AOTEAROA COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP

riaa Responsible Investment Association Australasia



Pre-meeting papers

Aotearoa Collaborative Working Group Meeting #3_2026

Monday 21 September 2026 | 2pm to 3.30pm NZST | 12pm to 1.30pm AEST

By Teams - Those registered to attend will receive the join link one hour prior to the meeting – please see your email inbox.
In Person - To arrive at Craigs Investment Partners, Level 32, Vero Centre, 48 Shortland Street, Auckland CBD. Please report to reception by 1.50pm

Agenda

Time (NZST)	Item	Action required
2:00pm - 2:10pm	**1. Welcome (10 min)** ▪ Karakia ▪ Thank you ▪ Housekeeping ▪ Disclaimer ▪ Principles & purpose ▪ Whakawhanaungatanga	For information
2:10pm - 2:50pm	**2. Unpacking AI, biases and strategic intersection with finance (40 min)** ▪ Antoine Didisheim, Senior Lecturer in Finance, University of Melbourne ▪ Discussion	For information and discussion
2:50pm - 3:10pm	**3. Workstream 3A Update – Connecting (20 min)** ▪ Teahooterangi Pihama, RŌA Consulting, Investment Sector Kaupapa Māori Market Scan (15 mins) ▪ RIAA's Thematic Working Groups Connectors ▪ Centre for Sustainable Finance (CSF) ▪ Financial Markets Authority (FMA) ▪ Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI)	For information
3:10pm - 3:25pm	**4. Workstream 2A Update – Advocating (15 min)** ▪ Alex Safran (Investment ESG Analyst | Pathfinder) ▪ Nayanisha Samarakoon (Head of Policy and Advocacy | RIAA)	For information
3.25pm - 3.30pm	**5. Closing (5 min)** ▪ Next steps ▪ Next meeting will be Thursday, 26 November 2026 2pm - 3:30pm NZDT ▪ Karakia	For information

If possible, please see the current documents available (Terms of Reference) in preparation for the meeting laid out above.

ACWG Workstream 3A – Connectors Update

Update for ACWG Meeting#3_2026

RIAA's Working Groups:

First Nations Peoples' Rights Working Group #3 August 2026
Topic: Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) First Nations Sector
Context:

- Special presentation and Q&A with Justin Agale, First Nations Lead, Membership | AICD.
- The presentation covered the AICD's mission, current priorities and work program in the First Nation's sector.
- Key challenges were discussed, including mindsets, external perceptions, and the need to develop capability and expertise.

Discussion:

- The discussion covered bringing First Nations' governance practice into boardrooms, indigenous-specific governance education, cultural competency and investor expectations, and governance structures and sector reform. Members are considering what steps the working group might take to educate directors and support First Nations' career pathways.

Update:
The meeting received an update on the Māori economy and investment activity in Aotearoa New Zealand from Temuera Hall. A report prepared by TAHITO Ltd summarises growth in the asset base, compares returns with the long-term average, highlights where iwi capital is moving (including across the Tasman), and notes the influence of government policy settings. Link to the update here.

Human Rights Working Group #3 August 2026
Topic: From Human Rights to Systemic Risk: Understanding Inequality and Decent Work
Context:

- Panel discussion facilitated by Antonia Parks (Senior Director, ESG & Stewardship at Australian Super – Workforce Integration, and Co-Chair of RIAA's HRWG), featuring Ashley Kopczynski (Director, Sustainable Investment & Stewardship at IFM Investors and Co-Chair of RIAA's HRWG), Jane Wu (RI Practitioner), Dr Lauren Solomon-Walters (Senior Manager, Sustainability at Perpetual Group), Diana Santibañez (Senior Sustainable Investment Analyst at Mercer and CEO of Professional Migrant Women).

