H1 2025 SEMI-ANNUAL

Stewardship Report

Our approach

Our approach to stewardship

VanEck is committed to using its influence to maximise the long term welfare of investors for whom we are managing investment assets. Factors we consider vital to this long term welfare include both the financial value of investment assets and also broader matters such as environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues.

As an index tracking asset manager, we consider it as part of our fiduciary obligations to make the best use of this influence on behalf of our investors.

The approach that we take as an involved owner of the portfolio companies can best be described as 'investment stewardship'. This entails exercising our influence through:

- voting;
- engagement; and
- advocacy.

Our priorities include:

- board quality;
- environmental and social issues;
- executive remuneration;
- capital management;
- corporate deals such as mergers & acquisitions
- dissipating shareholder rights; and
- auditor rotation.

Note that there is no universally accepted ESG criteria to assess companies, ETFs or other funds around the world. This means the approach used to determine what is a 'good' or 'bad' ESG rating varies significantly across research bodies and fund managers, ranging from superficial applications of ESG metrics to more comprehensive approaches. .

Half-year in review

VanEck Investments Limited, voted on 21,636 management proposals. Additionally, we engaged 33 companies directly during the first half of 2025 across various countries and sectors.

A copy of our latest stewardship policy is available here.

Voting

A right to vote is the most influential and impactful legal right that arises from owning shares. Our main avenue for influencing companies we have invested in is voting in each company's formal proceedings. Voting decisions are made on a case-by-case basis within the framework of VanEck's voting guidelines.

We vote against a company's proposals if we believe that the issue under consideration does not meet our voting guidelines.

We have chosen to use proxy agent, Glass Lewis & Co., LLC (Glass Lewis), that votes on our behalf and who have developed a specific set of ESG proxy voting guidelines which closely align with our views and in our opinion satisfy the high standards expected of a fiduciary. The ESG overlay is applied across all the equity funds that we manage, not just on the ESG themed funds. We also have the option to override the Glass Lewis recommendation should we deem their recommendation as not in the best interest of investors.

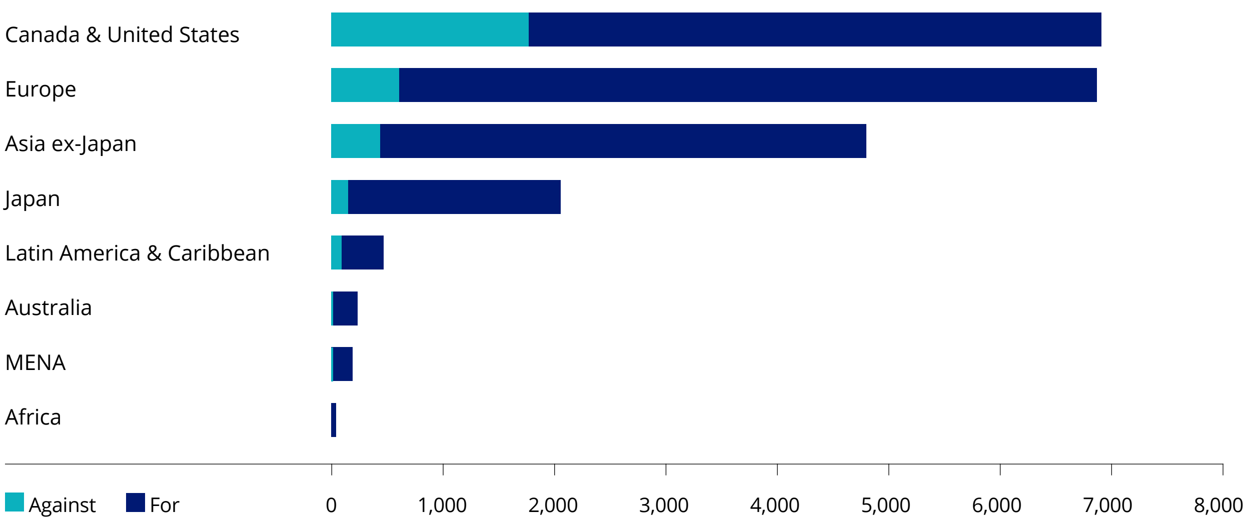
Statistics

VanEck is committed to using its influence to maximise the long-term welfare of investors for whom we are managing investment assets.

GLOBAL H1 2025
Votes by region

Region	% against management	Total votes
Africa	2%	52
Asia ex-Japan	9%	4,801
Australia	13%	226
Canada & United States	26%	6,951
Europe	9%	6,877
Japan	8%	2,054
Latin America & Caribbean	22%	487
MENA	11%	188
Total	**15%**	**21,636**

Source: Glass Lewis, VanEck.



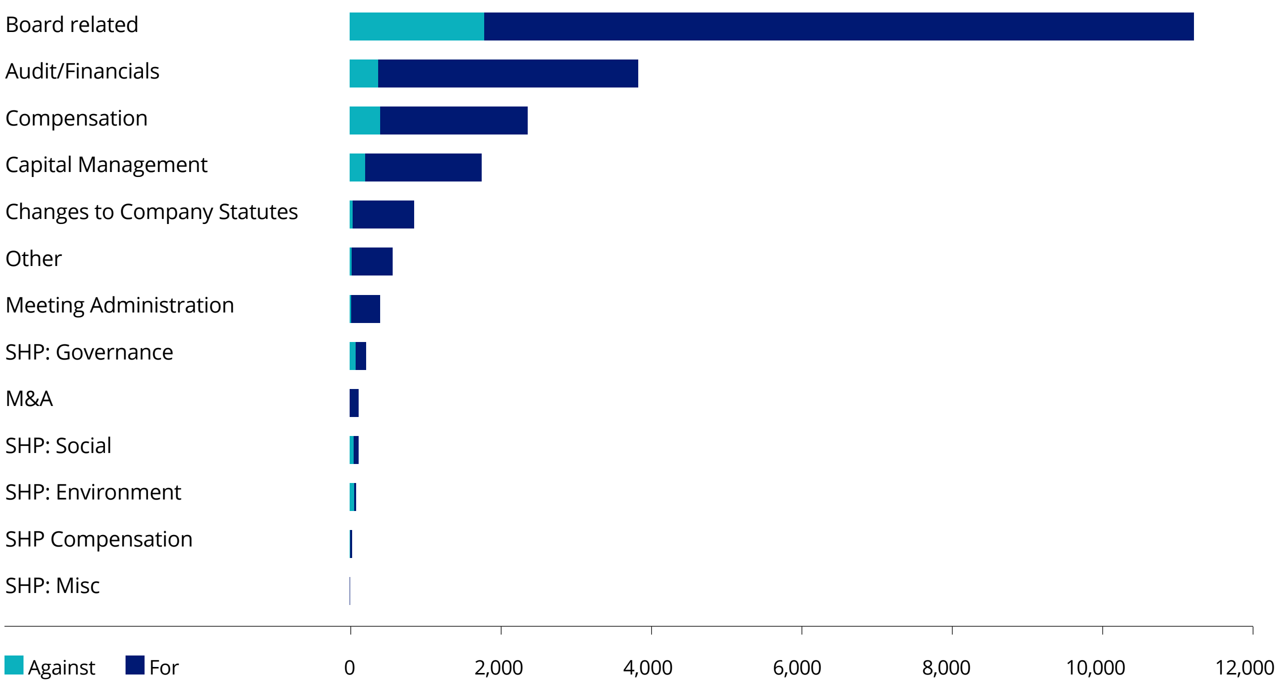
Source: Glass Lewis, VanEck.

GLOBAL H1 2025

Votes against management recommendations by proposal type

Proposal type	% against management	Total votes
Audit/Financials	10%	3,834
Board Related	16%	11,227
Capital Management	12%	1,742
Changes to Company Statutes	5%	870
Compensation	18%	2,377
M&A	4%	137
Meeting Administration	5%	399
Other	6%	585
SHP: Compensation	43%	44
SHP: Environment	85%	68
SHP: Governance	43%	207
SHP: Misc	20%	10
SHP: Social	54%	136
Total	**15%**	**21,636**

Source: Glass Lewis, VanEck. SHP: shareholder proposals.



