

# Independent Limited Assurance Report to the Directors of the Guardians of the New Zealand Superannuation

## Conclusion

Our limited assurance conclusion has been formed on the basis of the matters outlined in this report.

Based on our limited assurance engagement, which is not a reasonable assurance engagement or an audit, nothing has come to our attention that would lead us to believe that the Carbon Footprint (emissions intensity) presented in the Greenhouse Gas Statement of the Investment Portfolio ("GHG Statement") has not, in all material respects, been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Guardians of the New Zealand Superannuation management criteria (the "Criteria") for the year ended 30 June 2019.

## Information subject to assurance

We have performed an engagement to provide limited assurance in relation to Guardians of the New Zealand Superannuation's ("GNZS's") Carbon Footprint (emissions intensity) presented in the GHG Statement, for the year ended 30 June 2019.

## Criteria

The subject matter of the Carbon Footprint (emissions intensity) presented in the GHG Statement was evaluated against the Criteria specified in 'Box 2 – Fund's Approach to Carbon Footprinting (emissions intensity)' contained within the GHG Statement.

## Standards we followed

We conducted our limited assurance engagement in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised) *Assurance Engagements other than audits or reviews of historical financial information* and International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3410 *Assurance Engagements on Greenhouse Gas Statements*. We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our conclusion. In accordance with those standards we have:

- used our professional judgement to plan and perform the engagement to obtain limited assurance that the Carbon Footprint (emissions intensity) is free from material misstatement and non-compliance, whether due to fraud or error;
- considered relevant internal controls when designing our assurance procedures, however we do not express a conclusion on the effectiveness of these controls; and
- ensured that the engagement team possess the appropriate knowledge, skills and professional competencies.

The procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed.

## Restriction of distribution and use

Our report should not be regarded as suitable to be used or relied on by any party's other than GNZS for any purpose or in any context. Any party other than GNZS who obtains access to our report or a copy thereof and chooses to rely on our report (or any part thereof) will do so at its own risk.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we accept or assume no responsibility and deny any liability to any party other than GNZS for our work, for this independent limited assurance report, or for the conclusions we have reached.

Our report is released to GNZS on the basis that it shall not be copied, referred to or disclosed, in whole (save for GNZS's own internal purposes) or in part, without our prior written consent.

### **Directors' responsibility for the Carbon Footprint (emissions intensity)**

The Directors of GNZS are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Carbon Footprint (emissions intensity), presented within the GHG Statement in accordance with the Criteria. This responsibility includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the GHG Statement that is free from material misstatement and non-compliance whether due to fraud or error.

### **Our responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion to the Directors on whether anything has come to our attention that the Carbon Footprint (emissions intensity) presented within the GHG Statement has not, in all material respects, been prepared in accordance with the Criteria.

### **Our independence and quality control**

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 (Revised) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour.

The firm applies Professional and Ethical Standard 3 (Amended) and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Our firm has also provided advisory services to GNZS. Subject to certain restrictions, partners and employees of our firm may also deal with GNZS on normal terms within the ordinary course of trading activities of the business of GNZS. These matters have not impaired our independence as assurance providers of GNZS for this engagement. The firm has no other relationship with, or interest in, GNZS.

The logo for KPMG, consisting of the letters 'KPMG' in a stylized, blue, handwritten-style font.

KPMG  
Auckland, New Zealand  
10 October 2019