

Factors influencing socially responsible investment in self-managed superannuation funds

Roger Colbeck,

School of Accounting and Corporate Governance,

University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania.

roger.colbeck@utas.edu.au

The author is a lecturer at the School of Accounting & Corporate Governance, University of Tasmania. The author was an experienced professional in the wealth management sector, holding senior corporate executive positions together with ASIC licensing and financial services industry designations.

Abstract

Purpose: The aim of the paper is to explore factors that may limit socially responsible investment decision-making by Self-Managed Superannuation Fund trustee's. Commencing from a premise that growth of socially responsible investment in Australia is impacted by a lack of impetus in Self-Managed Superannuation Fund trustee's decision-making; the paper develops a proposition on factors affecting socially responsible investment.

Design/methodology/approach: Developed as a conceptual paper, a combination of financial industry sources, anecdotal experience and prior research are used to build a theoretical framework for future research.

Findings: Barriers exist limiting the integration of socially responsible investment into the decision-making of Self-Managed Superannuation Fund trustee's.

Research limitations/implications: Use of anecdotal sources and secondary sources limit generalisation of results. Need for surveys to address this limitation.

Originality/value: Self-Managed Superannuation Funds are the largest asset sector of the total Australian superannuation asset pool. Concern for the environment and corporate sustainability is developing prominent focus for Australian investors. Socially responsible investing interlinks investors and corporate entities by encouraging them to develop environmental, social and governance policies. Accountants are recognised as the key financial intermediary for Self-Managed Superannuation Fund trustee's.

Keywords: self-managed superannuation funds, socially responsible investment, accountants

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