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First State Super submission on the proposed fourth edition of the Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations

On behalf of First State Super I am pleased to make this submission to the ASX Corporate Governance Council (Council) on the fourth edition of the Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations (Principles and Recommendations).

First State Super was established in 1992 and today, have more than 750,000 members. The majority of our members are employed in the public sector, education, health and community services, police and emergency services. We are a 'profit to members' fund. We are the custodians of an asset pool of over \$75bn, combining superannuation and retirement savings. Our underlying philosophy is 'members first' and our purpose is 'To build a better future for all Australians'.

First State Super is a signatory to the UN supported Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI) and believe that as stewards of our members' retirement savings, we have a duty to act in their best interests and to protect and grow the real value of their assets. Perhaps most importantly, we have an obligation to ensure that the companies we invest in on behalf of members are governed in a way which will enhance their performance over the longer term. We believe that good governance is essential to being able to generate the best financial outcome for members. Additionally, we take an interest in the environmental and social practices of the listed companies in which we invest. We believe companies that take a sustainable approach to the environment and to the community, including their own workforce, will perform better over the long term.

We welcome the proposed fourth edition of the Principles and Recommendations, which reflect evolving perspectives in best practice corporate governance and include a greater emphasis on values, ethics and broader stakeholder accountability.

We strongly support the submission made by the Australian Council of Superannuation Investors (ACSI) on the proposed amendments which we consider will strengthen the Principles and Recommendations and successfully address a range of contemporary governance concerns, including; social licence to operate, corporate values and culture, whistleblower rules, anti-bribery and corruption policies, diversity, corporate reporting and climate-related disclosures.

In our view, the proposed amendments and additions will provide investors and other stakeholders with improved insight into the robustness and effectiveness of listed entities governance programs.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss any aspect of our submission.

Yours sincerely

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first & foremost for you