

# RIAA Strategy 2020-2022



***Mission:*** The Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA) works to promote, advocate for, and support approaches to responsible investment that align capital with achieving a healthy and sustainable society, environment and economy.

RIAA's 2020-2022 Strategy takes us into a critical decade for action on many important and urgent social, environmental and economic challenges, including addressing climate change consistent with the Paris Agreement and the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Addressing these challenges is a pre-requisite for a healthy and prosperous economy upon which the financial system relies.

The role of finance in achieving these goals is essential.

RIAA's Strategy provides the plan to underpin RIAA as the organisation that provides the platform that helps the finance sector lead on this effort to achieve these critical goals.

## Background

**Championing Responsible Investing and a Sustainable Financial System aligned with a healthy and sustainable society, environment and economy.**

**RIAA’s last Three-Year Plan (FY2016-2019) focused on the growth of responsible investment assets under management. This target was met, with significant growth across our region, and continuing momentum.**

RIAA’s FY2020-2022 Strategy takes us into a critical decade for action on many important and urgent social, environmental and economic challenges, including addressing climate change consistent with the Paris Agreement and the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Addressing these challenges is a pre-requisite for a healthy and prosperous economy upon which the financial system relies. The role of finance in achieving these goals is essential. Responsible investment and sustainable finance must lead that effort.

As RIAA’s first Three-Year Plan in this critical decade, RIAA’s focus is rallying the Australasian financial services sector around the goal of a healthy and sustainable society, environment and economy, in accordance with the mission approved by its members in December 2018.

**RIAA’s shift in emphasis from growth of the sector to its quality and its impact will ensure that the momentum of our growing responsible investment community is directed to fulfilling its promise in creating positive environmental, social and economic impacts.**

This Strategy document sets out the focus areas of RIAA’s work over the coming three years to deliver progress towards our mission. This Strategy will be the first of a series of strategies which reach to 2030.



## Areas of focus

**Building awareness by the investing public** of the benefits of responsible investment and confidence that RI products and services support their needs and expectations



- Providing tools to connect investors based on RIAA being a trusted source of information
- Defining responsible investment standards in a globally robust Certification Program that sets the gold standard for impactful finance
- Supporting the community to engage with and align their own investments towards more sustainable outcomes

**Differentiating investment practices and products** that deliver a healthy and sustainable society, environment and economy



- Articulating and embedding high standards of responsible investment practices that deliver real impacts
- Benchmarking leading practices through our research program

**Encouraging a policy and regulatory environment** that drives the financial system to deliver solutions for our environmental, social and economic challenges



- Leading important work on the policy frameworks needed to unlock finance for this goal
- Building coalitions of support to drive this agenda

**Providing a connected and valuable hub** for engaged and active responsible investment and sustainable finance organisations and practitioners



- Remaining the most active, engaged and valued network of organisations and professionals
- Building the capacity of the industry to deliver strong impact, including through peer learning
- Driving industry standards that streamline measurement and tracking of our industry's contribution.



**At the end of 2018, RIAA members voted to amend RIAA’s Constitution, with changes to RIAA’s Mission, Beliefs and Objects.** Building off this, RIAA’s 2020-2022 Strategy shifts RIAA’s objective from merely growing responsible investing AUM, to promoting, advocating for and supporting those approaches to responsible investment that achieve positive social, environmental and economic impact.

### RIAA’s Mission

To promote, advocate for, and support approaches to responsible investment that align capital with achieving a healthy and sustainable society, environment and economy.

### RIAA’s Statement of Beliefs:

- Investment and ownership practices affect the health and well-being of the environment, society and the economy.
- Regardless of whether they are intended or not, these positive and negative effects confer on investors significant stewardship responsibilities.
- Investment and ownership practices can and should align with society’s needs and objectives, such as those set out in the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.
- Demonstrating effective stewardship is necessary for earning and protecting the trust that is the foundation of the investment industry.

### RIAA’s Objects focus on the following key areas:

- Providing a strong voice for responsible investors in the region, including by influencing policy and regulation to support long-term responsible investment and sustainable capital markets;
- Delivering tools for investors and the broader community to better understand and navigate towards responsible investment products and advice;
- Supporting continuous improvement in responsible investment practice among members and the broader industry through education, benchmarking and promotion of best practice and innovation;
- Acting as a hub for our members, the broader industry and stakeholders to build capacity, knowledge and collective impact;
- Being a trusted source of information about responsible investment with a strong reputation for accuracy and integrity.



### Contact us

**RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT  
ASSOCIATION AUSTRALASIA**

**Level 4, 478 George Street  
Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia**

**+61 2 8228 8100  
info@responsibleinvestment.org  
responsibleinvestment.org**

