Sustainable Finance Forum

Delivering on the SDGs

8-9 June 2021

Global Compact Network Australia

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact

The Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact are derived from: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

HUMAN RIGHTS

1 Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

2 make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

LABOUR

3 Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

4 the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

5 the effective abolition of child labour; and

6 the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

ENVIRONMENT

7 Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

8 undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

9 encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

10 Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FORUM SUMMARY DOCUMENT

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. Our vision for reconciliation is a future where all Australians are united by our shared past, present, future and humanity.

Participants of the Sustainable Finance Forum joined from the traditional lands of the following First Peoples:

Aotearoa Awabakal Bundjalung Darkinjung Dharawal Dja Dja Wurrung Gadigal Gamaraygal Giabal Jagera Jawowair Ku-ring-gai Kulin Ngunnawal Noongar Tarrabool Turrbal Wangal Wathaurong Whadjuk Wurundjeri

ABOUT THE GCNA

As a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General, the United Nations (UN) Global Compact is a call to companies everywhere to align their operations and strategies with Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Our ambition is to accelerate and scale the global collective impact of business by upholding the Ten Principles and delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through accountable companies and ecosystems that enable change. With more than 13,000 companies and 3,800 non-business signatories based in over 160 countries, and 69 Local Networks, the UN Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative - one Global Compact uniting business for a better world.

Locally, Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA) brings together signatories to the UN Global Compact, including 35 ASX 100 companies and other major corporates, non-profits and universities, to advance the private sector's contribution to sustainable development. We lead, enable and connect businesses and stakeholders to create a sustainable future by supporting businesses to act responsibly and helping them find opportunities to drive positive business outcomes.

www.unglobalcompact.org.au

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA) thanks the Australian Council of Superannuation Investors (ACSI) and Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) for their partnership on this event.

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ACSI ASX Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FORUM
DELIVERING ON THE SDGS

The COVID-19 global health and economic crisis have strengthened the case for responsible investment.

The pandemic has demonstrated that management of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) activities, far from being side-lined, are fundamental for future-proofing investments.

According to the International Monetary Fund, to ensure a strong economic recovery from the pandemic, more than $20 trillion is needed as investment over the next 20 years to reduce the impact of climate change and in progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Responsible investments and management of ESG risks are expected to play an even more important role in creating a socially responsible and sustainable economy. Increasingly investors are viewing these as important factors in managing their investments.

Co-hosted by the Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA), Australian Council of Superannuation Investors (ACSI), and Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), the Sustainable Finance Forum explored the fundamental role of finance in delivering on the SDGs.

Key issues discussed during the Forum were:

- the consequences of the pandemic and the role of investors and businesses in building a more sustainable economy;
- how investors, financial institutions and companies can deliver on the SDGs;
- the challenges and opportunities emerging in markets around the world; and
- the roles of stock exchanges, banks, financial regulators, and others in facilitating SDG investments in Australia and across the Asia Pacific region.

Over two half-days, this event brought together over 380 participants, including leaders from across business, government, civil society, and academia.

This document summarises the key themes and areas of discussion from the Forum. The full Agenda is available here.

OPENING

Helen Lofthouse

Speaker: Helen Lofthouse, Executive General Manager, Derivatives and OTC Markets, Australian Securities Exchange (ASX)

In her opening address, Helen Lofthouse challenged participants to identify ambitious actions that align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For instance, tackling climate change must go hand in hand with developments in health and education, and economic growth.

The opening address highlighted the potential for responsible investment to drive a broader set of ESG objectives, beyond financial performance. An increased focus on ESG has resulted in a rise in disclosures by ASX listed companies.

For example, in 2019, over 70% of the ASX200 were incorporating some integrated reporting principles, with 43% adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework.

Growing expectations by investors for companies to disclose action to mitigate climate change was identified as one key driver for companies to allocate capital to achieve the SDGs. The integration of ESG principles into responsible business practice was advanced as a chief means for investors, and businesses, to grow investments and deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

View recording at https://youtu.be/PsPhNIrVUiQ.

SETTING THE STAGE

Jacki Johnson

Speaker: Jacki Johnson Co-Chair, Australian Sustainable Finance Initiative (Master of Ceremonies)

"Societal expectations have shifted. Investor expectations have shifted"

– Jacki Johnson

With less than nine years to deliver on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, Master of Ceremonies, Jacki Johnson emphasised that time is running out for businesses to link economic, environmental, and social solutions. In 'setting the stage' for the Forum, Jacki Johnson cautioned that a failure to act on environmental sustainability will impact financial prosperity and community health and wellbeing.

