



Your Industry
Super Fund™



Corporate responsibility report **2017**



Message from our CEO



This is our second Corporate responsibility report, and over the 12 months since the first report we have been focused on the rapid changes taking place in the world – and in the super industry. At Vision Super, we're always looking forward to what our members will need tomorrow. Sustainability is vital, not only for our planet but also to safeguard your retirement savings.

Our investment approach looks towards a low carbon future, seeking to minimise our exposure where carbon risk is not priced in by markets, while maximising our investment in companies that are considered sustainability leaders. We do this not just because we are concerned about the realities of climate change, but because **our members' best interests are at the centre of everything we do.**

Over the last year we have increased our focus on ESG. The carbon intensity of our portfolio has again been reduced, with our overall carbon intensity now around 26% less than that of the index. Our Sustainable balanced option, which is now available to all Vision Super members, is lower carbon still.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Rowe". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Stephen Rowe – Vision Super CEO



Sustainability matters

While our environmental, social and governance (ESG) policy has a large emphasis on our environmental initiatives, it also looks at our social responsibility as a not-for-profit organisation, and how these are both underpinned by good governance.

Achieving a low carbon, socially cohesive society is unfortunately more complicated than simply divesting from certain companies. For this reason, our comprehensive ESG policy also takes into account the challenges faced by the economy and society in relation to these ESG principles.

Our commitment to the low carbon economy

As a proud signatory of the Paris Pledge, we have low carbon benchmarks that apply to our indexed share investments. Our international shares portfolio sits in the global MSCI Low Carbon Index – meaning we invest in companies that have a 70% lower carbon exposure than the rest of the market. We have also moved our Australian passive or index shares portfolio to the IFM Low Carbon Australian Shares fund, which reduces our exposure to Australian shares companies with a high carbon risk.

For the rest of our shares allocations, our fund managers must take into account our ESG policies in their company evaluations. In these evaluations, we specifically ask our managers to include a reasonable estimate of the impact of phasing out fossil fuel usage, consistent with limiting global warming to no more than two degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial global mean temperature.

In the 2016 Benchmark Report by the Responsible Investment Association of Australasia (RIAA), we were found to be the fourth largest investor in responsible core* investments out of Australia's super funds, with over \$1.5 billion worth of responsible assets under management.

In a further development to offer sustainable super solutions for our members, we have launched our Sustainable balanced investment option - and with its low fees, it is an industry first. The option specifically seeks to invest in companies that are considered sustainability leaders and avoid companies with material exposure to controversial weapons, fossil fuel exploration and production.

* 'Core responsible investment approaches apply negative, positive or norms-based screening, sustainability themed investing, impact investing, community finance or corporate engagement'. RIAA Benchmark Report, July 2016

The challenging transition to low carbon

The first challenge we are faced with in our transition to a low carbon economy is that worldwide greenhouse gas emissions don't just come from non-renewable energy production. While the numbers vary between sources, it is a fact that many other industries, including animal agriculture, transport, forestry, and construction, are major producers of greenhouse gases too.

The second challenge is that while there is demand for a product, it will still be produced. As long as Australia is dependent on fossil fuels as an energy source, other investors will step in when some divest from these assets, so there is no net benefit to the environment of divestment.

We look forward to the day when Australia is completely powered by renewable energy, but understand that the successful transition to a low carbon economy involves everyone – from policy-makers to the public. We believe Vision Super is playing our part.

Our social responsibility

While we pride ourselves on being environmentally responsible investors, our number one priority is to help our members achieve a comfortable retirement. It is our fiduciary responsibility to grow and manage our members' retirement savings, so that they can enjoy a good quality of life in retirement.

As an industry fund, everything we do is for our members – and we return all profits to them. We keep management fees to a minimum, cut costs where possible, and we're efficient in our processes – all so our members can have more money for their retirement.

We keep our members updated and informed, and are committed to providing them with quality education and advice to help them get the most from their super. We pride ourselves on disclosing all fees to members, and want to be an organisation that they can trust.

Governance

Our environmental and social responsibilities are all underpinned by good governance. We believe open communication with our members and stakeholders helps us remain accountable and transparent. We achieve this through our annual report, member forums, and documents such as this Corporate responsibility report. These events provide us with an opportunity to include information about our leadership, executive pay, audits, and shareholder rights.

As a member of the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia, the Australian Council of Superannuation Investors (ACSI) and the Australian Institute of Industry Trustees, we are actively engaged in our industry. These memberships also provide professional development opportunities to our staff, and provide us with support in the face of regulatory changes that may affect our members.

Our responsible investment is guided by our membership with the RIAA, and as a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment. Through these memberships, we are obliged to not only incorporate ESG principles into our operations, but also report on our activities and progress on implementing these principles.

We also maintain partnerships with a variety of different associations and employer groups, which help us remain engaged with the industries where many of our members work, and to show our support for our members and their communities. Some of these associations, such as the Australian Services Union, the Municipal Association of Victoria and Victorian Water Industry Association, have appointed members on our Board of Directors.

