Challenger Limited Responsible Investment Policy

Chief Executive, Life Chief Executive, Funds Management

Authorised by:



1. Introduction

1.1 Our purpose

Our purpose is to provide our customers with financial security for a better retirement. From designing innovative investment solutions to our advocacy work with government on behalf of our customers, we help to improve the quality of life for retirees and to and to help our clients to achieve their financial objectives.

At Challenger, sustainability is critical for building long term value for our customers, clients, shareholders, employees and the wider community. Challenger acknowledges the relevance of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors as well as the links between long-term sustainable returns and the quality of our ESG practices.

Our Funds Management business, which includes CIP Asset Management (CIPAM), as well as our suite of boutique partners within the Fidante Partners (Fidante) business, supports the accumulation phase of our customers' superannuation and enables our clients to achieve their financial goals, through specialised equity, fixed income, real estate and alternative investment strategies. The Challenger Life business supports the retirement phase, with products such as the Guaranteed Lifetime Annuity, which provide income security for an increasingly ageing population.

1.2 Our overall approach to responsible investing

Our customers and our contribution to society is an important driver for our business, hence our approach to responsible investment is two-fold. We integrate ESG considerations in our investment process because we believe ESG factors have an impact on the long-term performance of markets, countries and companies and that their consideration in the investment process should improve risk-adjusted returns over time.

We are also cognisant of the world into which our current and future customers will retire into and the opportunity we have to make a positive difference in how that future looks through active ownership and our investment activity.

For these reasons, Challenger takes ESG risks into consideration in our investment decision-making and ownership practices, and when we appoint managers to act on our behalf. Incorporating ESG considerations into investment decision-making and portfolio construction, also helps Challenger to build a more resilient organisation and protects both the business and customers from financial and non-financial risks.

Challenger's Responsible Investment Policy requires the Board, the ESG Steering Committee, relevant senior leaders, and investment teams to have responsibility for integrating ESG considerations in into the investment process. All senior-level investment staff, including Asset Class Heads and the Challenger Leadership Team, have Key Performance Indicators linked to responsible investment and ESG integration.

Challenger has been a signatory to the UN-backed Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI) since 2015 and is committed to its six principles.

1.3 Fiduciary duty

We believe ESG factors are a key investment value driver and therefore it is our fiduciary duty to consider material ESG factors in our investment decisions to ensure we meet the needs of all our stakeholders.

1.4 Purpose of this Policy

The purpose of this policy is to guide Challenger's approach and set expectations in relation to ESG factors that Challenger should take into consideration in investment decision-making and ownership practices.

This Policy outlines how Challenger integrates ESG considerations in its investment processes, and how the approach to ESG integration varies depending on the nature of the relevant asset class and investment strategy.

The principal objectives of this policy are to:

- ensure that ESG risks and opportunities are adequately considered as part of Challenger's investment processes in line with clients' interests and relevant industry standards such as the PRI: and
- to assist and guide Challenger in engaging with companies and Challenger-appointed third party investment managers to promote better governance practices.

This policy should be read in conjunction with Challenger's Risk Management Strategy. This policy is consistent with the long-term investment objectives of Challenger and its risk tolerances.

2. Responsible Investment Governance Structure

Portfolio Managers within each investment team are ultimately responsible for the implementation of ESG integration within their investment strategy. Investment management heads, or where appointed dedicated senior-level ESG champions, are responsible for each investment team's ESG strategy. The in-house ESG Specialist provides insights and expertise to the investment teams on specific ESG issues as well as ESG integration.

Investment managers identify potential ESG issues for discussion and monitoring. This is done at the investment team level. Potential ESG controversies are reported to the ESG Specialist and Challenger Risk and Compliance and are reviewed by the ESG Steering Committee. This excludes boutiques who have their own ESG risk reporting process.

2.1 Board Oversight

ESG risks including climate-related financial risks are reported to Challenger's Board of Directors by Divisional Chief Executives and the Challenger GRC.

2.2 Group Risk Committee

ESG risks including climate-related financial risks are reported to and assessed by the Challenger Group Risk Committee (GRC), which meets quarterly or more frequently if required. These risks are reported to the GRC through various channels, including the ESG Steering Committee.

