

CANDIDATE STATEMENT, BIOGRAPHY, SIGNATORY AND COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FORM

Full name: **Scott James Connolly**

Job title: **Trustee Director**

Signatory organisation name: **Telstra Super**

Signatory organisation seconding your candidacy:



CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy to serve on the board of the PRI.

The PRI has grown to be a powerful voice for responsible investment the world over. Its ambitious blueprint for implementing responsible investment is more important now as the globe emerges from the ravages of the pandemic. We must strive to seize the opportunities to build back more sustainable, prosperous, and inclusive economies and communities for all.

The pandemic has exposed many vulnerabilities in our supply chains, health systems and borne by our precarious workers. But globally we have responded, highlighting our adaptiveness, resilience, and global cooperation.

It is clear we have much more to do. We have a unique opportunity and responsibility to make lasting change. Sharpening our focus in social factors, addressing the imperative of the climate emergency, seeing the SDGs universally adopted and better understanding our global interconnectedness and vulnerabilities are critical priorities to achieve the PRI's vision of making responsible investment mainstream.

Asset owners have a unique voice and role to play in making this a reality. My key objective in seeking your support for election to the PRI Board is ensuring this voice is heard and we work together to achieve our goals.

As long-term, universal owners of assets with direct responsibilities to our beneficiaries in countries, communities and workplaces across the globe, asset owners are uniquely positioned in the investment chain to drive the responsible investment agenda forward. By working collectively on this agenda through the PRI we can only be more effective.

Ensuring the PRI approaches this mission with the clear mindset of a long-term investor and determination to see the PRI's principles remain grounded in financial materiality with real world impact will be my priority.

I will bring extensive experience, deep connections in the Asia Pacific region, global networks, diversity and the perspective of Australian asset owners to the position representing the world's fourth largest pension system uniquely dominated by defined contribution funds working in a highly regulated and competitive choice environment.

An active Director at Australia's largest corporate superannuation fund, working with other responsible investors within Australia and globally through the networks of the Committee of Workers' Capital (CWC) I have recently lead work on principles-based approaches to asset ownership, Just Transition frameworks for investors, and S factor risk management.

In the evolving world around us, the significance and opportunity for the PRI to shape this evolution in the long-term interests of our beneficiaries and the communities they live in cannot be overstated. I am seeking your vote for me to join the PRI Board to make sure this happens.

BIOGRAPHY

Scott Connolly is a highly experienced and respected leader of the Australian labour movement, serving as Assistant Secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU).

With over 20 years' experience across several critical public and private sectors industries, Scott brings a unique perspective, insight and thought leadership into the financial materiality of real-world risks, their impacts and opportunities for investment decision making, particularly the complex S factors requiring increased focus and attention.

Scott is highly skilled in experienced in public relations, government and community advocacy, strategy, organisational change management, and stakeholder engagement and responsiveness; most recently involved in the Australian Government COVID-19 Emergency response.

Scott is an experienced board director and leader in governance, people and culture, advocacy, community relations, skills, training, communications, remuneration, ESG and responsible investment. He plays a key leadership role in the ITUC's Committee for Workers' Capital (CWC) and has deep networks and insight into the Asia Pacific region.

Experience

- Assistant Secretary, Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) the only national peak union body of Australia's almost 2 million trade union members

- Trustee Director, TelstraSuper – Australia’s largest corporate superannuation fund at \$24B run in the profit to member model
- Director, TelstraSuper Financial Planning
- Member, IFM Investors Strategic Advisory Board – a \$150B global asset manager specialising in infrastructure
- Director, Trade Union Education Foundation
- Member, Red Nose Australia Community Advisory Board – Australian peak advocacy and community group for infant mortality and stillbirth
- Member, Commonwealth of Australia National Workplace Relations Consultation Committee
- Member, ITUC Committee of Workers Capital
- Former Member, ME Bank Strategic Advisory Board
- Former Member, Commonwealth of Australia COVID 19 Australian Skills Commission Emergency Sub-Committee
- Former Member, Commonwealth of Australia COVID 19 Commissions Utilities Sub-Committee

Qualifications

- BA (Hons), University of Sydney, Australia
- Graduate, Harvard University Trade Union Leadership Program
- Graduate, Australian Institute of Company Directors
- Completing – Graduate Certificate of Financial Planning

SIGNATORY ORGANISATION INFORMATION

The Telstra Superannuation Scheme (TelstraSuper) is Australia’s largest corporate, profit-to-member superannuation fund with over AUD \$24 billion in assets under management. TelstraSuper’s investment portfolio spans Australian and international equity markets, property, infrastructure, fixed income, foreign currency and private market investments. The investment portfolio is invested in more than 30 countries across a broad range of sectors.