Proxy voting

A vital part of Vision Super's approach to ESG issues is how we vote as shareholders. When listed companies make big decisions, they often put them to a shareholder vote. We appoint a proxy to advise our voting at these meetings and we can tell them how we want them to vote Vision Super's shares.

This gives us the ability to oppose actions that would harm the environment, excessive pay for executives, and the use of cheap labour in unsafe conditions. We can also support companies that are doing the right thing.

Over the past year, we have taken a close look at how our managers were voting, and have now instituted a weekly meeting on upcoming votes of interest (critical meeting resolutions) and/or where there is a vote being recommended against the management of a company.

We exercise our shareholder vote for Australian companies, and have been particularly active when voting around remuneration proposals (more details on page 14 of this report). We have now extended our reach to our international shares.

For international shares, we have appointed a proxy voting adviser to guide us on our voting consistent with the way we vote domestically.

We customise our vote to ensure it aligns with Vision Super's values, taking the proxy voting adviser's position as default but reviewing cases where:

- Our manager's recommendation is different from the proxy adviser's recommendation
- The voting recommendation is considered 'controversial' by the Board. This might include resolutions concerning climate change, mergers, remuneration or labour.

Our proxy voting experience so far has highlighted resolutions relating to EU political donations and expenditure, as well as authorising a company to call a general meeting with less than two weeks' notice in the UK.

We have trialled a few voting advisers and have found it to be an effective use of time and resources, once our critical meeting parameters were set within the platform. During our trial period with one adviser between April and July, we voted on 8,883 items.

We look forward to reviewing and refining our voting on international shares, and keeping our members informed along the way.

Our commitment to sustainable investing

Vision Super takes an holistic approach to sustainable investing. We need to transition to a low carbon economy, and we need to do it rapidly if we want to keep global warming under 2°C above pre-industrial levels and protect our standard of living. Investing in renewable energy is one of the ways we can help achieve that.

But divesting from companies that produce fossil fuels doesn't achieve anything. We could sell everything we hold that has even a remote connection with energy production tomorrow, and it wouldn't result in a single gram of carbon less being emitted the day after.

For example, there are funds that say they're "fossil fuel free" – but they're not, when you look at the big picture. The truth is, fossil fuels are so integrated into our economy that you can't realistically invest in anything that doesn't use fossil fuels. Even if you're investing in solar technology, producing those panels in the first place takes electricity from fossil fuels. There's no escaping it. Everything that uses electricity, everything that needs transporting – dig deeply enough into it and you'll find fossil fuel use.

Obviously, that needs to change. However the changes needed are structural and must happen on a national and a global level. We need our federal government to act, and we need global action. We do need individuals to act as well, but we need to stop leaving everything to individuals, because we can't solve the whole problem by ourselves.

There are two things we're doing that we believe can actually make a difference on the investment front – we're putting pressure on the government to introduce effective policies by lobbying them, and we are voting at shareholder meetings to force companies to transition away from fossil fuel use towards alternatives, and to disclose and be responsible for their emissions. Two recent examples are Exxon, where we were one of the voters who forced them to commit to more openness about the impact of climate change on their business and Chevron, where the company bowed to pressure from investors and agreed to the resolution before it came to a vote. If we were to just divest, we would not be able to take that shareholder activist approach, to engage with and influence these companies.

There are some areas where we won't invest at all, because no amount of disclosures or activism can reduce the harm from what they're producing, like controversial weapons manufacturers, which are excluded from all our investment options. We also have our Sustainable balanced option, for those who want to further reduce to their exposure to fossil fuels because of their beliefs. But with the rest, we take the approach that we need to manage climate risk, and we can't do that solely by divesting – an approach which also completely ignores half of the problem; consumption and the demand for fossil fuels. While there's demand for fossil fuels there will be companies selling them. We need to work to change consumption behaviour in the community and this requires a bigger picture approach than who owns which company.

Overall our portfolio is significantly less carbon intensive than the market – which is because we think the market is not pricing in climate risk appropriately. For example, we think some energy companies' shares are priced too high, because governments around the world will implement policies that will see fossil fuel use reduced. This will ultimately affect their share price, but most investors aren't recognising that yet.

Issues like climate change cannot be separated from the rest of the ESG framework. Social issues and environmental issues are intertwined. For example, there's some evidence that more equal societies make better decisions about issues like environmental policy – perhaps because the people making the decisions are less isolated from the people the decisions will affect and the communities they live in. That means we need to consider issues like tax policy, wages, trade unionism, child labour – all the factors that feed into how equal societies are. This is one of the reasons why we have an holistic ESG decision-making framework that informs all of our investment decisions.

