

ESG REPORT CARD 2020

This Report Card highlights Aberdeen Standard Investments Australia's key environmental, social and governance (ESG) activities of 2020.

01 Initiatives and recognition for ESG leadership



A+ RATING

- ➔ ASI Australia joined 40:40 Vision, an initiative to ensure gender diversity in executive leadership in ASX 200 companies.
- ➔ ASI was named a leader in responsible investment by the Responsible Investment Association of Australasia (RIAA).
- ➔ ASI achieved the highest possible A+ rating across 6 investment categories in the latest UN Principles for Responsible Investment assessment*
- ➔ ASI joined Climate League 2030, a ten-year private sector focused initiative to support and act to reduce Australia's annual greenhouse gas emissions.
- ➔ ASI's Canberra Metro investment became the first public private partnership project in Australia to use internationally certified green financing.

* UN Principles for Responsible Investment, 2020.



02 Best practice policies



ASI launched our industry-leading Australian Diversity and Inclusion Expectations Statement for Companies.

Read the full statement.

03 Thought leadership



ASI produced 79 ESG-themed insights, research reports and white papers during 2020. Further information can be found on our Responsible investing webpage [here](#).

The top three most read insights in Australia:

- ➔ How COVID is affecting the green agenda
- ➔ Emerging market sovereign bonds – an ESG perspective
- ➔ Climate action series session 1 – a climb against time to net zero

04 Engaging with companies to improve ESG performance

The Australian Equities team held a total of 61 ESG-specific meetings with portfolio companies and discussed ESG topics in 143 company meetings.

61
ESG Meetings

143
Company Meetings

06 Providing insights into topical ESG issues



37

Total number of media stories in which ASI covered ESG issues

MAJOR ESG ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- ➔ Rio Tinto's Juukan Gorge blasts, Indigenous land rights
- ➔ Climate change, early 2020 Australian bushfires, transition to a low carbon economy, Climate Action 100+
- ➔ Investors' increasing ESG sophistication
- ➔ Modern slavery
- ➔ Gender diversity, 40:40 Vision initiative

05 Using our proxy vote to drive positive change



Australian Equities actively voted against management on 58 of 535 resolutions (11%) tabled at both AGMs and EGMs.

07 Reducing our portfolios' carbon footprint

CO²



As at 27/1/2021, the carbon footprint of our Australian Equity strategies was significantly below their respective benchmarks (ranging from 11.2% to 33.8% below), considering both direct and indirect emissions.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2021

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Our focus on ESG will continue to strengthen. In Australia, expect to hear more from us on a number of issues including how we are addressing climate change within our portfolio, how we are tackling modern slavery and human rights issues, and how we are cementing and extending our leadership in diversity and inclusion. We will be producing a number of new research papers tackling some of the most talked about ESG challenges of our time, as well as rolling out some innovative developments in how we integrate ESG into our investments.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND INSIGHTS...

Please reach out to our media team or your local Aberdeen Standard Investments Representative to set up a time with our experts to further discuss the specifics behind ASI Australia's strategy and what's in store for 2021.

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