2.3 ESG Steering Committee

The ESG Steering Committee is comprised of senior stakeholders from across the Challenger business and is responsible for guiding the Challenger ESG strategy, assessing ESG risks and opportunities for the Challenger business. The ESG Steering Committee reports any material ESG matters to the Group Risk Committee (GRC). The ESG Steering Committee meets on a quarterly basis.

2.4 Funds Management Responsible Investment Committee

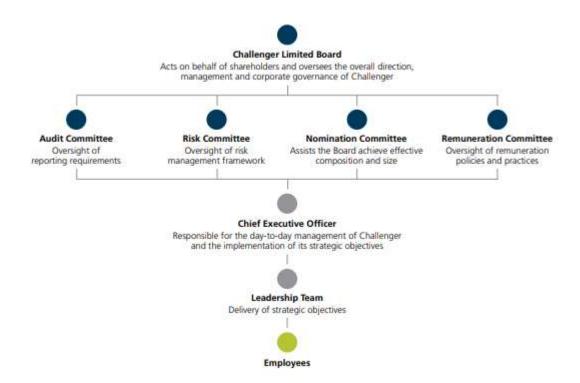
The Funds Management Responsible Investment Committee (FM RI Committee) brings together investment and distribution staff in our Funds Management business to discuss current and evolving ESG trends, client requirements and to collaborate on ESG integration developments across our Funds Management business.

This committee has an independent external committee member with responsible investment expertise who shares their insights with the committee to help evolve Challenger's ESG approach.

Material ESG issues raised with the FM RI Committee are reported to the ESG Steering Committee. The FM RI Committee meets quarterly.

2.5 Internal Governance and Asset Stewardship

CIPAM adheres to FSC Standard 23 – Principles of Internal Governance and Asset Stewardship. You can read more about CIPAM's approach to asset stewardship and internal governance with respect to investment management activities, on the CIPAM website (https://www.challengerinvestmentpartners.com/about/who-we-are/).



3. ESG integration

Our investment approach is consistent with our purpose of providing financial security for a better retirement. Capital preservation, value creation and risk mitigation are at the centre of our ESG integration process. We strongly believe that working with issuers, investee companies and asset managers to improve business practices and behaviour will achieve these goals and have a positive impact on society.

Challenger's investment management teams consider ESG risks and opportunities that are relevant to the current or future value of an investment when deciding whether to buy, retain or sell an investment. These issues may be driven by existing or future market trends, reflect issues of considerable societal concern, or pose potential operational, financial, strategic, reputational or systemic risks. Importantly, ESG factors form a part of the overall value proposition for an investment. These considerations are made at the investment level and form a part of portfolio construction decisions across the entire portfolio.

Where possible, Challenger seeks to identify positive ESG trends and invests with the intent to reduce the cost of capital for companies or sectors which have a positive impact on the environment or society. Challenger believes investors benefit from such investments through improved investment outcomes as a result of the reduced risks on these investments.

We subscribe to an external ESG data provider to enable our investment teams to access additional ESG metrics, insights and reporting capability.

ESG risks and opportunities that may be considered across different asset classes are set out in the table below:

ESG risks and opportunities

Considerations	Examples
Environmental	Climate change (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, emissions trading, physical risks and opportunities, transition risks), biodiversity loss, building energy performance, energy consumption, pollution, natural resource use and degradation (e.g. water scarcity), waste, clean technology products and services, environmental management practices and product lifecycle management.
Social	Human capital, workplace health and safety, labour relations and standards, human rights, modern slavery, demographic changes, supply-chain, responsible lending, data privacy and community impacts.
Governance	Board composition and independence, executive remuneration and incentive plans, corporate accountability structures, compliance, negligence, bribery and corruption, conflicts of interest and related-party transactions, shareholder rights, board oversight of ESG risks, accounting and audit quality.

3.1 Materiality

We determine materiality of ESG factors by considering which ESG risks and opportunities the industry is most exposed to as well as any ESG risks and opportunities specific to the company or issuer itself. A material ESG risk is one which can have a significant impact on the valuation or reputation of a company or investment, if not well managed.