On the next two pages you'll see the highlights of our voting record over the next 12 months. If you want to review our voting over the 2016-17 financial year, you can find this information on our website at:

www.visionsuper.com.au/about-us/fund-information



Australian equity holdings

Company	Resolution	AGM date	Vision Super vote	Category (E/S/G)	Rationale and outcome
Oil Search Ltd (OSH)	Strategic resilience for 2035 (shareholder resolution)	19 May 17	For	E	<p>This resolution was placed on the ballot by NGO, Market Forces, seeking greater climate-related disclosure. OSH's board was forthcoming about engaging on the company's approach to climate change and proactively responded to the climate change resolution making commitments to produce a report using the TCFD framework. Having said that, we voted FOR on this issue as we believed that increased disclosure would allow shareholders to more fully assess risks presented by climate change.</p> <p>Outcome: withdrawn</p>
Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)	Remuneration report	09 Nov 16	Against	G	<p>Concerns about the bonuses awarded to banking executives. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ the consideration of CommInsure issues on bonuses, of which the lowest bonus awarded following the use of this discretion was 95% of target to its head of wealth management, Annabel Spring; ▶ the persistence of bonuses awarded over a number of years; ▶ the company abandoning its proposed LTI scheme ahead of the AGM. <p>Outcome: 51% against, first strike</p>
Macquarie Atlas Roads (MQA)	Remuneration report	13 Apr 17	Against	G	<p>Fees being paid to manage the business are disproportionate to the actual cost of running MQA.</p> <p>Outcome: 24% vote against</p>
Westfield Corporation (WFD)	Remuneration report	07 Apr 17	Against	G	<p>Concerns around executive pay remaining a significant and recurring cost to investors. The high costs stem from high pay levels, the cost of co-CEOs and persistence of large incentive pay outcomes over a prolonged period.</p> <p>Outcome: 24.13% vote against</p>

Australian equity holdings continued

Company	Resolution	AGM date	Vision Super vote	Category (E/S/G)	Rationale and outcome
CIMIC Group (CIM)	Director election: Re-election of Pedro Lopez Jimenez and re-election of Jose-Luis Del Valle Perez	13 Apr 17	Against	G	We voted against based on a lack of independence and poor gender diversity. Outcome: both received 14.5% against
Super Retail Group (SUL)	Director election: re-election of John Skippen	24 Oct 16	Against	G	Issues around the accountability for his role as chairperson of listed law firm Slater and Gordon (SGH) since 2012 and especially SGH's ill-fated 2015 UK acquisition. The resolution was withdrawn because Skippen elected to step down from the board at the company's AGM after it became clear that there would be a 44% shareholder vote against his re-election. Outcome: withdrawn

International equity holdings

Company	Resolution	AGM date	Vision Super vote	Category (E/S/G)	Rationale and outcome
Facebook (NASDAQ: FB)	Election of directors	June 1 2017	Elect Marc L Andreessen – withhold Elect Erskine B Bowles – withhold Elect Susan D Desmond-Hellmann – withhold Elect Reed Hastings – withhold Elect Jan Koum – withhold Elect Sheryl K Sandberg – withhold Elect Peter A Thiel – withhold Elect Mark Zuckerberg – withhold	G	We withheld our votes on the basis that the nominees were not independent and the board did not have at least a majority of independent directors. These elections were about CEO Mark Zuckerberg retaining voting control of Facebook even as he looks to donate substantial portions of his stake in the company to philanthropic ventures over his lifetime. Outcome: Despite rejections by approximately three-quarters of unaffiliated shareholders, Zuckerberg waved the plan through using his already-disproportionate voting control. Shareholders are now taking legal action against the company, disrupting implementation of the plan.