The session encouraged participants to harness and apply the leadership demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic which saw Australia ranked 3rd by the OECD for its response. Meanwhile when it comes to meeting its commitments under the SDGs, it currently ranks 37th in the world. Australia's global standing in achieving the SDGs was used to challenge participants to uplift the collective commitment towards the 2030 Agenda. This challenge included consideration of the leadership and broader actions needed to drive long-term sustainability across social, environmental and economic outcomes.

View recording at https://youtu.be/k-wYPtl4ySw.

HOW THE PANDEMIC IS SHAPING ESG

Richard Yetsenga

Jacki Johnson

Speaker: Richard Yetsenga, Chief Economist, ANZ
Facilitator: Jacki Johnson, Co-Chair, Australian Sustainable Finance Initiative

"There can only be meaningful progress if everyone is going in the same direction"

– Richard Yetsenga

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented wake-up call for governments and business, demonstrating how crises can disrupt supply chains and undermine traditional investment models rapidly. Keynote speaker, Richard Yetsenga, highlighted that at a company and national level, ESG factors, such as good company governance and ethical social standards, have emerged as key indicators of resilience against the pandemic's impacts.

Richard Yetsenga highlighted that the impacts of the pandemic and risks posed by climate change are transforming what constitutes 'value' for investors. Despite some businesses still adhering to an outdated notion that sustainability and profitability are conflicting goals, others are taking a longer-term view of growth and are adhering to ESG principles. This latter approach is strengthening investor and company 'bottom lines', cementing competitive advantage and improving reputation.

The keynote highlighted that performance-based metrics are indicating that ESG-driven investments may become the 'new normal'. Richard Yetsenga discussed the growth in ESG uptake, identifying climate change action as a key area of development. To date, a quarter of S&P 500 entities have made a net zero emissions commitment, with the CDP reporting that the majority of financial institutions are now assessing the climate change impacts of their portfolios. The imperative for companies to consider their 'financial' emissions alongside the 'operational' emissions in their supply chains was also discussed.

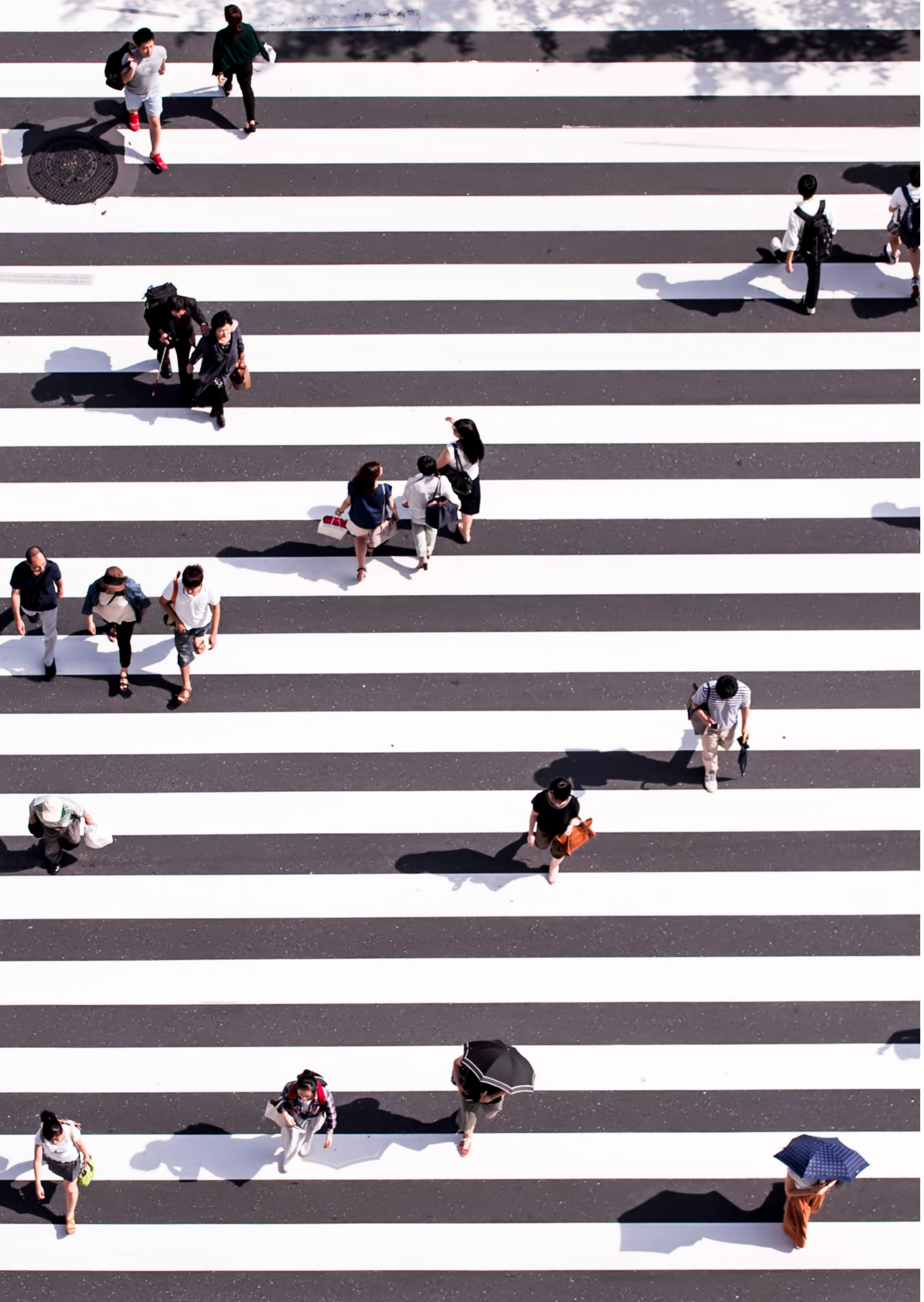
View recording at https://youtu.be/k-wYPtl4ySw.