3.2 ESG integration across different asset classes

We undertake investment activity across our Challenger Life and Funds Management businesses. CIPAM and several Fidante Partner's boutiques manage money on behalf of the Challenger Life business as well as for external clients.

The consideration of ESG factors for these investment teams is governed by the Responsible Investment Statements specific to their part of the business. However, they are all governed by this overarching Responsible Investment Policy.

Detailed asset class approaches to ESG integration can be found on the Challenger and CIPAM websites. The following documents are currently available:

- CLC Responsible Investment Statement
- CIPAM Fixed Income Responsible Investment Statement
- CIPAM Real Estate Responsible Investment Statement

4. Manager selection, appointment, and monitoring

4.1 Third-party external investment managers

When carrying out due diligence for the appointment of new third-party investment managers:

- promote Challenger's expectations in respect of ESG considerations as a formal part of Challenger's investment manager selection and review process;
- seek to understand the third-party investment manager's responsible investment approach, resource capability and intent with respect to ESG;
- seek to understand the third-party investment manager's approach to assessing climate risks and opportunities
- review the third-party investment manager's ESG Policy and, where relevant, encourage and assist them in formalising such a policy

- encourage the third-party investment manager to discuss ESG considerations undertaken in their own investment decision-making and ownership practices in their reports to Challenger; and
- encourage the third-party investment manager to become a signatory to the PRI Principles.

Challenger also expect that the third-party investment managers we appoint will:

- demonstrate an acceptable level of commitment to the management of key ESG risks and opportunities as set out in the PRI Principles; and
- apply principles of active ownership and investment stewardship, particularly in relation to proxy voting and engagement, in a manner similar to that set out in this policy.

4.1.1 Investment management agreements (IMAs) with third-party investment managers

Investment Management Heads and their teams are responsible for ensuring that all new IMAs with third-party investment managers, including IMAs between Fidante as Responsible Entity and its boutique partners, include ESG considerations. When IMAs are entered into, the relevant Investment Management Heads and their teams ensure:

- there is a specific clause contained within the IMA which clearly sets out the third-party investment manager's approach to ESG considerations, including an adequate explanation as to how ESG risks are accounted for; and
- the proxy voting reporting arrangements that have been agreed between Challenger and the thirdparty investment manager are clearly articulated and are sufficient for Challenger to meet its obligations under of this policy.

4.2 Fidante boutique partnerships

Fidante invests in and forms long-term alliances with talented investment professionals to create, grow and support specialist, boutique funds management businesses. We believe that high quality investment practices should involve, wherever possible, an assessment of ESG-related risks and opportunities. We therefore seek to partner with boutique investment managers who are committed to continuous progress in ESG integration.

We assess each manager's capability and commitment to ESG integration at every stage of the boutique selection process. Our in-house ESG Specialist is involved in this process, engaging with prospective boutiques to understand their integration approach.

Any fund for which Fidante acts as Responsible Entity (RE) must integrate ESG considerations in its investment process. A specific clause relating to Responsible Investment is included as part of our standard Investment Management Agreements (IMA) as outlined in 4.1.1. of this policy.

The success of our boutique partnership model relies on Fidante allowing its boutique partners effective autonomy over their investment and active ownership activities. We work closely with our boutique partners and support them in achieving their ESG goals.

We seek to understand an investment manager's ESG beliefs, process for integration and how ESG factors influence investment decisions. Key areas covered in our due diligence process include:

- ESG integration goals, approach and strategy;
- how ESG factors influence investment decisions;
- ESG people and oversight;
- process, portfolio construction and investment valuation;
- · engagement approach and impact on investment decisions; and
- voting approach and impact on investment decisions (equity only).

Through our annual business planning process, we work with our boutique partners to measure progress on ESG as well as to set goals to support individual boutiques on further enhancing their ESG integration capability.

However, we do not direct our boutiques to invest or engage in a specific way. Our ESG approach in this part of our business is focussed on a thorough due diligence prior to partnership and ongoing monitoring and support. Our selection approach includes an assessment of both current ESG integration practices as well as a genuine desire for continued enhancement of ESG capability. The success of our business model relies on our ability to select and support our boutique partners but to allow them effective autonomy over their investment activities.