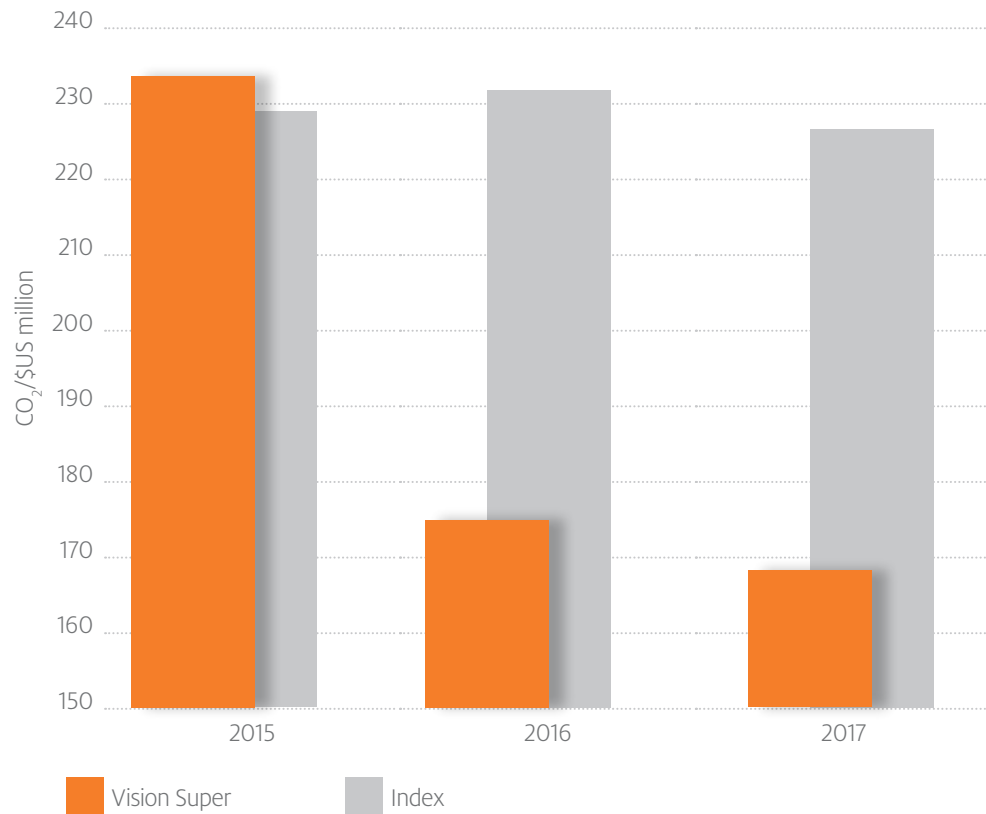
International equity holdings continued

Company	Resolution	AGM date	Vision Super vote	Category (E/S/G)	Rationale and outcome
Exxon Mobil Corporation (NYSE: XOM)	Shareholder proposal on climate change policy risk	May 31 2017	For	E	<p>We voted in favour of increased environmental reporting/responsibility.</p> <p>At Exxon's 2016 AGM, 38% of shareholders supported a proposal requesting an annual assessment of the long-term portfolio impacts of public climate change policies, including with reference to a potential 2°C scenario. Since then, Exxon had done little to address one of the key areas of reporting requested by the proposal – information about how its business plans align with a potential 2°C scenario.</p> <p>Outcome: Ultimately, these efforts worked, and the proposal garnered support from over 62% of Exxon's shareholders</p>
HCA Holdings Inc (HCA)	Shareholder proposal on the right to call a special meeting	April 27 2017	For	G	<p>A 10% threshold is appropriate for calling a special meeting. The company had proposed either establishing or lowering their special meeting threshold to 25%. The shareholder resolutions requested that the companies adopt a 10% threshold.</p> <p>Outcome: It is unclear how the company will respond to these proposals. Only 33% of shareholders supported the shareholder proposal at HCA Holdings. The management proposal did not receive the requisite approval of 75% of outstanding shares needed to approve.</p>
Citigroup Inc (C)/ JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPM)	Shareholder proposal on amendment to clawback policy	25 April 2017/ 16 May 2017	For	G	<p>Citigroup Inc and JPMorgan Chase & Co received a shareholder proposal requesting that they adopt a clawback policy requiring the deferral of awards for ten years to ensure the absence of monetary penalties. However, these proposals, which were also submitted to these companies (plus Bank of America Corporation) the previous year, received very low support, ranging between 3% and 7.8% in both 2016 and 2017.</p> <p>Outcome: on this occasion it also received low support at around 3.9% of the votes cast.</p>

International equity holdings continued

Company	Resolution	AGM date	Vision Super vote	Category (E/S/G)	Rationale and outcome
General Motors Co (GM)	Shareholder proposal on independent board chair	7 June 2017	For	G	<p>We voted on the basis that an independent chair is better able to oversee the executives of a company and set a pro-shareholder agenda.</p> <p>Outcome: data not available</p>
McDonald's Corporation (MCD)	Shareholder proposal on the use of antibiotics	24 May 2017	For	E	<p>We voted for McDonalds to adopt global sourcing targets with timelines for pork and beef raised without routine use of medically-important antibiotics, which is causing a growing issue that McDonalds had so far ignored.</p> <p>The company ignored the issue of anti-biotic raised meat which also presented a risk to shareholder value.</p> <p>Outcome: 66.2% votes against</p>
Chevron Corporation (CVX)	Shareholder proposal on climate change policy risk and report on transition to a low carbon economy.	31 May 2017	For	E	<p>We voted in favour of additional climate change risk reporting. The resolution was successful and subsequently the shareholder proposal was withdrawn on 4 May 2017. Chevron released a filing stating that the proponents of this proposal have withdrawn the resolution.</p> <p>Outcome: 26% of votes for</p>
Wells Fargo & Company (WFC)	Election of directors	April 25 2017	<p>Elect John D Baker II – against</p> <p>Elect John S Chen – against</p> <p>Elect Lloyd H Dean – against</p> <p>Elect Elizabeth A Duke – for</p> <p>Elect Enrique Hernandez Jr – against</p> <p>Elect Donald M James – for</p> <p>Elect Cynthia H Milligan – against</p> <p>Elect Karen B Peetz – for</p> <p>Elect Federico F Peña – for</p> <p>Elect James H Quigle – for</p>	G	<p>We voted against some of these directors on the basis that they serve on too many boards, as well as on other unique issues. The Wells Fargo AGM came while the company was still reeling from revelations that its employees had for years been secretly opening unauthorised deposit and credit card accounts for customers in order to meet sales targets.</p> <p>Outcome: Several directors, including chair Stephen Sanger, narrowly secured re-election, with risk committee chairman Enrique Hernandez receiving support from just under 53% of votes cast. Nine directors received less than 75% support. At the meeting, Mr Sanger stated that shareholders had 'sent the entire board a clear message of dissatisfaction'.</p>

Carbon intensity – Vision Super equities portfolio versus index



Reducing our carbon intensity

The first step in reducing the carbon intensity of our portfolio was to adopt low carbon benchmarks for international and Australian equities. We asked our managers to manage to the new, low carbon benchmarks. We then also decreased the carbon intensity of our Australian corporate bond portfolio.

