

MORROW SODALI

Press Release

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MORROW SODALI APPOINTS LEADING ESG EXPERT TALIEH WILLIAMS

SYDNEY – 24 June 2019: Australia’s leading shareholder engagement and corporate governance advisory firm, Morrow Sodali, is pleased to announce the appointment of one of Australia’s leading sustainability experts, Talieh Williams, to its governance team in the role of Special Counsel, Corporate Governance.

Talieh was previously the Manager, Governance & Sustainable Investment at UniSuper, one of Australia’s largest superannuation funds with more than \$70 billion of assets under management and over 400,000 members, where she was responsible for developing and implementing UniSuper’s responsible investment program and embedding environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations into all decision-making processes.

With Ms Williams’ appointment, Morrow Sodali continues to strengthen its unique in-house ESG resources and expertise. The firm is focused on practical, investor-led advice relating to best-practise ESG risk management and disclosure – proactively, and in response to ESG-related investor activism.

Maria Leftakis, CEO Australia of Morrow Sodali, said she was delighted with the new appointment, adding that the demand from ASX listed companies for quality ESG advice and support had grown exponentially in the past 18 months.

“We are experiencing unprecedented demand for our ESG advisory services both here in Australia and across our business globally,” Ms Leftakis said.

“We are seeing a step-change increase in the level of scrutiny that institutional investors are applying to listed companies as they seek to understand the financial impacts of ‘foreseeable’ ESG risks and opportunities and where sustainability issues such as climate risk, culture and conduct risk are top of mind. Added to that, regulator interest and intervention is resulting in more sleepless nights for Directors.”

“Talieh’s reputation and extensive experience at one of Australia’s largest superannuation funds, combined with her deep knowledge of ESG issues and extensive engagement with Boards and management for over a decade, enables us to provide an even richer service to our clients,” Ms Leftakis said.

Commenting on her appointment, Ms Williams said, *“I am delighted to be joining Morrow Sodali’s high calibre team and I look forward to working with clients to drive positive ESG outcomes for the companies themselves, their investors and their community of stakeholders. We are at a very exciting time when it comes to ESG – we are talking about critical business risks and scrutiny on how companies and directors are performing in this area, in terms of transparency, reporting and leadership continues to intensify.”*

Prior to UniSuper, Talieh worked in climate change and sustainability services at global firm Ernst & Young, consulting in the area of sustainability and corporate responsibility, understanding first-hand the governance and strategic issues facing large corporate entities. In her capacity as a solicitor, she also worked in the environmental and planning practice group at Minter Ellison Lawyers and at Shell as an environmental project manager.

Up until recently, Talieh held several non-executive director roles including Director, Australian Council of Superannuation Investors; Director, Responsible Investment Association of Australasia; and Member, Committee of Management, Investor Group on Climate Change.

About Morrow Sodali

Morrow Sodali is a leading provider of strategic advice and shareholder services to corporate clients around the world. The firm provides corporate boards and executives with strategic advice and services relating to corporate governance, shareholder and bondholder communication and engagement, capital markets intelligence, proxy solicitation, shareholder activism and mergers and acquisitions.

From headquarters in New York and London, and offices and partners in major capital markets, Morrow Sodali serves more than 700 corporate clients in 40 countries, including many of the world's largest multinational corporations. In addition to listed and private companies, its clients include mutual funds, ETFs, stock exchanges and membership associations.

For further information about Morrow Sodali, please visit www.morrowsodali.com.

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