

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Issues When Investing

Assessment of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues is an important part of our investment process. As a long term investor, we seek to invest in companies that have strong governance and risk management processes, which includes consideration of environmental and social risks.

We regularly review companies to ensure ongoing alignment with our investment framework:

- We believe environmental factors, including the impact of climate change, can have a material impact on society. These factors are considered when assessing a company's assets, long term sustainability of earnings and cash flow, cost of capital and future growth opportunities.
- We believe that aligning ourselves with high-quality management and boards building sustainable long term businesses is the best approach to avoiding socially harmful businesses. We are attracted to companies that act in the best interest of all their stakeholders, including their employees, customers, suppliers, and wider communities.
- We invest in high-quality companies with strong governance processes, and management and boards whose interests are closely aligned with shareholders. The investment process includes an assessment of their past performance, history of capital allocation, level of accountability, mix of skills, relevant experience and succession planning. We also closely scrutinise a company's degree of transparency and disclosure.

Voting on resolutions is one of the key functions that a shareholder has in ensuring better long term returns and management of investment risk:

- We take input from proxy advisers but conduct our own evaluation of the merits of any resolution.
- We actively engage with companies when we have concerns those resolutions are not aligned with shareholders' interests.
- We vote on all company resolutions as part of our regular engagement with the companies in the portfolio.

We acknowledge that high-quality companies may face ESG challenges from time to time. We seek to stay engaged with the companies and satisfy ourselves that the issues are taken seriously and worked through constructively. Ideally, in this instance, we seek to remain invested to influence a satisfactory outcome for stakeholders.