We continued to manage carbon intensity downwards by appointing a manager without fossil fuel exposure in its benchmark. We are proactively seeking ways to further reduce our exposure to climate risk and raise our exposure to companies adopting low carbon solutions. We are working on a detailed plan to achieve our published objective of being carbon neutral by 2050.



Super that's good for you and for the planet

Vision Super is committed to sustainable investment across all of our portfolios, but when we looked at the products that were available in the market for ethical and sustainable investment, we found they were typically very expensive. So we decided to create a specific sustainable option for members who want it, with low fees: the Vision Personal – Sustainable balanced option.

Vision Personal's Sustainable balanced option minimises exposure to fossil fuel exploration and production as well as excludes controversial weapons.

While we're committed to investing responsibly across all our investment options, our Sustainable balanced option is especially focused on sustainable investment – with 100% of the equity allocation managed to a low-carbon benchmark.

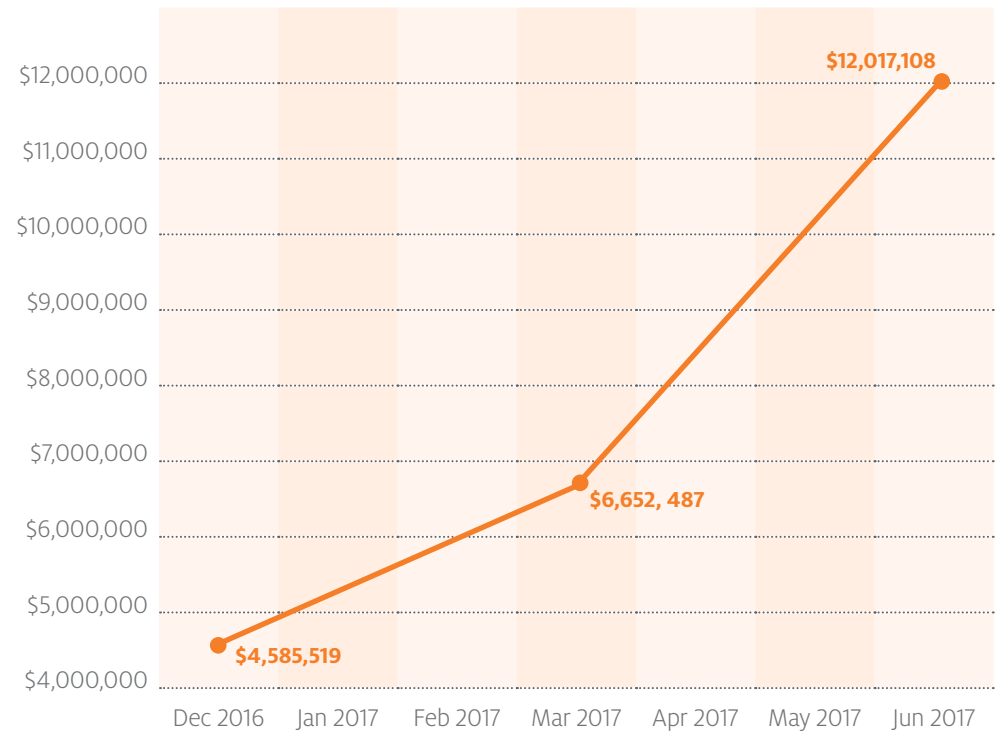
The Sustainable balanced option has been going from strength to strength. A finalist for the 'Best new innovation' SuperRatings award, not only has our membership grown 23% over the last 12 months, but the funds under management for that option have grown 162% in the six months since December 2016.

Vision Personal – Sustainable balanced option has been rated the lowest cost sustainable super option in the marketplace by SuperRatings, the independent ratings agency.*

The Sustainable balanced option has been the subject of our biggest ever marketing campaign – Love your super. Because of the success of the Sustainable balanced option, we have now opened the option up to all of our members.

* As at 31 October 2017 on a \$50,000 balance.

Sustainable balanced – assets under management





Our response to the global climate challenge

Vision Super was ranked 19th out of the world's 500 largest investors for our action on climate change in the 2017 Global Climate Index by the Asset Owners Disclosure Project (AODP).

The Global Climate Index ranks asset owners, such as insurance companies, pension funds and super funds, on how they manage climate risk in their investment portfolios. We received an AA rating in the index, putting us in the leading top 6% of asset owners in the world when it comes to managing climate risk and the top four responsible asset owners in Australia.


Other recognition and accreditation

- ▶ We are a signatory to the Paris Pledge for Action
- ▶ We were an early signatory to the UN-backed Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI)
- ▶ We are an associate member of the Australian Council of Superannuation Investors (ACSI)
- ▶ We are working toward becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact
- ▶ We are a member of the Investor Group on Climate Change (IGCC)
- ▶ We are a member of the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA)
- ▶ Super Ratings Infinity Rating award winner.