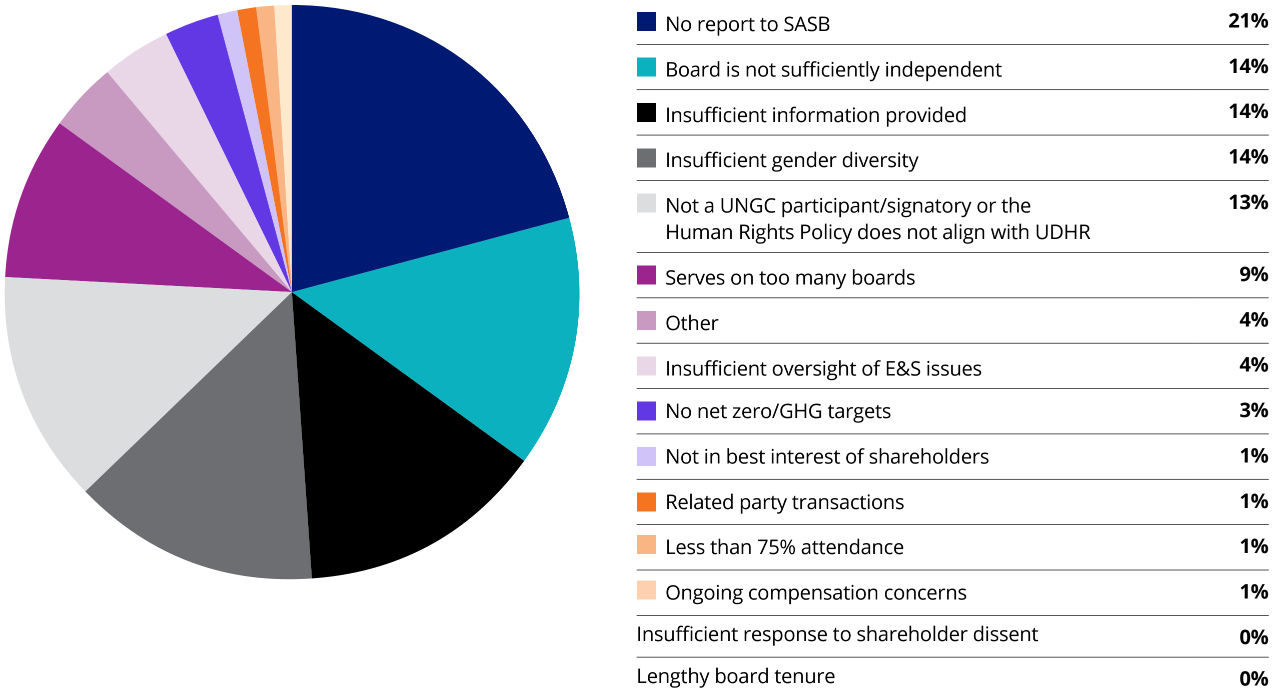
Source: Glass Lewis, VanEck.

GLOBAL H1 2025

Reasons for voting against director nominations

Reasons	Total
No report to SASB	369
Board is not sufficiently independent	248
Insufficient information provided	244
Insufficient gender diversity	243
Not a UNGC participant/signatory OR the Human Rights Policy does not align with UDHR	239
Serves on too many boards	156
Other	76
Insufficient oversight of E&S issues	67
No net zero/GHG targets	51
Board failed to act in interests of shareholders	26
Related party transactions	21
Less than 75% attendance	18
Ongoing compensation concerns	12
Insufficient response to shareholder dissent	9
Excessive tenure	8
Total	**1,787**

Source: Glass Lewis, VanEck.



Source: Glass Lewis, VanEck.

Company Engagements

Company Engagements

We supplement voting by engaging with the companies we invest. Engagement can take many forms. For the first half of 2025, we had 33 direct company engagements. As we continue to grow as an asset manager, we are committed to growing our capacity to engage with companies, directly or through third parties, to influence well informed and sustainable business decisions in the long-term.

We believe engaging with companies should not be limited to one off conversations, but rather a continuous dialogue to achieve desirable financial and ESG outcomes.

Engagement may involve the advocacy of our particular point of view, but often, simply letting the company know that we've considered a particular issue.

The main triggers for us to engage include:

1. Level 1 meetings, such as high-profile companies, M&A, companies under significant controversy and contested meetings flagged by Glass Lewis;
2. ESG rating downgrade noted by rating agencies;
3. Being a significant shareholder on the register, or significant shareholding in dollar value;
4. Direct engagement with the company on relevant news headlines;
5. Direct engagement with the company upon its active outreach; and
6. Direct engagement with the company prior to an AGM.

The following table lists the companies we engaged with during the six months ended 30 June 2025.

Company	Country	Recurring engagement	Board related	Business strategies	Capital management	E & S	Executive remuneration
Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd	Canada					✔	
AMP	Australia		✔			✔	✔
ASE Technology Holding Co., Ltd.	Taiwan					✔	
Atlas Arteria Group	Australia		✔			✔	✔
BYD Company Ltd	China			✔	✔		
Charter Hall Group	Australia	✔				✔	
Charter Hall Long WALE REIT	Australia	✔				✔	
Citigroup Inc.	US		✔				✔
CBA (Commonwealth Bank of Australia)	Australia	✔				✔	
CSL	Australia					✔	
Deterra Royalties Ltd	Australia					✔	
Dexus	Australia	✔		✔	✔	✔	
Emaar Properties	UAE			✔	✔		
Fastenal Company	US					✔	
Goodman Group	Australia	✔	✔	✔		✔	
Helios Towers	UK			✔	✔		
Lynas Rare Earths Ltd	Australia	✔				✔	
Medibank Private Ltd	Australia					✔	
Mineral Resources Ltd	Australia		✔			✔	
Mirvac Group	Australia	✔		✔	✔	✔	
Neuren Pharmaceuticals	Australia					✔	
Orica Ltd	Australia			✔		✔	
Paladin Energy Ltd	Australia	✔				✔	
Prosus	The Netherlands						
REA Group Ltd	Australia		✔			✔	✔
Rio Tinto	UK/Australia		✔		✔	✔	
SGX (Singapore Exchange)	Singapore					✔	
SK Hynix	South Korea			✔	✔		
South32 Ltd	Australia					✔	
Stockland	Australia			✔		✔	
Transurban Group	Australia				✔	✔	
Westpac Banking Corporation	Australia	✔		✔		✔	
Worley Ltd	Australia	✔	✔			✔	

✔ Primary topic of engagement

AEM

Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd

Ticker: AEM | **Country:** Canada | **Sector:** Materials (Gold Mining) | **Shareholder position:** Top 3

VanEck engaged with Agnico Eagle to discuss recent ESG developments, stakeholder engagement, and enhancements to its risk and sustainability frameworks.

ESG initiatives

During 2024, Agnico Eagle updated its Sustainability and Indigenous Peoples Policies and launched several targeted programs, including the *Inunnguiniq* initiative addressing food security and mental health in Nunavut. The company also expanded its air quality monitoring in Australia, rolled out new leadership and digital literacy programs, and formalised its first collaboration agreement with traditional owners in Victoria. A CAD $1 million donation to Timmins District Hospital reflects its ongoing community investment.

Stakeholder engagement

The company maintains a structured and inclusive engagement model across the mine life cycle. It prioritises transparency, local language accessibility, and inclusion of Indigenous voices through advisory groups and tailored employment platforms. In Nunavut, programs like *Sanajiksanut* and *Tusaajugut* support local hiring and feedback, while committees like *Beyond Meadowbank* help guide mine closure planning and legacy investment.

Risk management

Agnico Eagle's Risk Management and Monitoring System (RMMS) underpins its ESG oversight. The company launched RMMS V2 to align with evolving sustainability standards and support its global growth. The upgraded system enhances ESG risk identification, integration, and responsiveness.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Implementation of the Reconciliation Action Plan is well underway, with over 70 per cent of actions initiated or completed. The company has fulfilled all leadership and governance commitments except the finalisation of its Indigenous Advisory Committee.

AMP

AMP Ltd

Ticker: AMP | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Financials | **Shareholder position:** Top 30

VanEck engaged with AMP Ltd to discuss recent ESG developments, risk governance, diversity progress, and the alignment of executive incentives with long-term performance.

ESG developments

In 2024, AMP advanced a broad range of sustainability initiatives. It marked the 10th year of its financial wellness research, offering insights into the financial pressures faced by Australians. AMP also launched an AI Centre of Excellence to strengthen internal governance and ensure the responsible use of artificial intelligence. Gender representation reached the company's 40:40:20 targets across the board, executive, and broader workforce levels.

Sustainability reporting

AMP released its 2024 Sustainability Report, which highlights progress across its ESG pillars. Key takeaways from the report are summarised in Slide 8 of the company's FY24 Investor Presentation.

ESG risk management

AMP approaches ESG risk through an integrated risk framework. The company engages with evolving policy, regulatory, and industry dialogues to shape effective outcomes for customers and stakeholders. Climate-related risk assessments are conducted across AMP's investment, lending, and operational activities, with preparations underway for adoption of Australia's new AASB S2 standards from FY25.

