. At a time presently unknown to the Plaintiffs, but materially prior to 28 August 2018, RCR was aware that the Cost Overruns would result, or had resulted, in substantial write-downs in relation to EPC Solar Contracts, including write-downs of the tendered margin on the Project (Write-downs Information).

- (a) The Write-downs Information was information of which Dalgleish,
 James, Phipps and McCullough came, or ought reasonably to have
 come, into possession in the course of the performance of their duties
 as officers of RCR by a date materially prior to 28 August 2018,
 including by reason of the RCR Reviews.
- (b) In April 2018, as a consequence of the Project Issues, RCR readjusted its forecast time and cost to completion for the Project, reducing the forecast margin from approximately \$28.5 million to approximately \$11.5 million.
- (c) By July 2018, the cumulative cash flow had fallen to -\$50.8 million, a \$203.4 million net cash outflow in seven months, due to the combined

- impact of delayed milestone receipts, an increase in costs, and the upfront weighted nature of the payment profile of the contracts (Administrators' Report p 50).
- (d) The Administrators note that Management became aware of a number of cost overruns which it identified during 2018 and reported to the Board (Administrators' Report p 51).
- (e) Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence.

(EA) February 2018 Information

- 80A. By 22 February 2018, RCR was aware, and it was the case, that:
 - 80A.1 RCR was experiencing difficulties in respect of several of its EPC Solar

 Contracts and RCR was not on track to achieve its budgeted margin in respect of several of its EPC Solar Projects;
 - 80A.2 <u>it was likely, or alternatively there was a material risk, that the underperformance of the EPC Solar Projects would adversely impact upon RCR's FY18 EBIT;</u>
 - 80A.3 <u>it was likely, or alternatively there was a material risk, that RCR's FY18 EBIT</u>
 would fall materially short of the consensus expectation of professional
 analysts covering RCR securities listed on the ASX;
 - 80A.4 RCR was not on track to deliver FY18 EBIT in an amount materially in excess of FY17 EBIT, such that RCR was not on track to deliver material earnings growth in FY18;
 - 80A.5 there was not a reasonable basis to expect that RCR would deliver material earnings growth in FY18;
 - 80A.6 RCR was on track to deliver FY18 EBIT of no more than \$25 million;
 - 80A.7 <u>a substantial part of RCR's forecast FY18 EBIT (approximately \$15.9 million)</u>

 was to be achieved through buying gains; and
 - 80A.8 RCR's HY18 EBIT was a loss of \$5.86 million,

(February 2018 Information).

Particulars

(a) <u>Tsipis Report, Table 6, p 53; Table 34, p 106; Table 38, p 113; Table 46, p 129; Appendices D (Gretel), G (Emerald), K (Canadian Solar), L (Manildra) and N (Swan Hill), and the documents referred to therein;</u>

- (b) Cairns Report, Table 99, p 230;
- (c) The market consensus EBIT expectation was approximately \$55 million as at 22 February 2018. RCR "Earnings Guidance & Consensus" Board Briefing Paper of 20 February 2018 RCR.900.004.0613 at .0806; Bowers Report, Figure 2;
- (d) <u>The February 2018 Information was information which officers of RCR</u> came into possession of:
 - (1) on 4 December 2017, John Cole of Edify Energy (**Cole**) sent an email to Dalgleish in relation to Project Gretel stating, "the way we have been dealt with is utterly disappointing. The high expectations we had in RCR's delivery capabilities have proved unfounded" RCR.0004.0164.9559;
 - (2) on 8 December 2017, Scafaro sent an email to Butler in relation to Project Gretel stating "Maintain our margin in Pronto. Run the forecast CTC spread sheet as accurately as you can warts and all". Rod Butler then forwarded the email chain to his private email address: RCR.0004.0310.6789;
 - (3) on 19 December 2017, Phipps and others attended a Project
 Review for Gretel at which Phipps became aware that the
 project management of Gretel was poor and those involved
 did not understand basic reporting dynamics:
 RCR.0004.0045.0773; paragraph 26A above;
 - (4) on 21 December 2017, McCullough sent an email to Dalgleish, Phipps, Adams, Notley, Scafaro and others about a call he had received from Cole, in which Cole stated: "Edify are going out to tender the next tranche of projects and RCR would not be in the mix" and that the situation on Gretel "is raw and not motivating at this point to continue with RCR at present" RCR.0004.0020.9708;
 - (5) on 10 January 2018, Butler sent an email to Scafaro in relation to Gretel stating "As instructed in your email of 8 Dec, the Financial report has been run as per pronto budget showing full margin. The CTC will be different and has margin slippage since November CTC report.": RCR.0004.0021.8981. This email was then forwarded to Phipps RCR.0004.0021.8981.

 Mr Butler tendered his resignation the next morning, on 11 January 2018: RCR.0004.0116.0511; RCR.0004.0148.5977;

- (6) on 16 January 2018, Butler sent an email to Scafaro attaching

 CTCs for Gretel and stating "The report shows full 10% margin

 this is produced this way as instructed. The cost to complete

 sheets show significantly different picture, with significant

 margin loss": RCR.0004.0066.5269;
- (7) <u>on 17 January 2018, an email was sent to Scafaro and McCullough attaching CTCs for Gretel: RCR.0004.0066.5346;</u>
- (8) <u>on 17 January 2018, Phipps, Scafaro and others attended a</u>

 <u>Project Review meeting for Gretel: RCR.0004.0021.9131;</u>

 <u>RCR.0004.0021.9136;</u>
- (9) on 19 January 2018, McCullough sent an email to Scafaro and others stating "Over the last 3 monthly reviews it is evident that you and your respective teams have not carried out a detailed CTC / project review prior to the executive review meetings...

 This is very concerning to me and want you to address this as a priority": RCR.0004.0077.1127;
- (10) on 31 January 2018, Dalgleish sent an email to McCullough,

 Low and Scafaro forwarding an email from Cole sent to

 Dalgleish on 30 January 2018 attaching breach notices in

 relation to Gretel. Dalgleish stated "[t]his had better get solved

 quickly and performance needs to improve. No point winning

 this work of [sic] we are going to lose money on the execution":

 RCR.0004.0020.8321:
- (11) on 9 February 2018, an email was sent to Scafaro attaching the "Actual" CTC for Manildra: RCR.0004.0066.6784;
- (12) <u>on 13 February 2018, Phipps, Scafaro and others attended a</u>

 <u>Project Review meeting for Manildra: RCR.0004.0090.3883;</u>

 RCR.0004.0022.0589;
- (13) on 15 and 16 February 2018, Phipps, McCullough and others attended a Project Review meeting for Canadian Solar; RCR.0004.0088.5447; RCR.0004.0001.8399;
- (14) <u>on 16 February 2018, McCullough, Phipps, Scafaro and others attended a Project Review meeting for Manildra:</u>
 RCR.0004.0018.0552; RCR.0004.0099.3998; and
- (15) <u>on 16 February 2018, Phipps and others attended a Project</u>
 Review meeting for Emerald: RCR.0004.0021.7613;
- (e) <u>Further or in the alternative, the February 2018 Information was information which officers of RCR, including Scafaro, McCullough, Phipps and Dalgleish, and the Board of Directors, ought to have come</u>

into possession of in the course of performance of their duties, including by reason of the RCR Reporting Protocol, in light of:

- (1) <u>the information referred to at (a)-(d) above;</u>
- (2) <u>the allegations and particulars pleaded in paragraph 76 above</u> concerning the Ground Conditions Information;
- (3) on 4 December 2017 Tasharofi sent an email to Scafaro in relation to Project Gretel stating: "I need your advice on whether we indicate Project's negative balance in the NOV CTC or not. I have not inserted costs in Pronto pending this decision.": RCR.0004.0310.6789;
- (4) <u>on 4 December 2017, Scafaro sent an email to Tasharofi in</u> relation to Project Gretel stating: "Can we please run pronto as per budget and keep CTC sheet as accurate as possible so we can discuss internally": RCR.0004.0310.6789;
- (5) on 7 December 2017, Butler sent an email to Scafaro in relation to Project Gretel stating "I need clarification on what you mean in your email below '..run pronto as per budget...'.

 As we have significant over budgets, I need clarification. We were going to put the numbers in warts and all": RCR.0004.0310.6789;
- (6) on 8 December 2017, Butler sent an email to Tasharofi in relation to Project Gretel stating "Not sure how to maintain margin, and put in all the costs... If we allocate money coming in for claims that are not approved to maintain our margin this is a big risk.": RCR.0004.0303.7172;
- (7) on 5 January 2018, Butler sent an email to Tasharofi in relation to Project Gretel stating "Currently the access road will not be complete until 10 Jan (forecast)... This means that the date of the 5 Jun for Daydream Target Commissioning date and the 2 Jul for Hayman target commissioning date for back energisation are impossible... I am not sure how to calculate the 95% of revenues from Edify to compensate the LDs for Target Performance Testing and time for Completion. Am I missing something?": RCR.0004.0318.3902;
- (8) <u>later on 5 January 2018, Butler sent a further email in relation</u>
 <u>to Project Gretel stating "We need to show something to our</u>
 <u>management so that they understand how serious the</u>
 predicament is.": RCR.0004.0318.3890;

- (9) <u>on 11 January 2018, Tasharofi sent an email to Butler</u> <u>attaching CTCs for Project Gretel and stating "Please review.</u> <u>Totally we are no[w] \$20m down": RCR.0004.0315.0303;</u>
- (10) <u>on 16 January 2018, Butler sent an email to Brady in relation</u> to Gretel stating "The numbers last month were bad, but have slipped further": RCR.0004.0182.8442;
- (11) on 14 February 2018, Matthew Malam sent an email to Tom
 Grainger in respect of Canadian Solar asking "Can you send
 me the real CTC file, I'll review it then provide guidance on
 where to adjust the numbers to reflect the corporate reported
 CTC": RCR.0008.0053.4542; and
- (12) on 15 February 2018, Granger sent an email to Malam attaching CTCs for Canadian Solar: RCR.0008.0053.4542.

(F) FY18 Earnings Information

81. At a time presently unknown to the Plaintiffs, but materially prior to 28 August 2018, RCR was aware that it was likely, or alternatively that there was a material risk, that RCR would not experience earnings growth in FY18, as forecast (FY18 Earnings Information).

- (a) The Plaintiffs repeat the allegations pleaded at paragraphs 60, 75 to 80 above.
- (b) The FY18 Earnings Information was information of which Dalgleish,
 James, Phipps, and McCullough came, or ought reasonably to have
 come, into possession in the course of the performance of their duties
 as officers of RCR by a date materially prior to 28 August 2018,
 including by reason of the RCR Reviews.
- (c) In April 2018, as a consequence of the Project Issues, RCR readjusted its forecast time and cost to completion for the Project, reducing the forecast margin from approximately \$28.5 million to approximately \$11.5 million.
- (d) By July 2018, the cumulative cash flow had fallen to -\$50.8 million, a \$203.4 million net cash outflow in seven months, due to the combined impact of delayed milestone receipts, an increase in costs, and the upfront weighted nature of the payment profile of the contracts (Administrators' Report p 50).

- (e) Other EPC Solar Contracts were behind schedule and/or over budget (Administrators' Report p 48, 51).
- (f) Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence.

(G) FY19 Financial Information

- 82. By no later than 28 August 2018, RCR was aware that it was likely, or alternatively that there was a material risk, that:
 - 82.1 RCR would not achieve underlying EBIT in FY19 in the range of \$40 million to \$48 million, as forecast;
 - 82.2 even with the funds raised by the 2018 Capital Raising, RCR was not in a strong financial position; and
 - 82.3 RCR was not trading on a business as usual basis,

(FY19 Financial Information).

