



TITLE:

The New Zealand Superannuation Fund: Long-horizon investing in practice

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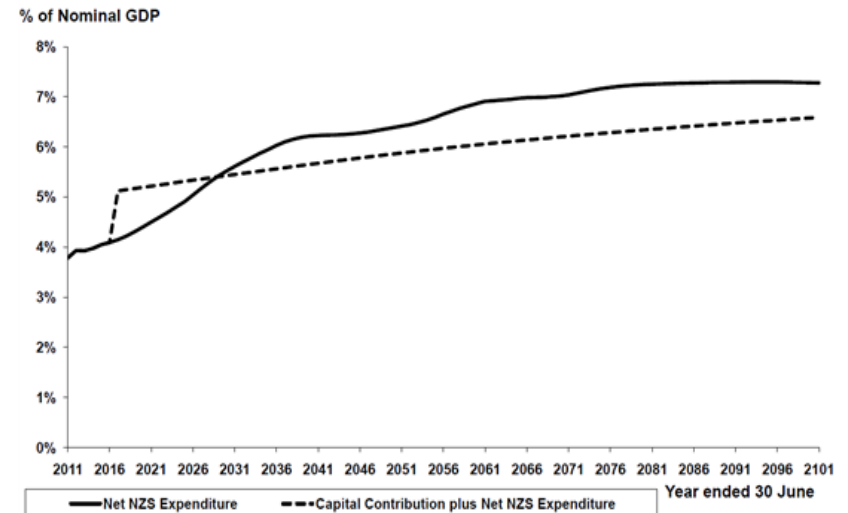
EVENT | PRESENTATION:

ICPM Discussion Forum, 3 June 2014

Why we exist – tax smoothing

- New Zealand has a pay-as-you-go pension system
- Smooth New Zealanders' future tax burden
- Invest **prudently** and **commercially**:
 - a) Best-practice portfolio management;
 - b) Maximise return without undue risk
 - c) Avoid prejudice to New Zealand's reputation as a responsible member of the world community.
- Long-term expected rate of return:
 - New Zealand Treasury bills plus 2.5% p.a. over 20 year rolling periods

Save Now – Support Future



Quick Facts

Started investing September 2003

Withdrawals to begin 2029/30

As at 31 March 2014:

