

TITLE:

### Amplifying Value: Maximising our Expansion Capital Strategy

Matt Whineray

**Chief Investment Officer** 

EVENT | PRESENTATION: APAC Investments Summit – 20 April 2015



### NZ Super Fund - overview

- NZ\$29 billion (US\$21.9bn) sovereign wealth fund to help pre-fund future universal retirement benefits
- Long-term fund no withdrawals till 2029/30, won't peak till 2080s
- Returned 10.3% p.a. after costs, before NZ tax
- Out-performed the market exceeded our passive Reference Portfolio benchmark by \$3.2 billion since inception
- Exceeded the NZ government's cost of debt by \$12.8 billion
- Further details available at <u>www.nzsuperfund.co.nz</u>



### **Our investment approach**

- Long-term, global, highly diversified investment fund
- We are firm believers in passive investment and highly disciplined about active investment
  - We work hard to exploit our endowments
  - Separate opportunities from access points
  - Allocate capital to the opportunities we are most confident in
  - Use long-term investment themes to inform decisions
  - Prefer direct, flexible access
  - Integrate ESG throughout the investment process



### **Defining our endowments**



- We can ride-out short term volatility
- Genuine contrarian investor
- We can invest in private market and illiquid assets
- We pay lower tax in some jurisdictions (sovereign status)
- Favourably regarded as a potential co-investor and business partner



#### Get broad market exposures cheaply





## Separate opportunity from access point





See + Articulate Drivers



# **HIGHEST CONFIDENCE**

Beliefs Copportunity



#### **Expansion capital**

- Around 1% of the NZ Super Fund is invested in expansion capital
- What do we mean by expansion capital?
  - Capital investment onto balance sheet of fast growing private companies to support organic expansion
  - Sits between 'venture capital' and 'buyout'
- Why do we like it?
  - Risk/return profile is a good match for growth-oriented investors with a long time horizon
  - Mismatch between supply of and demand for capital privately owned businesses that have high growth potential but are starved of capital
- Access both directly via in-house team and via external managers



#### International expansion capital investments

- Currently building a portfolio of direct investments managed by our in-house team
- Investing alongside peers
- Interested in opportunities of NZ\$50 million plus
- To date the focus has been on alternative energy









LanzaTech



### Challenges

- Resource intensity
- Sourcing and partnering institutional/individual peer relationships
- Reputation / communications
  - Individual investments are a large, visible part of the portfolio
- How do we manage these challenges?
  - Strong focus on developing trusted peer relationships
  - Increased team resourcing
  - Targeting only sizeable transactions
  - Transparency about individual investments and their risk/return profile, while positioning them in context and as part of a broader, appropriate strategy



### **Expansion capital in New Zealand**

- External mandates with Pioneer Capital Partners, Waterman Capital, Pencarrow Private Equity
- Size dictates access point domestic deal sizes of \$5 million \$25 million are too small for us to run in-house
- NZ is an under-penetrated, less evolved market than (for example) the US
  - Limited other capital available
  - Growing universe of investible companies
  - Low penetration rates for venture capital and private equity compared to global markets
  - Listed markets are small, inefficient and (at the current time) relatively expensive
- NZ PE managers have outperformed the NZX small cap index by 10% p.a. over last 10 years



### Challenges

- Limited manager universe
  - Finding capable managers with sufficient capacity
  - Managers tend to be generalists (e.g. venture + expansion or expansion + buyout)
- Transparency, governance
- Fee structures less competitive than in more evolved markets
- Flexibility
- How do we manage these challenges?
  - Build deep strategic partnership relationships with managers who can work with us on our terms
  - Highly structured due diligence and conviction process for external managers
  - Separate portfolio management, portfolio intelligence and operational due diligence teams
  - Integration of ESG management



## **Key points**

- Strong believer in passive management
- Only make active investments where we have a high level of confidence that we will get a better risk-adjusted return than the low-cost, passive equivalent
- Targeting expansion capital internationally and in New Zealand as an attractive investment opportunity a good fit with a long-term, growth-oriented Fund
- International
  - Early days still building portfolio targeting opportunities of US\$50million plus
  - Focus on alternative energy and investing alongside peers
- New Zealand
  - Capital demand/supply mismatch
  - Growing pool of investible companies
  - Market still immature conducive to superior returns