Discussion:

- The session explored inequality and decent work as interconnected human rights, workforce and investment issues. Presenters emphasised that human rights impacts such as discrimination, exclusion, unsafe work, insecure employment and limited worker voice can translate into company-level, portfolio-level and systemic risks. The discussion also focused on practical ways investors can move beyond policy-level disclosures and use stewardship, human rights due diligence and investment decision-making to better identify and respond to people-related risks.

Update:
The meeting received updates on RIAA's policy advocacy on modern slavery in Australia and New Zealand. Sub-groups updated the meeting on work underway in two areas: digital tech and human rights, and defence-related investments.

Nature Working Group #3 September 2026
Topic: Water systems as a key nature-related risk and opportunity for investors

- Dr Celine Steinfeld, CEO of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists

Context:

- The session explored how healthy freshwater systems, water rights and long-term river management are relevant to a nature-positive economy. It highlighted practical investor action across sectors such as agriculture, food production, infrastructure and regional economies, with links to climate adaptation, biodiversity, First Nations rights and long-term resilience.

Highlights to come:

- Further detail will be provided to ACWG meeting #4 as minutes were not available at the time of writing.

Update:
The meeting also received updates from Nature sub-groups working on a compendium of nature case studies and deforestation.

For further information and recording from RIAA's thematic working groups please see the member portal which you can access by completing the following steps:

Please log in to your Member Portal select; Scroll down to Past Working Group meeting → Select the meeting or topic → Access the papers on the left-hand side or the recording at the end of the meeting summary.

Other industry bodies agreed in the workplan:

Centre for Sustainable Finance

- No update provided.

Financial Markets Authority

- The FMA is undertaking an exploratory thematic review to better understand how artificial intelligence (AI) is being used, developed and considered across New Zealand's financial advice sector. As part of the review, they are asking financial advice providers and industry stakeholders to complete a voluntary survey on their experiences and perspectives on AI in financial advice. There are four surveys, each tailored to a specific stakeholder segment: available here.

UN Principles for Responsible Investment

Global outlook

- **The climate policy debate is moving from ambition toward implementation and capital mobilisation.** COP31 will be held in Antalya, Türkiye, in November, with Australia serving as President of Negotiations, giving the summit particular regional relevance. PRI's work ahead of COP31 focuses on the policy and financing conditions needed to turn commitments into investment, including adaptation and mitigation finance, just transition and capital mobilisation in emerging and developing markets, as well as the channels through which investors can engage in the process.
  Further reading: Decoding COP31: a policy engagement guide for investors.
- **Sustainability disclosure is entering an implementation and usability phase.** Across markets, attention is shifting from establishing disclosure requirements to interoperability, proportionality and whether the resulting information is actually usable in investment decisions. PRI research this year identified a growing mismatch between investors' data needs, what disclosure frameworks require and entities' capacity to prepare disclosure, and set out seven recommendations for improving decision-usefulness and global alignment.
  Further reading: Towards decision-useful investor sustainability disclosure.
- **Transition policy is increasingly being tested against whether it creates investable conditions.** PRI's recent work in Japan distinguishes between having a comprehensive transition-policy architecture and translating it into investable pipelines, clearer investor signals and stronger international interoperability. That distinction is relevant well beyond Japan wherever governments expect private capital to help deliver transition objectives.
  Further reading: Transition finance in Japan: Turning policy momentum into investment momentum.

Aotearoa New Zealand

- **New Zealand's current climate-reporting reforms are best read as one connected package rather than separate technical changes.** PRI is engaging across the XRB's Scope 3 amendments to NZ CS 1, MBIE's capital-markets reforms and the XRB's draft climate-reporting roadmap, applying a consistent investor lens: the cumulative effect on the availability, comparability and quality of information institutional investors rely on. As XRB notes in its draft roadmap consultation, New Zealand is in an unusual position internationally: reporting entities would move toward IFRS S2 from an established domestic climate-reporting regime rather than adopting from scratch. That makes the transition a useful test of how global alignment can be achieved without unnecessarily losing information already embedded in a mature domestic framework.
  Further reading: PRI consultation responses on New Zealand climate reporting.