Size of the fund	\$25.19 billion
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Annualised return since inception:	9.49% p.a.
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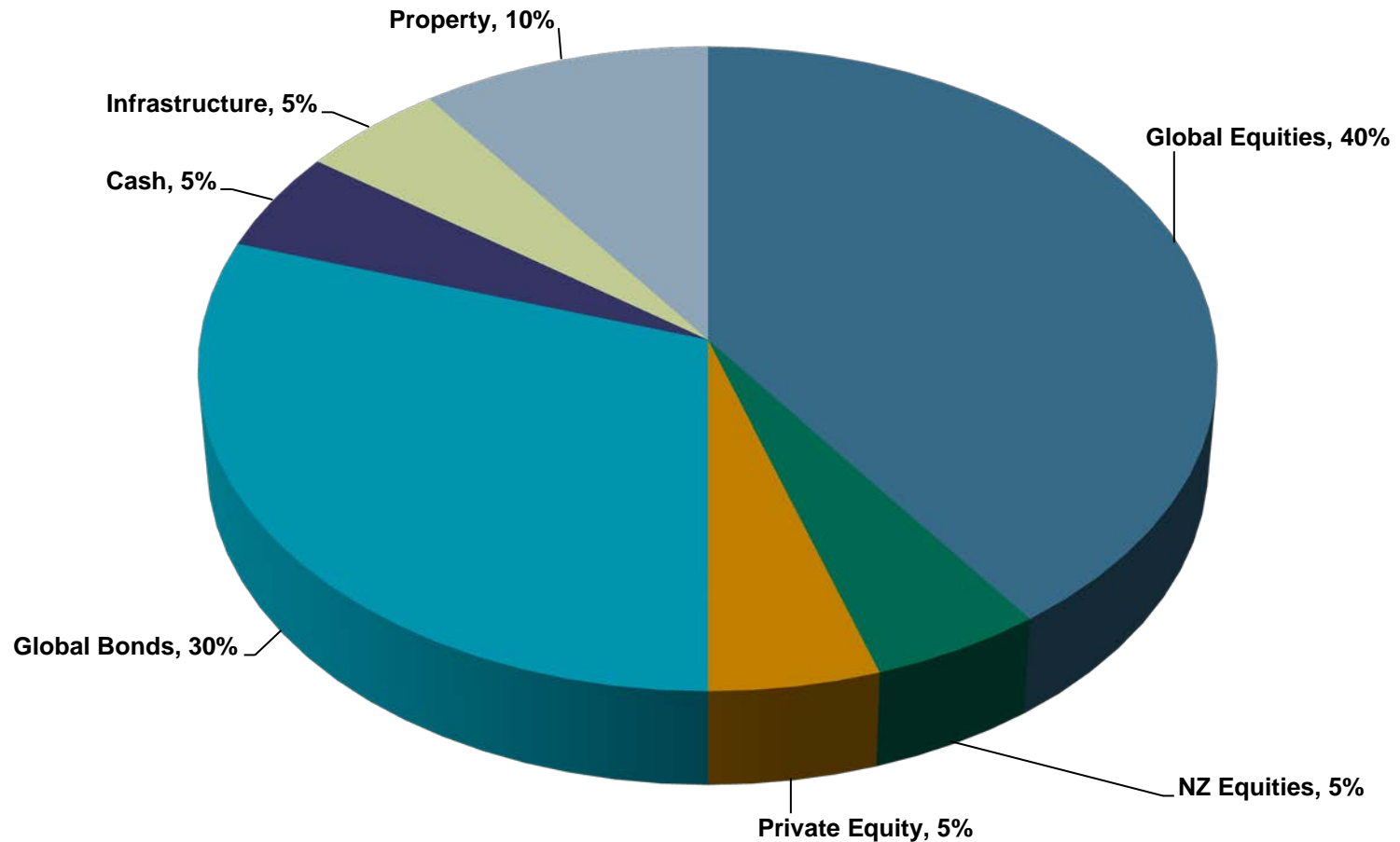
Excess return (above Treasury bills):	4.73%
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Excess return (above Reference Portfolio)	0.98%
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What is a Long Horizon Investor?

- “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)

Standard Approach: Strategic Asset Allocation (SAA)



Our Approach: Reference Portfolio

- The Reference Portfolio is our benchmark
 - A low-cost, passive liquid portfolio
 - A level of risk appropriate for a long-term investor
 - Chosen by the Board

- We then undertake a range of strategies to add value over and above the Reference Portfolio.

- Our actual portfolio can be – and usually is – substantially different from the Reference Portfolio.

- We always measure our value-adding activities against this passive, low-cost alternative.

Asset class	Percentage
Growth assets	80%
<i>Global equities</i>	70%
<i>NZ equities</i>	5%
<i>Global listed property</i>	5%
Fixed interest	20%
<i>Fully hedged to New Zealand dollars</i>	

