

Investment

It would be helpful if participants were able to read beforehand my article **New Zealand Superannuation Fund: How Responsible is it?**¹. This describes what an ethical company looks like, and how to go about investing ethically. It also describes the inadequacy of the UN Principles of Responsible Investment.

Any move to successfully deal with the threat of a global warming world involves changing investment patterns. Currently approximately 95% of investment in sovereign wealth and managed funds are part of the problem. There are a number of ways that NZers can assist in changing this pattern.

1 NZ Super Fund

While the NZ Superfund is invested in companies like Exxon Mobil and does not actively engage with many companies that are socially and environmentally irresponsible, it has recognised that climate warming is a strategic threat to its future earnings. It has supported a Mercer study that describes this, and during the next 6 months or so, will be working on how to apply the Mercer's conclusions to the Fund. **Possible Action:** encourage the NZ Super Fund to invest in less companies (particularly divesting from fossil fuel companies) and to engage with many companies about their unacceptable behaviour. Encourage them in their recognition that climate warming is a threat to adequate future investment returns.

2 Kiwisaver Funds

According to a survey of Kiwisaver Funds by Richard Jakob-Hoff, only 2 or 3 funds exclude in some form fossil fuel investments.

Possible Action: Publicise what Kiwisaver Funds avoid fossil fuel investments.

3 Kiwibank

I am currently in discussion with their Head of Investments about changing the behaviour of AMP Capital Responsible Investment Leaders Funds that Kiwibank uses to meet the criteria described in my article (it ticks a number of the boxes but not all).

Possible Action: Let Kiwibank Investment Head know that a number of investors will support his action to promote an ethical fund.

4 Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR)

I cofounded this 2 years ago while living in Canberra. It is modelled on the most successful shareholder activist group in the world, the ICCR in North America. The ACCR has put shareholder resolutions to the 4 Australasian banks about climate warming with some impact, but it needs more support.

Possible Action: join the ACCR as individual or organisation. Help set up an NZ group.

5 Wise Response Investment Action Group

Establish such a group to join with 350.org and other groups concerned about climate warming to pursue possible actions such as those listed above.

¹ <http://www.accr.org.au/investment> Please email me at rhowellnz@gmail.com if you want a copy emailed direct.