Key insights:

- ESG-driven investments are performing better than 'traditional' portfolios during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Companies that have embraced ESG throughout the pandemic have gained a better understanding of their business's supply chain from beginning to end. They have also been presented with opportunities to integrate sustainability into their core business strategy.
- The cost of mitigating climate change risk is decreasing. A study into the 2019-2020 Australian bushfires showed that it cost the country approximately 0.4% of our GDP compared to the cost of moving to net zero by 2050 set at a loss of 0.1% of GDP.

Calls to action:

- Integrate ESG-driven investments to future-proof your portfolio.
- Partner with entities that consider climate change in their long-term goals.
- Demonstrate net-zero commitments through your investments.



BOARD SKILLS AND APPROACH TO ESG

Angus Armour

Louise Davidson AM

Diane Smith-Gander AO

Jacki Johnson

Speaker: Angus Armour, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Australian Institute for Company Directors
Speaker: Louise Davidson AM, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Council of Superannuation Investors (ACSI)
Speaker: Diane Smith-Gander AO, Chair, Zip Co Limited
Facilitator: Jacki Johnson, Co-Chair, Australian Sustainable Finance Initiative

This session highlighted the growing expectations of stakeholders on boards to comprehensively understand and manage a diversity of ESG issues impacting the governance and risk management of a company.

While the introduction of a chief sustainability officer may be important for some organisations, Diane Smith-Gander AO highlighted that all directors must understand the sustainability of their organisation. No longer do board members represent one field or one level of expertise, they must grow and evolve to understand the ESG issues and opportunities of their company. For instance, today there is an understanding that if a board member is not proficient in technology, cyber security and digitisation then they would not 'deserve a seat around the board table.'

A spotlight was placed on the fundamental need for directors to act with due care, skill and diligence and in the best interest of their company. Over the last few years, directors have been increasingly asked to monitor and assess their company's climate-related financial risk, and disclose climate performance against the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) framework.

> **"Investors are interested in how well the company is managing climate change, how well it is managing its social licence to operate and all those factors that go into driving long term sustainability for a company."**
>
> **– Louise Davidson AM**

Panellists discussed the importance of diversity in boards – with respect to gender, age, level of expertise, education, background and different ways of thinking – to be able to acknowledge diverse stakeholders and succeed in addressing ESG issues. Diversity of thinking and talent within boards is critical given the complex nature of ESG, which covers so many distinct areas.

Angus Armour identified curiosity and humility as key director attributes to support the tackling of ESG risks and opportunities for instance.

While the elevation of ESG issues to the board over the last few years was seen as critical and welcomed, there were fears that "greenwashing" could dilute or muddy the waters when it comes to comprehensively addressing ESG challenges. Similarly, panellists highlighted the need for the boards to respond appropriately to possible missteps when dealing with ESG issues, to avoid reputational damage and support more resilient business outcomes.