- (a) The Plaintiffs repeat the allegations pleaded at paragraphs 60, 75 to 80 above.
- (b) The FY19 Financial Information was information of which James,
 Phipps, and McCullough came, or ought reasonably to have come,
 into possession in the course of the performance of their duties as
 officers of RCR by no later than 28 August 2018.
- (c) The Administrators' Report states that:
 - (1) by July 2018, the cumulative cash flow had fallen to -\$50.8 million, a \$203.4 million net cash outflow in seven months, due to the combined impact of delayed milestone receipts, an increase in costs, and the upfront weighted nature of the payment profile of the contracts (p 50);
 - (2) by 14 August 2018, RCR had engaged McGrathNichol to undertake contingency planning for a potential appointment of voluntary administrators to the RCR group (p 27);
 - (3) the additional funds raised by the 2018 Capital Raising had been fully utilised by October 2018 (p 31);

- (4) RCR stretched its trade creditors at various times over the months leading up to the appointment of Administrators as a means of managing its cash flow (p 32);
- (5) cash flow forecasts prepared by RCR's management in August and October 2018 were unduly optimistic due to deficiencies in the assumptions underpinning the forecasts.

 Management does not appear to have applied sufficient scepticism in challenging the assumptions, particularly in relation to the timing of milestones payments and new project wins (p. 57).
- (d) Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence.

VI. BREACH OF CONTINUOUS DISCLOSURE OBLIGATIONS

(A) EPC Solar Contract Risks Information Contravention

- 83. As at, and from, the start of the Relevant Period, the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information was information concerning RCR that:
 - 83.1 was not generally available, within the meaning of sections 647(2)(c) and 676(2) of the Corporations Act;
 - 83.2 a reasonable person would expect, if it were generally available, to have a material effect on the price or value of RCR Shares, within the meaning of section 674(c) of the Corporations Act;
 - 83.3 would, or would be likely to, influence persons who commonly invest in securities in deciding whether to acquire or dispose of RCR Shares, within the meaning of section 677 of the Corporations Act; and
 - 83.4 a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of RCR Shares, within the meaning of Listing Rule 3.1,

(such information is hereafter referred to as Material Non-public Information).

- 84. By reason of RCR's Continuous Disclosure Obligations and the matters pleaded in paragraphs 75 and 83 above, RCR became obliged immediately to tell the ASX of the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information by no later than the start of the Relevant Period.
- 85. RCR did not tell the ASX of the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information at any time prior to 28 August 2018, and the Affected Market did not become aware of the EPC Solar Contract Risk Information until no earlier than 28 August 2018.
- 86. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 83 to 85 above, RCR contravened Listing Rule 3.1 and section 674(2) of the Corporations Act, on and from the

commencement of the Relevant Period until 28 August 2018 (EPC Solar Contract Risks Information Contravention).

(AA) <u>August 2017 Information Contravention</u>

- 86A. From no later than 24 August 2017 to 28 August 2018, the August 2017 Information was information concerning RCR that:
 - 86A.1 <u>was not generally available, within the meaning of sections 674(2)(c) and</u> 676(2) of the Corporations Act;
 - 86A.2 <u>a reasonable person would expect, if it were generally available, to have a material effect on the price or value of RCR Shares, within the meaning of section 674(d) of the Corporations Act;</u>
 - 86A.3 <u>would</u>, or would be likely to, influence persons who commonly invest in securities in deciding whether to acquire or dispose of RCR Shares, within the meaning of section 677 of the Corporations Act; and
 - 86A.4 <u>a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of RCR Shares, within the meaning of Listing Rule 3.1,</u>
 - (information of the type described in sub-paragraphs 86A.1 to 86A.4 above is hereafter referred to as Material Non-public Information).
- 86B. By reason of RCR's Continuous Disclosure Obligations and the matters pleaded in paragraphs 78A and 86A above, RCR became obliged immediately to tell the ASX of the August 2017 Information (including each part thereof) by no later than 24 August 2017.
- 86C. RCR did not tell the ASX the August 2017 Information (or any part thereof) at any time prior to 28 August 2018, and the Affected Market did not become aware of the August 2017 Information (or any part thereof) at any time prior to 28 August 2018.
- 86D. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 86A to 86C above, RCR contravened Listing Rule 3.1 and section 674(2) of the Corporations Act, on and from no later than 24 August 2017 (August 2017 Information Contravention).

(B) Ground Conditions Information Contravention

- 87. As at, and from, no later than 11 August 2017, the Ground Conditions Information was information concerning RCR that was Material Non-public Information.
- 88. By reason of RCR's Continuous Disclosure Obligations and the matters pleaded in paragraphs 76 and 83 above, RCR became obliged immediately to inform the ASX of the Ground Conditions Information:
 - 88.1 by no later than the start of the Relevant Period;

- 88.2 alternatively, by no later than 11 August 2017;
- 88.3 alternatively, by no later than the point in time at which the installation of the piles commenced.
- 89. RCR did not inform the ASX of the Ground Conditions Information at any time prior to 28 August 2018, and the Affected Market did not become aware of the Ground Conditions Information until no earlier than 28 August 2018.
- 90. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 83 to 89 above, RCR contravened Listing Rule 3.1 and section 674(2) of the Corporations Act from no later than 11 August 2017 until 28 August 2018 (Ground Conditions Information Contravention).

(BA) <u>September/October/November 2017 Information Contravention</u>

- 90A. From no later than 30 September 2017 (or alternatively, 31 October 2017, or alternatively, 30 November 2017) to 28 August 2018, the September/October/November 2017 Information was Material Non-public Information.
- 90B. By reason of RCR's Continuous Disclosure Obligations and the matters pleaded in paragraphs 79A and 90A above, RCR became obliged immediately to inform the ASX of the September/October/November 2017 Information (including each part thereof):
 - 90B.1 by no later than 30 September 2017;
 - 90B.2 <u>alternatively, by no later than 31 October 2017; or</u>
 - 90B.3 <u>alternatively, by no later than 30 November 2017.</u>
- 90C. RCR did not inform the ASX of the September/October/November 2017 Information (or any part thereof) at any time prior to 28 August 2018, and the Affected Market did not become aware of the September/October/November 2017 Information (or any part thereof) at any time prior to 28 August 2018.
- 90D. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 90A to 90C above, RCR contravened Listing Rule 3.1 and section 674(2) of the Corporations Act on and from no later than 30 September 2017 (or alternatively, 31 October 2017, or alternatively, 30 November 2017) (September/October/November 2017 Information Contravention).

(C) Project Issues Information Contravention

91. As at, and from, a time presently unknown to the Plaintiffs, but materially prior to 28 August 2018, the Project Issues Information was information concerning RCR that was Material Non-public Information.

- 92. By reason of RCR's Continuous Disclosure Obligations and the matters pleaded in paragraphs 78 and 91 above, RCR became obliged immediately to inform the ASX of the Project Issues Information by no later than on or about a time presently unknown to the Plaintiffs, but materially prior to 28 August 2018.
- 93. RCR did not inform the ASX of the Project Issues Information at any time prior to 28
 August 2018, and the Affected Market did not become aware of the Project Issues
 Information until no earlier than 28 August 2018.
- 94. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 91 to 93 above, RCR contravened Listing Rule 3.1 and section 674(2) of the Corporations Act (Project Issues Information Contravention).

(CA) February 2018 Information Contravention

- 94A. From 22 February 2018 to 28 August 2018 the February 2018 Information was Material Non-public Information.
- 94B. By reason of RCR's Continuous Disclosure Obligations and the matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A and 94A above, RCR became obliged immediately to inform the ASX of the February 2018 Information (including each part thereof) from 22 February 2018.
- 94C. RCR did not inform the ASX of the February 2018 Information (or any part thereof) at any time prior to 28 August 2018, and the Affected Market did not become aware of the February 2018 Information (or any part thereof) at any time prior to 28 August 2018.
- 94D. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 94A to 94C above, RCR contravened Listing Rule 3.1 and section 674(2) of the Corporations Act on and from no later than 22 February 2018 (February 2018 Information Contravention).

(D) Cost Overruns Information Contravention

- 95. As at, and from, a time presently unknown to the Plaintiffs, but materially prior to 28
 August 2018, the Cost Overruns Information was information concerning RCR that was
 Material Non-public Information.
- 96. By reason of RCR's Continuous Disclosure Obligations and the matters pleaded in paragraphs 79 and 95 above, RCR became obliged immediately to tell the ASX of the Cost Overruns Information by no later than a time presently unknown to the Plaintiffs, but materially prior to 28 August 2018.
- 97. RCR did not tell the ASX of the Cost Overruns Information at any time prior to 28

 August 2018, and the Affected Market did not become aware of the Cost Overruns

 Information until no earlier than 28 August 2018.

98. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 95 to 97 above, RCR contravened Listing Rule 3.1 and section 674(2) of the Corporations Act (Cost Overruns Information Contravention).

(E) Write-downs Information Contravention

- 99. As at, and from, a time presently unknown to the Plaintiffs, but materially prior to 28 August 2018, the Cost Overruns Write-downs Information was information concerning RCR that was Material Non-public Information.
- 100. By reason of RCR's Continuous Disclosure Obligations and the matters pleaded in paragraphs 82 and 99 above, RCR became obliged immediately to tell the ASX of the Write-downs Information by no later than a time presently unknown to the Plaintiffs, but materially prior to 28 August 2018.
- 101. RCR did not tell the ASX of the Write-downs Information at any time prior to 28 August 2018, and the Affected Market did not become aware of the Write-downs Information until no earlier than 28 August 2018.
- 102. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 99 to 101 above, RCR contravened Listing Rule 3.1 and section 674(2) of the Corporations Act (Write-downs Information Contravention).

(F) FY18 Earnings Information Contravention

- 103. As at, and from, a time presently unknown to the Plaintiffs, but materially prior to 28

 August 2018, the FY18 Earnings Information was information concerning RCR that

 was Material Non-public Information.
- 104. By reason of RCR's Continuous Disclosure Obligations and the matters pleaded in paragraph 103 above, RCR became obliged immediately to tell the ASX of the FY18 Earnings Information by no later than a time presently unknown to the Plaintiffs, but materially prior to 28 August 2018.
- 105. RCR did not tell the ASX of the FY18 Earnings Information at any time prior to 28
 August 2018, and the Affected Market did not become aware of the FY18 Earnings
 Information until no earlier than 28 August 2018.
- 106. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 103 to 105 above, RCR contravened Listing Rule 3.1 and section 674(2) of the Corporations Act (FY18 Earnings Information Contravention).

(G) FY19 Financial Information Contravention

107. As at, and from, no later than 28 August 2018, the FY19 Financial Information was information concerning RCR that was Material Non-public Information.

- 108. By reason of RCR's Continuous Disclosure Obligations and the matters pleaded in paragraphs 82 and 107 above, RCR became obliged immediately to tell the ASX of the FY19 Financial Information by no later than 28 August 2018.
- 109. RCR did not tell the ASX of the FY19 Financial Information at any time prior to 28

 August 2018, and the Affected Market did not become aware of the FY19 Earnings

 Information until no earlier than the end of the Relevant Period.
- 110. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 107 to 109 above, RCR contravened Listing Rule 3.1 and section 674(2) of the Corporations Act (FY19 Financial Information Contravention).
- (H) The Continuous Disclosure Contraventions were continuing
- 111. Each of:
 - 111.1 <u>the August 2017 Information Contravention; the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information</u>
 - 111.2 <u>the September/October/November 2018</u>–2017 Information Contravention; Ground Conditions Information Contravention; and
 - 111.3 <u>the February 2018 Information Contravention</u> the Project Issues Information

 Contravention
 - 111.4 the Cost Overruns Information Contravention;
 - 111.5 the Write-downs Information Contravention:
 - 111.6 the FY18 Earnings Information Contravention; and
 - 111.7 the FY19 Financial Information Contravention,

(collectively, the Continuous Disclosure Contraventions),

was a continuing contravention. which of its nature continued from and after the time of the first contravention (when first known to RCR) throughout the Relevant Period (or the remainder thereof) and until such time as the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information, the Ground Conditions Information, the Project Issues Information, the Cost Overruns Information, the Write-downs Information, the FY18 Earnings Information and/or the FY19 Financial Information, relevantly, was disclosed to the Affected Market on or after 28 August 2018.

VII. MISLEADING AND DECEPTIVE CONDUCT OF RCR

- (A) Additional RCR public statements
- 112. Prior to and during the Relevant Period:
 - 112.1 RCR made the statements set out in Schedule 1 to this CLS; and

the statements set out in Schedule 1 were made in a manner that was likely to result in their publication to the Affected Market.

(B) Continuous Disclosure RCR Representation

113. Throughout the Relevant Period, RCR represented to the Affected Market that RCR was in compliance with its Continuous Disclosure Obligations (Continuous Disclosure Representation).

