

MEDIA RELEASE 4 October 2024

AustralianSuper appoints Head of Americas

AustralianSuper today announced Mikaël Limpalaër as its new Head of Americas based in New York along with four other senior US appointments and the relocation of its Head of Private Credit.

The moves are part of AustralianSuper's continued expansion of its investment capability in the Americas. The other appointments are:

- Nick Ward, Head of Private Credit, to relocate to New York office
- Maria Reed appointed Head of Fund Services, Americas
- Damien Mitchell appointed Senior Investment Director, Real Assets
- Andrew Osborne appointed Senior Investment Director, Real Assets
- Matthew Choi appointed Senior Investment Director, Private Credit

Damian Moloney, Deputy Chief Investment Officer, said that with 30% of member assets currently invested in North America, the region is of great strategic importance to the Fund and its members.

'To help members achieve their best financial position in retirement we need to have an on the ground presence in global financial centres to access the best quality investment opportunities,' Mr Moloney said.

'By strengthening our senior team in New York, we can continue to build a best-in-class investment platform in the US across Real Assets, Private Credit and Private Equity, with the aim of delivering sustainable long-term performance for more than 3.4 million members.

'We have around 60 professionals in New York and expect the team to grow to more than 120 by 2026. Enhancing our capability in North America will allow the Fund to target further opportunities to generate excellent returns for members.'

Around half of AustralianSuper's \$342 billion in member assets are invested globally, including more than \$102 billion in North America.

Mr Limpalaër said the Fund was committed to pursuing high quality investment opportunities in the Americas on behalf of members.

'AustralianSuper will always be strongly committed to investing in the Australian economy but as the Fund grows there is an increasing need to expand in global financial centres such as New York,' Mr Limpalaër said.

'Having local teams on the ground in key markets helps us build relationships with world class partners and source attractive investment opportunities for members.'

Bios

Mikaël Limpalaër – Head of Americas. In his new role, Mikaël will be responsible for overseeing all of the Fund's investment and support activities across asset classes in the Americas. He has been with AustralianSuper in London since 2020. He moves to New York having set up and led the Fund's European Private Credit team. Mikaël has over 20 years' experience in structured finance across asset classes, having previously held a series of senior positions in structured and real estate finance at Aerieance Investments, Morgan Stanley, and Barclays Capital European CMBS conduit.

Maria Reed – Head of Fund Services, Americas. Maria will lead the Fund Services functions for the Americas, supporting the investment teams. She joins AustralianSuper from BlackRock where she spent almost a decade, most recently as a Managing Director and Head of Technology and Transformation in the firm's global Legal & Compliance department. Maria has over 35 years' experience in financial services operations, having previously held senior positions including Chief Operating Officer of Artio Global Investors (formerly Julius Baer Investment Management), JP Morgan Asset Management, and State Street.

Nick Ward – Head of Private Credit, moves to New York having joined AustralianSuper in 2011. He has worked across the Fund's Infrastructure, Property and Private Credit portfolios, and in 2021 was appointed Head of Private Credit. Nick has over 20 years' experience in both infrastructure and real estate debt. Prior to joining AustralianSuper, Nick held roles at Hastings Funds Management with a focus on infrastructure debt, and at KPMG Corporate Finance in infrastructure advisory. In his role, Nick is responsible for overseeing the Fund's \$6 billion Private Credit portfolio and managing a global team of 17 professionals globally.

Damien Mitchell – Senior Investment Director, Real Assets. Damien will be responsible for energy transition and transportation investments. He joins AustralianSuper from CIM, where he was a First Vice President based in Los Angeles with a focus on energy transition and transportation. Damien has over 25 years' experience in infrastructure investment management and advisory. Prior to CIM, Damien was a Partner at Stepstone Global where he led direct investment activities primarily in renewable energy.

Andrew Osborne – Senior Investment Director, Real Assets. Andrew will work on the Fund's legacy property activities in the US. He joins AustralianSuper from the Public Investment Fund, the sovereign wealth fund of Saudi Arabia based in Riyadh where he was the Head of Strategy for Real Estate and Infrastructure within the Investment Strategy division. Prior to PIF, he was a transactions executive for Brookfield in New York. Andrew has over 30 years' investment and strategic asset management experience and is a Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (MRICS) and the Association of Foreign Investors in Real Estate (AFIRE).

Matthew Choi – Senior Investment Director, Private Credit. Matthew will lead the Fund's real estate debt investment activities in the Americas, including origination, portfolio management, and overall strategy. He joins AustralianSuper from Granite Point Mortgage Trust where he was a Director responsible for US real estate debt investments. Prior to Granite Point, Matthew held investment positions at Torchlight Investors, Cerberus Real Estate Capital Management and GreenOak Real Estate. Matthew began his career at Credit Suisse and is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Real Estate Development graduate program at Columbia University.

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About AustralianSuper

AustralianSuper manages A\$342 billion in members' retirement savings on behalf of over 3.4 million members from more than 478,000 businesses (as at 30 June 2024).

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