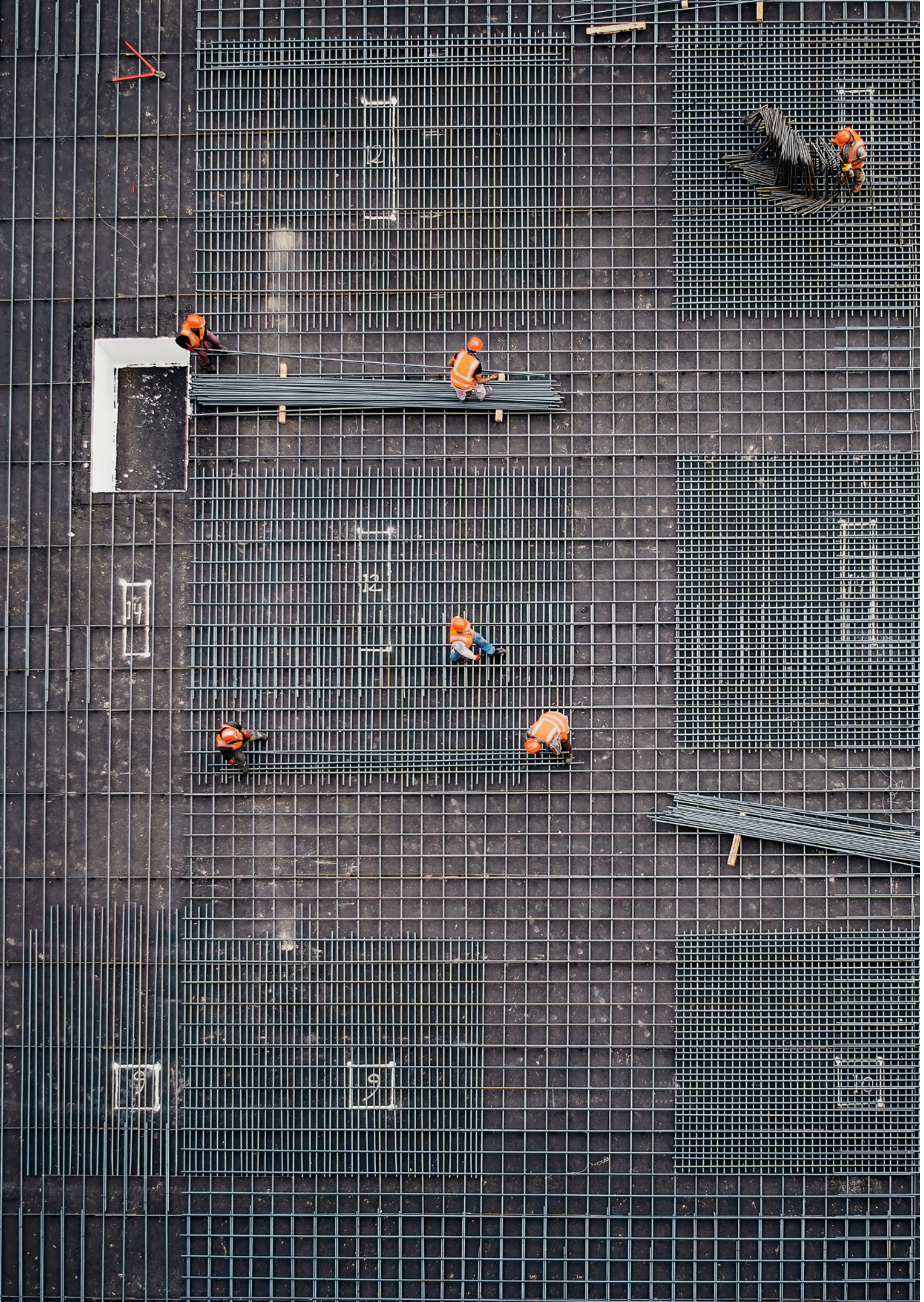
View recording at https://youtu.be/k-wYPtl4ySw.

Key insights:

- Directors have always had a responsibility to protect the value of the organisation. The art of the director is to know when they have enough information to make a good decision and ensure that they are the right steward for the company.
- A good board must be able to navigate ever-changing governance requirements, including ESG issues and risks.
- Cognitive diversity in the boardroom is key to stakeholder engagement and for addressing ESG issues.

Calls to action:

- A business should develop a materiality matrix to highlight gaps and understand where the board should focus its expertise.
- Ensure consistency of reporting on ESG issues such as health and safety metrics. This will improve transparency and consistency of internal company reporting year to year and support comparability across the sector.



ENABLING THE SDG TRANSITION


Nicole Bradford


Måns Carlsson


Liza McDonald


Kylie Porter

Speaker: Nicole Bradford, Global Head of Responsible Investment, Cbus Super Fund
Speaker: Måns Carlsson, Head of ESG Research, Ausbil Investment Management Limited
Speaker: Liza McDonald, Head of Responsible Investment, Aware Super
Facilitator: Kylie Porter, Executive Director, Global Compact Network Australia

Globally, investors are navigating how to best align their responsible investment practices with the broader sustainability objectives of society, including the SDGs. Speakers identified SDG integration into investment decision making as a key means to deliver sustainable profit over the long-term. They recognised that investment managers are in a unique position to influence the uptake of the SDGs by business.

