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AustralianSuper portfolio to be net zero by 2050

AustralianSuper announced today that it has committed to a net zero 2050 carbon emissions target on its investment portfolio.

AustralianSuper Director ESG and Stewardship, Andrew Gray said moving to net zero by 2050 would mitigate against the risk of climate change on the portfolio's long-term investment performance.

'It is in members' best interests that AustralianSuper positions the portfolio to a net zero outcome,' Mr Gray said.

'This is in line with global market expectations and consistent with our goal of maximising members' long-term investment returns.'

The decision was endorsed by the AustralianSuper Board at its October meeting.

AustralianSuper has been measuring the carbon intensity of its equity portfolios since 2013 through external consultancy S&P/Trucost and has made significant progress with the equities portfolio reducing its carbon intensity by 44% between 2013 and 2019.

The Fund's Australian and international share portfolios also emit 44% less carbon than the market index.

In addition, we have already committed to having \$1 billion invested in renewables by the end of 2022.

Mr Gray said AustralianSuper had a major role to play in influencing and supporting the broad-based economic transition necessary to manage climate change.

'AustralianSuper will aim to achieve a net zero position through direct company engagement and by working with other investors through initiatives like Climate Action (CA) 100+, the Australian Industry Energy Transitions Initiative and Climate League 2030.

'In making the Net Zero 2050 commitment, we have undertaken significant analysis to understand the sources of emissions in the portfolio and the progress we've already achieved to reduce these. This will enable us to take a measured and structured approach in achieving Net Zero 2050, including reporting our progress.'

AustralianSuper recently published its Climate Change Report, which is aligned with the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) framework. It includes metrics on how we're managing the low carbon transition and physical risks in the portfolio. It can be found at australiansuper.com/ClimateChange

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About AustralianSuper

AustralianSuper manages more than \$180 billion of members' retirement savings on behalf of more than 2.2 million members from around 330,000 businesses. One in 10 working Australians are a member of AustralianSuper, the nation's largest superannuation fund.