RANKED 19 out of the world's 500 largest investors for our **action on climate change** 

TOP 4 **responsible asset owners** operating in Australia 

TOP 6% of asset owners globally **managing climate risk** 

25% **less carbon intensive** than the index across our equities portfolio 

Meet Vision Super's Climate Action Team

We formed the Climate Action Team to ensure we have a focus at the highest level on the climate risk that affects our members' investments.

The team is comprised of CEO Stephen Rowe, Chief Investments Officer Michael Wyrsh, Senior Investment Analyst Adam Karaelis and Rebekka Power, Strategy and Communications Consultant.

In a first for an industry super fund, Vision Super is currently seeking an enthusiastic environmental activist to join their Climate Action Team. The Climate Action Team was formed to manage climate risk in investments and push for the policy changes needed at a national and international level.

The environmental activist role isn't a traditional 9–5 office job where you wear a suit and sit in an office. This is a job for an energetic activist who wants to get out to climate rallies, meetings and community events and promote Vision Super.

Vision Super is committed to environmentally sustainable investment, and offers Australia's lowest cost sustainable investment option.*



Left to right: Rebekka Power, Adam Karaelis, Michael Wyrsh, Stephen Rowe

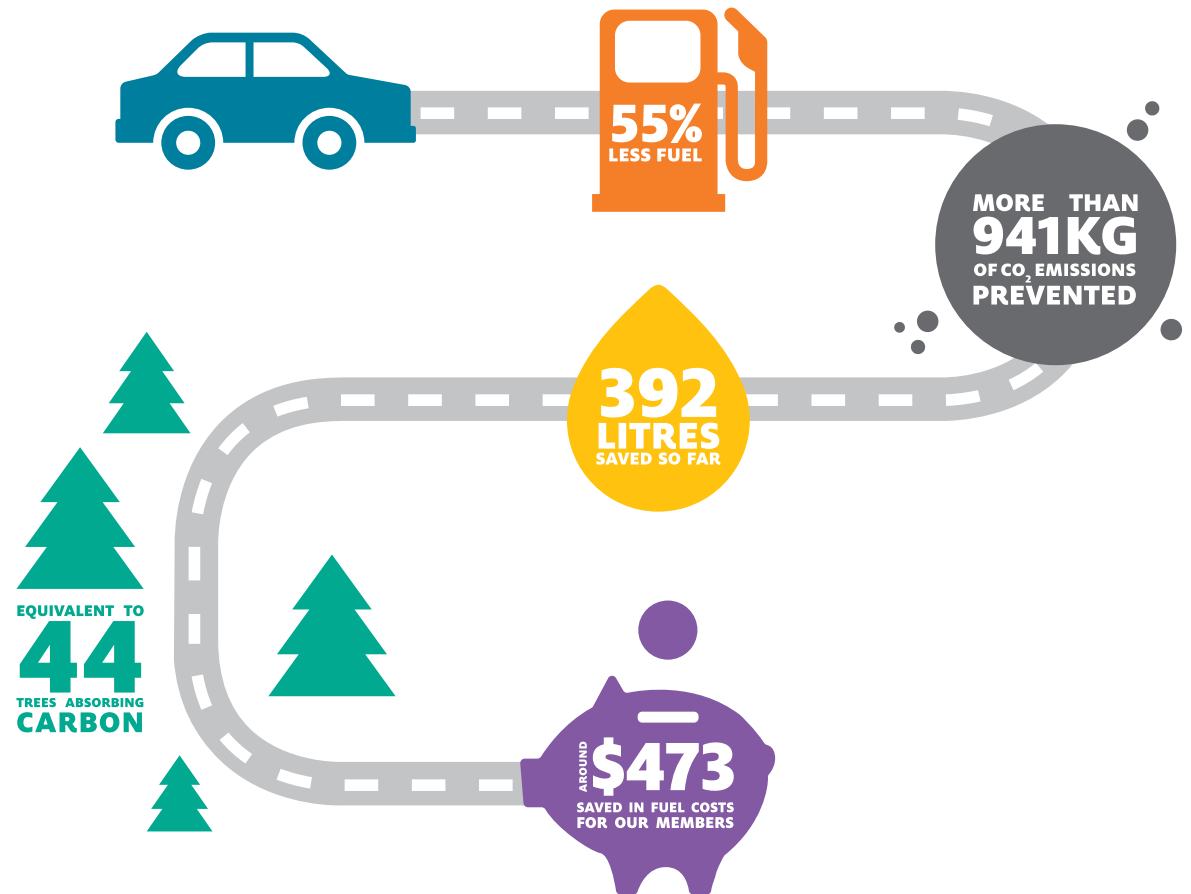
* As rated by SuperRatings on a \$50,000 balance

Operational sustainability

Our hybrid cars

We have replaced two of our fleet cars with hybrid Toyota Corollas, and we have a commitment to move our entire fleet to hybrid, electric or other innovative vehicles as options become available that meet our needs.