The importance of partnerships to support meeting the SDGs was acknowledged by Kylie Porter who stated, "a key message from SDG-17 [partnerships for the Goals] is that you cannot make any SDG changes without partnerships."

While the urgency of delivering on all 17 goals by 2030 was made imminently clear by the speakers, there was also a recognition that a set of intermediary steps by investors and businesses should be made first. This might mean focusing initially on which goals are most material to the business, in other words, where the business might have the greatest impact. As Liza McDonald expressed, it is about "start(ing) small but start(ing) the journey." As Head of Responsible Investment at Aware Super, she is currently aligning their ESG principles and the SDGs to ensure that investment opportunities fall within those frameworks and still produce a sound business case. Their current investment portfolio is predominantly focused on gender equality (SDG5), affordable housing (SDG11), waste and recycling (SDG12), and climate action (SDG13).

Måns Carlsson, Head of ESG Research at Ausbil Investment Management Limited, explained that not only are sustainability strategies of interest to superfunds, but they are also necessary to ensuring that investments are secure. While ESG and SDG indicators are key metrics for measuring performance, he emphasised that superfund interest in sustainability strategies goes beyond counting the number of the SDGs aligned to a particular investment.

"We are investing in a way where we can influence the investment managers and the external investment fund managers and have transparent interactions."

– Nicole Bradford

Nicole Bradford identified practices being employed by Cbus in their investment strategy, which include assessing companies for stranded asset risk. This ensures Cbus is influencing the companies in which they invest to prioritise SDG integration while also ensuring their own long-term investment security.

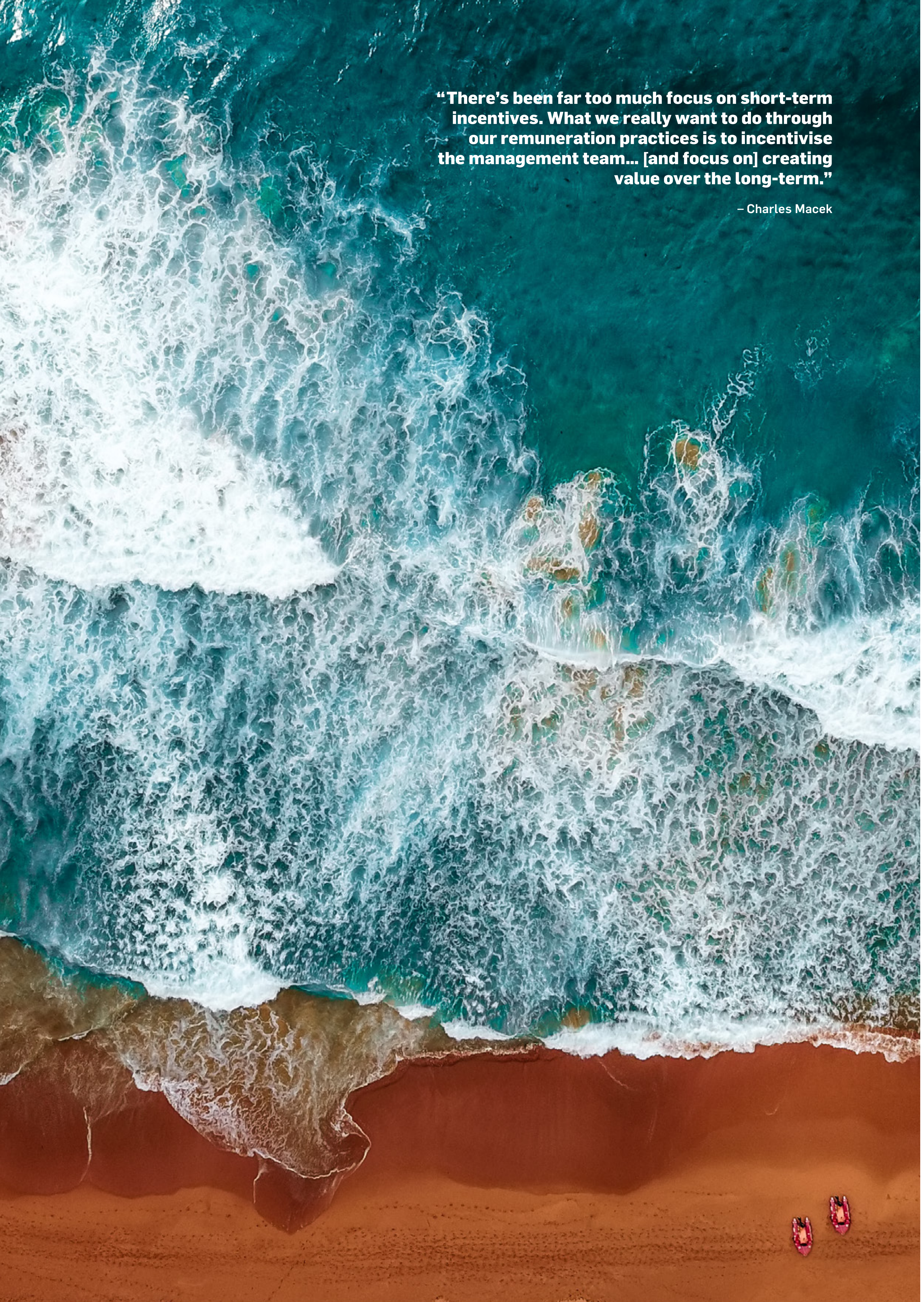
View recording at https://youtu.be/MaKRd8YoHBY.