Particulars

The Continuous Disclosure Representation is to be implied from:

- (a) the statements at Schedule 1 paragraphs 1 to 6;
- (b) the Cleansing Notice pleaded at paragraphs 45 and 46 above; and
- (c) taken together, RCR's Continuous Disclosure Obligations and the absence of any statement by RCR during the Relevant Period to the effect that RCR had not complied with those obligations.
- 114. RCR failed to correct or qualify the Continuous Disclosure Representation at any time during the Relevant Period.
- 115. The Continuous Disclosure Representation was a continuing representation in the Relevant Period.
- 116. Throughout the Relevant Period, RCR was not in fact in compliance with its Continuous Disclosure Obligations.

Particulars

The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 76 to 111 115 above.

- 117. The conduct pleaded in paragraphs 112 to 116 was conduct engaged in by RCR:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.
- 118. In making, maintaining and/or failing to correct or qualify the Continuous Disclosure Representation, RCR engaged in conduct which was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 118.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 118.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or

118.3 section 18 of the ACL,

(Continuous Disclosure RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention).

(C) Risk Management RCR Representation

- 119. Throughout the Relevant Period, RCR represented to the Affected Market that RCR:
 - 119.1 effectively managed risk in relation to major projects, including through project reporting; and
 - had in place and adhered to internal controls in a manner sufficient to enable RCR effectively to identify, assess and mitigate risk in relation to major projects, including the risk of cost overruns.

(Risk Management Representation).

Particulars

- (a) The Risk Management Representation was express, or alternatively, implied.
- (b) To the extent it was express, the Plaintiffs repeat the statements at Schedule 1 paragraphs 7 to 8.
- (c) To the extent it was implied, it was to be implied from:
 - (1) the statements at Schedule 1 paragraphs 7 to 8; and
 - (2) the absence of any statement by RCR during the Relevant Period qualifying the statements referred to above.
- 120. RCR failed to correct or qualify the Risk Management Representation at any time during the Relevant Period.
- 121. The Risk Management Representation was a continuing representation in the Relevant Period.
- 122. Throughout the Relevant Period, RCR in fact:
 - did not effectively manage risk in relation to major projects, including through project reporting; and
 - did not have in place adhere to internal controls in a manner sufficient to enable RCR effectively to identify, assess and mitigate risk in relation to major projects, including the risk –of cost overruns.

Particulars

The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 59-21 to 21B and 26A 60 above.

- 123. The conduct pleaded in paragraphs 119 to 120 was conduct engaged in by RCR:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.
- 124. In making, maintaining and/or failing to correct or qualify the Risk Management Representation, RCR engaged in conduct which was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 124.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 124.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 124.3 section 18 of the ACL,

(Risk Management RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention).

(D) 23 February 2017 RCR Conduct

- 125. RCR:
 - 125.1 made the 23 February 2017 RCR Representations;
 - 125.2 omitted to disclose the Affected Market the EPC Solar Contract Risks
 Information in the 23 February 2017 Announcements; and
 - 125.3 failed to correct or qualify the 23 February 2017 Representations,

(23 February 2017 RCR Conduct).

- 126. The 23 February 2017 RCR Conduct was conduct of RCR:
 - 126.1 in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - 126.2 in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act: and/or
 - 126.3 <u>in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.</u>
- 127. The 23 February 2017 RCR Representations gave rise to a reasonable expectation that if the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information existed, it would be disclosed by RCR to the Affected Market.

- The EPC Solar Contract Risks Information was Material Non-public Information, as pleaded at paragraph 83 above.
- 128 In all the circumstances, the 23 February 2017 RCR Conduct was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 128.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 128.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 128.3 section 18 of the ACL.

(23 February 2017 RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention).

Particulars

The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 18 to 20, 59 to 60, 75 and 83 above.

(E) 3 May 2017 RCR Conduct

129. RCR:

- 129.1 made the 3 May 2017 Representations;
- 129.2 omitted to disclose to the Affected Market the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information in the 3 May 2017 Presentation; and
- 129.3 failed to correct or qualify the 3 May 2017 Representations,

(3 May 2017 RCR Conduct).

- 130. The 3 May 2017 RCR Conduct was conduct of RCR:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 130.3 in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL
- 131. The 3 May 2017 RCR Representations gave rise to a reasonable expectation that if the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information existed, it would be disclosed by RCR to the Affected Market

Particulars

The EPC Solar Contract Risks Information was Material Non-public Information, as pleaded at paragraph 83 above.

- 132. In all the circumstances, 3 May 2017 RCR Conduct was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 132.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 132.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 132.3 section 18 of the ACL.

(3 May 2017 RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention).

Particulars

The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 18 to 20, 59 to 60, 75 and 83 above.

(F) 11 August 2017 RCR Conduct

- 133. RCR:
 - 133.1 made the 11 August 2017 RCR Representations;
 - 133.2 omitted to disclose to the Affected Market the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information in the 11 August 2017 Announcements;
 - 133.3 omitted to disclose to the Ground Conditions Information in the 11 August 2017 Announcements; and
 - 133.4 failed to correct or qualify the 11 August 2017 RCR Representations,

(11 August 2017 RCR Conduct).

- 134. The 11 August 2017 RCR Conduct was conduct of RCR:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 134.3 in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.
- 135. The 11 August 2017 RCR Representations gave rise to a reasonable expectation that the following information, if it existed, would be disclosed by RCR to the Affected Market:
 - 135.1 the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information; and
 - 135.2 the Ground Conditions Information.

The EPC Solar Contract Risks Information and the Ground Conditions Information was Material Non-public Information, as pleaded at paragraphs 83 and 87 above.

- 136. In all the circumstances, 11 August 2017 RCR Conduct was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 136.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 136.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 136.3 section 18 of the ACL,

(11 August 2017 RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention).

Particulars

The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 18 to 20, 59 to 60, 75, 83 and 87 above.

- (G) 24 August 2017 RCR Conduct
- 137. RCR:
 - 137.1 made the 24 August 2017 RCR Representations;
 - omitted to disclose to the Affected Market the EPC Solar Contract Risks and any part of the Ground Conditions Information in or the 24-August 2017 Information Announcements; and
 - 137.3 <u>failed to withdraw, or correct or qualify</u> the 24 August 2017 RCR Representations pleaded at <u>paragraphs 42.1 to 42.15 by disclosing any part of the Ground Conditions Information, the August 2017 Information, the September/October/November 2017 Information, or the February 2018 Information,</u>

(24 August 2017 RCR Conduct).

- 138. The 24 August 2017 RCR Conduct was conduct of RCR:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.
- 139. The 24 August 2017–RCR Representations gave rise to a reasonable expectation that the following information, if it existed then or thereafter, would be disclosed by RCR to the Affected Market:

- 139.1 the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information; and
- 139.2 the Ground Conditions Information:
- 139.3 the August 2017 Information;
- 139.4 <u>the September/October/November 2017 Information; and</u>
- 139.5 the February 2018 Information.

Particulars

The reasonable expectation arose from the fact that RCR had made the 24 August 2017 RCR-Representations to the market, which included forward-looking guidance in relation to the performance of RCR. The information pleaded at paragraphs 139.2-5 was inconsistent with, or materially qualified, the 24 August 2017 RCR Representations, including as set out below in the particulars to paragraph 141. Investors would reasonably expect (a) that RCR would become aware of such information as it arose; and (b) that RCR would disclose such information to the market if, as is alleged, it was inconsistent with, or materially qualified, the forward-looking guidance that RCR provided to the market on 24 August 2017.

- 140. Further, by no later than 30 September 2017 or alternatively 31 October 2017, or alternatively 30 November 2017, or alternatively 22 February 2018 at the time the 24 August 2017 Representations were made:
 - 140.1 RCR was not on track to deliver further revenue and earnings growth in FY18

 (ie to deliver underlying EBIT for FY18 in excess of underlying EBIT for FY17);
 - 140.2 RCR was not well positioned for revenue and earnings growth in FY18 (ie underlying EBIT for FY18 in excess of underlying EBIT for FY17);
 - there was not a reasonable basis to expect that RCR's earnings (ie underlying EBIT) for FY18 would exceed RCR's earnings for FY17 (ie underlying EBIT); and
 - there was not a reasonable basis to expect that RCR's infrastructure business would provide the strongest and most predictable path for growth over the next decade; .
 - 140.5 insofar as the representations were representations with respect to future matters, RCR did not have reasonable grounds for making the representation.

Particulars

- (a) The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 18 to 26A, 20, 59 to 60, 76, 78A, 79A and 80A above.
- (b) By 14 August 2018, RCR had engaged McGrathNichol to undertake contingency planning for a potential appointment of voluntary administrators to the RCR group (Administrators' Report p 27).
- (c) Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence.
- (d) Insofar as the 24 August 2017 RCR Representations were representations with respect to a future matter, the Plaintiffs will rely upon section 12BB(1) of the ASIC Act, s 796C of the Corporations Act, and/or section 4 of the Australian Consumer Law ACL.
- 141. In all the circumstances, the 24 August 2017 RCR Conduct was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 141.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 141.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 141.3 section 18 of the ACL,

(24 August 2017 RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention).

- (a) <u>In circumstances where the 24 August 2017 RCR Representations were</u>

 <u>made by RCR, the omission by RCR of the Grounds Conditions</u>

 <u>Information and the August 2017 Information was misleading on 24</u>

 August 2017.
- (b) Further or in the alternative, in circumstances where the 24 August 2017

 RCR-Representations were made by RCR, the subsequent failure by

 RCR to disclose the Grounds Conditions Information was misleading:
 - (1) on and from 30 November 2017; or
 - (2) <u>alternatively, on and from 31 December 2017.</u>
- (c) <u>In circumstances where the 24 August 2017 RCR Representations</u>

 pleaded in paragraphs 42.1 to 42.15, RCR's failure to withdraw, correct

 or qualify those representations was misleading:

- (1) <u>on and from 30 September 2017, or alternatively 31 October</u> <u>2017, or alternatively 30 November 2017 by reason of the</u> <u>matters pleaded in paragraphs 79A and 140 in that:</u>
 - (A) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.3 above to the effect that RCR's momentum is being driven in substantial part by its renewable energy projects was no longer accurate and was misleading in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 79A.1 to 79A.6 and 140.1 to 140.3 above, individually and cumulatively;
 - (B) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.4 above to the effect that RCR is in a strong position to capitalise on likely growth in the large-scale solar project market was no longer accurate and was misleading in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 79A.1 to 79A.6 and 140.1 to 140.3 above, individually and cumulatively:
 - (C) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.5 above to the effect that RCR is favourably positioned to invest capital to deliver additional value for RCR shareholders, given RCR's access to projects within the solar energy sector and its technical expertise and understanding of the generation market, was no longer accurate and was misleading in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 79A.1 to 79A.6 and 140.1 to 140.3 above, individually and cumulatively:
 - (D) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.6 above to the effect that RCR's low net debt and strong balance sheet would provide growth for FY18 and FY19 was no longer accurate and was misleading in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 79A.1 to 79A.6 and 140.1 to 140.3 above, individually and cumulatively;
 - (E) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.7 above to the effect that RCR expects to experience and is positioned for significant and continued strong growth through FY18 was no longer accurate and was misleading in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 79A.1 to 79A.6 and 140.1 to 140.3 above, individually and cumulatively;

- (F) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.8 above to the effect that RCR's strategic position as market leader in the renewable energy sector will see RCR's business enjoy significant growth opportunities over the next decade from new, large-scale, solar power projects was no longer accurate and was misleading in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 79A.1 to 79A.6 and 140.1 to 140.4 above, individually and cumulatively:
- (G) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.9 above to the effect that RCR's infrastructure business is expected to provide the strongest and most predictable path for growth over the next decade was no longer accurate and was misleading, in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 79A.1 to 79A.6 and 140.1 to 140.4 above, individually and cumulatively;
- (H) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.12 above to the effect that there is a reasonable basis to expect that RCR's earnings for FY18 will exceed RCR's earnings for FY17 was no longer accurate and was misleading, in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 79A.3 to 79A.6 and 140.1 to 140.4 above, individually and cumulatively; and
- (I) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.13 above to the effect that RCR was on track, and well positioned, to deliver further earnings growth in FY18 was no longer accurate and was misleading, in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 79A.4 to 79A.6 and 140.1 to 140.4 above, individually and cumulatively;
- (2) <u>alternatively, on and from 22 February 2018, by reason of the</u> <u>matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A and 140:</u>
 - (A) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.3 above to the effect that RCR's momentum is being driven in substantial part by its renewable energy projects was no longer accurate and was misleading in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A.1 to 80A.5 and 140.1 to 140.3 above, individually and cumulatively;
 - (B) <u>the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.4 above to</u> the effect that RCR is in a strong position to capitalise on