Our Approach: Opportunities and Access Points

Identify the Opportunities

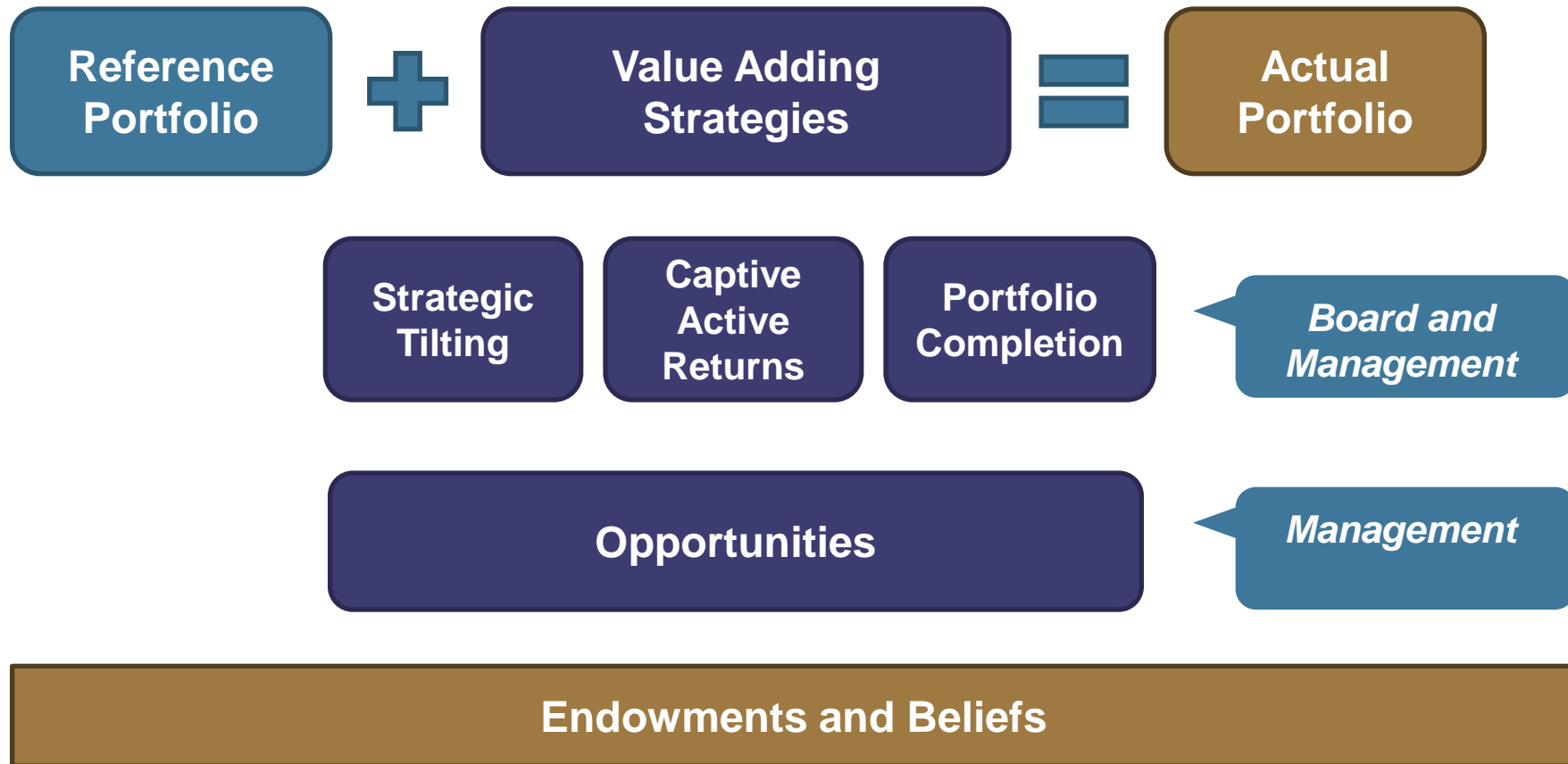
- Transaction efficiency
- Diversification
- Mispricing: asset classes, markets & securities