TelstraSuper’s fundamental objective is to enhance responsibly the financial security of our members in retirement. TelstraSuper believes that Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors affect investment risk and return over the medium to long term. The Fund is evolving its work to incorporate best practice ESG considerations in all aspects of its investment process. TelstraSuper’s [sustainable investment policy](#) applies to all the assets in which the fund invests.

TelstraSuper has been a UN PRI signatory since 2007 and, like many signatories is continuing to develop its approach to responsible investment following the guidelines of the PRI learning from

the leadership of other PRI signatories. The Fund has consistently improved its PRI scores since 2007. The Fund's most recent PRI transparency report can be found [here](#).

As a long-term investor, TelstraSuper believes we have an obligation to act as stewards of the assets in which we invest and behave as active owners to promote good ESG practices. TelstraSuper is a signatory to the Australian Asset Owner Stewardship Code and has [published a statement](#) outlining its approach. TelstraSuper publishes a [Sustainable Investment Bulletin](#) on its activities biennially.

TelstraSuper supports the development of a more sustainable global economy based on the SDGs', and the attainment of the Paris Agreement goals on climate change. In 2021, TelstraSuper adopted a [Climate Change Action Plan](#) for the investment portfolio.

TelstraSuper is an active member of the Australian Council of Superannuation Investors, Investor Group on Climate Change, Climate Action 100+, Climate League 2030, The Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia, The Australian Institute of Superannuation Fund Trustees and is also a signatory to the UN Tobacco Free Finance Pledge.

SPECIFIC EXPERTISE

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE

Scott has over 20 years experience leading, advocating for and directly representing the largest beneficiary group of Australia's \$3 plus trillion dollar superannuation system – working Australians.

As a senior leader he has extensive experience, both nationally and internationally, aligning often diverse interests around commonly held objectives of a more sustainable world at all levels of government and policy development, including in investment forums. Most recently he has been involved in a leadership role as part of the Australian Government's Covid 19 Emergency response.

Previously, Scott has led organisational transformation and change programs in the transport industry demonstrating excellence in governance, communication, and stakeholder engagement.

Scott is a regular participant in governance forums and key industry consultations. He has direct responsibility for stewardship of Australian direct contribution superannuation industry and lead the movement's successful response to the Banking and Financial Services Royal Commission.

Scott is a key member of the International Trade Union's Committee of Workers Capital plays a key role in the leadership team, particularly in the Asia Pacific region. In this capacity he is leading work across sectors, and the globe leveraging the trade union movements support for a Just Transition,

clearer Labour Rights Indicators and principles based mechanisms for asset manager accountability with investors.

Scott is a highly respected Director at TelstraSuper and played a key role in leading the fund's aspiration to be a leader in responsible investment and its response to the climate crisis. His work at IFM Investors is driving its aspirations to be a world leading asset manager in terms of labour rights, just transition and the climate emergency.

Scott's considerable experience, expertise and extensive investor networks will provide the PRI significant opportunity to build on its priorities in these areas.

GENERAL

DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP WITHIN RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT, ESG EXPERTISE AND OTHER EXPERIENCE RELEVANT TO THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF THE PRI.

As a leader passionate about ensuring the voice and priorities of working people are heard and considered at all levels and a trustee director passionate about the benefits of long term sustainable investment, Scott has lead key initiatives drawing the common interest of these two passions together. This has included:

- Developing and Implementing the ACTU Guide for Investors on Labour Rights in the Investment Chain
- Developing and Implementing the ACTU Just Transition Guide for Investors, now being integrated by the Climate 100 Initiative
- Developing and Implementing ACTU Asset Ownership and Management Principles for Investors
- Assisting in the development of the Committee of Workers Capital, Labour Rights Indicators Guide for Investors
- Addressing Australian and International Forums on Just Transition, Best Practice Asset Ownership, ESG Risk Management, and Best Practice Labour risk management and mitigation

With the growing significance of long term asset owners in the investment chain as long term investors focused on sustainable returns for beneficiaries, continuing to balance the real world experience of citizens and communities with the decision making process of investors needs to be a significant priority for the PRI.

Scott is uniquely placed and has the skills and experience to assist the PRI in meeting this priority and ensuring the organisation's long term successes.