- likely growth in the large-scale solar project market was no longer accurate and was misleading in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A.1 to 80A.5 and 140.1 to 140.3 above, individually and cumulatively;
- (C) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.5 above to the effect that RCR is favourably positioned to invest capital to deliver additional value for RCR shareholders, given RCR's access to projects within the solar energy sector and its technical expertise and understanding of the generation market, was no longer accurate and was misleading in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A.1 to 80A.6 and 140.1 to 140.3 above, individually and cumulatively:
- (D) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.6 above to the effect that RCR's low net debt and strong balance sheet would provide growth for FY18 and FY19 was no longer accurate and was misleading in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A.1 to 80A.5 and 140.1 to 140.3 above, individually and cumulatively;
- (E) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.7 above to the effect that RCR expects to experience and is positioned for significant and continued strong growth through FY18 was no longer accurate and was misleading in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A.1 to 80A.5 and 140.1 to 140.3 above, individually and cumulatively;
- (F) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.8 above to the effect that RCR's strategic position as market leader in the renewable energy sector will see RCR's business enjoy significant growth opportunities over the next decade from new, large-scale, solar power projects was no longer accurate and was misleading in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A.1 to 80A.5 and 140.1 to 140.4 above, individually and cumulatively;
- (G) <u>the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.9 above to</u> <u>the effect that RCR's infrastructure business is expected</u> to provide the strongest and most predictable path for

- growth over the next decade was no longer accurate and was misleading, in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A.1 to 80A.5 and 140.1 to 140.4 above, individually and cumulatively;
- (H) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.12 above to the effect that there is a reasonable basis to expect that RCR's earnings for FY18 will exceed RCR's earnings for FY17 was no longer accurate, in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A.1 to 80A.5 and 140.1 to 140.4 above, individually and cumulatively; and
- (I) the representation pleaded in paragraph 42.13 above to the effect that RCR was on track, and well positioned, to deliver further earnings growth in FY18 was no longer accurate and was misleading, in light of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A.4 to 80A.7 and 140.1 to 140.4 above, individually and cumulatively.
- (d) <u>In circumstances where the 24 August 2017 RCR-Representations were</u> made by RCR, RCR's subsequent failure to disclose:
 - (1) <u>the September/October/November 2017 Information was</u> <u>misleading, on and from 30 September 2017, or alternatively 31</u> <u>October 2017, or alternatively 30 November 2017; and</u>
 - (2) <u>the February 2018 Information was misleading on and from 22</u> <u>February 2018.</u>

(H) 30 August 2017 RCR Conduct

- 142. The making of the Cleansing Notice Representations was conduct of RCR:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.
- 143. At the time the Cleansing Notice Representations were made, RCR had not complied with section 674 of the Corporations Act.

The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 75 to 81, 87 to 106 86A to 86D above.

- 144. Further, if and to the extent that the following information was excluded from a continuous disclosure notice purportedly in accordance with the ASX Listing Rules, then, as at the date of the Cleansing Notice, there was excluded information of the type referred to in sections 708A(7) and (8) of the Corporations Act:
 - 144.1 the EPC Solar Contract Risk Information;
 - 144.2 the Ground Conditions Information Contravention;
 - 144.3 the Project Issues Information Contravention;
 - 144.4 the Cost Overruns Information Contravention;
 - 144.5 the Write-downs Information Contravention; or
 - 144.6 the FY18 Earnings Information Contravention,

(Cleansing Notice Omissions).

- 145. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 142 and <u>143</u>, the making of the <u>C</u>leansing Notice Representations was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 145.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 145.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 145.3 section 18 of the ACL,
 - (30 August 2017 RCR Cleansing Notice Misleading Conduct Contravention).
- (I) 22 February 2018 RCR Conduct
- 146. RCR:
 - 146.1 made the 22 February 2018 RCR Representations;
 - omitted to disclose to the Affected Market the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information, any part of the Ground Conditions Information, the Project Issues Information, the Cost Overruns Information or the Write-downs Information in the 22-February 2018 Announcements Information; and
 - failed to <u>withdraw</u>, correct or qualify the 22 February 2018 RCR Representations, from the time they were made to 27 July 2018, including by <u>disclosing any part of the February 2018 Information</u>.

(22 February 2018 RCR-Conduct).

- 147. The 22 February 2018 RCR Conduct was conduct of RCR:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.
- 148. The 22 February 2018 RCR Representations gave rise to a reasonable expectation that the following information—February 2018 Information, if it existed, would be disclosed by RCR to the Affected Market.:
 - 148.1 the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information;
 - 148.2 the Ground Conditions Information;
 - 148.3 the Project Issues Information;
 - 148.4 the Cost Overruns Information; and
 - 148.5 the Write-downs Information.

Particulars

The reasonable expectation arose from the fact that RCR had made the 22 February 2018 Dalgleish—Representations to the market, which included forward-looking guidance in relation to the performance of RCR. The February 2018 Information was inconsistent with, or materially qualified, the 22 February 2018 RCR—Representations. Investors would reasonably expect (a) that RCR would become aware of such information as it arose; and (b) that RCR would disclose such information to the market if, as is alleged, it was inconsistent with, or materially qualified, the forward-looking guidance that RCR provided to the market on 22 February 2018.

- 149. Further, at the time the 22 February 2018 RCR-Representations were made:
 - 149.1 RCR's EBIT for HY18 was materially less than \$22.8 million;
 - 149.2 RCR's financial position was not strong;
 - 149.3 the Project Gretel was not contributing to RCR's growth
 - 149.4 RCR was not on track to deliver earnings growth in FY18
 - 149.5 RCR was not well positioned for earnings growth in FY18;

- 149.5A Phipps was of the opinion that the project management of Project Gretel was poor and those involved did not understand basic reporting dynamics:
- there was not a reasonable basis to expect that RCR's earnings for FY18 would exceed RCR's earnings for FY17, in light of the fact that (a) Phipps held the opinion referred to at paragraph 149.5A above; and (b) the occurrence of the RCR Reporting Protocol Breaches; and (c) the existence of the February 2018 Information; and
- 149.6A RCR's EBIT for HY18 was approximately -\$5.9 million (a loss);
- insofar as the representations were representations with respect to future matters, RCR did not have reasonable grounds for making the representation.

- (a) The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 18 to 26A, 20, 59 to 60, 76, 78A, 79A, 80A and 146 above.
- (b) <u>Cairns Report, Table 4 and Volume 4.</u> Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence
- (c) The Insofar as the 22 February 2018 RCR Representations pleaded at paragraphs 51.4 and 51.5 and 51.7 and 51.12 were representations with respect to a future matter, and the Plaintiffs will rely upon section 12BB(1) of the ASIC Act, s 796C of the Corporations Act, and/or section 4 of the ACL.
- 150. In all the circumstances, the 22 February 2018 RCR Conduct was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 150.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 150.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 150.3 section 18 of the ACL,

(22 February 2018 RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention).

Particulars

- (a) <u>Both the making of the 22 February 2018 RCR</u> Representations and the omission of the February 2018 Information constituted misleading conduct on and from 22 February 2018.
- (b) <u>In particular, on and from 22 February 2018, each of the 22</u> <u>February 2018 RCR-Representations was misleading, in that:</u>

- (1) <u>the representation pleaded in paragraph 51.1 above was</u> <u>misleading by reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A.8 and 149.1 above;</u>
- (2) <u>the representation pleaded in paragraph 51.3 above was</u> <u>misleading by reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs</u> 80A.8 and 149.1 above;
- (3) <u>the representation pleaded in paragraph 51.4 above was</u>
 <u>misleading by reason of the matters pleaded in paragraph 149.7</u>
 <u>above, and having regard to the matters pleaded in paragraphs</u>
 80A.1 to 80A.5 and 149.4 to 149.6 above;
- (4) <u>the representation pleaded in paragraph 51.5 above was</u>
 <u>misleading by reason of the matters pleaded in paragraph 149.7</u>
 <u>above, and having regard to the matters pleaded in paragraphs</u>
 80A.1 to 80A.5 and 149.4 to 149.6 above;
- (5) <u>the representation pleaded in paragraph 51.6 above was</u> misleading by reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A.5 and 149.6 above;
- (6) the representation pleaded in paragraph 51.7 above was misleading by reason of the matters pleaded in paragraph 149.7 above, and having regard to the matters pleaded in paragraphs 80A.1 to 80A.5 and 149.4 to 149.6 above;
- (7) <u>the representation pleaded in paragraph 51.11 above was</u> <u>misleading by reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs</u> 80A.1-80A.5; and
- (8) the representation pleaded in paragraph 51.12 above was misleading by reason of the matters pleaded in paragraph 149.3 and 149.5A.

(c) Further, the making of the 22 February 2018 RCR
Representations without disclosing the February 2018
Information was materially misleading, in that the 22 February
2018 RCR Representations were unduly optimistic and
unqualified in the absence of disclosure of the important

countervailing, negative information constituting the February 2018 Information.

(J) 28 August 2018 RCR Conduct

- 151. RCR:
 - 151.1 made the 28 August 2018 RCR Representations;
 - failed to <u>withdraw</u>, correct or qualify the <u>24 August 2017 28 August 2018 RCR</u>

 Representations, at the time they were made or thereafter,

(28 August 2018 RCR Conduct).

- 152. The 28 August 2018 RCR Conduct was conduct of RCR:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.
- 153. At the time the 28 August 2018 RCR Representations were made:
 - even with the 2018 Capital Raising and the support from RCR's financiers announced to the market, RCR could not move forward in a position of strength;
 - 153.2 the outlook for RCR was not positive;
 - some of the issues that caused the Cost-cost overruns on Project Gretel were not project-specific, namely the adoption of unfounded or unduly optimistic assumptions and contingency allowances in tendering as to construction costs, construction time and ground conditions, and consequent delays and cost overruns caused by weather conditions, labour and material costs and piling refusals;
 - 153.4 RCR was not in a strong financial position, was not trading on a business as usual basis, and was not well placed to deliver for its customers and shareholders:
 - there was not a reasonable basis to expect that RCR's FY19 underlying EBIT for would be between \$40 to \$48 million, or to target FY19 underlying EBIT in the range of \$40 million to \$48 million; and
 - 153.5A over \$30 million of the cost overruns on Project Gretel were not recently identified and had been identified by the beginning of May 2018;

- Phipps had been aware since December 2017 that project management on Project Gretel was poor and those involved did not understand basic reporting dynamics;
- insofar as some of the \$57 million of write-downs realised on Project Gretel and announced to the market in the 28 August 2018 Announcements were only recently identified by management or the Board, a reason why that occurred was breaches of the RCR Reporting Protocol;
- 153.5D reporting systems, namely the RCR Reporting Protocol, had not been adhered to in respect of both Project Gretel and other EPC Solar Contracts, by a number of personnel including offsite personnel, which was separate from and additional to the other circumvention of standard processes announced on 28 August 2018;
- Protocol Breaches, and had in fact suffered a loss of approximately \$5.86 million;
- 153.5F RCR was experiencing significant cost overruns and construction delays in respect of several EPC Solar Contracts other than Project Gretel;
- the variance to tendered margins across RCR's other-EPC Solar Contracts was significant, with the total forecast margin being approximately \$97 million or 67% less than had been budgeted for and (with Project Gretel excluded) approximately \$40 million and 35% less than had been budgeted for; and
- 153.6 insofar as the representations were representations with respect to future matters, RCR did not have reasonable grounds for making the representation.

