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Infrastructure investment trustee rebrands to Gardior as it eyes growth

Long-standing Australian wholesale infrastructure investment house The Private Capital Group (TPCG) has rebranded to Gardior as part of its strategy to attract new investors and investment opportunities.

Founded in 1997, Gardior is the trustee of the \$1.6 billion The Infrastructure Fund (TIF). TIF owns interests in Australian assets, such as Port of Newcastle, Ballarat Water, New Royal Adelaide Hospital, and Queensland Airports Ltd, as well as overseas rolling stock, transport and gas infrastructure.

TIF investors include industry superannuation funds representing nearly two million members, as well as other institutional investors such as insurance companies, family offices and statutory funds together with offshore investors.

Gardior Chairman Bob Lette said the rebrand was necessary to better position the company for growth by better articulating what the company offered to investors.

“For almost two decades, we’ve demonstrated our experience and expertise in making savvy and strategic investment decisions, applied strong governance to protect our discerning investors, and delivered long-term, stable and top-quartile results,” he said.

“The time for change felt right given the increased attention being placed on infrastructure. Domestic and international investors see the potential, governments see the need, and new opportunities and competitors are emerging within the industry.

“In adopting the new Gardior brand, we are firmly stating to the market our intention to grow by identifying quality infrastructure investments and attracting institutional investors seeking exposure to key return-generating assets.”

TIF has returned 14.8% per annum (at June 2015) to investors during the past 10 years. TIF has been managed by Hastings Funds Management since July 2000.

Mr Lette said Gardior’s strategy was to create an expanding and diversified portfolio of established, quality Australian and international infrastructure assets that provide consistent returns to investors in a portfolio that is managed in the best interest of investors.

“This approach has yielded strong returns, as evidenced by the sale contract executed for TIF’s interest in Freeport LNG recently, crystallising an annualised asset return of over 40 percent on financial close,” he said.

“Apart from the addition of new assets like the Port of Newcastle and Porterbrook (UK) to our portfolio during the past 18 months, our approach has also attracted two new investors, including our first international investor, South Korea’s \$8.6 billion Military Mutual Aid Association (MMAA).

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“Whether it is through our capital raisings, robust governance, strategic investment decisions, or strong partnerships with asset managers, Gardior will provide our investors with opportunities and returns that they may not otherwise have access to.

“In doing so, we make a significant contribution to the growth of retirement savings and pensions, while creating employment opportunities and providing essential infrastructure for our communities.”

Based in Brisbane, Gardior is a not-for-profit entity solely focused on providing investment opportunities to investors.

TIF investors include Australian Catholic Super and Retirement Fund, AustSafe Super, BUSS(Q) Building Super, Club Super, Energy Super, Meat Industry Employees' Superannuation Fund, Mercy Super, Military Mutual Aid Association of Korea, Motor Accident Insurance Board (Tas), QIEC Super, and Sunsuper.

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