

UniSuper – Sustainable Balanced & Sustainable High Growth options

Ethical Survey, as voted by members of the Ethical Advisers Co-Op



Disappointing

Poor | Disappointing | Average | Appealing | Excellent

As voted by Ethical Adviser Co-op members. Find a specialised ethical adviser near you: www.ethicaladviserscoop.org/find-an-adviser.html

Fund Overview

These are actively managed multi-asset investment options within the UniSuper super fund. They have negative filters.

Ethical Concerns

Investments

- ✘ UniSuper does not disclose its full list of holdings. Instead, only the major [holdings](#) are publicly disclosed.
- ✘ Some visible investments in the [Sustainable Balanced](#) and [Sustainable High Growth](#) options may be a concern for ethical investors, including:
 - Fossil-fuel intensive industries: Transurban Ltd and Sydney Airport
 - Uranium: Rio Tinto
 - Other holdings with ethical concerns: big four banks.

Other concerns

- ✘ UniSuper does not fully engage with voting international shares. Instead, UniSuper uses Glass Lewis, an international proxy advisory service, to inform its voting options ([pg4](#)). This may be a concern for some ethical investors, as UniSuper is not actively engaged in how it votes at Annual General Meetings internationally.
- ✘ Across all super options (not just the Sustainable Options), UniSuper generally voted against shareholder resolutions on climate issues at Annual General Meetings. This includes resolutions calling on Oz Minerals Ltd, Rio Tinto Ltd and Santos Ltd to improve climate risk disclosure and report emissions.
- ✘ UniSuper do not specialise in ethical investments.

Good Points

- ✓ The Sustainable Balanced and Sustainable High Growth options look to invest in companies that are considered sustainability leaders. They also exclude companies involved in tobacco, alcohol, gambling, weapons, fossil fuel exploration and production.
- ✓ Commitment to transparency by being [UNPRI](#) signatory and [RIAA](#) certified.
- ✓ Average transparency with [voting history](#) via public website. UniSuper discloses all voting for Australian companies and the top 100 largest holdings in international companies.
- ✓ UniSuper has also disclosed climate change as a material business risk and [calculates](#) its carbon footprint every few years.

About the 'Ethical Survey'

About the Ethical Advisers Co-Op

The Ethical Advisers Co-op is a group of 35 financial advisers who are passionate about ethics and finance. The Co-op was established as a not-for-profit over 10 years ago to enable likeminded financial advisers to work together to represent the voice of the consumer. We work to shift the super and investment industry into being more ethically aligned with their clients' objectives. The Co-op's nationwide membership of ethical financial advisers help over 3,300 Australians make financial decisions and invest in line with their ethical values.

How the Leaf-System Works

The ethical rating is voted by Australian financial advisers who specialise in ethical investments (Co-op members). The advisers assess if fund ethics suit their average ethical client, and if it matches with the average client's expectations and objectives. The advisers consider how successful the fund is at; 1) removing industries and stocks harmful to the environment and society 2) including companies with environmental or social benefits, and 3) providing evidence of actions from the fund which benefit society and/or the environment. The quality of information the fund provides on its ethical policies, companies invested in, and proxy voting is important in assessing if a fund is as ethical as claimed. The final rating is an average of these votes.

Financial advisers are voluntarily participating to help ethical consumers gain a quick understanding of how the clients of a group of industry professionals view the ethics of each fund. The Co-op and the advisers do not receive any form of remuneration or reward for participating.

Further Research

Does your fund walk the talk?

The Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR) – a not-for-profit shareholder advocacy organisation – pushes for transparency around whether your super fund 'walks the talk' on issues such as climate and human rights. You can find details on your super fund [here](#).

Is your fund investing in fossil fuels?

Market Forces is a not-for-profit delivering transparency on fossil fuel lending, insuring and investing within super funds, banks and insurance companies. You can see how exposed your super fund, bank or insurance company is to the fossil fuel industry [here](#).

If the fund is certified by the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA)

You can find more ethical and investment information for certified funds [here](#).

More information on this fund

For exact details of the fund's claimed ethics, costs and legal details see the fund's Product Disclosure Statement - available on their website.

Vote based on information last updated 1st March 2019