

Harbour's Commitment to ESG

Harbour's ESG Integration Process

Harbour is a client-focused, research-driven, investment manager. Our analysis across both equity and fixed interest markets is dedicated to producing superior investment results.

Purpose: This document refers to Harbour's investment process and the integration of the non-financial aspects of a company, commonly referred to as Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors, into that process.

Current as at: 12/01/2017

Harbour's approach to ESG considerations is neither a recent, nor a superficial, part of the process. As a responsible corporate citizen, with a fiduciary duty to our clients, and as a signatory to the Principles of Responsible Investing (PRI), Harbour has an obligation to consider all types of non-financial risk, and we believe our ESG integration strategy strengthens our investment decisions.

Harbour became a signatory of the PRI in 2011, and we have submitted our investment process on an annual basis for assessment of our ESG integration strategy since 2014. The PRI has recognised Harbour as having a best-in-class ESG approach. Similarly, Harbour has been recognised by the Responsible Investing Association Australasia (RIAA) for having one of the best ESG approaches in New Zealand¹.

There are multiple elements to Harbour's ESG integration: Harbour's ESG score, active engagement, and proxy voting.

These strategies are based on the following beliefs:

Beliefs

1. Harbour believes that companies that manage ESG considerations well are more likely to create shareholder value, with a reduced risk profile, compared to those who do not.
2. Harbour believes that strong corporate governance is often correlated with strong environmental and social company outcomes.
3. Harbour believes that ESG risks and opportunities are able to be identified and measured for individual companies, and that these risks are often not fully reflected by the market in the security price.
4. Harbour believes that an integrative approach to ESG yields stronger investment returns than screening processes.
5. ESG monitoring and assessment is constantly evolving. Harbour believes in engagement on ESG matters rather than divestment.

¹ RIAA 2016 benchmark report on the state of Responsible Investing in New Zealand

6. Harbour's beliefs are based on a balanced understanding of the academic evidence and is consistent with empirical analysis of our own ESG process over the last five years.

Harbour's ESG score

Companies are assessed by Harbour analysts on their competence in identifying and mitigating ESG risks and opportunities. Each company in our investment universe is allocated a Harbour ESG score based on their ESG competency. ESG scores are generated via one of two processes:

1. For New Zealand Securities, Harbour's analyst for the company in question completes our proprietary Corporate Behaviour Survey (CBS). This score is sense-checked against an external ESG research provider's ESG recommendation if available, and a final score is produced.
2. For Australian Securities, an external ESG research provider's recommendation is translated into an ESG score.

Harbour's New Zealand Corporate Behaviour Survey (CBS)

Harbour's CBS currently consists of 81 questions which results in a total of 207 points. It is completed annually. Events such as governance lapses, environmental mismanagement or poor labour relations provide hard evidence of poor corporate behaviour. Approximately two-thirds of the points are weighted towards governance issues, and one-third towards social and environmental factors.

This reflects Harbour's view that governance measures are a more easily discernible in a meaningful way; this in no way downplays Harbour's view of the influence of environmental or social risks on a company's performance. Harbour believes that there is often a correlation between strong governance performance and positive environmental and social outcomes. This view is based on Harbour's experience, and in Harbour's opinion is consistent with academic research, that strong governance checks and balances often lead to more rigorous oversight of company environmental and social policy, and therefore better E and S outcomes.

The CBS has proven to be a useful tool in objectively establishing our expectations with companies looking to list on the equity market. In general, it has provided a good foundation to address the range of ESG issues that senior management, in many instances, may have not actively considered.

Harbour seeks to constructively engage with companies to encourage ongoing improvement in corporate behaviour. The CBS is used as a tool to initiate conversations with management on corporate behaviour standards. The CBS is completed annually, or when (in Harbour's opinion) there is substantial change.

The CBS is confidential, although we are generally willing to discuss the overall conclusions with stakeholders.

Australian ESG Score

ESG scores for Australian companies are established using external research from a global ESG research provider. As of December 2016, MSCI ESG is the current provider. MSCI's Intangible Value Assessment (IVA) describes different ESG factors in company specific research. The MSCI Impact Monitor measures the relevance and impact ESG issues would have on a company, depending on the industry. These scores combined form Harbour's ESG score for Australian securities.

Harbour assesses the effectiveness and quality of the external research provider annually.

Equity Process

Harbour uses quantitative screens in its investment process to rank investment opportunities. Harbour's ESG score is included in all Harbour funds active quantitative screens. All other things being equal, a higher ESG score results in a better overall security ranking. Securities are not excluded solely based on ESG scores. High risk ESG issues within companies, or issues of concern, are discussed between analysts and portfolio managers during the selection process. Companies with poor ESG scores are engaged where appropriate, to encourage the improvement of corporate behaviour.

Fixed Interest Process

Harbour's Fixed Interest team utilises both the Harbour CBS and MSCI research, in addition to conducting its own ESG research into unlisted bond issuers. The team uses this research to both engage with companies, and also identify companies whose behaviour may lead to untenable risks. Similar to the equity team, the fixed interest team places more weight on a company's behaviour and conduct, rather than making moral judgements on industries. That said, the industry in which a company operates exposes it to risks that can only be controlled by the company to a degree.

Engagement

Harbour is an active owner. Where conflicts arise with respect to company strategic direction, remuneration, or other material issues, Harbour will work with senior management, the board of directors, and other investors to find a satisfactory outcome for all stakeholders. Harbour does not concern itself with day-to-day running of the business, but focuses on strong shareholder outcomes.

Harbour's CBS is an ideal catalyst for initiating conversations with companies. As Harbour's analysts need to speak with senior management to complete the survey, it encourages the establishment of a working relationship with management and maintenance of a dialogue. This relationship can be leveraged as and when issues need to be discussed. Harbour analysts are also encouraged to communicate with the Board of Directors as necessary. Our strong preference is to achieve change without it involving public media as we consider this may be counterproductive to securing long lasting change.

Examples of the efficacy of our engagements can be provided on request, subject to confidentiality requirements.

Equity Proxy Voting

Harbour utilises a third party for external proxy voting research. As of December 2016 this is ISS Proxy Exchange. All voting is recorded in both soft and hard copies. A history of Harbour's voting is provided to Harbour's audit committee, with documentation where appropriate for those instances where voting was contentious. Harbour votes on all resolutions. In addition, in those instances where Harbour does not vote in accordance with ISS Services, the reasoning is also documented.

Furthermore, a record of all voting is also available to clients on request. We have also undertaken to consult with clients, where so desired by the client, prior to voting on any contentious issues or issues that may attract widespread publicity.

Harbour is committed to assessing ESG

Harbour takes an active role in promoting ESG in the investment community. As well as its active participation in the market, Harbour is a founding member of the New Zealand Corporate Governance forum, an institutional investor group focused on increasing the standard of corporate

governance in the New Zealand markets. As an individual, Harbour actively works to improve the standard of governance in the New Zealand market. Harbour employees participate in domestic and international conferences and forums on ESG issues, and Harbour regularly speaks and publishes research on its views on ESG investment issues.

Harbour believes in the value of ESG and is confident that its ESG process enhances portfolio outcomes for Harbour clients. We welcome any further questions on the subject. Furthermore, our PRI transparency report is available for download from the PRI website, or from Harbour on request.

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