Management's long-term incentive alignment

The proposed 2025 Long-Term Incentive (LTI) grant for CEO Alexis George is structured to align with long-term financial and ESG performance. Seventy per cent of the award is based on AMP's compound annual growth in total shareholder return (TSR) relative to a peer group of ASX 200 financials (excluding A-REITs), assessed over a three-year period. Vesting is conditional on achieving a positive absolute TSR, even if relative targets are met.

The remaining 30 per cent is linked to reputation outcomes, measured through RepTrak's ESG-weighted index, which includes factors such as conduct, citizenship, and product responsibility. The structure complies with APRA's CPS 511 requirements and is designed to reinforce executive accountability to long-term shareholder value and sustainability outcomes.

3711 TT

ASE Technology Holding Co., Ltd.

Ticker: 3711 TT | **Country:** Taiwan | **Sector:** Semiconductors / Technology | **Shareholder position:** Top 150

VanEck engaged with ASE Technology Holding Co., Ltd. (ASEH) to assess recent ESG initiatives, stakeholder engagement practices, risk management frameworks, and progress on sustainability and employee well-being.

Recent ESG initiatives

ASEH has continued to evolve its ESG strategy through a series of proactive initiatives. Notably, it has invested in sustainability-focused venture funds aimed at supporting Taiwan's green technology ecosystem.

Stakeholder engagement

ASEH maintains close collaboration with government bodies and is deeply engaged in community development, particularly among underserved populations. Its community investment efforts include beach clean-ups, upgrades to school infrastructure (e.g., energy-efficient lighting and air conditioning), and installation of solar-powered UPS systems. The company has also established kindergartens and elder day care centres, which provide both employee support and public service value, easing pressure on local infrastructure.

ESG risk and accountability

ESG risk management at ASEH is integrated across all dimensions, including environmental, social, and governance. Each project undergoes a cross-functional internal review process to ensure sound and responsible decision-making. ASEH remains mindful of reputational risks and avoids controversial instruments such as REDD+.

Sustainability targets and progress

ASEH has committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050 and a 20 per cent reduction in energy consumption by 2030. It is also expanding its efforts to improve Scope 3 emissions performance in line with its Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) commitments, with a particular focus on upstream supply chain engagement.

Staff training and non-salary benefits

To continue to improve employee experience and retention, ASEH offers a broad range of employee benefits and upskilling opportunities. The company provides free professional development programs that enhance employee career progression and compensation outcomes. Parental leave policies exceed Taiwan's legal requirements, and the HR team remains proactive in monitoring regulatory changes to further enhance benefit structures within operational boundaries.

ALX

Atlas Arteria Group

Ticker: ALX | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Infrastructure (Toll Roads) | **Shareholder position:** Top 20

VanEck engaged with Atlas Arteria to assess recent ESG progress, risk governance, diversity initiatives, and executive remuneration alignment.

ESG initiatives

ALX achieved its 2025 emissions reduction target (25 per cent cut in Scope 1 and 2 emissions from 2019 levels) one year early through fleet electrification, energy efficiency, and full renewable electricity sourcing. Safety training expanded across all assets, and community initiatives included over US$240,000 raised at Dulles Greenway's charity event. Employee engagement remained high (96 per cent participation), with a focus on wellbeing and workplace conduct.

Stakeholder engagement

ALX maintains structured engagement with communities, investors, regulators, and other stakeholders. Key initiatives are detailed annually in its Sustainability Report.

ESG risk management

ESG risks are integrated into the enterprise risk framework. Climate risks are stress-tested under multiple scenarios with defined mitigations.

Remuneration and shareholder response

Following a strike at the 2023 AGM, ALX revised its remuneration framework in 2024. Key changes included higher weighting for financial (70 per cent) and ESG/safety KPIs (15 per cent) in STI, a longer LTI performance period, and the addition of Free Cash Flow per security as a metric. CEO pay was benchmarked to peers, with increased equity-based incentives to drive long-term alignment.

Governance and board independence

Despite IFM's 29.88 per cent holding and two board nominees, the board retains a majority of independent directors and an independent Chair. IFM representatives are bound by conflict-of-interest protocols and ASX Corporate Governance Principles to safeguard minority shareholder interests.

BYD

BYD Company Ltd

Tickers: 002594 | **Country:** China | **Sector:** Consumer discretionary | **Shareholder position:** Top 250

VanEck engaged with the company to discuss business updates given the ongoing technology war between the US and China.

Overview

For 2025, BYD aims to reach 5.5 million vehicle sales, a significant leap from 4.7 million in 2024, with overseas sales targeted at 800,000 units—almost doubling the previous year's international sales. This reflects an aggressive push toward global market penetration and technology leadership.

International expansion strategy

- Key Milestones:
  - Overseas monthly sales surged to 70,000–80,000 units in Q1 2025, primarily hybrid models that meet localised specifications.
  - Operational manufacturing bases now live in Uzbekistan and Thailand; Brazil and Hungary will commence by end of 2025.
  - Cambodia facility under development; negotiations ongoing in Turkey, Indonesia, and Mexico.
- Forecast to have 1 to 2 million units' overseas capacity by 2030.

Technology and product development

- Product differentiation:
  - Vehicles > 200k RMB: Equipped with Lidar-based intelligent systems.
  - Vehicles within 100 – 200k RMB: Light ADAS systems offered via BYD platform.
- Customer education: as awareness remains low, pricing strategies favour ADAS adoption over immediate profit.
- Battery Innovation:
  - Supercharge technology: BYD's 10C triple charge roll-out shook industry norms, leveraging vertically integrated energy storage to mitigate grid impact.
  - Competitive advantage: unlike CATL, BYD owns the full stack including infrastructure to support ultra-fast charging without external coordination.

Regional strategy: China vs global markets

China:

- direct-payment consumers, mature NEV market, high tolerance for competition.
- sales cycle trends: destocking non-ADAS inventory with around 4k RMB discounts during peak months (May–June); transition toward tech-driven competitiveness.

Global Markets:

- Europe model: leasing-centric ecosystem with dealer reliance; lower price sensitivity and less competition.
- Manufacturing approach: CKD operations with high automation for body processes; electric components still shipped from China.

CHC

Charter Hall Group & Charter Hall Long WALE REIT

Tickers: CHC (Group), CLW (REIT) | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Real Estate | **Shareholder position:** Top 20 in CHC, Top 10 in CLW

VanEck engaged with Charter Hall to assess ESG progress, stakeholder engagement, risk management, and workforce strategy across both entities.

ESG initiatives

Charter Hall maintained Australia's largest Green Star Performance rated portfolio across office, retail, and logistics sectors. The company strengthened its partnership with the International WELL Building Institute, achieving the country's largest WELL at Scale and Health & Safety ratings. Other highlights included a 71 per cent reduction in Scope 2 emissions, an 81 per cent clean energy usage rate, increased landfill waste diversion, and strengthened frameworks on circular economy and natural capital.

Stakeholder engagement

Charter Hall follows a co-creation approach to stakeholder engagement, grounded in long-term relationships and responsive feedback loops. Stakeholders include employees, investors, tenants, suppliers, communities, governments, and First Nations groups. Engagement is guided by the scale of business impact and includes board- and executive-level interactions, investor roadshows, and targeted community partnerships.

ESG risk management

Environmental and social risks are integrated into Charter Hall's strategic risk registers and considered through acquisition due diligence, development project controls, and asset-level planning. In recent months, the company undertook a double materiality assessment to better align future reporting and strategy refinement with evolving ESG expectations.

Employee experience and retention

Although CLW has no direct employees, CHC leads workforce strategy across the group. In 2024, Charter Hall achieved 89 per cent employee engagement (well above national norms) and maintained 95 per cent participation in its annual culture survey. The company offers curated wellbeing programs and structured development pathways, including partnerships with UTS and Western Sydney University, and newly launched industry programs to attract women into capital transactions and leasing.

All employees received mandatory training in ESG-related topics, and Charter Hall launched its 'Innovate' Reconciliation Action Plan. A pay-for-performance model with LTI and STI deferral is in place to retain top talent. For CLW, the CEO's STI was mandatorily deferred into CLW securities, aligning leadership incentives with fund performance.

Citigroup Inc.

Ticker: C | **Country:** United States | **Sector:** Financials | **Shareholder position:** Top 700

VanEck engaged with Citigroup to discuss executive compensation and governance practices.