- (a) The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded allegations and particulars stated in paragraphs 21B, 67 to 74, 76, 78A, 79A and 80A_82 and the particulars thereto.
- (b) Further particulars may be provided following discovery and service of the defendant's evidence.
- (c) By 14 August 2018, RCR had engaged McGrath Nichol to undertake contingency planning for a potential appointment of voluntary administrators to the RCR group (Administrators' Report p 27).
- (d) Insofar as tThe 28 August 2018 RCR Representations pleaded at paragraphs 61.1 and 61.2 were representations with respect to a

- future matter, <u>and</u> the Plaintiffs will rely upon section 12BB(1) of the ASIC Act, s 796C of the Corporations Act, and/or section 4 of the ACL. <u>Those representations lacked a reasonable basis in light of the matters pleaded at [153.3], [153.5D], [153.5F] and [153.5G].</u>
- (e) <u>In relation to paragraphs 153.1, 153.2 and 153.4, the Plaintiffs rely upon the facts pleaded in paragraphs 153.3 and 153.5A-5G, and the particulars thereto.</u>
- (f) <u>In relation to paragraph 153.3, the Plaintiffs refer to:</u>
 - (1) Tsipis Report, Section 7, pp 137-162;
 - (2) the document entitled "Updated Renewables Positions" sent by

 Malam to Adams on 2 August 2018, which details \$18 million of

 cost overruns recognised on Solar Projects other than Gretel

 between the June and July forecasts, for reasons including

 project delays, difficult ground conditions, inaccurate tender

 assumptions: RCR.200.003.1472;
 - (3) <u>in relation to delays and cost overruns caused by weather conditions, Tsipis Report, Appendix D at [71], [165], [174], [184(b)], [198(b)], [253], [258], [264], [273(a)], [304], [307], [324(d)], [339(b)], [350], [387(a)], [409], Appendix E at [27], Appendix F at [71] fn62, [84] fn76, [100] fn 92, [101], Appendix H at [97] [98], [115], [134], [135], [152], [170], [279], Appendix J at [17], [21], [22], [33], [113(b)], [141(b)], Appendix K at [191], [229], Appendix L at [114], [128], [132], [149], [266], Appendix M at [103], [116], [131], [133], [145], [159], [180], [183], [197], [213], [228], [242], [271], [282], [298], [331(d)], Appendix N at [56];</u>
 - (4) in relation to adverse ground conditions and piling refusals on projects other than Gretel, Tsipis Report Appendix L [108], [114], [121], [132], [141], [149], [156], [183], [198], Appendix M [91], [103], [116], [131], [145], [159];
 - (5) <u>in relation to under-tendering, email of Maher to McCullough of 26 October 2017 in relation to Clermont and Haughton RCR.0004.0167.1079; email of Fox to Malam of 12 April 2018 in relation to Gannawarra RCR.0004.0142.8066; Tsipis Report Appendix I [75], [111(b)] in relation to Greenough; Appendix L [44] in relation to Manildra; Appendix N [17] in relation to Swan Hill.</u>

- (g) In relation to paragraph 153.5A, the Plaintiffs refer to:
 - (1) the document entitled "Gretel CTC Presentation 27 April 2018.pdf" which identified "missed scope and underestimated cost" of \$26.9m and "Execution Fails & Departure from Norms" of \$20.2m leading to a "Total Forecast Cost to Complete" of \$305.2m as opposed to the \$258.1m originally expected: RCR.0004.0138.7686;
 - (2) the email of Scafaro of 30 April 2018 entitled "Gretel Revised CTC" attaching a spreadsheet with forecast cost at completion of \$290.5m: RCR.0004.0074.6520; RCR.0004.0074.6521;
 - (3) the email of Phipps of 7 May 2018, which recounts a meeting on 1 May 2018 at which he "was made aware of the ~\$30M in CTC over-runs": RCR.0004.0048.4850;
 - (4) the email of Adams to McCullough and Phipps of 23 May 2018 which stated "Gretel also reported a significant cost and margin movement in the April results, which became known in our monthly project review meeting held on Friday 27 April 2018....

 Once the net impact was clear, this impact was reported to Corporate on Tuesday 1 May 2018": RCR.0004.0009.0654;
 - (5) the June 2018 Board Pack which records a forecast cost at completion of \$290.4m being approximately \$32m above budget: RCR.900.004.3998;
 - (6) Minutes of Board Meeting of 30 May 2018 which record that "Mr McCullough and Mr Adams reported, at length and in detail, on the forecast cost to complete for the Gretel Project": RCR.900.004.3998.
- (h) <u>In relation to 153.5B, the Plaintiffs refer to the email of Phipps of 7 May 2018, which states "In December... I stopped the meeting due to concerns around project cash flows... This was the first indication I had that the Project Management was poor and did not understand basic reporting dynamics": RCR.0004.0048.4850.</u>
- (i) <u>In relation to 153.5C-D, the Plaintiffs refer to:</u>
 - (1) The email of Phipps of 7 May 2018: RCR.0004.0048.4850;
 - (2) The particulars to paragraph 21B.4 above;

- (3) <u>Tsipis Report, Annexure D, [354]-[369], [384]-[385], Tables 8</u> and 9.
- (j) <u>In relation to 153.5E, the Plaintiffs refer to Section XXV of the Cairns Report.</u>
- (k) In relation to 153.5F, the Plaintiffs refer to the document entitled "Updated Renewables Positions": RCR.200.003.1472 and say that RCR was experiencing significant cost overruns and construction delays in respect of Darling Downs, Wemen, Clermont, Haughton, Emerald, Gannawarra and Canadian Solar.
- (I) <u>In relation to 153.5G, the Plaintiffs refer to Tsipis Report, Tables 6, 62 and 63.</u>
- 154. In all the circumstances, the 28 August 2018 RCR Conduct was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 154.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 154.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 154.3 section 18 of the ACL,

(28 August 2018 RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention).

VIII. MISLEADING CONDUCT OF DALGLEISH

(A) 23 February 2017 Dalgleish Conduct

- 155. RCR Dalgleish:
 - 155.1 made the 23 February 2017 Dalgleish Representations;
 - omitted to disclose the Affected Market the EPC Solar Contract Risks
 Information in the 23 February 2017 Announcements; and
 - 155.3 <u>155.3 failed to correct or qualify the 23 February 2017 Dalgleish Representations.</u>

(23 22 February 2017 Dalgleish Conduct).

- 156. The 23 February 2017 Dalgleish Conduct was conduct of Dalgleish:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - 156.2 in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 156.3 in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.

157. The 23 February 2017 Dalgleish Representations gave rise to a reasonable expectation that if the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information existed, it would be disclosed by Dalgleish to the Affected Market.

Particulars

- The EPC Solar Contract Risks Information was Material Non-public Information, as pleaded at paragraph 83 above.
- 158. In all the circumstances, 23 February 2017 Dalgleish Conduct was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 158.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 158.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 158.3 section 18 of the ACL,
 - (23 February 2017 RCR Dalgleish Misleading Conduct Contravention).

Particulars

The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 18 to 20, 59 to 60, 75 and 83 above.

(B) 3 May 2017 Dalgleish Conduct

- 159. Dalgleish:
 - 159.1 made the 3 May 2017 Representations;
 - 159.2 omitted to disclose to the Affected Market the EPC Solar Contract Risks
 Information in the 3 May 2017 Presentation; and
 - 159.3 failed to correct or qualify the 3 May 2017 Representations,
 - (3 May 2017 Dalgleish Conduct).
- 160. The 3 May 2017 Dalgleish Conduct was conduct of Dalgleish:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - 160.2 in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 160.3 in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.
- 161. The 3 May 2017 Dalgleish Representations gave rise to a reasonable expectation that if the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information existed, it would be disclosed by Dalgleish to the Affected Market.

- The EPC Solar Contract Risks Information was Material Non-public Information, as pleaded at paragraph 83 above.
- 162. In all the circumstances, 3 May 2017 Dalgleish Conduct was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 162.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 162.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 162.3 section 18 of the ACL,

(3 May 2017 Dalgleish Misleading Conduct Contravention).

Particulars

The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 18 to 20, 59 to 60, 83and 87 above.

(C) 11 August 2017 Dalgleish Conduct

- 163. Dalgleish:
 - 163.1 made the 11 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations;
 - 163.2 omitted to disclose to the Affected Market the EPC Solar Contract Risks
 Information in the 11 August 2017 Announcements;
 - 163.3 omitted to disclose to the Ground Conditions Information in the 11 August 2017 Announcements: and
 - 163.4 failed to correct or qualify the 11 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations,

(11 August 2017 Dalgleish Conduct).

- 164. The 11 August 2017 Dalgleish Conduct was conduct of Dalgleish:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - 164.2 in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 164.3 in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.
- 165. The 11 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations gave rise to a reasonable expectation that the following information, if it existed, would be disclosed by Dalgleish to the Affected Market:
 - 165.1 the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information; and

165.2 the Ground Conditions Information.

Particulars

- The EPC Solar Contract Risks Information and the Ground Conditions Information was Material Non-public Information, as pleaded at paragraphs 83 and 87 above.
- 166. In all the circumstances, 11 August 2017, Dalgleish Conduct was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 166.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 166.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 166.3 section 18 of the ACL.

(11 August 2017 Dalgleish Misleading Conduct Contravention).

Particulars

The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 18 to 20, 59 to 60, 75, 83 and 87 above.

- (D) 24 August 2017 Dalgleish Conduct
- 167. Dalgleish:
 - 167.1 made the 24 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations; and
 - omitted to disclose to the Affected Market the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information in the 24 August 2017 Announcements; and
 - 167.3 failed to correct or qualify the 24 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations.

(245 August 2017 Dalgleish Conduct).

- 168. The 24 August 2017 Dalgleish Conduct was conduct of Dalgleish:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 168.3 in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.
- 169. The 24 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations gave rise to a reasonable expectation that the following information, if it existed then or thereafter, would be disclosed by Dalgleish to the Affected Market:
 - 169.1 the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information; and
 - 169.2 the Ground Conditions Information;

The EPC Solar Contracts Risk Information and the Ground Conditions Information was

Material Non-Public Information, as pleaded at paragraphs 83 and 87 above. 170.

Further, at the time the 24 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations were made:

- 170.1 RCR was not on track to deliver further revenue and earnings growth in FY18

 (ie to deliver underlying EBIT for FY18 in excess of underlying EBIT for FY17);
- 170.2 RCR was not well positioned for revenue and earnings growth in FY18 (ie underlying EBIT for FY18 in excess of underlying EBIT for FY17);
- 170.3 there was not a reasonable basis to expect that RCR's earnings (ie underlying EBIT) for FY18 would exceed RCR's earnings (ie underlying EBIT) for FY17; and
- 170.4 there was not a reasonable basis to expect that RCR's infrastructure business would provide the strongest and most predictable path for growth over the next decade.; and
- 170.5 insofar as the representations were representations with respect to future matters, Dalgleish did not have reasonable grounds for making the representation.

Particulars

- (a) The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 18 to 20, 59 to 60 and 75 to 81 above.
- (b) Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence.
- Insofar as the 24 August 2017 RCR Representations were representations with respect to a future matter, the Plaintiffs will rely upon section 12BB(1) of the ASIC Act, s 796C of the Corporations Act, and/or section 4 of the Australian Consumer Law ACL.171.In all the circumstances, the 24 August 2017 Dalgleish Conduct was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 171.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 171.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 171.3 section 18 of the ACL,
 - (24 August 2017 RCR Dalgleish Conduct Contravention).
- (E) 22 February 2018 Dalgleish Conduct
- 172. Dalgleish:
 - 172.1 made the 22 February 2018 Dalgleish Representations;

- 172.2 omitted to disclose to the Affected Market the <u>any part of EPC Solar Contract</u>
 Risks Information, the Ground Conditions Information <u>the February 2018</u>
 Information, the Project Issues Information, the Cost Overruns Information or the Write-downs Information in the 22 February 2018 Announcements; and
- 172.3 failed to <u>withdraw</u>, correct or qualify the 22 February 2018 Dalgleish Representations from the time they were made to 27 July 2018, including by disclosing any part of the February 2018 Information,

(22 February 2018 Dalgleish Conduct).