4.2.1 Supporting our boutiques on ESG

The key areas in which we support our boutique partners on ESG are outlined below:

- setting plans and goals for ESG integration as part of the annual boutique business planning process:
- support on the development and enhancements to ESG policies and processes;
- · providing research and insights on emerging ESG themes;
- support on compliance with new ESG-related regulation;
- support with ESG reporting;
- · host education events on emerging ESG topics; and
- support through the PRI reporting process and advice on process enhancements in line with the latest PRI guidance.

We monitor our boutiques on ESG through quarterly portfolio ESG reporting.

5. ESG themes

5.1 Climate change

At Challenger, we are committed to supporting progress in transitioning to a low-carbon economy. This includes working with internal and external stakeholders to find ways to reduce risks and create a more resilient economy. We recognise that the physical and transition risks related to climate change, if not considered, will have financial impacts.

We support the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Taskforce for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). Wherever practicable we engage investee companies and issuers in highly exposed industries to disclose their climate-related financial risks in line with the TCFD framework.

Our investment teams assess the potential impacts of climate change-related physical and transition risks on the value of their investments. Investment teams also take into account how resilient investee companies are to such risks and if they are well positioned to benefit from such a transition. The approach to climate-risk assessment in investment analysis varies between asset classes and is detailed in each team's Responsible Investment Statement.

In addition to our investment analysis, we are committed to the following strategy across our business:

- analysis of policy and market context for areas relevant to Challenger, based on a breakdown of material areas of investment;
- · developing and analysing climate scenarios;
- identifying priority climate-related risks and opportunities at a market sector level; and
- developing governance structures around climate-related financial risks.

5.2 Modern slavery and human rights

At Challenger, we respect and support internationally recognised human rights as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organisation.

We believe all people are entitled to basic rights and freedoms.

We also understand that modern slavery is a serious social issue that corporate Australia must work to address. Challenger recognises that there are still instances of modern slavery, particularly in high-risk jurisdictions and high-risk industries.

Challenger is required to comply with the Australian Modern Slavery Act 2018. Under this Act, Challenger has an obligation to report annually on the risks of modern slavery in its operations and supply chains, including investment activities.

When assessing potential or existing investment opportunities, Challenger's investment managers will undertake due diligence to assess any potential modern slavery risks in accordance with the specific entity and asset class approach to ESG integration. Challenger is committed to ensuring that its investment managers are aware of the risks of modern slavery within their investment portfolios and supply chain, ensuring adequate policies are in place to mitigate and manage modern slavery risks caused by, contributed or directly linked to an investment activity.

6. Stewardship

We believe that sustainability is a long-term driver of future performance and that companies and issuers with strong sustainability and governance practices are in a better position to mitigate risks and capture opportunities. We believe that company and issuer engagement is an opportunity for value creation across our investments.

6.1 Engagement goals

We seek to engage with companies in which we invest, or are considering for investment, in relation to their ESG risk management policies, strategies, performance, disclosure and management capabilities. The level of engagement is dependent on the asset class and nature of the investment. The intent of the engagement is to reduce the risk of the underlying investment or sector, resulting in improved investment outcomes for our stakeholders.

6.2 Responsibility for engagements

Each investment team engages directly with their issuers or investee companies. Engagements are prioritised based on the materiality of ESG risk to the particular investment.

6.3 Our expectations of issuers and investee companies

Consistent with our belief that ESG integration can improve risk-adjusted returns, we engage issuers and companies on material ESG concerns with the goal of risk mitigation and value creation.

Although ESG risk exposure will vary between investments and strategies, as a general guide we align our minimum standards for expected behaviour with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Our boutique partners have effective autonomy and are not subject to Challenger's engagement guidelines. Their approach to engagement is outlined in their individual ESG Policies which are publicly available on their respective websites. Fidante has oversight of boutique ESG integration through regular reporting and its multi-faceted relationship.

6.4 Stewardship tools

ESG Research and Data tools

Our investment teams utilise an external ESG research and data provider to inform their engagement activity.

Proxy Voting tools

Challenger utilises a proxy voting platform for corporate governance research and voting. Voting reports are also made publicly available on our website for all pooled managed funds.

