

MEDIA RELEASE

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Australian Shareholders' Association – Media Alert

Australian Shareholders' Association Publishes New ESG Policy & Survey & Reveals 2022 Focus Issues for ASX-listed companies

ASA CEO Rachel Waterhouse said, "Our Focus Issues guide us in making sure companies address what matters to retail shareholders. How companies address ESG and inform their shareholders about such risks and opportunities is so important for decision making when shareholders have a long investment horizon.

"We will continue to review the treatment of shareholders for fairness, board remuneration practice to support driving the strategy and culture of the company and to avoid excesses," said Rachel Waterhouse.

Highlights

- ASA has published a new policy on ESG including a Climate Change Policy statement in which ASA outlines key expectations for ASX-listed companies;
- ASA has published a new survey on ESG revealing 69% of respondents avoid investment in certain industry sectors due to ethical or sustainability concerns;
- ASA has revealed its focus issues for monitoring ASX-listed companies in 2022 and include fair treatment of shareholders, directors and Boards, ESG and remuneration.

May 2022 - The voice of Australian retail shareholders, The Australian Shareholders' Association (ASA) has published a new policy and survey focused on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and revealed its focus issues for monitoring ASX-listed companies for the main Annual General Meeting (AGM) season in 2022.

The ESG policy includes a Climate Change Policy statement in which ASA expects companies to:

- Commit to net zero by 2050 in line with the Paris Agreement;
- Commit to sustainability practices across Environment, Social and Governance areas;
- Define a pathway to achieve these goal;
- Measure the progress towards them; and
- Report that progress to all stakeholders.

The ESG survey was contacted among ASA's membership base of Australian retail investors and revealed 69% of respondents avoid investment in certain industry sectors due to ethical or sustainability concerns. The top three exclusions for investors who exclude sectors were:

- gambling (42%);
- coal/fossil fuels (25%); and
- tobacco (25%).

86% of retail investors responding are experienced investors who have been investing for over 15 years.

The four focus areas for ASA's company monitoring for the main-AGM season in 2022:

- Fair treatment of shareholders;
- Directors and Boards;
- ESG; and
- Remuneration.

ESG Focus Issue and ESG Policy

We expect companies to incorporate sustainability and ESG strategy, practice and reporting in an appropriate and effective way using a recognised standard such as the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) or Global Reporting Initiative. We will review the monitored companies with an eye for the efficient use of company resources, avoidance of greenwashing, and to assess the impact of remuneration plans on driving a culture of sustainability.

ASA has also made available an ESG policy recognising the importance of driving long-term sustainable business practices which support and enhance the environment, social and economic performance for both Australian listed companies, their stakeholders and the wider community. This includes the need for action on Climate Change and a transition pathway to global net zero carbon emissions by 2050 in line with the Paris Agreement.

"ESG reporting which is developing in maturity with the International Sustainability Standards Board expected release a comprehensive global baseline of sustainability-related disclosure standards later this year."

Read more:

[Australian Shareholders' Association Focus Issues](#)

[ASA ESG Policy](#)

[ASA Voting guidelines](#)

For more information or an interview, please contact:

Australian Shareholders' Association

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The Australian Shareholders' Association (ASA) educates investors and gives retail shareholders a voice. It is Australia's largest, independent, not-for-profit individual investor association. ASA is passionate about keeping the market fair for the everyday, independent investor, and has been doing just that since 1960. ASA provides members with a community of experienced investors and shareholders. Members can further their investment knowledge through the annual conference, webinars, podcasts, magazines, monthly meetings, and discussion groups (including in regional areas), seminars, workshops and more.

ASA's mission is to:

- Protect shareholders' rights
- Make individual shareholders' vote count
- Help individual investors on their investment journey
- Connect people to a community of investors

To learn more, please visit: www.australianshareholders.com.au