- 173. The 22 February 2018 Dalgleish Conduct was conduct of Dalgleish:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - 173.2 in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 173.3 in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.
- 174. The 22 February 2018 Dalgleish Representations gave rise to a reasonable expectation that the February 2018 Information following information, if it existed, would be disclosed by Dalgleish to the Affected Market.:
 - 174.1 EPC Solar Contract Risks Information;
 - 174.2 the Ground Conditions Information:
 - 174.3 the Project Issues Information;
 - 174.4 the Cost Overruns Information; and

the Write-downs Information.175. Further, at the time the 22 February 2018 Dalgleish Representations were made:

- 175.1 RCR's EBIT for HY18 was materially less than \$22.8 million;
- 175.2 RCR's financial position was not strong;
- 175.3 the Project Gretel was not contributing to RCR's growth;
- 175.4 RCR was not on track to deliver earnings growth in FY18;
- 175.5 RCR was not well positioned for earnings growth in FY18;
- 175.6 there was not a reasonable basis to expect that RCR's earnings for FY18 would exceed RCR's earnings for FY17; and

175.7 insofar as the representations were representations with respect to future matters, Dalgleish did not have reasonable grounds for making the representation.

Particulars

The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 18 to 20, 59 to 60, and 75 to 81 above.

Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence.

Insofar as tThe 22 February 2018 RCR <u>Dalgleish</u> Representations <u>pleaded at paragraphs 51.4</u>

<u>and 51.5</u> were representations with respect to a future matter, <u>and</u> the Plaintiffs will rely upon section 12BB(1) of the ASIC Act, section 796C of the Corporations Act, and/or section 4 of the ACL.176. In all the circumstances, the 22 February 2018 Dalgleish Conduct was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:

175.8 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;

175.9 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or

175.10 section 18 of the ACL,

(22 February 2018 Dalgleish Misleading Conduct Contravention).

IX. MISLEADING CONDUCT OF JAMES

(A) 28 August 2018 James Conduct

177. James:

177.1 made the 28 August 2018 James Representations;

177.2 failed to correct or qualify the <u>28 August 2018_24 August 2017 James</u>
Representations,

(28 August 2018 James Conduct).

- 178. The 28 August 2018 James Conduct was conduct of James:
 - in relation to financial products (being RCR Shares), within the meaning of sections 1041H(1) and 1041H(2)(b) of the Corporations Act;
 - 178.2 in trade or commerce, in relation to financial services within the meaning of section 12DA of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 178.3 in trade or commerce, within the meaning of section 18 of the ACL.
- 179. At the time the 28 August 2018 James Representations were made:

- 179.1 even with the 2018 Capital Raising and the support from RCR's financiers announced to the market, RCR could not move forward in a position of strength;
- 179.2 the outlook for RCR was not positive;
- 179.3 the issues that caused the Ccost overruns on Project Gretel were systemic;
- 179.4 RCR was not in a strong financial position, was not trading on a business as usual basis, and was not well placed to deliver for its customers shareholders; and
- 179.5 there was not a reasonable basis to expect that RCR's underlying EBIT for FY19 would be between \$40 to \$48 million; and
- 179.6 insofar as the representations were representations with respect to future matters, James did not have reasonable grounds for making the representation representations.

- (a) The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 67 to 74 and 82
- (b) Further particulars may be provided following discovery and service of the defendants' evidence.
- (c) Insofar as the 28 August 2018 RCR Representations were representations with respect to a future matter, the Plaintiffs will rely upon section 12BB(1) of the ASIC Act, s 796C of the Corporations Act, and/or section 4 of the ACL.
- 180. In all the circumstances, the 28 August 2018 James Conduct was misleading or deceptive, or likely to mislead or deceive, in contravention of:
 - 180.1 section 1041H of the Corporations Act;
 - 180.2 section 12DA(1) of the ASIC Act; and/or
 - 180.3 section 18 of the ACL.

(28 August 2018 James Misleading Conduct Contravention).

- 181. The following conduct is hereafter referred to collectively as the **Misleading Conduct**Contraventions:
 - 181.1 the Continuous Disclosure RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention;
 - 181.2 the Risk Management RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention;
 - 181.3 the 23 February 2017 RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention;

- 181.4 the 23 February 2017 Dalgleish Misleading Conduct Contravention;
- 181.5 the 3 May 2017 RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention;
- 181.6 the 3 May 2017 Dalgleish Misleading Conduct Contravention;
- 181.7 the 11 August 2017 RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention;
- 181.8 the 11 August 2017 Dalgleish Misleading Conduct Contravention
- 181.9 ;the 24 August 2017 RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention;
- 181.10 the 24 August 2017 Dalgleish Misleading Conduct Contravention;
- 181.11 the 30 August 2017 RCR Cleansing Notice Misleading Conduct Contravention;
- 181.12 the 22 February 2018 RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention;
- 181.13 the 22 February 2018 Dalgleish Misleading Conduct Contravention;
- 181.14 the 28 August 2018 RCR Misleading Conduct Contravention; and
- 181.15 the 28 August 2018 James Misleading Conduct Contravention.

X. SECTION 1041E CONTRAVENTION

- 182. The following statements or information were false in a material particular or materially misleading:
 - 182.1 the Continuous Disclosure Representation;
 - 182.2 the Risk Management Representation;
 - 182.3 the 23 February 2017 RCR Representations;
 - 182.4 the 23 February 2017 Dalgleish Representations on;
 - 182.5 the 3 May 2017 Representations;
 - 182.6 the 11 August 2017 RCR Representations;
 - 182.7 the 11 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations;
 - 182.8 the 24 August 2017 RCR Representations;
 - 182.9 the 24 August 2017 Dalgleish Representations;
 - 182.10 the 30 August 2017 RCR Cleansing Notice Representations;
 - 182.11 the 22 February 2018 RCR Representations;
 - 182.12 the 22 February 2018 Dalgleish Representations;
 - 182.13 the 28 August 2018 RCR Representations; and

182.14 the 28 August 2018 James Representations,

(1041E Representations).

Particulars

The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 111 to 181.

- 183. The 1041E Representations were likely:
 - 183.1 to induce persons in Australia to apply for RCR Shares;
 - 183.2 to induce persons in Australia to dispose of or acquire RCR Shares; and/or
 - to have the effect of increasing, reducing, maintaining or stabilising the price of for trading in RCR Shares.

Particulars

The Plaintiffs repeat the matters pleaded in paragraphs 83 86A to 110 94D above and 189 to 190 below.

184. As regards those 1041E Representations made by RCR, when RCR made the each of those 1041E Representations, RCR ought reasonably to have known that those 1041E Representations was were false in a material particular or was were materially misleading.

Particulars

The Plaintiffs repeat the allegations and particulars pleaded in paragraphs 75 to 82.

- (a) The statement constituted by the 24 August 2017 Representations was materially misleading by reason of the omission of the Ground Conditions Information and the August 2017 Information, being information which RCR knew or ought reasonably to have known at the time the 24 August 2017 Representations were made, as pleaded in paragraph 78A. The omission of the Ground Conditions Information and the August 2017 Information caused the statement to be materially misleading (in that they was unduly optimistic and unqualified) in the absence of disclosure of that important countervailing, negative information.
- (b) RCR knew or ought reasonably to have known that the statement constituted by the 22 February 2018 Representations was false in a material particular or materially misleading because of:
 - (1) <u>the matters pleaded at paragraph 80A and 149 above, as</u> explained in the particulars to paragraph 150 above; and

- (2) the omission of the February 2018 Information, being information which RCR knew or ought reasonably to have known at the time the 22 February 2018 Representations were made, as pleaded in paragraph 80A, and which constituted important, countervailing, negative information about RCR's performance and prospects the omission of which caused the statement to be materially misleading.
- (c) The statement constituted by the 28 August 2018 Information was false in a material particular or materially misleading because of the matters pleaded at paragraph 153.1-153.5G and the omission of those matters, being matters which RCR knew or ought reasonably to have known at the time the 28 August 2018 Representations were made. In this regard, the Plaintiffs repeat the particulars to paragraph 153, and refer to each of the board papers and management documents referred to in the passages of the Tsipis Report given as particulars of paragraph 153.
- 185. As regards those 1041E Representations made by Dalgleish (being the 22 February 2018 Dalgleish Representations), when Dalgleish made the each of those 1041E Representations, Dalgleish ought reasonably to have known that the ose 1041E Representations was were false in a material particular or was were materially misleading.

(a) The Plaintiffs repeat the particulars to paragraphs 75 to 81186. As regards those 1041E Representations made by James, when James made the each of those 1041E Representations, James ought reasonably to have known that those 1041E Representation was false in a material particular or was materially misleading.

Particulars

- (a) The Plaintiffs repeat the particulars to paragraphs 75 to 81
- 187. Section 1041E has been contravened:
 - by RCR, by reason of the matters pleaded in paragraph 184;
 - 187.2 by Dalgleish, by reason of the matters pleaded in paragraph 185; and
 - 187.3 by James, by reason of the matters pleaded in paragraph 186.

(1041E Contraventions).

XI. CAUSATION, INCLUDING INDIRECT (MARKET-BASED) CAUSATION

(A) Market Contraventions generally

- 188. During the Relevant Period, the Plaintiffs and the Group Members acquired an interest in RCR Shares in a market of investors or potential investors in RCR Shares:
 - 188.1 operated by the ASX;
 - regulated by, inter alia, section 674(2) of the Corporations Act and Listing Rule 3.1;
 - where the price or value of RCR Shares would reasonably be expected to have been informed or affected by information disclosed in accordance with sections 674(2) of the Corporations Act and Listing Rule 3.1;
 - where material information had not been disclosed, which a reasonable person would expect, had it been disclosed, would have had a material adverse effect on the price or value of RCR Shares (namely the information the subject of the Continuous Disclosure Contraventions, or any one of them); and
 - where misleading or deceptive conduct had occurred (namely the conduct the subject of the Misleading Conduct Contraventions and 1041E Contraventions) by the making of statements to the market that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of RCR Shares.
- 189. During the Relevant Period, the Plaintiffs and the Group Members acquired an interest in RCR Shares in circumstances in which the Continuous Disclosure Contraventions, the Misleading Conduct Contraventions and the 1041E Contraventions (**Market Contraventions**) (or any one or combination of them) caused the market price of RCR Shares to be, or materially contributed to the market price of RCR Shares being, substantially greater than their true value and/or the market price that would otherwise have prevailed at the time of acquisition but for those Market Contraventions (or any one or combination of them).

Particulars of indirect / market-based causation

Full particulars of the extent to which the Market Contraventions caused the market price for RCR Shares to be substantially greater than their true value and/or the market price that would otherwise have prevailed at the time of acquisition will be provided after the Plaintiffs have served expert evidence.

The Plaintiffs rely upon the report of Gregg Edwards dated 7 June 2022 (Edwards Report). See Figure 1, summarising the answer to Question 4. As

for the period after 28 August 2018, in circumstances where (a) RCR went into administration on 21 November 2018, fewer than three months after the 2018 Capital Raising; and (b) shareholders will receive nothing from the liquidation, RCR Shares bought in or after the 2018 Capital Raising should be inferred to have been worthless when purchased.

- 190. Further or in the alternative to paragraph 189, the decline in the price of RCR Shares pleaded in paragraphs 66 above was caused or materially contributed to by the information communicated to the Affected Market by RCR in respect of the Market Contraventions.
- 191. Further or in the alternative to paragraph 189 and 190, if RCR had:
 - 191.1 disclosed the EPC Solar Contract Risks Information, the Grounds Condition Information, the Project Issues Information, the Costs Overrun Information, the Write-downs Information, the FY18 Earnings Information prior to 28 August 2018;
 - 191.2 disclosed the FY19 Financial Information and the matters pleaded in paragraph 203 below prior to 12 November 2018; and/or
 - 191.3 not engaged in the conduct the subject of the Market Contraventions, the price of RCR Shares would have fallen substantially.

Particulars

The extent to which the price of RCR Shares would have fallen at earlier points in time during the Relevant Period, and when it would have so fallen, is a matter for evidence, particulars of which will be provided after the Plaintiffs have served expert evidence.

