

21 July 2023

**BY EMAIL**

*Climatereportingconsultation@treasury.gov.au*

Climate Disclosure Unit  
Market Conduct Division  
The Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
PARKES ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Sir/Madam

**Climate-related Financial Disclosure: Second Consultation  
Summerset Group Holdings Limited ABN 59 164 228 399**

Summerset Group Holdings Limited (**Summerset**) (hereafter “we” and “our”) appreciates the opportunity to comment on climate disclosure reforms as part of the development of a broad sustainable finance framework for Australia. We have set out below some context on our business, and our response to the ‘Climate-related financial disclosure: Consultation Paper – June 2023’ (**Consultation Paper**).

**ABOUT SUMMERSET**

Summerset was founded in New Zealand in 1997 and is now one of New Zealand’s largest operators in the retirement village and aged care sector. We have 39 retirement villages either complete or under construction, and another 11 greenfield sites across New Zealand and Australia in the pipeline for future growth. Summerset is incorporated in New Zealand and is listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange (**NZX**) as SUM, with a secondary listing on the Australian Securities Exchange (**ASX**) as SNZ. As a company, we have shown consistent growth and are positioned strongly for the future.

Sustainability is well integrated into Summerset’s business strategy, and we have a scientifically aligned emissions reduction targets that utilises the Science Based Initiative target setting tool. We are also the first net ‘carbon zero’ retirement village operator in New Zealand and offset any unavoidable emissions with gold standard carbon credits for our operations in New Zealand and Australia.

Summerset is required by New Zealand legislation to prepare and publish climate-related disclosures in line with the New Zealand Climate Standards (**NZCS**). The NZCS were created in late 2022, by the External Reporting Board’s (**XRB**) as secondary legislation, and are based upon the Taskforce for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (**TCFD**) framework. Our first disclosure will occur in early 2024.

## SUMMERSET'S SUBMISSION ON THE CONSULTATION PAPER

Building upon our feedback submitted (17 February 2023) in response to the first Climate-related Financial Disclosure consultation paper (December 2022), Summerset is of the opinion that further clarity could be provided for companies incorporated outside of Australia that have Australian subsidiaries, as to whether they are included by the framework.

In the consultation paper it is proposed that requirements to comply with climate disclosure standards are contained in the Corporations Act.

*Part 2M.3 of the Corporations Act sets out the requirements of annual financial reports. It is proposed that the requirement to comply with climate disclosure standards would be contained in Part 2M.3. Climate disclosures would be required as part of both the directors' report and the financial report.*

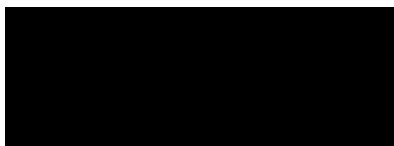
Following the publication of the consultation paper, Summerset, sought independent legal advice, and believes that we would be exempt from the requirement to comply with climate disclosure standards. However, Summerset would appreciate explicit confirmation that this is the intention of the climate disclosure standards.

Summerset is already bound by overseas legislation (Financial Markets Conduct Act (NZ)) to prepare and publish climate-related disclosures on an annual basis from 2024. The New Zealand framework is built upon the TCFD framework. If the intention was in fact to capture companies incorporated outside of Australia, then Summerset would likely face burdensome duplication and additional complication complying with potentially competing standards and expectations.

## FINAL COMMENTS

Summerset does continue to be broadly supportive of the standards and objectives outlined in the Consultation Paper. We thank you for your considerations of our feedback, and emphasise our support of initiatives that enhance the likelihood of achieving standardisation for all forms of climate-related disclosures across jurisdictions, and the minimisation of potential burdensome duplication.

On behalf of Summerset,



Chief Financial Officer & GM Corporate Services  
Summerset Group Holdings Limited