Executive Remuneration

The discussion focused on the rationale for Mr. Raghavan's compensation package. Citi noted that the supplemental disclosure was voluntarily provided to improve transparency. The package was benchmarked against peers, with considerations including his relocation and UK tenure. A significant equity component was designed to align with long-term shareholder interests.

Regarding performance and retention, Citi emphasised that the structure prioritises long-term value creation, with equity incentives supporting retention and outcome-based performance metrics.

Governance Practices

On governance practices, the Board acknowledged previous shareholder feedback and committed to evolving its compensation framework. The 2025 structure is still under review, with adjustments expected to reflect market conditions and investor expectations.

CBA

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Ticker: CBA | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Financials | **Shareholder position:** Top 65

VanEck met with CBA to discuss key ESG topics, including cybersecurity, AI governance, stakeholder engagement, and overall ESG risk oversight.

ESG initiatives

CBA reaffirmed its commitment to ESG integration across business operations. The bank continues its divestment from non-core assets while aligning with sustainability priorities. Key focus areas include workforce diversity, employment stability, and transparency in sustainable finance practices. ESG remains positioned as a long-term strategic pillar.

Stakeholder engagement

CBA highlighted its Community Engagement Strategy, with funding directed toward education, housing, disaster relief, regional development, Indigenous partnerships, and youth financial literacy. The bank stressed the importance of local engagement, particularly during periods of structural industry change.

ESG risk management

The bank operates a Group-wide ESG Risk Assessment process covering climate, social, and reputational factors. The framework includes scenario analysis, stress testing, and board oversight. Risk reporting is aligned with global frameworks such as TCFD and ISSB, with disclosures updated in the FY24 Sustainability Report.

Data privacy and cybersecurity

CBA provided updates following prior privacy and data security concerns. Enhancements since 2023 include AI-based fraud detection, stronger encryption and monitoring protocols, and investment in cybersecurity infrastructure via x15 ventures. A new Data Ethics Framework has been adopted to guide responsible handling of sensitive data.

Responsible AI integration

CBA is piloting "Hey CommBank," a generative AI chatbot for customer service. The rollout is governed by responsible AI principles, including human oversight, internal ethical review, and privacy guardrails. CBA is also offering transition pathways and upskilling opportunities for impacted staff, particularly those in call centre roles.

CSL

CSL Ltd

Ticker: CSL | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Health Care | **Shareholder position:** Top 160

VanEck reached out to CSL Limited to gain insights into its recent ESG developments, stakeholder engagement practices, risk governance, and workforce management.

ESG initiatives

CSL continues to report on its ESG strategy under the pillars of "Sustainability Strategy", "Healthier Communities" and "Healthier Environment". CSL remains a commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2050, with progress on Scope 1 and 2 reductions and evolving Scope 3 measurement capabilities.

Stakeholder engagement

CSL applies a structured and materiality informed stakeholder engagement framework. Key groups include patients, employees, suppliers, regulators, investors, and communities. Engagement is integrated into product development and broader decision-making, with emphasis on transparency and alignment with patient and community needs. The company highlighted its global patient-focused initiatives and stakeholder mapping efforts.

ESG risk management

Material ESG risks and CSL's management approach are detailed in its corporate risk disclosures and regularly updated to reflect internal review results. Main focus areas include product safety, supply chain, climate risk, and ethical sourcing. CSL's risk framework is publicly available and aligned with broader governance oversight practices.

Talent management and transparency

CSL continues to invest in its global workforce through development programs, flexible work models, and DE&I initiatives. The company promotes a values-based culture and offers structured leadership pathways such as CSL Accelerate.

While CSL highlights internal efforts to attract and retain skilled professionals, quantitative workforce metrics such as turnover data remain absent from public reporting. The company acknowledged this gap and offered to connect VanEck with HR for deeper insights into workforce continuity and governance.

DRR

Deterra Royalties Ltd

Ticker: DRR | **Country:** Australia | **Shareholder position:** Top 25

VanEck engaged with Deterra Royalties to better understand the company's ESG policies, risk governance, and approach to responsible investment in royalty agreements.

ESG initiatives

Deterra updated its Climate Change Policy to reflect the company's net zero achievement for Scope 1 and 2 emissions, maintaining zero direct emissions and sourcing 100 per cent renewable electricity. The company also committed an additional $100,000 to the Earbus Foundation, supporting ear health programs in regional and remote Indigenous communities in Western Australia.

Stakeholder engagement

Due to the nature of its business model, Deterra does not typically engage directly with local communities or Indigenous groups linked to mining operations. Instead, the community and stakeholder practices of operating partners are key considerations during due diligence and ongoing monitoring. These expectations are outlined in the company's ESG Investment Policy, which guides engagement standards across all investments.

ESG risk management

ESG risks are assessed through a structured due diligence process prior to entering royalty or streaming agreements. This includes evaluating the asset's development stage, commodity type, jurisdictional risk, and the ESG practices of the operator. Deterra may engage third-party experts in technical, legal, and sustainability domains to support its assessments. ESG oversight is supported by the company's Risk Appetite Statement and Risk Management Framework, with regular monitoring post-investment.

Social risk and community impact

Community relations, social impact, and local stakeholder engagement are integral to Deterra's investment screening. These criteria are evaluated to manage reputational and financial exposure stemming from community opposition or poor operator conduct. While Deterra is not directly involved in mining operations, it expects responsible operator behaviour as part of its long-term investment stewardship.

Governance and compliance

Regulatory compliance and governance quality of mining operators are key diligence factors. Deterra outlined that adherence to high corporate governance standards is a prerequisite for new royalty agreements. Ongoing monitoring is in place to ensure counterparties maintain responsible practices in line with Deterra's policies.

DXS

Dexus

Ticker: DXS | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Real Estate | **Shareholder position:** Top 10

VanEck engaged Dexus to discuss strategic developments, sustainability initiatives, and risk management practices.

ESG strategy and recent initiatives

Dexus confirmed no major changes to its ESG targets since the last report but noted it had achieved net zero emissions across its asset portfolio ahead of its 2030 goal. A review of its climate action plan is underway to update targets. The company remains among the top performers in Sustainalytics and the Dow Jones Sustainability Index.

Key initiatives discussed included the Green Power Buyer Group, which enabled customers to collectively procure 2,300 MWh of renewable energy, abating 212 tonnes of emissions. The company also maintained NABERS indoor environment ratings above 5.2 across its office portfolio.

Asset divestment and risk screening

Dexus is progressing with a $2 billion asset divestment program, prioritising non-core assets with climate or physical risk exposure. Assets are upgraded for sustainability before sale, contributing to improved valuation outcomes.

The company continues to assess physical climate risks and is partnering with Marsh to develop insurance solutions to manage exposure to events such as cyclones and flooding.

Sustainable development and materials innovation

Dexus is leading a low-carbon materials initiative with Atlassian, targeting a 50 per cent reduction in embodied carbon from steel and concrete. The Brisbane Waterfront project is being designed for 6-Star Green Star certification and flood resilience, with completion expected by 2028.

Emaar Properties

Ticker: EMAAR | **Country:** UAE | **Sector:** Real estate | **Shareholder position:** Top 100

VanEck engaged with Emaar for its business updates.

Market development and sales landscape

- Sales performance significantly improved year-over-year
- Strong demand segments:
  - large single-family homes
  - premium master-planned communities
  - high-end residential units, e.g., Oasis project.
- Gross margin breakdown: average margins in low 50 per cent range. Higher margins in premium locations like Aspire, whereas lower margins in areas like The Valley and South.
- Sales composition: 60–65 per cent local residents and 35–40 per cent non-residents. Consistent buyer broker commissions at 3–4 per cent.
- Delivery Projections: in 2024 approximately 4,300 units, around 11,000 units by 2026 and an additional 10,500 units by 2027.

Payment structure

80 per cent during construction and 20 per cent at handover. The developer collects approximately 30 per cent of selling price in first 12 months which covers 75–80 per cent of construction costs.

International and economic outlook

- UAE advantages:
  - safehaven for international capital
  - business friendly environment
  - attractive for global entrepreneurs.
- Saudi Arabia opportunities:
  - currently limited by ownership restrictions
  - waiting for a regulatory environment to develop
  - 32 per cent shareholding in Economic City project.

Future Growth Targets

- Revenue growth: current revenue: 5.5 billion with a target of 10 billion by 2030.
- Dividend strategy: sustainable dividend policy with a potential for future enhancements. It is also dependent on ongoing performance .

FAST

Fastenal Company

Ticker: FAST | **Country:** United States | **Sector:** Industrials | **Shareholder position:** Top 260

VanEck engaged with Fastenal to review progress across its ESG strategy, including energy management, stakeholder engagement, risk oversight, and workforce wellbeing.