Accessing the Opportunities

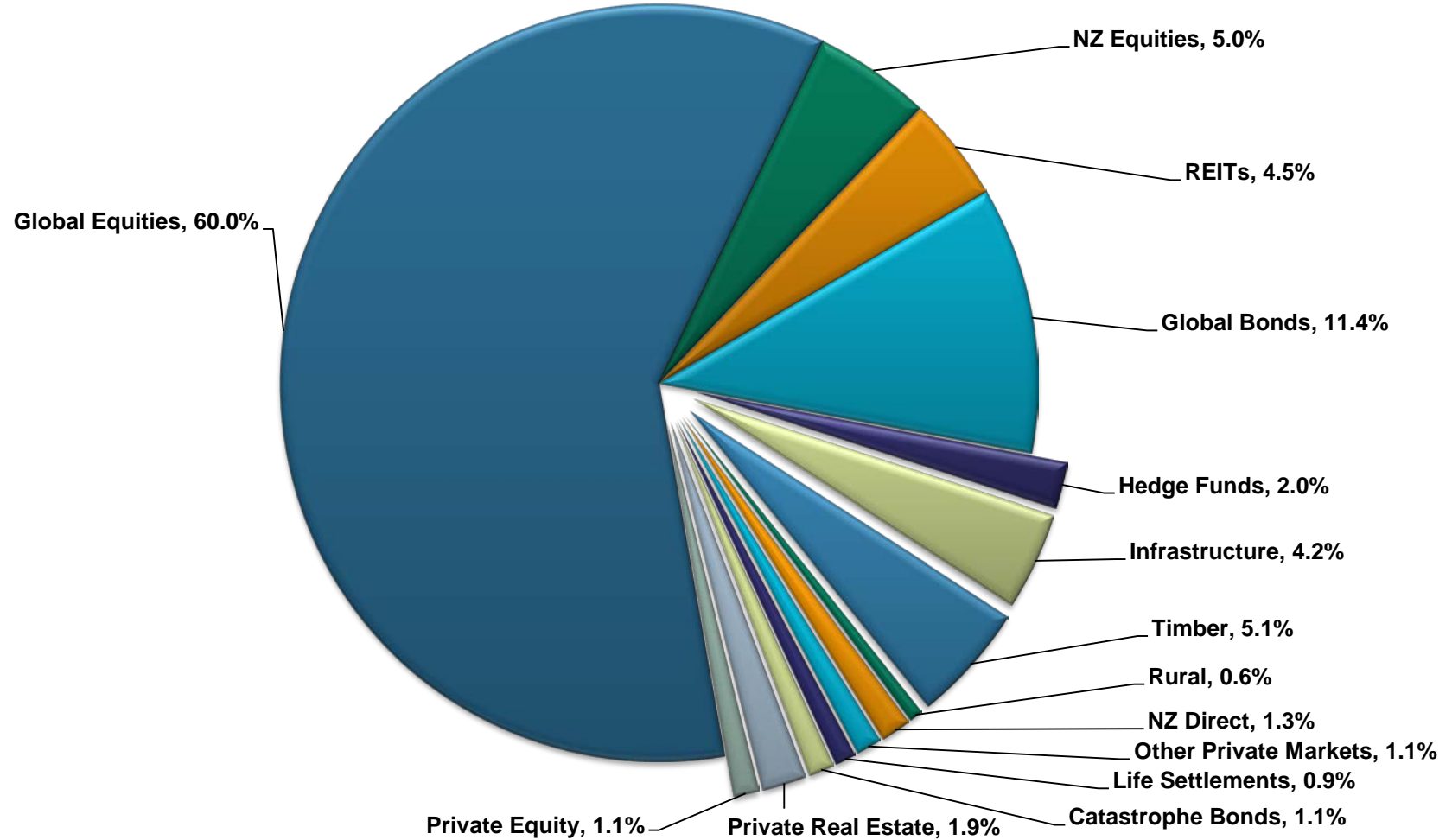
- Physical Listed
 - Passive vs. Active
 - Internal vs. External
- Derivatives
 - Passive vs. Active
- Physical Unlisted
 - Internal vs. External

Aim for a single top down view across the widest range of investments
& a consistent investment approach

Our Approach: Clarity around Risk, Reward and Governance



Current Portfolio (ex Strategic Tilting)



Strategic Tilting

- Strategic Tilting is a contrarian strategy that relies on our belief in mean reversion
- This belief allows us to have a concept of disequilibrium prices (varying risk adjusted expected returns) that we can tilt into
- This concept allows us to buy markets when prices are low relative to our equilibrium valuations, and sell markets when prices are high
- The nature of the mean reversion process is uncertain
 - Our long time horizon allows us to bear this uncertainty and withstand the inevitable mark-to-market risk of a counter-cyclical strategy
- Tilting is consistent with our endowments
 - long time horizon
 - stable risk aversion

NZ Active Equities Portfolio

- Internal team created in 2013 to actively manage a slice of allocation to NZ listed equities
- Strategy designed to capitalise on our long term nature and to integrate ESG beliefs
- Building relatively concentrated (10-15 stocks) portfolio
- Focus on identifying companies with attractively priced sustainable earnings
- Intention is to create dialogue with portfolio companies focused on medium to long term earnings path and risks around that
- Preparedness to look different than the market, both in composition and short-run returns

Governance matters

- Long horizon investing will struggle in the absence of sound, aligned, governance
- Contrarian strategies inevitably involve periods of discomfort
 - Governance arrangements must be strong enough to avoid prematurely stopping out
- Incentive structures need to be properly aligned
- Ongoing education required
- Transparency and proactive communication support stakeholder alignment

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