Key insights

- There are increasing expectations for investors to incorporate ESG principles and the SDGs into investment strategy.
- Aligning investment strategies to the SDGs requires collaboration by the entire investment team, this includes asset allocation, analytics, funds and investment teams.

Calls to action

- Implement a business purpose beyond profitability. Investors are interested in how companies are altering their business practices to contribute to the SDGs.
- Ensure adequate disclosure of SDG and ESG metrics so investors can rely on quality data to make good investment decisions.
- Be strategic in how you work towards the SDGs – identify areas of synergy. Utilise SDG17 (partnerships for the Goals) to leverage wider SDG uptake.



CULTURE AND PURPOSE: A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND BEST ESG PRACTICE


Elizabeth Johnstone


Charles Macek


Kate Griffiths

Speaker: Elizabeth Johnstone, Chair, ASX Corporate Governance Council
Speaker: Charles Macek, Former: Director Telstra, Wesfarmers, Chairman Financial Reporting Council, Vice-Chairman IFRS Advisory Council, Chairman Earthwatch Institute Australia
Facilitator: Kate Griffiths, Executive Manager—Policy and Advocacy, Australian Council of Superannuation Investors (ACSI)

Changing attitudes and watershed inquiries such as the Royal Commission into Financial Services have elevated culture and highlighted its importance in driving organisational values and purpose, which can support ESG best practice.

Speakers affirmed that culture forms a significant part of a director and board's oversight responsibilities. Adequate oversight by boards includes gathering data on culture and mapping out who is accountable for risks and behaviours. Charles Macek identified several measurable indicators of culture, including customer satisfaction, employee climate surveys, and whistleblower statistics. Red flags that signal a poor corporate culture were also highlighted, notably, high staff-turnover and information being withheld from directors.

Elizabeth Johnstone stressed the importance of effective information flow and escalation of issues so that directors can quickly assess culture deficits. She explained the significance and value of having directors observe organisational culture in different contexts and urged directors to not shy away from asking uncomfortable questions of executives to build a more complete understanding of the issues.

"You need to find things out very quickly. Nowadays directors are acutely aware of how important it is for them to move around inside the company and to listen to a lot of people."

– Elizabeth Johnstone

In addition to a focus on good culture, long-term thinking was discussed as a critical element in delivering ESG best practice. Resetting renumeration practices was a prime example raised by speakers in implementing an effective ESG agenda over the long-term.

The creation of long-term value for stakeholders was identified as integral to ESG best practice. This includes fostering a culture of transparency through disclosure to enable investors to better understand the culture of an organisation. Meaningful engagement with a broader range of stakeholders, beyond shareholders, as encouraged by the ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations (Fourth Edition), was advocated for by the speakers.

View recording at https://youtu.be/d-xalM0Oohc.

Key insights

- Culture and purpose are critical to supporting ESG best practice.
- A culture of transparency, built through timely disclosures, will better enable investors to know the culture of an organisation.
- Creating long-term value for stakeholders is integral to ESG best practice.

Calls to action

- Directors should ask challenging and informed questions to better understand the organisation's culture, and stakeholder needs, to support a long-term focus on sustainability.
- Actively measuring good corporate culture and having clearly identifiable red flags for poor culture can support directors and boards to assess the culture of an organisation.
- Resetting renumeration practices can affect good corporate culture and support the implementation of an effective ESG agenda over the long-term.

EMBEDDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN FINANCE AND INVESTMENT DECISION MAKING


Richard Brandweiner


Georg Kell


Sally McCutchan OAM


Simon O'Connor

Speaker: Richard Brandweiner, Chief Executive Officer, Pendal Australia
Speaker: Georg Kell, Chair, Arabesque. Founding Director, United Nations Global Compact
Speaker: Sally McCutchan OAM, Executive Director, Impact Investing Australia
Facilitator: Simon O'Connor, Chief Executive Officer, Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA) Co-Chair, Australian Sustainable Finance Initiative

The finance sector plays an important role in the fulfilment of human rights. Through managing capital, lending and investing, the sector can significantly impact rights holders.