ESG initiatives

Fastenal continues to invest in energy efficiency and emissions tracking across its global operations. The company achieved Energy Star certification for six US facilities, with locations in Madison, Alabama and Rochester, Minnesota ranking among the highest-performing buildings nationally. Two of its buildings operate with on-site solar power, and it maintains BREEAM-certified facilities in the Netherlands and Czech Republic. Fastenal uses Watershed, a third-party platform, to quantify its greenhouse gas footprint using a globally standardised methodology and a comprehensive environmental data archive.

Stakeholder engagement

Fastenal engages stakeholders through formal materiality reviews and structured assessments. The company completed a double materiality assessment to help refine its ESG priorities and align future disclosures with stakeholder expectations. This process included interviews with internal and external groups. The company also works with Arcadia Power and Energy Star Portfolio Manager to benchmark energy use and identify opportunities for further efficiency. Community engagement remains largely decentralised, with local initiatives shaped by individual site leadership and employee involvement.

Risk management

ESG risks are embedded within Fastenal's broader enterprise risk management framework, which is aligned with the COSO model. The company evaluates risks using a mix of quantitative and qualitative factors, including speed of onset, probability and impact. Both inherent and residual risks are considered, and ESG-related exposures are assessed alongside operational and financial risks. Governance oversight is integrated into existing structures, with further detail available in Fastenal's annual 10-K filing.

Workforce practices

Fastenal continues to evolve its workforce strategy to meet employee expectations and improve workplace flexibility. In recent years, the company has introduced enhancements to its US employee benefits program, including paid family and medical leave, greater flexibility around paid time off and hybrid working arrangements for eligible roles. Hiring, promotion and remuneration processes are designed to be simple, transparent and regularly reviewed.

GMG

Goodman Group

Ticker: GMG | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Real Estate | **Shareholder position:** Top 5

VanEck engaged with Goodman Group on previous governance discussions and explore recent developments across sustainability, risk oversight, stakeholder engagement, and board succession.

ESG initiatives

Goodman reported continued momentum on its operational decarbonisation strategy. During 2024, the company has installed 343 megawatts of solar capacity, moving closer to its 400MW target. Its direct operations (excluding customers) are powered by approximately 90 per cent renewable energy. In terms of embodied carbon, Goodman is now completing life cycle assessments across new developments.

Stakeholder engagement

Goodman's stakeholder engagement is particularly focused at the development level. Most of its projects are located on brownfield land within metro areas, requiring rigorous planning and community consultation. The company described how its South Sydney development incorporated local First Nations artwork into its design following community dialogue. Goodman's development teams maintain close relationships with councils and local stakeholders to ensure compliance and alignment with community expectations.

ESG risk management

Governance of ESG risk is structured across multiple levels, including oversight by the full Board, the Sustainability and Innovation Committee, and the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee. Climate risk is progressively being incorporated into Goodman's investment approval processes. Regional teams are conducting climate risk assessments across their portfolios, reflecting the company's intent to integrate environmental risk at both strategic and operational levels.

Board composition and succession

Goodman provided a breakdown of its board composition. Among non-executive directors, 44 per cent are women, and 55 per cent are offshore residents. Across the full board, which includes executive directors, the gender ratio is 33 per cent female, with 58 per cent residing offshore. The board's composition reflects its diversity objective of 40:40:20 and includes a skills matrix covering all core competencies and strategic focus areas.

Data centre sustainability

As Goodman expands into data infrastructure, it is applying the same sustainability principles used in its industrial developments. These include site selection near key infrastructure, energy-efficient design, sub-metering, solar PV installations, and low-carbon building materials. While solar capacity is limited on data centre rooftops due to space constraints, the company continues to prioritise energy efficiency. Customers are responsible for sourcing renewable energy once a lease begins, though Goodman integrates sustainable features into the base building to support this transition.

HTWS

Helios Towers

Ticker: HTWS | **Country:** UK | **Sector:** Communication services | **Shareholder position:** Top 50

VanEck engaged with the company for business updates.

Financial and operational performance

- The company ended the year on a strong note, achieving a pivotal milestone with surplus bottom-line free cash flow for the first time (up by $100 million to $19 million).
- Revenues increased by 10 per cent, EBITDA by 14 per cent, and leverage dropped below 4x, with a target to reach 3.5x by year-end.
- The company is on track to achieve its 2.2 tenancy ratio target ahead of 2026, with current progress at 2.1 tenants per site.
- Free cash flow is expected to double or triple this year, with guidance of $40–60 million.

Strategic priorities and capital allocation

- The business is focused on organic growth, particularly through co-locations (80–90 per cent of new tenancies), and is not pursuing large-scale acquisitions or new market entries in the near term.
- A new five-year strategic plan will be launched towards the end of the year, including an updated capital allocation policy and an investor distribution framework (dividends vs. buybacks).
- Private equity ownership has reduced to about 20–25 per cent, with the largest investor holding 13 per cent.

Future growth and market opportunities

- The company sees significant organic growth potential in existing markets and is open to in-market bolt-on acquisitions if value-accretive.
- Data consumption in Africa and the Middle East is expected to quadruple over the next five years, driving demand for more antennas and tenancies.
- The company is cautious about entering new markets or adjacent products (e.g., large data centers, fiber), preferring to focus on its core tower business and small-scale edge data centers where appropriate.

LYC

Lynas Rare Earths Ltd

Ticker: LYC | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Materials | **Shareholder position:** Top 15

VanEck engaged with Lynas Rare Earths Ltd to discuss the company's ESG progress, environmental performance, risk oversight, and strategic positioning amid market volatility and geopolitical shifts.

ESG initiatives

Lynas has advanced several initiatives to reduce its operational footprint. The company has phased out diesel-fired power generation at its Mount Weld site, replacing it with renewable energy sources, contributing to a measurable reduction in Scope 1 emissions. Across key sites, Lynas has implemented ISO 14001-aligned environmental management systems and continues to improve sustainability disclosures in line regulatory frameworks. A focus on responsible sourcing and supply chain transparency remains central to the company's sustainability strategy.

Stakeholder engagement

Lynas operates under an established Community Engagement Framework and places emphasis on local economic participation. The company sources 98 per cent of its workforce locally and procures 80 to 90 per cent of goods and services from nearby businesses. Community investments span across Kalgoorlie and Malaysia, with support directed toward education, infrastructure, and Indigenous reconciliation. The company has also published modern slavery statements and engages directly with local communities to incorporate their perspectives into project planning and operations.

ESG risk management

Risk governance is integrated into the company's enterprise wide risk framework, with board level oversight provided by a dedicated Sustainability Committee. Site specific ESG risks are routinely assessed and subject to ongoing monitoring and audit processes. These controls are designed to adapt to regulatory, environmental, and operational risks across jurisdictions.

Radioactive waste management

Lynas addressed stakeholder concerns regarding its Malaysian operations, noting that radioactive thorium levels in its waste are extremely low and naturally occurring. A new thorium extraction process has facilitated an extension of the plant's operating licence to March 2026. The company described earlier regulatory challenges as politically motivated and confirmed that its Malaysian facility remains critical to regional customer access and cost efficiency.

MPL

Medibank Private Ltd

Ticker: MPL | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Health Care | **Shareholder position:** Top 30

VanEck engaged with Medibank to discuss its ESG strategy, stakeholder engagement, risk oversight, social investment priorities, and post-cybersecurity incident governance.

ESG initiatives

Medibank structures its ESG program across five themes: customer health, community health, employee health, environmental health, and governance. A lifecycle analysis of its largest health programs was also completed to better understand environmental impacts as Medibank scales its preventative care offering.

Stakeholder engagement

Medibank takes a structured and inclusive approach to stakeholder engagement, with a focus on cultural sensitivity and accessibility. The company regularly consults with groups such as the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association and maintains a procurement panel of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suppliers. Its Reconciliation Action Plan and Accessibility and Inclusion Plan 2022-2024 detail further commitments, including universal design in retail and digital environments, disability-confident hiring pathways, and partnerships with organisations such as the Australian Network on Disability.

Risk management

ESG risks are governed under a three-lines-of-defence model and subject to oversight by the executive and board level risk committees. Internal audit supports this framework with regular reviews of control effectiveness. Medibank is preparing for compliance with the upcoming Australian sustainability reporting standards and is undertaking climate-related scenario analysis to strengthen disclosure and risk alignment.