- 192. Further or in the alternative to paragraphs 189-to 191, during the Relevant Period, the Plaintiffs and some Group Members acquired their respective interests in RCR Shares in reliance upon one or more of the Misleading Conduct Contraventions or 1041E Contraventions.
- 193. Further or in the alternative to paragraphs 189 to and 192, during the Relevant Period, the Plaintiffs and some Group Members would not have acquired their respective interests in RCR Shares-had they known:
 - 193.1 <u>had they known</u> of the EPC Solar Contract Risk Information, Ground Conditions Information, the Project Issues August 2017 Information, the Cost Overruns—September/October/November 2017 Information, or the Write-downs Information, the FY18 Earnings Guidance Information, the FY19 Financial-February 2018 Information; and/or

- 193.2 that <u>had</u> the conduct giving rise to the Misleading Conduct Contraventions or 1041E Contraventions was misleading not occurred.
- 194. During the Relevant Period, the market for RCR Equity Swaps was a market that traded on the basis that the market for RCR Shares had the features pleaded in paragraph 188 above.
- 195. By reason of the matters set out in paragraphs 189 194 above, at all times during the Relevant Period, Group Members who entered into RCR Equity Swaps did so at a time when:
 - 195.1 the price of RCR Shares had been artificially inflated by the Market Contraventions;
 - the RCR Equity Swaps had been defined by reference to a price of RCR Shares which was artificially inflated at the time the swap transaction was initiated;
 - by reason of the matters pleaded in this paragraph, the value of the future cash flows to be received by the equity amount receiver pursuant to the RCR Equity Swap, which future cash flows were determined by reference to the performance of RCR Shares, was diminished and/or the value of the cash flows to be paid by the equity amount receiver in return was inflated.

Particulars of indirect / market-based causation

Particulars of the Group Members' holdings of RCR Equity Swaps will be provided prior to the trial of their individual claims following the determination of the common questions.

(B) 30 August 2017 RCR Cleansing Notice Misleading Conduct Contravention - search

(i) No transaction

196. But for the 30 August 2017 Cleansing Notice Misleading Conduct Contravention, RCR would not have been able to raise capital pursuant to the 2017 Capital Raising.

(ii) Market-based causation

- 197. The Third Plaintiff and some or all of the Group Members acquired an interest in RCR Shares pursuant to the 2017 Capital Raising in a market:
 - 197.1 regulated by, inter alia, Chapter 6D of the Corporations Act;
 - 197.2 where the offer price of RCR Shares in the 2017 Capital Raising would reasonably be expected by potential investors to have been determined by

RCR to represent a fair market value for RCR Shares, based upon all information required to be disclosed by RCR;

in the alternative to sub-paragraph 197.2, where the offer price in the 2017

Capital Raising was in fact determined by RCR by reference to the then prevailing market price for RCR Shares;

Particulars

As regards the 2017 Capital Raising, the 24 August 2017 Announcements provided that RCR will issue approximately 21 million RCR Shares to eligible, sophisticated, professional institutional investors at a fixed price of \$3.55 per share representing a 5.1% discount to the last close price of \$3.74 on 23 August 2017 and a 4.6% discount to the 5 day VWAP ending on 23 August 2017 or \$3.72. The 24 August 2017 Announcements further provided that eligible RCR shareholders will have the opportunity to subscribe for new shares up to maximum value of \$15,000 per shareholder at the same price as institutional investors.

- 197.4 where material information had not been disclosed (namely the Cleansing Notice Omissions pleaded at paragraph 144), which a reasonable person would expect, had it been disclosed, would have caused the capital raising not to proceed, or caused the offer price to be lower, and/or caused there to be a material adverse effect on the willingness of potential investors to participate in the capital raising at the relevant offer price or at all; and
- 197.5 where misleading or deceptive statements had been made (namely the Cleansing Notice Representations pleaded at paragraph 46) which a reasonable person would expect, had they not been made, would have caused the capital raising not to proceed, or caused the offer price to be lower, and/or caused there to be a material adverse effect on the willingness of potential investors to participate in the capital raising at the relevant offer price or at all.

Particulars

Full particulars of the extent to which the 30 August 2017 Cleansing Notice Misleading Conduct Contravention caused the offer price for RCR Shares in the 2017 Capital Raising to be greater than the price that would otherwise have prevailed will be provided after the Plaintiffs have served expert evidence.

(iii) Reliance

- 198. The Third Plaintiff and some or all of the Group Members acquired RCR Shares in volumes they were acquired in reliance upon:
 - 198.1 the Cleansing Notice Representations; and/or
 - 198.2 the Cleansing Notice Representations Omissions.

The identity of all those Group Members which or who relied directly upon the statements and/or omissions identified above are not presently within the Plaintiffs' knowledge and cannot be ascertained unless and until those advising the Plaintiffs take detailed instructions from all Group Members on individual issues relevant to the determination of those Group Members' claims. Those instructions will be obtained (and particulars of the identities of those Group Members will be provided) following opt-out, the determination of the Plaintiffs' claim and identification of common issues at an initial trial, and if and when it is necessary to for a determination to be made of the individual claims of those Group Members.

XII. LOSS AND DAMAGE

199. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 189 to 198 195 above, the Plaintiffs and the Group Members have suffered loss and damage by and resulting from the Market Contraventions (or any one or combination of them).

Particulars

- (a) The loss suffered by the Plaintiffs will be calculated by reference to one or more of the following measures of loss and damage:
 - (1) the difference between the price at which RCR Shares were acquired by the Plaintiffs during the Relevant Period and the true value of that interest at that time;
 - (2) the difference between the price at which RCR Shares were acquired by the Plaintiffs during the Relevant Period and the market price that would have prevailed at that time had the Market Contraventions not occurred:
 - (3) the nature and quantum of the decline in the price of RCR
 Shares on 28 August 2018 on 30 August 2018 when the
 trading halt and suspension was lifted following the
 announcement of the 2018 Capital Raising on 28 August
 2018, as a result of the disclosure of information which had

- not previously been disclosed in respect of the Market Contraventions; or
- (4) the difference between the price at which the RCR Shares were acquired by the Plaintiffs during the Relevant Period and the amount "left in hand" or that might be realised on the sale of those shares.
- (b) Further particulars of <u>T</u>the Plaintiffs' losses will be provided after the service of the Plaintiffs' expert evidence rely on the Edwards Report.
- (c) Particulars of the losses of the Group Members will be provided following opt-out, the determination of the Plaintiffs' claim and identified common issues at an initial trial, and if and when it becomes necessary for a determination to be made on the individual claims of the Group Members. The losses of the Group Members are presently expected to involve one or more of the following measures of loss and damage:
 - (1) the difference between the price at which RCR Shares were acquired during the Relevant Period and the true value of the shares at that time; or
 - (2) the difference between the purchase price paid for the shares and the price that the shares would then have been trading at on the day of purchase, had the Market Contraventions not occurred and the market been properly informed;
 - (3) the nature and quantum of the decline in the price of RCR
 Shares 28 August 2018 on 30 August 2018 when the trading
 halt and suspension was lifted following the announcement of
 the 2018 Capital Raising on 28 August 2018, as a result of the
 disclosure of information which had not previously been
 disclosed in respect of the Market Contraventions;
 - (4) in the alternative, the difference between the purchase price of the shares and (i) if the shares were sold: the price at the time they were sold; or (ii) if the shares are retained: the listed price of the shares at the date of the judgment;
 - (5) for Group Members who entered into RCR Equity Swaps, the amount by which the future cash flows to be received by the Group Member pursuant to the RCR Equity Swap were diminished and/or the amount by which the cash flows to be

- paid by the Group Member pursuant to the RCR Equity Swap were inflated:
- (6) —(5) or for Group Members who purchased RCR Shares through the 2017 Capital Raising, the offer price for RCR Shares purchased through the 2017 Capital Raising, or alternatively, the difference between offer price for RCR Shares in the 2017 Capital Raising and the price that would otherwise have prevailed.

XIII. PROSPECTUS CONTRAVENTION

- 200. The Prospectus was:
 - 200.1 issued for the purposes of Chapter 6D of the Corporations Act;
 - 200.2 a disclosure document within the meaning of section 9 of the Corporations Act;
 - 200.3 issued in relation to an offer of RCR Shares.
- 201. In the Independent Auditor's Report on the FY18 Financial Report, the independent auditor stated that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the RCR group's ability to continue as a going concern (**Going Concern Modification**).
- 202. In the Prospectus, RCR made the following statements:
 - 202.1 RCR remained ideally positioned in the renewable energy market;
 - the Cost Ooverruns experienced on Project Gretel were due to caused by Pproject-specific issues;
 - 202.3 the 2018 Capital Raising will enable RCR to avoid the risk of breaching financial covenants under its facility agreements; and
 - 202.4 the 2018 Capital Raising and financier support announced in the Prospectus and the 28 August 2018 Announcements would resolve the Going Concern Modification.
 - 202.5 <u>a large proportion of the \$57 million of write-downs realised on Project Gretel</u> were only recently identified;
 - 202.6 this was due to onsite procedures adopted by a limited number of site personnel, which had the effect of circumventing RCR's standard processes; and

202.7 <u>outside the cost overruns experienced on Project Gretel, the variance to tendered margins experienced across RCR's other projects was typical of a contracting business,</u>

(Prospectus Misleading Statements).

Particulars

The Prospectus Misleading Statements were express and were made in the Prospectus at pages 8, 9, 21, <u>35</u>, 38 and <u>48-36</u>.

- 203. At the time the Prospectus Misleading Statements were made:
 - 203.1 RCR was not ideally positioned in the renewable energy market;
 - 203.2 <u>some of the issues that caused Ccost Ooverruns on Project Gretel</u> were not due to project-specific issues, including the adoption of unfounded or unduly optimistic assumptions and contingency allowances in tendering as to construction costs, construction time and ground conditions, and consequent delays and cost overruns caused by weather conditions, labour and material costs and piling refusals;
 - 203.2A over \$30 million of the cost overruns on Project Gretel were not recently identified and had been identified by the beginning of May 2018:
 - 203.2B Phipps had been aware since December 2017 that project management on Project Gretel was poor and those involved did not understand basic reporting dynamics;
 - 203.2C <u>insofar as some of the \$57 million of write-downs realised on Project Gretel</u>
 <u>were only recently identified by management or the Board, a reason why that</u>
 <u>occurred was breaches of the RCR Reporting Protocol;</u>
 - 203.2D reporting systems, namely the RCR Reporting Protocol, had not been adhered to in respect of both Gretel and other EPC Solar Contracts, by a number of personnel including offsite personnel, which was separate from and additional to the other circumvention of standard processes announced on 28 August 2018;
 - 203.2E RCR had misreported its HY18 EBIT as a result of the RCR Reporting Protocol Breaches, and had in fact suffered a loss of approximately \$5.86 million;
 - 203.2F RCR was experiencing significant cost overruns and construction delays in respect of several EPC Solar Contracts other than Project Gretel;

- 203.2G the variance to tendered margins across RCR's other EPC Solar Contracts was significant, with the forecast margin being approximately \$97 million or 67% less than had been budgeted for; and
- 203.3 RCR did not have reasonable grounds for making the Prospectus Misleading Statements.

- (a) The Plaintiffs repeat the <u>particulars</u> matters pleaded in paragraphs 67 to 74 153 above.
- (b) The Administrators' Report states:
 - (1) As at 12 October 2018, RCR expected to breach an earnings covenant in December 2018 and was seeking a waiver (p 58).
 - (2) In early November 2018, it became clear to the RCR Board that the Group was likely to breach its banking covenants in December 2018 (p 61).
 - (3) Various discussions were held with the Secured Creditors in the month of November, culminating in RCR putting a formal request for funding to the Secured Creditors on 20 November 2018. This request was denied. The RCR Board immediately appointed the Administrators (p 61).
 - (4) The Directors believe the RCR Group failed due to the Secured Creditors refusal to extend the Group's facilities, the non-waiver of a potential breach of financial covenants and the withdrawal of overdraft facilities by the CBA on 21 November 2018 (p 8).
- 204. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 202-200 to 203 above, the Prospectus Misleading Statements were misleading or deceptive statements within the meaning of sections 728(1) and (2) of the Corporations Act.
- 205. The Prospectus did not contain the FY19 Financial Information (Prospectus Omission).
- 206. The Prospectus Omission was information that investors and their professional advisers would reasonably require to make an informed assessment of the effect of the offer on RCR and/or the rights and liabilities attaching to the securities offered, within the meaning of s 713(2) of the Corporations Act.
- 207. By reason of the matters pleaded in paragraphs 204 to 206 above, RCR contravened section 728 of the Corporations Act (**Prospectus Contravention**).