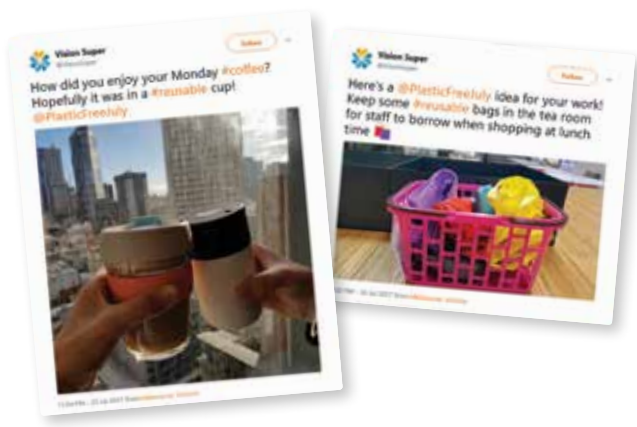
The hybrid Toyotas use significantly less fuel – around 4.5 litres per 100 kilometres, compared with an average of 10.2 litres for the rest of the fleet, and use fully recyclable batteries.



Plastic Free July

Vision Super staff participated in Plastic Free July, along with more than a million people world-wide from 130 countries. We pledged to give up the four most common sources of plastic pollution for the month of July – water bottles, plastic straws, coffee cups, and plastic shopping bags. We added additional recycling options in the kitchen to divert more of our waste from landfill – including for batteries, mobile phones, toothpaste tubes, cosmetics packaging, post packs and coffee pods. We even added loose leaf tea to the kitchen supplies after discovering tea bags contain plastic! To help us stick to their pledges, we instituted a Boomerang Bag Box in the kitchen, with donated reusable bags to use and return instead of accepting plastic shopping bags.

We shared some of our success stories on social media.



Waste audit

After Plastic Free July, we did a waste audit. We had existing recycling options for food waste, comingled containers, paper and cardboard, printer cartridges and computer equipment. Over 70% of the waste we generate in the Vision Super office is being recycled, but we wanted to do more to reduce our waste to landfill. After auditing our waste, we implemented some additional recycling options:

- ▶ Batteries – collecting for recycling at drop off points
- ▶ Expressi coffee pods – recycling through Terracycle
- ▶ Nespresso coffee pods – recycling through Nespresso
- ▶ Old mobile phones – to support Zoos Victoria program
- ▶ Beauty products packaging – recycling through Terracycle
- ▶ Mailing satchels – recycling through Terracycle
- ▶ Oral care packaging – recycling through Terracycle.

Like many households, we found a lot of the waste in our kitchen was soft plastics, which can't be recycled through ordinary collection points. Redcycle, who recycle soft plastics through Coles and Woolworths supermarkets, don't offer business collection points, so we have asked our building managers to investigate options for soft plastic recycling in our building – if they can find a supplier, this will reduce our waste to landfill by around 50%

Closing the recycling loop

We're tackling our paper use on a few fronts – we have switched to 100% recycled paper in all our printers, but it still takes energy to make and ship, so we're also trying to minimise our printing.

Printers now require a log in before staff can print, which has eliminated wasteful uncollected printing. Printer defaults have all been set to double sided, black and white to reduce paper and ink usage.

And we've started a project to implement paperless processing across the organisation. These initiatives save members' money as well as being good for the environment.

The next 12 months

Over the next year, we'll be looking to reduce our waste and energy use further. Paperless processing will be rolled out to every team, and we'll be organising some initiatives for staff to reduce waste, as well as participating in Plastic Free July again. We'll also be asking our building managers to work with us on some further initiatives. We'll let you know how we've done in next year's report.

A vision of improving personalised cancer treatment

The power of collaboration

Three years ago, we looked at our insurance claims data – 25% of our insurance claims are cancer-related and sadly 46% of Vision Super members' deaths have been caused by cancer. We decided we needed to do more to help prevent the devastation this creates for our members and their families, as well as the wider community.

Over the last three years, we've made a significant difference to the world of genomics for Australian blood cancer patients, through our support of the Snowdome Foundation.

Snowdome Foundation was founded in 2010 with a mission to accelerate new therapies for Australian blood cancer patients to help them live longer, better lives. Since 2014, Snowdome has funded cutting-edge genomics research and supported incredible advancements with genetic testing. Patients undergo genetic testing, which helps to guide their next treatment steps. For some patients, the tests can identify mutations in their cancer for which there's a targeted drug or a suitable clinical trial.

The collaborative partnership between Vision Super and Snowdome has had a positive impact on the lives of many blood cancer patients, including Paul Omond.

Targeted therapy

Paul is a 36-year-old from Scoresby, who in 2012 was diagnosed with Hairy cell leukaemia, a rare type of blood cancer. Conventional therapy proved to be the wrong path for Paul and the side effects resulted in a large portion of his bowel being removed. Paul's leukaemia then recurred much sooner than expected. Gene testing of Paul's leukaemia cells found that they contained a BRAF mutation, which allowed him to go onto a novel targeted therapy specific to that mutation. Paul's outstanding response to the drug has also greatly improved his quality of life and his cancer is now controlled with minimal side effects.