Engagement logs

Investment teams log their engagement activity in team engagement logs or notes.

6.5 Escalation strategies

If company or issuer engagement fails to result in a satisfactory response or there is no response, our investment teams can take one of a number of actions depending on the asset class and strategy. This can include avoiding the investment, stipulating covenants into agreements to mitigate the risk, reducing a position or divesting. Individual investment teams are responsible for determining the specific escalation strategy for each situation in the best interest of asset owners.

6.6 Proxy voting procedures

Proxy voting is a means by which Challenger is able to demonstrate its interest in the governance practices of companies. By exercising its right to vote, Challenger can have an influence on the corporate governance of the companies in which it invests. Challenger follows the PRI Principles on corporate governance and proxy voting.

Challenger aims to meet the investment objectives of clients in relation to ESG matters by discouraging disadvantageous corporate policies through active discussions with management or the board of directors, and by exercising proxy votes. Challenger also recognises that there are opportunities to encourage effective management through the endorsement given by positive votes.

Challenger seeks to vote on all company resolutions, regardless of materiality, provided that it has the authority to do so and the necessary documentation is received in time to lodge a vote by the due date. Challenger recognises that voting rights are a valuable asset which should be managed with the same care and diligence as any other portfolio asset. In addition, Challenger may, in determining its proxy voting, rely on a third-party advisory firm that provides advice on proxy voting and corporate governance issues.

Challenger has a separate Proxy Voting Policy which is available on the Challenger website.

7. Appendix

7.1 Responsibility

This policy has been put in place by Challenger's GRC and is reviewed annually, or as required if there are material changes in the regulatory framework or business activities.

7.2 Scope

This policy applies to all relevant employees of Challenger who are responsible for making active investment decisions. This includes:

- Challenger's Board of Directors;
- respective Boards of Directors of relevant Challenger subsidiary companies;
- Challenger's Investment Management Heads and their teams;
- the relevant Leadership Team members;
- investment analysts who research and rate the quality and value of assets;
- Investment Management Heads / Portfolio Managers who make the decision to buy, retain or sell a particular asset to achieve the objectives of an investment portfolio; and
- Investment Management Heads who make decisions to allocate funds to third party investment managers.

This policy also outlines the process to be followed when appointing new third-party investment managers. It is also intended to act as a guide to assist existing Challenger-appointed third-party investment managers to meet their responsibilities under applicable laws, regulations and industry standards relevant to ESG factors.

7.3 References

In developing this policy, Challenger has considered the obligations laid out in the below policies, practice notes, statements, standards, regulations and other documents:

- Challenger's Investment Management Governance (Proxy Voting) Policy;
- Challenger's Incident Management Policy & Practice Note;
- Challenger's Risk Management Strategy;
- Principles for Responsible Investment;
- FSC Standard No. 13: Proxy Voting;
- FSC and ACSI ESG Reporting Guide for Australian Companies 2015;
- ACSI Governance Guidelines dated October 2015; and
- Regulation 7.9.14C of the Corporations Regulations.

Challenger entities and divisions that have operations in jurisdictions other than Australia must always consider local rules and regulations as they may be stricter than the practices set out in this policy. Where local rules are more stringent than those outlined in this policy, the local regulations will always prevail. If there is a direct conflict between the local laws of another jurisdiction and the requirements under this policy, the relevant management of the Challenger or division must notify the Policy Owner prior to the implementation of any local policies or procedures.

7.4 Overall Responsibilities



8. Additional Obligations and Accountabilities

8.1 Portfolios where Challenger performs the investment management function

This sub-section only applies to Portfolios where Challenger performs the investment management function. This sub-section does not apply to Portfolios where Challenger has delegated the investment management function to a third party investment manager.

8.2 Reporting requirements

Reporting responsible investment strategies to stakeholders

Challenger commits to regularly communicating its responsible investment approach. These communications will include the following:

- commentary in Challenger's Annual Sustainability Report which provides a summary of the ESG considerations considered as part of Challenger's investment decision-making and ownership practices over the course of the previous financial year;
- making information available on the Challenger website; and
- an annual modern slavery statement available on a public Modern Slavery Statements Register.