Human rights issues present a material risk that is increasingly being recognised by investors. Concurrent international trends are highlighting the movement to embed human rights into ESG due diligence. Together, these signals mark a growing expectation for finance and investment decision-making to be informed by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). This session explored these material risks and highlighted opportunities for investors to respect and promote human rights.

Changing norms and growing expectations are seeing human rights protections become increasingly codified, for instance, through modern slavery legislation and proposed mandatory human rights due diligence laws. Investors and companies were encouraged by speakers to pay greater attention to human rights risks through adequate due diligence assessments of their investments and supply chains. The UNGPs were offered as guidance to support investors to better understand the implementation of human rights due diligence. Speakers also discussed using leverage to influence positive social outcomes with partners. For instance, in support of a rights agenda that delivers gender equality and fair wages.

The panel emphasised the need for the financial sector to not only 'do no harm', but to also focus on how human rights are actively promoted and fulfilled. This discussion gave rise to the question, what is the financial sector's role in the fulfilment of human rights and in allowing people to flourish? The panel identified opportunities for investment to support human flourishing through social bonds and alternate forms of impact investing.

Despite the call to better promote human rights, the session highlighted that the social principles in ESG are generally neglected as social performance is more challenging to measure. The session emphasised the power and responsibility of investors, through their dealings with large volumes of capital, to deliver better social outcomes for communities.

View recording at https://youtu.be/gr-MfMk1dkk.

> **"All investments should positively impact. When your investment generates sustainable wealth that is not violating human rights or the environment, there is an inherent social benefit."**
>
> **– Sally McCutchan OAM**

Key insights

- Human rights issues are a material risk that investors are increasingly being expected to mitigate.
- The 's' in ESG is typically neglected in sustainability measures. There is opportunity for the finance sector to pay greater attention to social performance, both in investments and in measuring outcomes.
- There is an inherent social benefit when investments promote human rights and environmental protection.

Calls to action

- In addition to mitigating human rights material risks, investors can direct capital towards the promotion of human rights.
- Given their access to capital, investors are well placed to align investments with the fulfilment of social goals that support humans flourishing and the promotion of human rights.
- The UNGPs offer investors guidance on how to implement human rights due diligence.

CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES: THE ROAD TO DECARBONISATION


Tim Buckley


Chris Newton


Fiona Wild


Sarah Barker

Speaker: Tim Buckley, Director, Energy Finance Studies Australasia, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis
Speaker: Chris Newton, Executive Director—Responsible Investment, IFM Investors
Speaker: Fiona Wild, Vice-President Sustainability and Climate Change, BHP
Facilitator: Sarah Barker, Partner and Head of Climate Risk Governance, MinterEllison

Spurred on by investor-led action, regulatory shifts and increasing compliance and disclosure frameworks, boards are under increasing pressure to manage climate risk. While decarbonisation presents a challenge for leaders in business, finance and investors, the cost of not acting is greater. Given increasing climate risks, SDG 13 Climate Action Goal is a pertinent call to action.

Facilitator Sarah Barker opened the session by cataloguing the growing list of recent developments with respect to climate risk and decarbonisation, demonstrating just how dynamic and quickly evolving this 'space' is. For instance, recent developments included:

- A Dutch court has ordered Royal Dutch Shell to drastically deepen planned greenhouse gas emission cuts.
- Exxon Mobil shareholders voted to replace board members as a protest to the company's climate strategy.
- The Australian Federal Court found that the Federal Environment Minister has a duty of care to young people in relation to a safe climate.
- The White House handed down an *Executive Order on Climate-Related Financial Risk*.
- The Climate Action 100+ investor-led initiative continues to gain momentum.
- The IEA released its watershed report, *Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector*.
- The new Noel Hutley Opinion on *Climate Change and Directors' Duties* was released.

Sarah Barker reflected that despite a growing number of signposts pointing to net zero by 2050, there is a huge misalignment between ambition and action. She asked speakers, how can companies harness this increased pressure to act, and what does a credible net zero plan look like?

Chris Newton responded with two key areas of focus for companies setting climate goals. The first, is the ongoing update of internal policy models against external climate policy. The second, is ensuring collaboration on climate targets between asset managers and owners.

Fiona Wild emphasised the importance of aligning climate policy and decarbonisation plans to the Paris Climate Agreement. She explained that this alignment needs to be supported by a clear trajectory to net zero carbon emissions for employees and investors. This includes the setting of short, medium and long-term operational emissions reduction targets and an asset decarbonisation plan. Tying asset performance against a decarbonisation plan to executive renumeration was another strategy identified which can drive internal stakeholder action.