Instead of chemo, Paul says "I take four tablets a day." He has to be careful, because the tablets do increase his susceptibility to skin cancer, but he says the medication has been great. "Really the worst thing is that I wake up each day with curlier hair!"

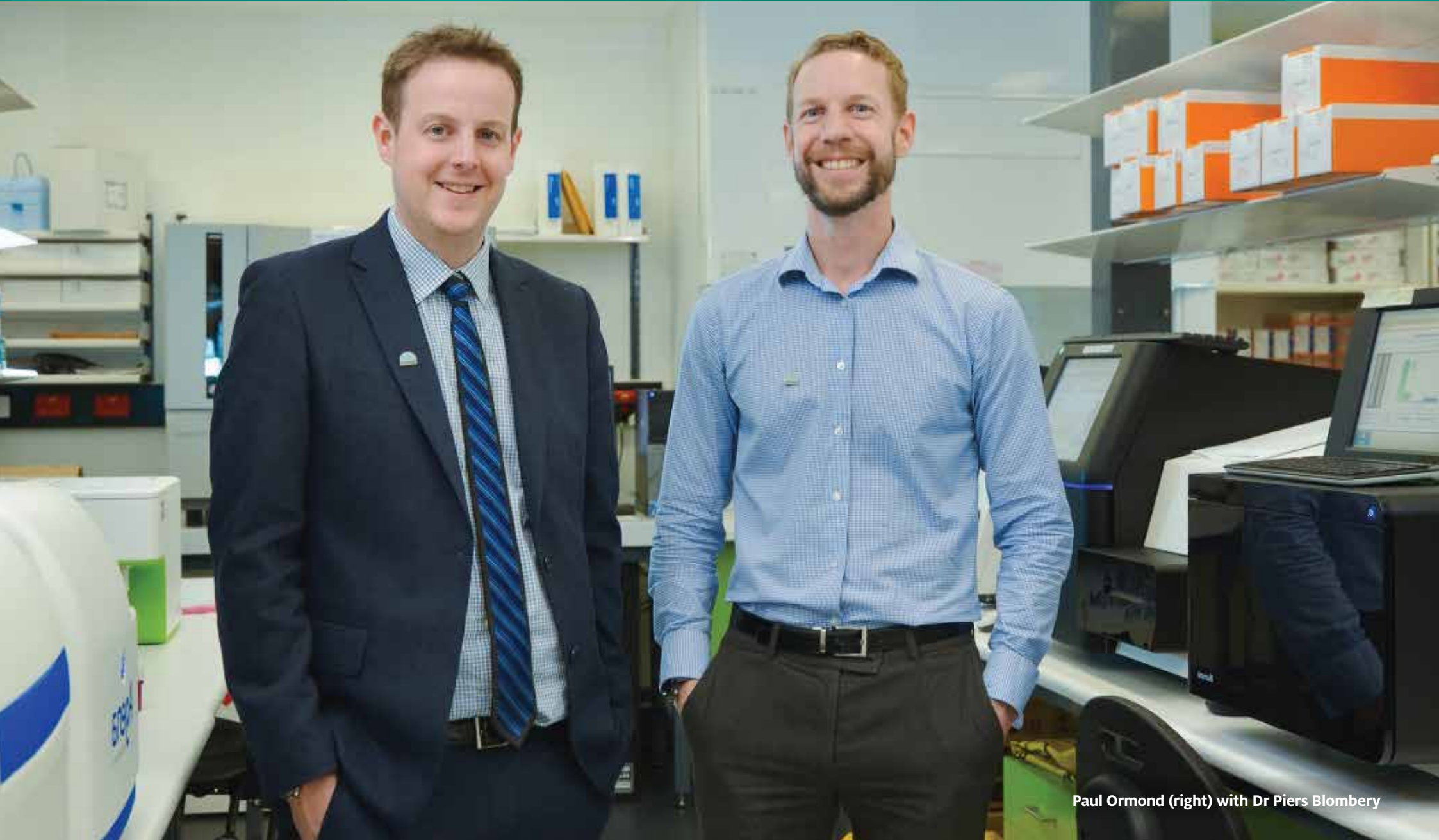
"Going on the targeted therapy has allowed me to live the life I want to live, it has given me freedom."

Vision Super-Snowdome Foundation Fellow, Dr Piers Blombery, a clinical and laboratory haematologist and the medical lead of the Molecular Haematology laboratory at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, stated that the generous support provided by Vision Super has made a remarkable difference in increasing the access to blood cancer genetic testing.

Making hope real

"Vision Super has allowed me to create a team of scientists with the expertise to perform the genomic testing like Paul had" explained Dr Blombery. "Our team analyses genomic data in blood cancer, develops new assays to detect these mutations and helps guide patients to new specific and personalised medications." These highly specialised tests are now performed through the Molecular Haematology Laboratory at Peter Mac for hundreds of patients a month throughout Australia, South East Asia, and New Zealand.

Our partnership with Snowdome is about supporting and caring for individuals like Paul, who show the human side of our insurance statistics, and 'making hope real' for Australians in the fight against blood cancers.



Paul Ormond (right) with Dr Piers Blomberry



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Super Fund™



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