On an annual basis and in line with the PRI requirements, the Chief Executive Life and the Chief Executive Funds Management review and approve the annual PRI Assessment Report submission and provide a copy to the ERMC for review.

Challenger also publishes an annual summary report of its proxy records. In addition, mandate clients are informed of proxy voting through regular reports (if applicable) in compliance with the contractual terms of the relevant IMA.

8.3 Application of this policy to different investment structures

Challenger's investment arrangements are a combination of separate mandates with investment managers, investments in pooled vehicles, and direct investments. Appropriate approaches to ESG

integration are expected across these different investment arrangements, including quantitative and passively managed approaches.

From the date of this policy, all new IMAs entered into by Challenger for mandates will make reference to this policy. All existing IMAs will make reference to this policy as they are reviewed and progressively updated.

Where Challenger invests in pooled funds, adopting principles of responsible investment will ultimately depend upon the relevant investment managers incorporating ESG considerations into their own investment processes rather than relying on this policy.

8.4 Domestic and international markets

In relation to Challenger entities based in both local and international markets, Challenger informs all of its investment managers, as well as any other relevant service providers, that it will:

- regularly monitor the progress of its internal and third-party investment managers and their ESG integration processes;
- promote Challenger's expectations in respect of ESG as a formal part of Challenger's investment manager selection and review process; and
- report on the progress of the implementation of this policy to Challenger's Board and shareholders via regular reports.

8.5 Monitoring, review and reporting of Challenger's ESG integration

Challenger's Investment Management Heads periodically monitor the integration of ESG considerations and their management strategies in Challenger's investment decision-making and ownership practices. In order to facilitate this, all identified investment in ESG matters are required to be tracked by the relevant Business area as part of the documentation for each investment decision. Challenger's Investment Management Heads report any material changes to their ESG integration process to the ESG Steering Committee.

8.6 Training and awareness

The Investment Management Heads and the relevant Leadership Team members are responsible for ensuring that the appropriate divisional procedures to effectively meet the obligations contained in this policy are documented and operational.

All relevant employees must receive training on policies, procedures and internal controls in order to understand their responsibilities for meeting the obligations contained within this policy.

9. Risk appetite and complying with this policy

Challenger's vision is to provide our customers with financial security for a better retirement. Challenger promotes a positive culture of risk awareness and transparency, including open communication and challenge of current and emerging risks, speaking up about matters of concern, and proactively managing issues and incidents. Challenger has no appetite for conducting business activities unfairly or in contravention of the law, or which knowingly damage or are inconsistent with its brand and reputation. Challenger has no appetite for employees intentionally not following policies and procedures.

Employees are to comply with Challenger policies and are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policies relevant to their role. Policies are available on the Group policies page on Connect.

Incidents of non-compliance with this policy are to be reported in line with the Challenger Incident Management Policy.

Employees at Challenger are held accountable for their actions. Consequences for non-compliance with this Policy may include but are not limited to:

- · a requirement to undertake additional training
- increased supervisions
- a verbal warning
- a written warning (including a first and final written warning)
- an impact to performance rating or promotion

- · a financial consequence
- dismissal.

10. Whistleblower provisions

Challenger has a Whistleblower Policy and encourages disclosures from employees, former employees and suppliers regarding any unethical, illegal, corrupt or other inappropriate conduct including in relation to this policy. The Whistleblower Policy is available on Connect and the Challenger website.

11. Points of Contact

Challenger's Investment Management Heads and the relevant Leadership Team members are the key points of contact for matters arising from this policy.

12. Review Cycle

This policy will be reviewed annually, or as required if there are material changes in the regulatory framework or business activities.

This is to certify that we, Challenger Limited's Executive Managers and Investment Management Heads, have read and understood the Responsible Investment Policy. We endorse this policy and will support its progressive implementation within our respective teams in a manner that is appropriate to the different types of assets that we manage and the investment styles we use.

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Nick Hamilton Chief Executive, Funds Management

Victor Rodriguez Head of Fixed Income, CIP Asset Management

Chris Forbes Head of Real Estate, CIP Asset Management

Josh Heller Head of Solutions, CIP Asset Management

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