

TITLE:

# View of a Long Term Investor

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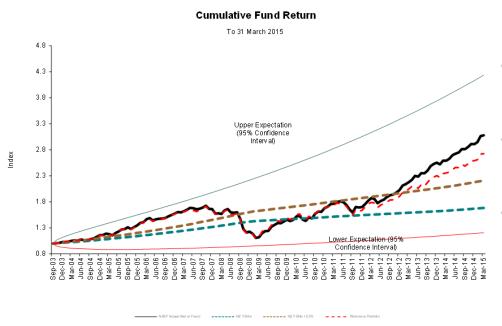
# **Agenda Topics**

Being truly long term is an endowment of the NZ Super Fund.

- How does the NZ Super Fund operate?
- What does it mean to be truly long term?
- How does our portfolio construction ("Reference Portfolio") approach differ to others including SAA?



# Performance since inception



- NZ\$29.3 billion (30 April) sovereign wealth fund to help pre-fund future universal retirement benefits
- Long-term fund no withdrawals till 2029/30, won't peak till 2080s
- Returned 10.2% p.a. after costs, before NZ tax
- Out-performed the market exceeded our passive Reference Portfolio benchmark by \$3.6 billion since inception
- Exceeded the NZ government's cost of debt by \$13.2 billion

Further details available at www.nzsuperfund.co.nz



# What is a Long Horizon Investor?

- "Investing with the expectation of holding an asset for an indefinite period of time by an investor with the capacity to do so" (WEF, 2011)
- "An investor having no specific short-term liabilities or liquidity demands" (Ang and Kjaer, 2012)
- Or "long-run investors are first and foremost short-run investors. They do everything short-run investors do, and they can do more because they have ... a long horizon" (Ang, 2012)
- A long horizon is helpful.
- But we also need to consider our other endowments, our beliefs and capabilities



# **Key points**

- We are firm believers in passive investment and highly disciplined about active investment
  - We work hard to exploit our endowments
  - Separate opportunities from access points
  - Allocate capital to the opportunities we are most confident in
  - Use long-term investment themes to inform decisions
  - Prefer direct, flexible access
  - Integrate ESG throughout the investment process



# **Defining our endowments**

Long Horizon Certainty of Liquidity

Operational Independence

Location & Crown Owner

- We can ride-out short term volatility
- Genuine contrarian investor
- We can invest in private market and illiquid assets
- We pay lower tax in some jurisdictions (sovereign status)
- Favourably regarded as a potential co-investor and business partner



# Reference Portfolio concept: Blueprint and Benchmark

- The RP is a notional, low-cost passive portfolio
- Level of risk in the RP is appropriate for Fund's purpose and objectives
- Board decides the RP with management input
- Takes Fund's endowments and relevant beliefs into account
- Long-run ('equilibrium') concept
- Our benchmark: Used to evaluate value added in actual fund
- Performance of the RP and value-add reported on a monthly basis
- Relevant horizon for performance assessment is a minimum of five years our Board and stake-holders understand this.



# Separate opportunity from access point









## **HIGHEST CONFIDENCE**





## Relevance of Finance Theory in Practice

#### **Market Efficiency**

#### What we believe

Risk and return are strongly related

Some markets are conducive to generating excess returns, but...

...manager skill is rare and hard to find

Manager fees represent a clear hurdle for active management

#### What we are not sure about

Are there structural inefficiencies in the market? Examples:

- Are some markets (such as frontier markets) segmented?
- Do active manager incentives distort market pricing?



## **Relevance of Finance Theory in Practice**

### **Dynamic Behaviour of Markets**

#### What we believe

Risk and return characteristics of financial markets are dynamic

Returns 'mean-revert' and volatility comes in clusters

#### What we are not sure about

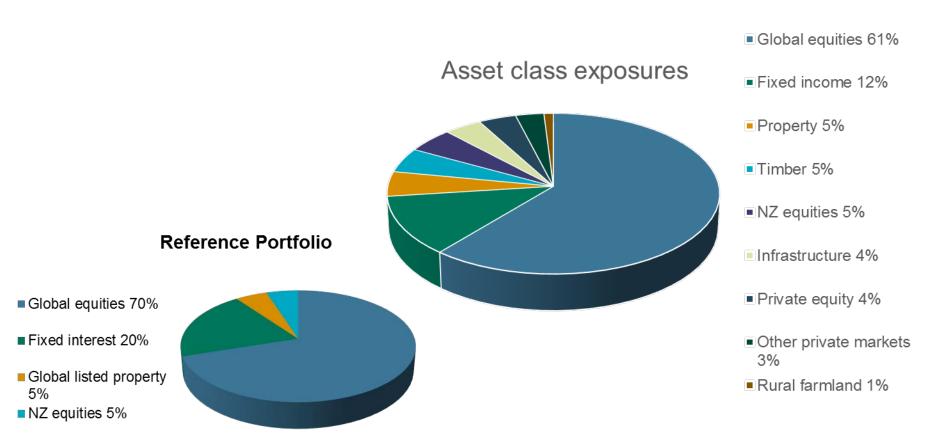
To what extent are these dynamic changes predictable?

What are the best investment strategies to exploit these?



## What does the Fund invest in?

Growth-oriented portfolio, majority passive, highly diversified





#### Conclusion

- As a long horizon investor we enjoy all the opportunities a short term investor has, plus a lot more
- A stable risk aversion allows us to exploit short term disequilibrium pricing in markets
- Sound governance arrangements and open and transparent communication ensure we can stay the course