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## **Australian and New Zealand Investors join launch of major new global climate change initiative.**

Australia and New Zealand's biggest institutional investors have joined more than 225 global investors with over US\$26 trillion in assets under management to engage the world's largest emitting companies to act on climate change.

[Climate Action 100+](#) launched today by five investor organisations in Paris at the One Planet Summit hosted by President Macron, is a new five-year project harnessing the weight and influence of global investors to engage the world's largest greenhouse gas emitting companies on climate action.

Investors who sign up to the Climate Action 100+ will engage the companies they invest in to ensure that they do more to reduce emissions, strengthen climate-related financial disclosures and improve their governance of climate change issues as they affect their business - transforming how these emitters address the climate challenge.

Commenting on the launch, **Emma Herd, Chief Executive Officer of the Investor Group on Climate Change** said: "This project puts companies on notice that investors expect real action on climate change. Through Climate Action 100+, investors hope to move companies to go further, faster, when it comes to managing climate change risk and developing low carbon opportunities."

**Andrew Gray, Senior Manager, Investments Governance at AustralianSuper** and member of the Climate Action 100+ Global Steering Committee said: "In a few short months, a substantial community of institutional investors have coalesced around this initiative to signal to companies that they will be holding them accountable to align their business plans to the Paris Agreement, increase disclosure and improve governance to address a significant investment risk."

**Matt Whineray, Chief Investment Officer of the NZ Super Fund** said: "The Climate Action 100+ initiative is a significant step forward in active ownership by investors concerned about climate change investment risk. Engagement is a core part of the NZ Super Fund's climate change investment strategy and our involvement in this project provides a clear signal to the companies we invest in that we expect them to understand and manage climate change risk."

**David Atkins, Chief Executive Officer Cbus** said: "Companies and investors have a shared responsibility to facilitate an orderly and Just Transition to a climate resilient economy. Through this initiative, investors will set clear expectations and we expect companies will step up and respond accordingly."

**Stephen Rowe, Chief Executive Officer, Vision Super** said: "Vision Super welcomes the launch of the Climate Action 100+. Engagement is an important strategy for us as a values-based organisation – we want to drive an effective global response to climate change through engaging with the companies we invest in at the same time as generating strong returns for Vision Super members. We expect to see everyone in the business community doing their part through good governance, meaningful disclosures and effective action to reduce emissions."

**Michael Dundon, Chief Executive Officer, VicSuper** said: "As investors, we have a responsibility to manage for the long term. VicSuper is looking forward to collaborating with our peers through the Climate Action 100+ initiative. This will help us to engage with the companies we invest in to reduce emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement as well as strengthen governance practices and financial reporting on climate change."

**Phillip Vernon, Chief Executive Officer Australian Ethical Investment** said: "The significant risks posed to the financial system by climate change have been recognised by the G20 Taskforce for Climate related Financial Disclosures. Co-ordinated investor action is critical to ensure that companies manage their business consistent with the commitments in the Paris Accord to keep

temperatures well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels. Climate Action 100+ provides an effective platform to achieve this.”

**Robert Fowler, Executive, Investment Execution, HESTA said:** “This ground breaking new initiative evidences investor support for the ambition of the Paris Agreement and our expectations that the companies we hold manage the risks, and invest in the opportunities presented, by the transition to a low carbon economy. HESTA looks forward to supporting the Climate Action 100+ and engaging with companies on their plans to tackle climate change.”

**Liza McDonald, Head of Responsible Investments, First State Super said:** “First State Super recognises that climate change presents both a risk and an opportunity for our members. By supporting this major new collaborative initiative, we are joining global investors in stating clearly that we expect the companies we invest in to be considering and responding to the challenges of climate change.”

**Ian Woods, Head of ESG Investment Research, AMP Capital:** “By working collaboratively, with a shared ask and common goal, AMP is joining global investors in the Climate Action 100+ in calling for global action to tackle climate change risks and support investment in new low carbon opportunities.”

**Chris Newtown, Executive Director, Responsible Investment IFM Investors:** “IFM Investors has a strong belief that in order to create long-term financial value, climate change risks and opportunities must be at the forefront of business strategy. This starts with greater transparency of reporting. With many dynamic regulatory and policy settings around the world, it is essential that, as investors, IFM continues to work with business to manage and reduce the impact of climate change on the economy. Only with better reporting and more information on the risks and opportunities of climate change can IFM make considered decisions for the benefit of our investors”.

**Bill Hartnett, Head of Sustainability, Local Government Super said:** “As long term shareholders in close to a 1000 companies globally, Local Government Super is committed to ensuring the resilience of our investments to the systemic risk posed by climate change. By joining the Climate Action 100+, we are collaborating with more than 200 other major investors to engage with companies to drive a stronger business response to climate change. The Climate Action 100+ promises a very powerful tool for positive change.”

The launch of the Climate Action 100+ comes at the two-year anniversary of the finalisation of the Paris Agreement. Further detail on the full list of investor signatories and the complete list of the top 100 companies that form the initial focus of this initiative will go public on the Climate Action 100+ website on 12 December 2017. Additional companies of regional significance will be voted in by investor signatories to the initiative and released on January 31, 2018 at the [2018 Investor Summit on Climate Risk](#).

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### **Notes for Editors**

*Climate Action 100+ is five-year investor initiative to engage with the world’s largest corporate greenhouse gas emitters on curbing emissions, strengthening climate-related financial disclosures and improving governance on climate change. Climate Action 100+ has been developed and will be coordinated by five partner organisations: Asian Investor Group on Climate Change (AIGCC); Ceres, the Investor Group on Climate Change (IGCC); Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change*

(IIGCC); and Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). It builds upon the collaborative investor engagement pioneered since 2012 by the four organisations (AIGCC, Ceres, IGCC, and IIGCC) that together form the [Global Investor Coalition on Climate Change](#). It also draws upon the leadership of PRI and its investor engagements across environmental, social and governance issues. For more information, visit [www.ClimateAction100.org](http://www.ClimateAction100.org) and follow [@ActOnClimate100](#).

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