



# Cbus' Climate Change Position Statement

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**Climate change is a complex environmental and social issue that will increasingly impact the global economy over time.**

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Cbus has developed a Position Statement to help guide the integration of climate change considerations within the broader investment framework. This approach will enable us to focus on making decisions that will lead to better long term retirement outcomes for our members. Further, we believe that as a large investor, our actions can have a flow on benefit to society and the broader economy.

The Climate Change Position Statement has been reviewed and approved by the Cbus Trustee Board in August 2016.

## **Commitment to a global transition**

There is an economic transition occurring to limit global warming below two degrees Celsius and move towards net zero emissions by 2050.

Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the Paris Agreement in December 2015. It is a global framework that supports global warming and emissions reduction goals and recognises both government policy actions and global investment are required for structural economic change. It will commence in 2020.

It is likely that individual country policies, in combination with advances in technology and social actions, will drive the world towards a low carbon future.

As a large investor Cbus needs be aware of how the global investment environment may change as it transitions over time to meet the Paris Agreement goals, along with how we can contribute to positive climate change outcomes.

## **Purpose of Position Statement**

The purpose of Cbus' Position Statement is to support making decisions that lead to better long term returns for our members. Setting this foundation will enable a consistent framework and approach for considering climate change impacts on our investments.

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## Our Position

- The climate is warming from human activity, based on the majority of scientific opinion.
- That global warming should be kept below two degrees Celsius with net zero emissions by 2050 to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.
- Global long term emission reduction targets and stable government policy are required to bring about an orderly transition, with the Paris Agreement the key mechanism to achieve this.
- Rapid changes in technology and social expectations make the timing, mechanisms and pathways of the transition to a lower carbon economy unpredictable.
- Collaboration is required to support and influence an orderly transition.
- Global warming is expected to have a wide range of consequences, many of which may impact Cbus' investment portfolio.
- The transition to a low carbon economy creates both investment risks and opportunities for Cbus.
- Investment in the built environment is a key enabler to this transition.
- The responsibility of economic transition will need to be shared across society and require policy support from government. We will advocate for a Just Transition which seeks to ensure workers and communities adversely affected are not left behind and support actions to create decent work.

## Implementing our Position Statement

Our Position Statement drives Cbus to apply significant resources and effort to understand the future risks and opportunities climate change poses for investing Cbus members' monies.

It requires Cbus to actively measure, monitor and disclose the carbon emissions from its investment portfolio.

It drives and guides Cbus to actively engage with Policy makers and influencers to promote stable policy and a steady transition.

And importantly it guides and shapes our risk management and investment decisions to protect members' assets from the risks of climate change and invest in opportunities created by the transition to a low carbon world.

A strategic roadmap is being developed to capture and address the climate change issues and actions for Cbus over short and longer term timeframes. This will be a living strategy that will adapt and change over time in response to policy and global initiatives.