ACWG Workstream 2A – Policy Update

Update for ACWG Meeting#3_2026

XRB Climate Reporting Roadmap discussion and next steps:

Members of ACWG attended a feedback forum hosted by the XRB. The XRB presentation slides can be found here.

The group shared with the XRB a summary of points arising from previous discussions between ACWG members. It was noted that the points (below) are intended to reflect themes raised during discussion and should not be interpreted as representing the views of the ACWG, any individual member, or a consensus position.

The XRB team appreciated the engagement, feedback and the summary points provided.

- Certainty and direction of travel:
    - The roadmap should clearly explain its rationale, including whether the primary objective is alignment with Australia, alignment with ISSB Standards, or a balance of both.
    - Alignment may be particularly important for industry-based guidance, Scope 3 emissions and other areas where comparability matters for investment analysis.
    - Dealing with future changes to the standards should be built into the XRB's approach and, where possible, align with Australian developments unless there is a clear New Zealand-specific reason to diverge.
- Purpose of the regime:
    - The purpose and policy intent of the current Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Standards may not fully align with an IFRS S2-style disclosure framework.
    - Current reporting may not yet be meeting the wider purpose originally intended. This may need to be acknowledged when considering the move to NZ IFRS S2.
    - The roadmap could signpost wider policy incentives and climate transition settings, while recognising that some issues sit outside XRB's remit.
- User and preparer perspectives:
    - Users may prioritise comparability, consistency and timely information. Preparers may prioritise implementation support, transition relief, systems readiness and assurance feasibility. XRB will need to manage this tension.
    - Decision-useful information includes emissions data, transition plans, scenario analysis and information that helps assess resilience and the credibility of transition strategies.
    - Forward-looking information is increasingly important, including how transition plans affect scenario analysis and how entities are positioned against credible transition pathways.
    - Scope 3 emissions and financed emissions are important areas for consistency, particularly for investment analysis and transition assessment.
    - Scenario design should be considered carefully, including whether New Zealand should align with Australia's approach and whether additional scenarios would create unnecessary complexity.
- Implementation, transition and support.
    - Implementation support will be important. Practical guidance, mapping tools, templates and worked examples will help entities move from NZ CS to NZ IFRS S2.

- Long transition periods can support stability but may reduce comparability if entities apply different standards for an extended period.
- The proposed start date for early adoption should allow enough time for consultation, guidance and assurance readiness.
- The transition pathway could include clearer milestones, incentives for earlier adoption or targeted support for smaller or less-resourced entities.

Last meeting Minutes

Meeting #2_2026 – Thursday 25 June 2026

Item	Action required
1. Welcome • Welcome, opening karakia and thanks to host Alvarium Pathfinder. • Disclaimer reiterated: members must comply with competition law and avoid anti-competitive conduct. • Principles of participation. • Whakawhanaungatanga. • Apologies received from Terina Williams, Guillaume Dehan, Alice Jones, Matt Mimms, Ben Nistor, Erica Miles, Alexandra Corbett.	Submit any amendments to these Minutes to Jo Strahan (RIAA's Senior Working Groups Officer)
2. Special presentation and Q&A - AI, data centres and nature deep dive Presented by Liam Hunt , the Head of Sustainability at Generate Zero. Slides are below with accompanying sources and resources. Contact Liam. **Context and Purpose** Bringing together two areas of this group's focus for the year, AI and Nature, this presentation set out the environmental and nature impacts of AI and data centres: energy demand, emissions, water consumption, and resource use. **Setting the scope** The presentation focused largely on the 'Generative Artificial Intelligence' (Gen-AI) including large language models (LLM) and generative pre-trained transformer (GPT) models like Gemini and Claude. **Why this matters now** The scale and global reach of the environmental and social impacts associated with data centres remain difficult to quantify. Differences in reporting approaches, selective disclosures, and inconsistent accounting methodologies across major cloud service providers can make it challenging to compare performance and assess impacts. At the same time, sustainability professionals are seeking to contribute meaningfully to organisational discussions about the responsible deployment of AI. **Environmental impacts of AI** • Quantifying the environmental and social impacts of AI remains challenging due to limited and inconsistent data. However, the session highlighted the significant scale of potential impacts across four key areas: energy, emissions, water and resource use.	For information.

