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world of change

# British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme

## Q3 2022 Engagement & Voting Report

### Introduction

Ninety One focus on delivering sustainability with substance. This means sustainability initiatives and actions are evidence based and aim to produce real-world change or impact.

Ninety One are committed to net zero by 2050 or sooner and are signatories to the Net Zero Asset Managers initiative. They have set interim targets for 2030 committing to 50% of their financed emissions coming from companies or investments that have science-based pathways by 2030.

The Global Environment strategy engage with all portfolio companies several times a year, and they outline specific engagement goals for each company in their [Annual Impact Report](#). The Impact Report also details progress on engagements from the prior year.

Many of the engagement topics are long-term in nature and thus there will be a repetition of topics discussed over subsequent quarters. There will also be quarters where there hasn't been a significant update from the previous quarter.

### Significant engagement activity

The below outlines significant proxy & engagement activities with two of the portfolio companies over the quarter:

#### Xinyi Solar

Xinyi Solar is the world's largest producer of solar glass. It is directly exposed to the solar industry, and therefore well placed to benefit from the move away from fossil fuels to generate electricity towards renewable energy, mainly solar. Our engagement goals for the company this year include monitoring carbon emission targets and board diversity.

Over the quarter we met with the company's Chief Financial Officer and Board Secretary, Danny Chu. Xinyi Solar has already achieved the previous 5-year emission target of -18% vs. 2018 and we discussed how they plan to upgrade their carbon emissions reduction target. They were able to achieve their target early due to increased capacity with lower energy consumption and technology improvements. Another of our engagement topics with the company has been on Scope 3 disclosure. They have yet to achieve this citing the biggest obstacle being the long tail of small suppliers and the time taken to set up their system to report on carbon emissions. The company has over 1000 suppliers, many of which are small players. They are currently in the process of educating their suppliers on the topic of carbon data disclosure.

We also spoke to the company about board gender diversity, and they gave us an update on their recent addition of a female independent director to the company board.

#### Ansys

Ansys develops simulation software for computer-aided engineering, which is used to predict how products will behave in the real world. Its software allows customers to reduce material inputs, increase energy efficiency and stimulate innovation within low-carbon technologies across renewable technologies, electrification solutions, and building and industrial processes. Our main engagement goals for the company this year includes board gender diversity and carbon avoided reporting.

Over the quarter, we met the Chair of Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee as well as the Head of Sustainability. We discussed with them how they plan to improve board gender diversity. The company confirmed that they are looking to improve board gender diversity with future additions to the board and are also focussed on improving diversity in the broader organisation. Further, the company has developed partnerships with universities to expand the diversity of their pool of applicants. They have also conducted unconscious-bias training for senior leadership. They have now achieved 50% gender diversity for all direct reports to the CEO.

In relation to carbon avoided reported, we were pleased to see the company has expanded its product handprint use-cases, which detail how Ansys products are supporting the development of more sustainable products. This includes use-cases for Aerospace and Semiconductor applications.

On the topic of Net-Zero, we encouraged the company to go through the Science-Based Target (SBT) process to ensure their carbon emissions reduction target was rigorous and sufficiently ambitious.

## Summary engagement activity for the portfolio

We met with the majority of our portfolio companies over the quarter. In addition to earnings updates and business strategy discussions, the below provides a summary of the companies and topic area the investment team have engaged on:

Company	Topics
Analog Devices Inc	Cultural work practices Climate Change Water Biodiversity
ANSYS Inc.	Climate Change Board effectiveness
Autodesk Inc.	Cultural Work Practices
Croda International PLC	Diversity & Inclusion Climate Change Biodiversity Water
Iberdrola S.A.	Climate Change
Xinyi Solar	Board effectiveness Climate Change

Source: Ninety One, data covering reporting period. All engagements are supported by appropriate analysts, portfolio managers and the Engagement and Voting team.

## Proxy voting activity for the portfolio

Ninety One votes at shareholder meetings throughout the world as a matter of principle. We believe that once we become investors, that is to say part-owners of a company, we assume a duty of stewardship and therefore take responsibility to support or sanction as required.

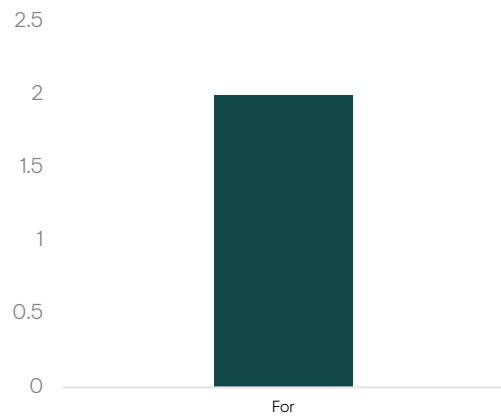
Below are the highlights of our voting activity.

### Votes Cast (% meetings)

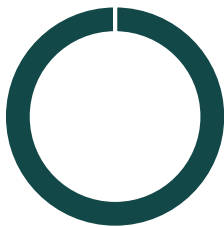


- Meetings with all votes for 100%
- Meetings with at least one vote against or abstain 0%

### Number of Votes Cast



### Votes resolutions by type (%)



- Management proposals 100%
- Shareholder proposals 0%

Source: Ninety One, ISS ProxyExchange, data covering reporting period.

Note: the above charts do not include 'Do not vote' instructions. 'The Other' category is a grouping of the following sub-categories in no particular order; Antitakeover Related, Preferred/Bondholder, Non-Salary Compensation, Reorganization and Mergers, Company Articles, Strategic Transactions, Miscellaneous.

