

## **Environmental, Social and Governance Policy**

### **Introduction**

As an investor in international equities Talaria Asset Management has an interest in the long-term drivers of shareholder value. We recognise that environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) factors not directly captured in financial statements can materially impact shareholder value. This document discusses the incorporation of ESG factors into our investment process which we believe delivers improved long term investment outcomes.

### **ESG Integration**

We define ESG integration as an investment decision-making process that considers ESG risks and opportunities in conjunction with financial analysis. Our ESG considerations are investment driven as we seek to make better informed decisions through analysis of non-financial factors that may materially impact an investment's performance.

We believe the consideration, understanding and management of ESG issues in conjunction with financial analysis can generate better long-term performance for clients. Similarly, active engagement with company management seeks to encourage greater awareness of issues impacting corporate sustainability.

To assist with the identification of relevant issues we complement our internal analysis with the resources of dedicated ESG research firms. ESG issues are reviewed to identify material factors at the:

- global thematic level (e.g. climate change, demographics);
- country level (e.g. political risk);
- sector level (e.g. energy intensity or greenhouse gas emissions); and
- company level.

Governance matters are addressed at the individual company level with consideration given to issues including shareholder rights, board independence, diversity and executive compensation. For example we believe the separation of the CEO and Chairman roles benefits the long term interests of shareholders and will vote against resolutions seeking to combine the two roles.

### **Exclusions**

If a material ESG issue emerges relating to a sector, the industry may be excluded from our investment universe. For example, we do not invest in companies whose predominant source of revenue is the sale and production of:

- Tobacco;
- Armaments; or
- Pornography.

## **Investment Decisions**

Our investment decisions are based on both financial and non-financial factors which include relevant ESG considerations. Each situation and its potential impact is considered on an individual basis with material issues discussed by the portfolio management team as part of the investment decision making process. Significant concerns are reflected by way of a discounted assessment of intrinsic value and in cases where the ESG issue is perceived as too great a risk, we may elect not to invest or divest an existing holding.

## **Dialogue and Engagement**

We are an active investor and engage with companies on ESG related matters. Where applicable, we question management regarding ESG concerns and seek to improve disclosure and affect change through constructive dialogue.

We are prepared to engage collectively with other like-minded investors on ESG issues. We believe constructive engagement highlights the growing importance of ESG factors within the investment community and its broad client base.

## **UN Principles for Responsible Investment**

Talaria is a signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) which seeks to improve understanding of environmental, social and governance factors and the incorporation of these factors into investment and ownership decisions.

In accordance with our signatory responsibilities we submit an annual report on our ESG related activities to the UN PRI and our Responsible Investment Transparency Report is made publicly available.

## **Tobacco Free Finance Pledge**

Talaria is a Founding Signatory to the [Tobacco-Free Finance Pledge](#), an initiative founded by Tobacco Free Portfolios and developed in collaboration with the United Nations' Environment Programme Finance Initiative. Objectives of the Tobacco-Free Finance Pledge include:

- Raising awareness among financial institutions of the essential role the finance sector must play to assist effective tobacco control and to ensure a tobacco-free world.
- Encourage the transition towards tobacco-free finance policies.
- Prioritise tobacco on the corporate agenda as a product and industry distinct from any other with no safe level of use and no opportunity for effective engagement

## **Proxy Voting**

As an active shareholder and fiduciary of client funds we are committed to exercising voting rights

on assets managed on behalf of clients. We believe this is an important right, recognising the strong link between good corporate governance and investment value. Our primary objective when voting is to maximise the value of our investments.

Our decision to assess and vote all proxies represents a commitment to holding companies accountable for their actions and maintaining sound corporate governance practices. We complement our internal analysis with research from dedicated proxy voting research firms.

A record of each vote is maintained and our proxy voting record is made publicly available.

### **Development and Enhancements**

Talaria is committed to the education and further development of staff particularly within the realm of ESG. Consequently the firm provides training to the investment team on ESG issues and encourages attendance at educational events to expand our knowledge base. We also seek to engage with the broader ESG community regarding best practices and affecting change.

We are committed to continually improving our approach to ESG integration and accordingly our approach will remain flexible and evolve over time.

The Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, at a minimum, and any proposed changes submitted to Board for approval.