- Location is an important consideration when assessing greenhouse gas emissions. Much of New Zealand's AI-related cloud processing occurs in Australian data centres, particularly in Victoria and New South Wales, where more than half of electricity generation is fossil fuel-based. By comparison, New Zealand's electricity generation is more than 80% renewable.
- Growing demand for AI is increasing electricity consumption, including demand during peak periods when fossil fuel generation may be required. The session also noted that new electricity generation and infrastructure is being developed in some regions to support expanding data centre capacity.
- The presenter argued that current emissions reporting by some technology companies does not always provide a complete picture of AI's emissions footprint. In particular, differences between market-based Scope 2 reporting, operational renewable energy commitments, and the emissions associated with ongoing data centre construction can make comparisons difficult.
- Estimates of emissions intensity and water use were presented to illustrate the lack of consistent, publicly available data. The available evidence suggests that AI infrastructure has global environmental impacts, including increased pressure on regions already experiencing water scarcity or biodiversity loss.
- Estimating the resource demands of data centres is also challenging due to limited supply chain transparency. The presentation highlighted growing demand for minerals such as copper, cobalt and coltan, noting concerns about future supply constraints and the environmental and social impacts associated with mining in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo.

What can be done

Individuals can take action to reduce impacts now by:

- Minimising use of AI (type “-ai”) in the search
- Use the right model for the job
- Reduce ‘token count’ (a basic measurement unit that determines how much a request costs) by only sending what is relevant to the task. Avoid unnecessary photos and videos.
- Keep using computer hardware as long as possible

Practical steps within enterprises were provided (refer useful links in presentation):

- Ally with FinOps to deliver sustainability outcomes
- Conduct a maturity assessment
- Engage in the supply chain
- Develop meaningful performance indicators

For RI professionals, the pertinent questions arising were outlined:

- Are these financially sustainable businesses?
- What securities are in place?
- What are the red lines for exclusion?
- Are there opportunities in diversifying away from big tech?

Discussion highlights

The presentation was warmly welcomed and a wide-ranging discussion ensued.

- For investors, the lack of accurate and detailed data to provide evidence over time and support the case for financial materiality were problematic.
- Compliance and audit requirements were noted as drivers of enterprise measurement and management of emissions.

- It was suggested that data centres' true impacts be evaluated in a geographical context. AI users have no insight into that.
- There is a need for differentiated reporting at individual asset level considering both context and supply chain.
- Another issue is the lack of standard impact measures and methodologies in reporting.
- Some similarity to the issue of modern slavery - in that Mapping down the supply chain level is required but can be challenging.
- It was highlighted that there are implications of removing components of the data centres from balance sheets (shifting from capex / ownership to opex / rent).
- The point was made that best practice technology (eg closed loop water cooling), is not adopted as standard.
- Members noted that data centres' resource demands occur throughout the development, training and use of Gen-AI models.
- Maturity assessments were noted as a useful approach to identifying hot spots in investment portfolios, with the proviso that cost/spend analysis is not sufficient and data from the hyperscalers are not reliable.
- There are products on the market that can estimate emissions to the token level for specific Gen-AI models. However, not all tokens are created equal even within the same model and there are many variables.
- Tech companies' claims that it is "too hard" to find their impact data are disingenuous.
- Any efficiency gains arising through the development of Gen-AI models are being offset by the growth mindset, in which models are trained on ever-larger data sets.