Cybersecurity and governance

Following the 2022 cyberattack, Medibank has implemented a cybersecurity uplift program that includes enhancements to threat detection, core system resilience, and governance structures. Reporting channels to the board have been formalised, and internal education on cybersecurity risk has been expanded. The company also provided affected customers with counselling, identity monitoring, and financial hardship support. Lessons from the breach have shaped its broader approach to data governance and trust-building.

MIN

Mineral Resources Ltd

Ticker: MIN | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Materials | **Shareholder position:** Top 15

VanEck engaged with MIN to discuss ESG developments, stakeholder engagement practices, risk management, governance reforms, safety performance, and progress on decarbonisation.

ESG initiatives

MIN continues to invest in decarbonisation through the establishment of an internal Decarbonisation Fund, which applies a shadow carbon price to Scope 1 and 2 emissions across all operational sites. The company has implemented MonitorPro, a platform to enhance environmental data management, and has expanded its environmental risk controls. Single-use plastics are being phased out across operational sites, with proceeds from recycling schemes donated to local community organisations.

Stakeholder engagement

MIN adopts a proactive approach to stakeholder engagement, with ongoing consultation embedded across project life cycles. The company engages early with Traditional Owners and local communities to integrate their perspectives into project design. Formal agreements support employment, training, and procurement for Indigenous communities, and a Community Complaints and Feedback Mechanism provides a structured response pathway. Engagement effectiveness is regularly reviewed through independent assessments and performance metrics.

Risk management and governance

MIN implements a comprehensive governance, risk, and compliance framework that incorporates ESG-related exposures across strategic and operational levels. In response to public scrutiny, the company has taken steps to strengthen governance and business ethics. Key actions include the exit of most legacy related-party arrangements, new protocols for conflicts of interest, and the appointment of Malcolm Bundey as Chair-elect and Chair of the newly formed Ethics and Governance Committee. A senior governance role has also been introduced, reporting directly to the Board.

Safety performance

Following a rise in TRIFR and a serious incident at Ken's Bore, MIN has implemented additional safety measures. These include the introduction of an Injury Classification Governance and Assurance Committee, updated risk management systems, real-time data dashboards, and expanded use of the SafeDay platform. Executive remuneration is increasingly linked to safety performance.

MGR

Mirvac Group

Ticker: MGR | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Real Estate | **Shareholder position:** Top 10 investor

VanEck engaged with Mirvac to discuss the company's ESG priorities.

ESG initiatives

Mirvac confirmed that its headline ambitions remain unchanged: net positive in Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, net positive water and zero waste to landfill, all by 2030. Work is now under way on an updated decarbonisation plan, scheduled for release in the second half of FY25, and a science-based target has been lodged with the SBTi for external validation.

Electrification sits at the centre of Mirvac's transition pathway. Since mandating all-electric base building services for new commercial projects, the group has delivered all-electric Heritage Lanes at 80 Ann Street in Brisbane and is constructing three further all-electric flagship assets in Sydney and Melbourne. A building-by-building program to convert the existing office portfolio is under way, supported by trials that lower heating-hot-water set-points and replace remaining non-LED lighting. Where feasible, Mirvac is also adopting low-global-warming-potential refrigerants and enabling onsite renewable generation to sell green electricity to tenants.

Socially, the group published its Force for Good performance report, expanded partnerships with social enterprises through its supplier development program and introduced new LGBTQ+ scholarships with The Pinnacle Foundation. Governance developments included lodgement of the sixth TCFD report, maintenance of low ESG-risk ratings from Sustainalytics and MSCI, and continued board renewal with the appointment of Rosemary Hartnett as a non-executive director.

Risk profile and incident management

Investor Relations reported no material change in Mirvac's ESG risk profile over the past year, and no significant incidents were recorded. Climate risk remains a key focus, with ongoing electrification studies, hot-water temperature trials and the pursuit of Climate Active carbon-neutral certification across the industrial pipeline. The office portfolio continues to outperform on operational efficiency, holding an average NABERS Energy rating of 5.4 stars and a 4.5-star water rating.

Capital recycling and asset sales

Mirvac clarified that it has not announced a five-year target to divest two-and-a-half billion dollars of non-core assets. Instead, the group completed a one-billion-dollar disposal program in FY24 and has earmarked at least half a billion dollars for FY25, of which around three-hundred-and-forty million dollars has already settled. Assets selected for sale tend to be older, fringe-location offices that sit outside current strategy and have lower sustainability credentials, aligning the remaining portfolio more closely with Mirvac's operational and ESG objectives.

NEU

Neuren Pharmaceuticals

Ticker: NEU | **Country:** Australia / New Zealand | **Sector:** Biotechnology | **Shareholder position:** Top 60

VanEck sought an update on Neuren's sustainability approach, stakeholder engagement and workforce management.

ESG initiatives

Neuren's environmental footprint remains minimal, with certified zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions and negligible waste. No additional ESG programmes were introduced in the past year, though the company states it reviews opportunities for improvement on an ongoing basis.

Stakeholder engagement

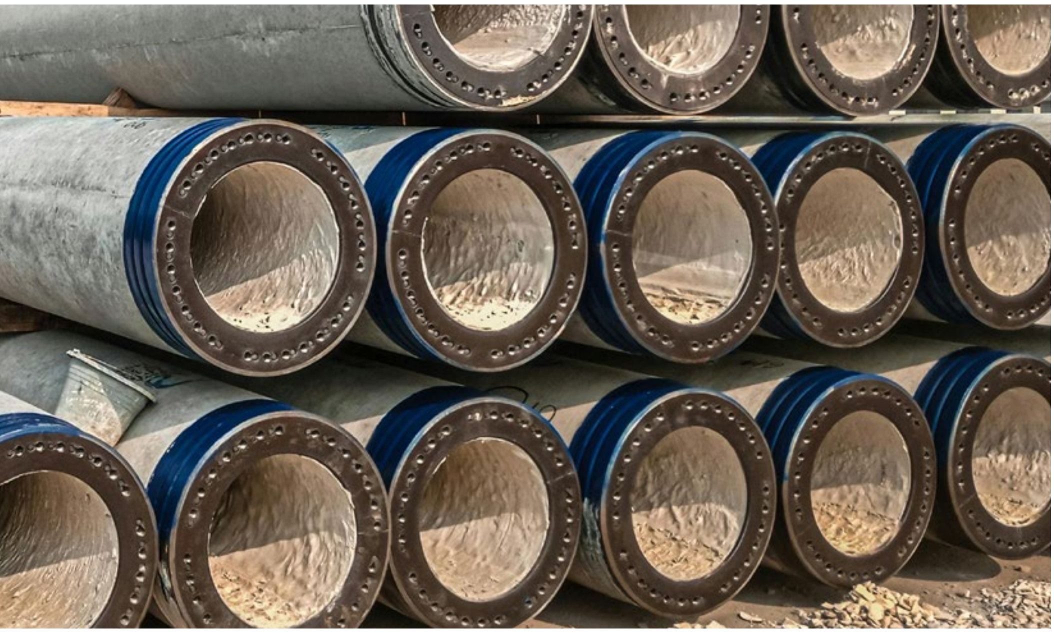
Patient advocacy groups and treating clinicians are integral to Neuren's R&D model. Their input shapes trial design, endpoints and educational outreach, and the company provides financial support for community events. This close collaboration is considered essential for developing first-in-class therapies for rare childhood neurodevelopmental disorders.

Risk management

ESG exposures are tracked through a board-level risk register that is reviewed regularly. At present the company has not identified material ESG-specific risks, but governance oversight remains part of the broader enterprise risk framework.

Talent and workforce

Neuren's small, fully remote workforce benefits from flexible work arrangements and a flat, non-hierarchical culture. Management views the mission-driven focus on life-changing paediatric treatments as a key retention driver, supplemented by open communication and broad job scopes that allow employees to contribute across functions.



ORI

Orica Ltd

Ticker: ORI | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Materials | **Shareholder position:** Top 20

VanEck met with Orica to discuss ESG, stakeholder engagement and governance oversight.

ESG initiatives

Orica has provided an update on the company's carbon footprint and outlook. Phase 1 of Yarwun's upgrade is complete, with two tertiary abatement reactors expected to cut the site's Scope 1 and 2 emissions by about 200 kt CO_2-e a year, or roughly half its operational footprint. Phase 2 planning has begun, while group targets remain - 30 per cent emissions reduction by FY26 and 45 per cent by FY30 (2019 base) plus 60 per cent renewable electricity by 2030. Scope 3 emissions are to fall 25 per cent by 2035 from a 2022 baseline.