Discussions also highlighted barriers faced by companies achieving decarbonisation goals. Tim Buckley pointed to a disconnect between federal government policy and shifts in global markets. He explained that the misalignment between policy and market signals is tempered somewhat by state government policies which recognise the need for a cost-effective, rapid, and orderly transition to net-zero, as modelled in the NSW Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020–2030.

A further challenge, identified by Fiona Wild, was achieving industry-wide commitment to decarbonise across an entire value chain. Climate change is a pervasive risk, which means that any risk a company is exposed to within a supply chain will be amplified by climate change. A need to align decarbonisation strategies with scope three emissions reductions by customers was also identified.

Speakers highlighted climate alliances and co-learning as critical to rapid decarbonisation. Tim Buckley called on participants to plan and embrace the opportunity for employment, investment, exports and a more sustainable planet.

View recording at https://youtu.be/gr-MfMk1dkk.

"We need a roadmap, we need a destination, we need a timeframe, and we need to get on with it."

– Tim Buckley

Key Insights

- Despite inconsistent policy and market signals, there is increasing pressure for investors and companies to align their emissions reduction targets with the Paris Climate Agreement and implement effective decarbonisation plans.
- A challenge for investors and companies is getting to net zero without mass value destruction.
- Investing in decarbonisation is a once-in-a-generation opportunity, with decarbonisation-fuelled growth becoming a structural trend.

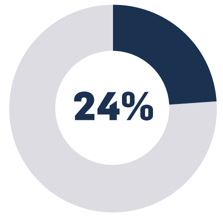
Calls to action

- Align internal policy with the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Ensure collaboration on climate targets between asset managers and owners.
- Join industry-wide groups that can support co-learning towards rapid decarbonisation.

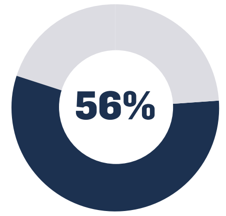
FORUM IMPACT AND LESSONS LEARNED

During the Forum, participants were asked via a poll, what is your key priority in achieving the SDGs? Here is how they responded:

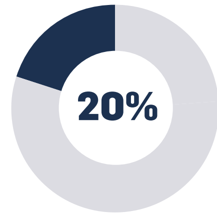
SOCIAL/HUMAN RIGHTS



ENVIRONMENT/ CLIMATE



STRONG PARTNERSHIPS/ GOVERNANCE

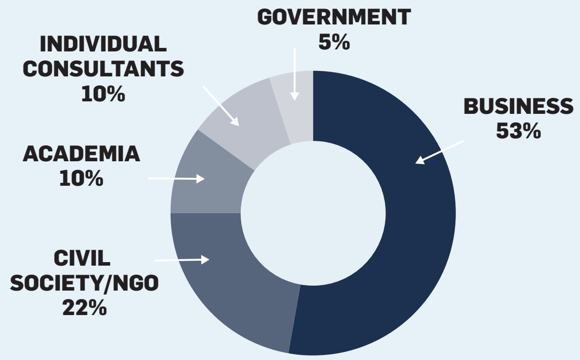


The following information was collated via the post-Forum anonymous feedback survey.

FORUM ACHIEVEMENTS

- Reached an audience of 382 people.
- Delivered relevant content: 100% of people thought the quality of the content was good to excellent.
- Brought together high quality and knowledgeable speakers: 98% of people thought the quality of speakers was good to excellent.
- Engaged participants in an effective online event: 100% of people thought the format of the Forum was good to excellent.
- Overall, 92% of people thought the Forum was extremely or considerably valuable.

PARTICIPANT BREAKDOWN



PARTICIPANT HIGHLIGHTS

- Outstanding Master of Ceremonies.
- The diversity and expertise of the speakers and facilitators.
- New faces in the panel sessions and the inclusion of international speakers.
- Inclusion of panel discussions on issues that cut across ‘topics’, e.g. culture.

Participant ideas for future events

- Focusing on emerging issues to accelerate conversations. For instance, biodiversity.
- Inclusion of a session that covers the challenges that companies face in reporting, with transparency and provenance, sustainability data.
- Configuring panels with speakers representing different types of organisations for varying angles on a single topic.
- Encouraging people in corporate affairs and finance positions from businesses to attend.
- Greater participation from the finance sector on panels.
- Continuing with a two-day event format as this is easier to schedule than a whole day event.
- Running a whole event on the topic of Climate change challenges: the road to decarbonisation.

Global Compact Network of Australia

E | secretariat@unglobalcompact.org.au

T | +61 (0) 491 234 061

A | 15 Lygon Street, Carlton 3053

unglobalcompact.org.au

https://www.linkedin.com/company/globalcompactnetworkaustralia

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