3. Workstream 2A Update - Advocating

Workstream 2A update

Submission/consultation	Date
CSF - NZ Taxonomy Energy criteria consultation	10 July 2026
Modern Slavery - RIAA's oral submission, joint statement and full written submission on the Modern Slavery Bill in Dean Hegarty's Post | LinkedIn	Updates from RIAA
RIAA's NZ Policy Platform – ACWG member survey	Updates from RIAA
NZX - Consultation on NZX Listing Rules and NZX Corporate Governance Code, and the introduction of a new Guidance Note to enable dual class share structures.	10 July 2026
FMA - Publication of Sustainability-related disclosure guidance.	Closed

Financial Markets Authority

Members received an overview of the key themes that were raised by submitters on the FMA's Sustainability-related disclosure guidance, how the FMA responded and how the guidance changed as a result. More details are available in the slides below. However, RIAA reported FMA were appreciative of the ACWG's feedback and were

To sign on to the statement on modern slavery, or if you have any questions, please email policy@

encouraging of this process taking place for future consultation, proving the value of the efforts of the RIAA ACWG Advocacy Work Stream **RIAA policy and advocacy** • RIAA's submission supported the Modern slavery bill with suggestions to improve clarity and workability. ACWG were thanked for their input. RIAA coordinated a statement with 32 signatories; further sign-ons are welcome. The Select Committee is working through submissions and sponsoring MPs are hopeful to conclude before the general election. • It was noted that a variety of factors including resources, timeframes and internal approval processes impact on members' ability to submit individually. • Work has started on RIAA's Aotearoa New Zealand 2026 policy platform, setting out high level policy platform for Government not a particular party. It focuses on the factors that best align with RIAA's mission to move capital to improve social and environmental outcomes and forms a basis for follow-ups with ministers after the election. • A short survey for members of this group to provide feedback to ten key priorities will be emailed and will be open for one week. • The 2026 RIAA policy platform will be launched at the RIAA NZ Conference on 22 September.	responsibleinvestment.org
4. Workstream 3A - Connecting • Members received updates from RIAA's thematic working groups and the nominated external entities (except from the PRI – we continue to request this from them) in the pre-meeting papers. No questions were raised and they were taken as read. ▪ Māori investment wananga: Members were encouraged to complete a short on-line survey as part of a market evaluation funded by Trust Waikato. ▪ Members will also receive an invitation from RIAA to volunteer for one of the three pou: ○ Mātauranga – How Māori values, knowledge systems and worldviews influence investment practice and decision-making. ○ Ara Ake – Māori participation and leadership across the sector, from entry-level roles through to executive and governance positions. ○ Te Haumi – Engagement with Māori investors, communities and Māori-led investment opportunities through partnership and collaboration.	For information. If you have questions or need support, please contact Jess Rowe
5. Closing ▪ Co-Chairs and Workstream volunteers thanked, and the next meeting date noted. ▪ The next meeting will be Monday 21 September | 2pm to 3.30pm NZST / 12pm to 1.30pm AEST. Register here. ▪ Closing karakia.	If you can host a future meeting, please reach out to Jo Strahan

Action Register

Last updated: Thursday, 25 June 2026

Ref.	Action	Delegation	Status
New			

7/26	Submit any amendments to these Minutes to Jo Strahan (RIAA's Working Groups Officer).	All	Ongoing
6/26	To sign on to the statement on modern slavery, or if you have any questions, please email policy@responsibleinvestment.org	All	Ongoing
Previous			
5/26	Follow up with Financial Services Council (FSC) to see what work they are continuing on voluntary reporting and how the ACWG might be able to get involved.	RT	Ongoing
4/26	If you can host a future meeting, please reach out to Jo Strahan	All	Ongoing
3/26	Share any ideas to progress the Modern Slavery legislation with Jess Rowe.	All	Closed
2/26	If you would like to join the workstream volunteers, please email Jess Rowe.	All	Ongoing
1/26	Submit any amendments to these Minutes to Jo Strahan (RIAA's Working Groups Officer).	All	Closed