Stakeholder engagement

A $15 million community investment program is on track for completion this year. The Community Reference Group continues to provide feedback for Kooragang Island, while the First Nations Engagement and Cultural Heritage Roadmap is now moving to an Innovate-level RAP for 2025. Similar partnership models are under way with Indigenous communities in Canada.

Governance and risk oversight

ESG exposures are covered by the enterprise-wide risk framework, which is being updated to meet new Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards. No material ESG incidents were reported over the past year. Digital initiatives that support carbon tracking and customer abatement solutions contributed to a 29 per cent EBIT lift in FY24.

PDN

Paladin Energy Ltd

Ticker: PDN | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Energy | **Shareholder position:** Top 10

VanEck met with Paladin Energy to discuss updates on their ESG initiatives, their ongoing stakeholder engagement, governance and regulatory engagement.

ESG initiatives

Paladin's core ESG framework is unchanged, but the acquisition of Fission Uranium has expanded its footprint to Canada. Integration work is under way to align Canadian regulatory obligations, community agreements and First Nations commitments.

Stakeholder engagement

Paladin's Namibian asset, the Langer Heinrich Mine (LHM), has now restarted and is once again generating revenue. With the restart, the company formalised a local community-investment program that will be funded from mine cash-flows. 2025 commitments include new ambulances for the regional health service, sports facilities for local youth, classroom computers, support for police initiatives and anti-poaching measures in nearby wildlife reserves.

Governance and risk oversight

No material incidents; community and climate programmes progressing.

Regulatory engagement

Paladin maintains dedicated in-country teams for government relations. In December 2024 it secured Investment Canada Act clearance, and in March 2025 it obtained an exemption from Canada's non-resident uranium ownership rules, preserving 100 per cent control of PLS.

PRX

Prosus

Ticker: PRX | **Country:** The Netherlands | **Sector:** Consumer discretionary | **Shareholder position:** Top 150

VanEck engaged with the company for business updates.

Prosus positions itself as a global tech operator

- Shifted from a portfolio manager to an operational tech company.
- Operating 100+ companies, with a focus on execution, integration, and innovation.
- Goal: Double to $200B+ through focused growth in Latin America, India and Europe.

Ecosystem strategy rooted in high-frequency anchors

- Foundational businesses: Food delivery & fintech, due to high user frequency (daily/weekly).
- On top of this: Lifestyle e-commerce (classifieds, travel, events, etc.) to extend engagement and monetisation.
- Opportunity to build multi-billion-dollar companies in food delivery (Just Eat Takeaway), fintech, and more.

AI is the core enabler

- AI-first company strategy, already in place:
  - Internal assistant “Token” used by 15,000 employees
  - 200+ AI models in use at iFood.

Financial outlook

- FY Revenue: $6.2B, projected to double to $12–13B in next 2 years.
- Profitability: Already beat expectations ($435M vs. $350M consensus).
- Expecting profit measured in billions, not millions, going forward.

REA

REA Group Ltd

Ticker: REA | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Communication Services | **Shareholder position:** top-40 institutional investor

VanEck engaged with REA Group to discuss their ESG initiatives, ongoing stakeholder engagement, governance and supply chain management.

ESG initiatives

REA tightened governance and remuneration settings by adding claw-back provisions to incentive plans and by limiting external board commitments for senior directors. A FY25 materiality review, built on surveys and interviews with more than 150 internal and external stakeholders, now underpins the company's first enterprise wide sustainability strategy. REA also refreshed its Scope 1-3 emissions baseline to FY24 under the GHG Protocol and commenced pre-assurance to prepare for Australia's forthcoming sustainability disclosure regime.

Stakeholder engagement

The triennial materiality process engaged employees, customers, investors, suppliers, franchisees and community partners across Australia and India. Insights from this work are feeding directly into priority-setting for the new sustainability roadmap. Cultural-competency e-learning aligned to the inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was rolled out in FY25, with progress metrics due in August.

Governance and risk oversight

ESG matters are embedded in the broader Risk Management Framework. Climate risk is tracked as an emerging risk and reported to the Executive Risk Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee. The policy calls for ongoing monitoring of technological, economic, social and regulatory shifts, with escalation to business unit risk profiles when material.

Supplier diversity and social procurement

Supply-chain inclusion advanced during FY25. REA onboarded six Indigenous or profit-for-purpose vendors for corporate volunteering, catering and cyber-security services via Supply Nation, and increased spend on amenities and technical consultants sourced through Social Traders. These actions support the group's wider aim of social and economic empowerment.

RIO

Rio Tinto

Ticker: RIO | **Country:** Australia & UK (dual-listed) | **Sector:** Materials | **Shareholder position:** Top 120

VanEck discussed a number of topics with RIO focussing on ESG, stakeholders, governance, dual listing structure and board succession.

ESG initiatives

Rio Tinto reiterated that decarbonisation is one of its four strategic pillars, keeping its 2030 goals of a 50 per cent cut in operational emissions (Scope 1 & 2) and net-zero by 2050. During the year it signed two record size renewable power agreements and committed A$143 million to its Green Iron programme, expected to trim operational emissions by about 3 per cent and support future Scope 3 abatement.

Stakeholder engagement

Rio Tinto continues to co-design projects with local communities and Indigenous groups before mine development, embedding community benefits into renewable-energy builds. A community first approach also informs contingency planning with governments in the United States and Canada amid evolving trade dynamics.

Governance and risk oversight

Safety data are centrally reported and lessons shared across the portfolio; Rio's Safety Maturity Model is now being rolled out site-wide. Joint-venture partners are required to adopt Rio standards, and additional controls are being added in higher-risk regions.

Resolution 24 (dual-listing review)

At the request of Palliser Capital, Resolution 24 asks Rio Tinto to undertake an external review of its dual-listed company (DLC) structure and report back to investors. Rio Tinto's board is recommending votes against because it believes the costs and risks of the review outweigh any potential benefit. Management noted in recent engagement that a move away from the DLC could trigger mid-single-digit-billion-dollar tax liabilities and would render a substantial pool of franking credits unusable. Independent analyses from Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan, commissioned by the board, concluded that collapsing the DLC would not deliver a valuation uplift for either Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Ltd shareholders. The company also stressed it is already reviewing the DLC on an ongoing basis and will continue to report transparently on that work, making a separate shareholder-mandated review unnecessary. The resolution was rejected at the company's AGM, with the majority of shareholders voting against it.

Board succession

With several directors retiring in 2025, succession planning focuses on candidates with operational depth and renewable-energy expertise. Structured hand-overs and a leaner committee structure aim to preserve strategic continuity; declared conflicts of interest are being managed case-by-case.

S68

Singapore Exchange Ltd (SGX)

Ticker: S68 | **Country:** Singapore | **Sector:** Financials | **Shareholder position:** Top 110

VanEck engaged with SGX to discuss ESG, cybersecurity and their net zero ambitions.

ESG initiatives

SGX continues to strengthen its sustainability framework. From FY 2025, every listed issuer must disclose Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse-gas emissions in line with the climate-related requirements of the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards issued by the ISSB, building on the TCFD-based regime first introduced in FY 2022. The exchange has also launched Climate Action Index Futures, giving investors a mechanism to hedge or gain exposure to companies leading the low-carbon transition.

Cybersecurity focus

Management again classified cybersecurity as a top enterprise risk. The exchange is assessing dedicated cyber-insurance, upgrading its core trading engines and expanding staff training to ensure robust internal controls remain in step with increasing global threats.

Net-zero ambition and climate-action products

SGX's broader climate transition plan underpins its net-zero aspiration. While initial uptake of the Climate Action Index Futures has been gradual, the exchange is actively working with market participants to promote these contracts as practical tools for managing climate risk and financing decarbonisation.

000660

SK Hynix

Ticker: 000660 | **Country:** South Korea | **Sector:** Information technology | **Shareholder position:** Top 150

VanEck engaged with the company to discuss business updates given the macroeconomic uncertainty and the ongoing technology war between the US and China.

High bandwidth memory (HBM)

AI demand for HBM is still stable and in line with their expectations, mid 40 per cent in Q1 HBM revenue and will continue to grow. Customers have high confidence and can continue to enjoy this revenue stream. For next year, all three HBM suppliers are eager to supply customers with their products so they will need to assess customer volume demand.

Conventional DRAM

General server demand stable and strong. There is some uncertainty in H2 but cushioned by supply side. Q1 is a low season with high single digit demand decline, but better than expected decline of teens. There is possibility for further improvements as inventory will need to be replenished for PCs and mobile. Q2 is better with guided teen QoQ growth. In terms of supply side developments, inventory levels for manufacturers of DRAM are declining so now at lean levels.