(A) Causation

(i) No transaction

208. But for the Prospectus Contravention, RCR would not have been able to raise capital pursuant to the 2018 Capital Raising.

Particulars

- (a) Had the Prospectus not contained the Prospectus Misleading
 Statements, and had the Prospectus not omitted the or included
 sufficient additional information the subject of the Prospectus
 Omission so as to render those statements not misleading, then:
 - (1) Macquarie Capital as Lead Manager and Underwriter of the 2018 Capital Raising would have withdrawn its support for the 2018 Capital Raising; Report of Rowan Johnston dated 8

 June 2022 (Johnston Report), Section F;
 - (2) Deloitte Corporate Finance Pty Limited as Investigating Accountant to RCR in relation to the 2018 Capital Raising would not have consented to the inclusion of the Investigating Accountant's Report in the Prospectus;
 - (3) King & Wood Mallesons as legal adviser to RCR in relation to the 2018 Capital Raising would have withdrawn its consent to being named as such in the Prospectus;
 - (4) Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu as Independent Auditor in relation to the 2018 Capital Raising would have withdrawn its consent to being named as such in the Prospectus;
 - (5) the Prospectus would not have been lodged with ASIC; and/or
 - (6) investors who acquired an interest in RCR Shares pursuant to the Prospectus would not have done so-: and/or
 - (7) RCR's financiers would not have agreed not to exercise their rights in respect of RCR's extant and/or impending breaches of financial covenants, and would, or alternatively may, have called in RCR's debt, such that administrators would have been appointed at that time.

(b) Further particulars may be provided following discovery and evidence.

(ii) Market-based causation

- 209. <u>Further, or in the alternative,</u> <u>The First and Second Plaintiffs</u> and Group Members acquired an interest in RCR Shares pursuant to the 2018 Capital Raising in a market:
 - 209.1 regulated by, inter alia, Chapter 6D of the Corporations Act;
 - 209.2 where the offer price of RCR Shares in the Prospectus would reasonably be expected by potential investors to have been determined by RCR to represent a fair market value for RCR Shares, based upon all information required to be disclosed by RCR;
 - in the alternative to sub-paragraph 209.2, where the offer price in the 20172018 Capital Raising or in the Prospectus was in fact determined by RCR by reference to the then prevailing market price for RCR Shares;

Particulars

The Prospectus provided (at p 23) that the offer price for RCR Shares pursuant to the entitlement offer was \$1.00 per RCR Share, which represented a 52.8% discount to the Theoretical Ex-Rights Price and a 64.3% discount to the last close price on the ASX of \$2.80 on 27 July 2018.

- 209.4 where material information had not been disclosed (namely the Prospectus Omission), which a reasonable person would expect, had it been disclosed, would have caused the capital raising not to proceed, or caused the offer price to be lower, and/or caused there to be a material adverse effect on the willingness of potential investors to participate in the capital raising at the relevant offer price or at all; and
- where misleading or deceptive statements had been made (namely the Prospectus Misleading Statements) which a reasonable person would expect, had they not been made, would have caused the capital raising not to proceed_or caused the offer price to be lower, and/or caused there to be a material adverse effect on the willingness of potential investors to participate in the capital raising at the relevant offer price or at all.

Particulars

In circumstances where (a) RCR went into administration on 21 November 2018, fewer than three months after the 2018 Capital Raising; and (b) shareholders will receive nothing from the liquidation, RCR Shares bought in or after the 2018 Capital Raising should be inferred to have been worthless

when purchased. Full particulars of the extent to which the Prospectus Contravention caused the offer price for RCR Shares in the 2018 Capital Raising to be greater than the price that would otherwise have prevailed will be provided after the Plaintiffs have served expert evidence

210. In the Relevant Period, the Prospectus Contravention caused the offer price in the 2018 Capital Raising to be, or materially contributed to the offer price in the 2018 Capital Raising being, substantially greater than the true value of RCR Shares and/or the offer price that would otherwise have prevailed at the time of the 2018 Capital Raising but for the Prospectus Contravention.

Particulars of indirect / market-based causation

The particulars to paragraph 209 are repeated. Full particulars of the extent to which the Prospectus Contravention caused the offer price to be substantially greater than the true value of RCR Shares and/or the offer price that would otherwise have prevailed at the time of the 2018 Capital Raising will be provided after the Plaintiffs have served expert evidence.

(iii) Reliance

- 211. <u>Further, or in the alternative, First and Second Plaintiff and some or all of the Group Members acquired RCR Shares in volumes they were acquired in reliance upon</u>
 - 211.1 one or more of the Prospectus Misleading Statements; and/or.
 - 211.2 the Prospectus Omissions.

Particulars

The identity of all those Group Members which or who relied directly upon the statements and/or omissions identified above are not presently within the Plaintiffs' knowledge and cannot be ascertained unless and until those advising the Plaintiffs take detailed instructions from all Group Members on individual issues relevant to the determination of those Group Members' claims. Those instructions will be obtained (and particulars of the identities of those Group Members will be provided) following opt-out, the determination of the Plaintiffs' claim and identification of common issues at an initial trial, and if and when it is necessary to for a determination to be made of the individual claims of those Group Members.

(B) Loss and Damage

212. The First and Second Plaintiffs and Some Group Members have suffered loss and damage resulting from the Prospectus Contravention.

Particulars

The particulars to paragraphs 208 to 211 above are repeated.

<u>Further particulars</u> of the losses of Group Members will be provided following opt-out, the determination of the Plaintiffs' claims and identification of common issues at an initial trial, and if and when it is necessary to for a determination to be made of the individual claims of those Group Members. Group Members' loss and damage resulting from the Prospectus Contravention will be the subject of expert evidence.

D. QUESTIONS APPROPRIATE FOR REFERRAL TO A REFEREE

1 None.

E. MEDIATION

1 The parties have not attempted attended a mediation. The Plaintiffs are willing to reconvene the proceed to mediation at an appropriate time.

SIGNATURE OF LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

Signature

Capacity Solicitor on the Record

Date of signature 30 August 2019 6 March 2020 6 July 2023

This pleading was prepared by Adam Hochroth, Patrick Meagher and Quinn Emanuel

Urquhart & Sullivan, and settled by Elizabeth Collins SC.

SCHEDULE 1

RCR's Misleading Public Statements

(A) CONTINUOUS DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

- 1. On 25 August 2016, RCR published its 2016 Annual Report.
- 2. In the 2016 Annual Report, RCR made the following statements:
 - 2.1 (p 68) "The company is committed to maintaining a level of disclosure that meets the standards and provides all investors with timely and equal access to information issued by the Company";
 - 2.2 (p 68) "The Company's Continuous Disclosure Policy reinforces its commitment to ASX continuous disclosure requirements and outlines management's accountabilities and the processes to be followed for ensuring compliance";
 - 2.3 (p 69) "The Company is committed to giving all shareholders comprehensive, timely and equal access to information about its activities so that they can make informed decisions. Similarly, prospective new investors are entitled to be able to make informed investment decisions when considering the purchase of shares in the Company";
 - 2.4 (p 69) "The Company's Shareholder Communication Policy provides that the Company will communicate effectively with its shareholders, give shareholders ready access to balanced and understandable information about RCR and encourages shareholder participation at General Meetings and AGMs. The way it does this includes:...ensuring the disclosure of full and timely information about the Company's activities in accordance with the general and continuous disclosure principles of the ASX Listing Rules and the Corporations Act 2001";
 - 2.5 (p 73) RCR has complied with its obligation to make timely and balanced disclosure to the ASX; and
 - 2.6 (p 73) RCR has written policies designed to ensure compliance with ASX Listing Rule disclosure requirements and to ensure accountability at a senior executive level for that compliance.
- 3. On 24 August 2017, RCR published its 2017 Annual Report.
- 4. In the 2017 Annual Report, RCR made the following statements:
 - 4.1 (p 63) "The Company is committed to giving all shareholders comprehensive, timely and equal access to information about its activities so that they can

make informed decisions. Similarly, prospective new investors are entitled to be able to make informed investment decisions when considering the purchase of shares in the Company;"

- 4.2 (p 64) "The Company's Shareholder Communication Policy provides that the Company will communicate effectively with its shareholders, give shareholders ready access to balanced and understandable information about the Company and encourages shareholder participation at General Meetings and AGMs. The way it does this includes... ensuring the disclosure of full and timely information about the Company's activities in accordance with the general and continuous disclosure principles of the ASX Listing Rules and the Corporations Act 2001";
- 4.3 (p 64) "The Company is committed to maintaining a level of disclosure that meets the standards and provides all investors with timely and equal access to information issued by the Company".
- 4.4 (p 64) "The Company's Continuous Disclosure Policy reinforces its commitment to ASX continuous disclosure requirements and outlines management's accountabilities and the processes to be followed for ensuring compliance";
- 4.5 (p 70) RCR has complied with its obligation to make timely and balanced disclosures to the ASX; and
- 4.6 (p 70) RCR has written policies designed to ensure compliance with ASX Listing Rule disclosure requirements and to ensure accountability at a senior executive level for that compliance.
- 5. During the Relevant Period, RCR had in place a Continuous Disclosure Policy, which was referred to in the 2016 Annual Report (p 68) and in the 2017 Annual Report (p 68) and which was available throughout the Relevant Period in RCR's website.
- 6. In the Continuous Disclosure Policy, RCR made the following statements:
 - 6.1 (p 1) "As a company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), RCR Tomlinson Ltd (RCR) is committed to: complying with its disclosure obligations under the ASX Listing Rules; and the promotion of investor confidence by ensuring that all investors have equal and timely access to material information concerning RCR, including material information about its financial position, performance, ownership and governance"; and
 - 6.2 (p 1) "Both the Corporations Act and the ASX Listing Rules require RCR to ensure that once it becomes aware of any certain information concerning it that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price

or value of RCR shares that is not generally available or previously been made available to ASX (Price Sensitive Information), it must immediately advise ASX of that information. RCR will become aware of information if a Director or executive officer of RCR has, or ought reasonably to have, come into possession of the information in the course of the performance of their duties as a Director or executive officer of RCR".

(B) RISK MANAGEMENT STATEMENTS

- 7. In the 2016 Annual Report, RCR made the following statements:
 - 7.1 (p 23) "RCR's management system is designed to support the high performance and sustainable development of our business, to increase transparency of key risk indicators, enhance corporate governance and strengthen primary management control information";
 - 7.2 (p 35) "The Company has a risk management policy and internal controls to enable the identification, assessment and mitigation of material business risks. Key processes include tender, contracting and project management, treasury and credit risks"; and
 - 7.3 (p 69) "The Board and management recognise that risk management and internal compliance and control are key elements of good corporate governance".
- 8. In the 2017 Annual Report, RCR made the following statements:
 - 8.1 (p 35) "Effective risk management anticipates and evaluates uncertainties that could impact the Company's business objectives. By recognising and managing risk, the Company is able to make the most out of opportunities to create shareholder value and deliver on commitments to our employees, customers, the environment and the community. The Company has defined five discrete risk environments, being: Strategic, Operational, Project, Financial and Compliance";
 - 8.2 (p 35) "The Company has a risk management policy and internal controls to enable the identification, assessment and mitigation of material business and project risks. Key processes include tender, contracting and project management, treasury and credit risks. Project risks are evaluated as a potential barrier to delivering contracted scopes against cost, time and technical performance targets, while maintaining health, safety and environmental performance at acceptable levels. RCR's risk management framework sets the minimum required standard for project management in the delivery of major projects. Major project risk management activities include

- contracting principles, project reviews, identification, analysis and control risks and opportunities, risk registers and monthly project reporting";
- 8.3 (p 35) "The Company manages risk as an intrinsic part of its business and is committed to conducting business activities in a way that is aimed at achieving continued growth of shareholder value in a sustainable manner"; and
- 8.4 (p 65) "The Board and management recognise that risk management and internal compliance and control are key elements of good corporate governance".