

# Aon Master Trust

## Responsible investment policy

Prepared by **Superannuation Management Nominees Limited**

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Superannuation Management Nominees Limited, the Trustee of the Aon Master Trust (the Scheme), recognises the importance of incorporating environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues into the investment process. The purpose of this document is to set out the Trustee's responsible investment policy (which is summarised in the Scheme's statement of investment policy and objectives). It provides an explanation of the extent to which responsible investment is taken into account in the investment policies and procedures of the Scheme. The policy will be reviewed at least annually.

## Background

Aon New Zealand (Aon) has been appointed by the Trustee as the Scheme's investment manager and investment consultant and provides investment advice to the Trustee. Aon is a subsidiary of a leading global professional services firm, Aon plc, which provides a broad range of risk, retirement and health solutions.

The Trustee seeks to offer a variety of investment options which cater to the diverse range of members, whose views on what constitutes responsible investment may vary and differ from those of the Trustee.

Aon delegates the day-to-day investment management responsibilities to underlying investment managers which are selected by the Trustee with advice from the investment consultant.

The Schemes' underlying investment managers avoid investment in companies whose activities are deemed unlawful under New Zealand laws such as the *Cluster Munitions Prohibition Act 2009*, and may exclude certain sectors or activities based on the respective underlying investment manager's responsible investment policy. Exclusions differ by investment manager and investment strategy; typical prohibitions include companies that manufacture tobacco and controversial weapons (nuclear weapons, landmines, etc).

## Policy

The Trustee and Aon believe, based on a growing body of evidence, that over the long term, companies with stronger ESG practices are better positioned to create long-term value and deliver improved risk-adjusted returns than companies with poorer ESG profiles.

Due diligence for the appointment, ongoing monitoring and retention of the Scheme's underlying investment managers includes the managers' responsible investment policies and quality of ESG practices. Aon plc and the Scheme's current underlying investment managers are all global signatories to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing (UN PRI): six principles that promote the importance of incorporating environmental, social and governance issues into investment decision-making and collaboration processes. UN PRI signatories believe that ESG issues can affect the performance of investment portfolios through time, and that applying the principles – where consistent with our fiduciary duty to members to work in their best financial interests – may better align investors with the broader objectives of society.

The Trustee intends to continue to offer a variety of investment options to the Scheme's members, using underlying investment managers that incorporate responsible investing principles. As such the Trustee expects all underlying investment managers to integrate ESG principles into their investment processes, and the Trustee encourages them to actively engage with companies on ESG and stewardship issues. On the Trustee's behalf, Aon monitors the application of responsible investing principles by underlying investment managers through its regular oversight processes which include a detailed responsible investment assessment and rating.