Customer concentration

2025 vs 2023 have more Application-Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC) customers and Hynix is becoming a primary supplier, allowing it to be in a good position for future growth.

S32

South32 Ltd

Ticker: S32 | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Material | **Shareholder position:** Top 30

VanEck engaged with South32 on their ESG initiatives, stakeholder engagement and governance oversight.

ESG initiatives

During FY25 South32 is concentrating on six priority streams: rolling out its global Safety Improvement Programme; embedding refreshed inclusion-and-diversity metrics; delivering its second Innovate-level Reconciliation Action Plan; enhancing nature-related risk assessment; aligning every tailing storage facility to the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management; and drafting a second Climate Change Action Plan.

Stakeholder engagement

An internal social performance standard defines how each asset identifies social impacts, human-rights risks and cultural heritage considerations. Local External Affairs teams build engagement and investment plans, supported by a central social-performance function. At the Hermosa zinc-lead-silver project in Arizona, South32 has consulted Native American tribes throughout permitting and linked project design to environmental stewardship, employment and community development.

Governance and risk oversight

ESG issues sit within South32's enterprise risk-management framework. Thirteen strategic risks, ranging from safety, climate change and project delivery to supply-chain security and evolving societal expectations, are reviewed twice yearly and disclosed in the annual report. An annual materiality assessment maps stakeholder concerns to these risks and guides sustainability reporting.

To secure bauxite supply until at least FY36, South32 refined its mine-development plan after consultation with regulators, environmental groups and Traditional Owners. Native-vegetation clearing has been cut by 46 per cent, more than 2 500 ha of protected areas have been established, and an offsets package will conserve or restore over 12 000 ha, provide black-cockatoo nesting hollows and support woylie protection. Progressive rehabilitation will cover around 80 per cent of disturbed areas, while exclusion zones, predator-management programmes and cultural-heritage safeguards minimise residual impact.

SGP

Stockland Corporation Ltd

Ticker: SGP | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Real Estate |
Shareholder position: Top 10 institutional investor (~19 million shares)

VanEck engaged with Stockland on their ESG initiatives, stakeholder engagement and governance oversight.

ESG initiatives

Stockland re-affirmed that it will reach net-zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions by the end of calendar year 2025. The Energy Bay arrangement guarantees sufficient large-generation certificates to cover any shortfall once the rooftop-solar buildout is complete, while any residual gas use will be offset with high-quality Australian Carbon Credit Units. To curb embodied carbon, project specifications now mandate low-carbon concrete, electric-arc-furnace steel and timber framing, collectively delivering step-change reductions across new logistics sheds, retail refurbishments and land-lease homes. Circular-economy principles are being piloted with Arup's Circular Buildings Toolkit; the adaptive reuse of an old shearing shed at The Gables into 'Bobby's Bakehouse' illustrates the emphasis on retaining materials and character wherever feasible.

Voluntary turnover has eased to 12.8 per cent, comfortably within the 10-15 per cent target, after the rollout of leadership pipeline programmes, workforce planning tools and an award winning graduate intake. The company continues to engage ratings agencies so that this improving profile is properly reflected in external assessments.

Stakeholder engagement

Each development begins with a tailored engagement plan overseen by Government Relations, combining forums, surveys and one-to-one consultation with local leaders. Stockland's Social Impact by Design framework guides teams toward evidence-based initiatives that lift liveability scores, strengthen economic participation and build climate resilience. The annual Liveability Index survey of residents continues to shape precinct design by highlighting what matters most—belonging, safety, health and environmental quality.

Governance and risk oversight

Group wide risk profiling sessions are held annually, ensuring environmental regulation, climate transition and modern-slavery exposures are identified and mitigated. Development project teams maintain live risk registers, and every acquisition now undergoes a formal ESG risk scan before approval, embedding sustainability considerations at the point of capital allocation.

TCL

Transurban Group

Ticker: TCL | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Industrials | **Shareholder position:** Top 35

VanEck engaged with Transurban on their ESG initiatives, stakeholder engagement, governance oversight and a number of ongoing projects.

ESG initiatives

Over FY25 Transurban's operational emissions fell 70 per cent below FY19, well ahead of its 2030 science based target and on track for net-zero by 2050. Renewable-electricity procurement rose to 87 per cent group wide, with North America now at 100 per cent.

Stakeholder engagement

A national community engagement framework structures consultation across all projects, complemented by project-level reference groups and a standing social investment program. During FY25 Transurban continued work on its First Nations Engagement and Cultural Heritage Roadmap (launched 2021) and prepared to release an Innovate level RAP in 2025. In North America it maintained community partnerships focused on education and employment in areas adjacent to its concessions.

Governance and risk oversight

ESG exposures sit within Transurban's Enterprise Risk Management Framework. Key environmental risks, including climate-transition and physical risks, are assessed against double-materiality criteria and reported in the corporate report. Climate risk governance, strategy and metrics align with TCFD guidance, and scenario analysis supports investment decisions. Non-financial risks such as social licence, data privacy and supply-chain resilience are monitored through the same framework.

West Gate Tunnel Project

The West Gate Tunnel, now about 85 per cent complete, is targeting year-end 2025 completion following settlement with the Victorian Government and contractors in December 2021. Mechanical and electrical fit-out is under way, with spoil management infrastructure in place and cost adjustments already incorporated into the concession deed.

ConnectEast court ruling

A Victorian Supreme Court judgment (confidential) requires Transurban to compensate ConnectEast for over-charging dating back to 2009. Transurban recorded a $143 million revenue adjustment at 1H25, with no impact on free cash or distributions, and is evaluating appeal options. The matter is specific to CityLink fee mechanics and does not affect customer toll payments.

WBC

Westpac Banking Corporation

Ticker: WBC | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Financials | **Shareholder position:** Top 40

VanEck has a recurring engagement with Westpac's Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) to discuss topics on sustainability.

The company stressed that the transition to low-emission economy is important, for sectors such as metallurgical coal and coal fired power stations, while acknowledging the challenges. Feedback from customers indicated that assessment criteria and terminology needed to be further clarified. The company has non-negotiables including:

- A set emissions target that's Paris aligned for Scope 1 and 2, with scope 3 also in consideration.
- A rating using its internal assessment tool based on The Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI).
- Support for decarbonisation from the board.
- Capital allocated for delivery.

The company advised that the expectations have been clear who they want to lend. Out of the 45 per cent drop from baseline in absolute emissions for oil & gas customers, both customer activity and portfolio rebalancing or divestment played a role.

We noted that executives remuneration have ESG KPI's for their short-term variable rewards, but not over the long term. Westpac advised that the ESG KPI remains in the FY26 scorecard but there were no specific changes to individuals.

The company also explained three other areas they focus on apart from climate, which is Nature, Human Rights and Indigenous groups.

WOR

Worley Ltd

Ticker: WOR | **Country:** Australia | **Sector:** Industrials | **Shareholder position:** Top 20

VanEck engaged with Worley to discuss ESG, stakeholder engagement, governance and a legal update.

ESG initiatives

Worley runs a group-wide campaign to phase out single use plastics at operating sites and offices. In parallel, each business unit launched project portfolios aimed at cutting Scope 1 and 2 emissions in line with the company's near-term reduction targets. These internal efforts complement Worley's external shift toward energy-transition work, which now accounts for more than half of contracted backlog.

Stakeholder engagement

The company's engagement model operates on three levels. For projects it controls, Worley leads direct consultation and impact monitoring programmes with local communities, bolstered by Indigenous and First Nations partnerships where relevant. On customer controlled projects it works within the client's community plan and adds its own social-performance inputs. At group level the Worley Foundation channels funding and volunteer hours into education, disaster relief and STEM pathways; internal networks such as Pride@Worley, Women of Worley, Kuumba, All Abilities and the Sustainability Champions group feed employee perspectives into policy decisions.

Governance and risk oversight

ESG exposures are embedded in the enterprise Risk Management Framework and reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee. The board tracks indicators that include the quality of ESG disclosures, contributions to local economic development and real-time media sentiment. Mitigations span transparent investor briefings, evidence-based public-policy engagement, Indigenous partnerships, the Princeton Andlinger Center research collaboration and the internal inclusion networks noted above.

Ecuador arbitration update

Worley wrote off its remaining net exposure linked to historic Ecuador projects during FY24. A handful of residual claims remain open, but many potential actions have now expired under statutory limitation rules and management judges the likelihood of any material liability to be low.

For more information on specific company engagement, please feel free to contact our services desk at info@vaneck.com.au or +61 2 8038 3300.

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