

MEDIA RELEASE

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HIGHEST EVER RETURN SIGNALS CONTINUED SUCCESS FOR BRISBANE'S 'URBAN WEALTH FUND'

BRISBANE'S 'urban wealth fund', the City of Brisbane Investment Corporation (CBIC), has delivered its highest-ever annual return in the 2019-20 year, the result of a highly strategic investment approach which includes a key focus on relatively buoyant southern-state markets and assets.

CBIC's 'multi-dimensional growth' approach has seen the fund deliver a 12 per cent total return, with the fund's property portfolio outperforming its benchmark by 17.1 per cent for the year.

This strong performance delivers a \$20 million dividend into the city's "Green Future Fund", with the funds earmarked to help fund the Council's five-year program to expand and enhance Brisbane's parks, sporting fields and public recreation spaces.

The successful investment strategy was championed by recently appointed CEO Kirsty Rourke in her previous role as Head of Investment for CBIC.

Following her elevation to the CEO role in August after 6 years at the Corporation, Ms Rourke, a former commercial lawyer, said CBIC had plans to further develop its southern-state market, as well as retaining a strong focus on Brisbane and Queensland.

As well as spearheading strong financial performance, Ms Rourke also intends to see CBIC lay claim to a reputation based on strong environmental, social and governance credentials.

"I'm looking forward to leading CBIC's evolved strategic direction, and part of this will be further embedding environmental, social and governance principles within our investment decisions and exploring the potential of new products such as specialist disability accommodation," Ms Rourke said.

"It's essential that we not only ensure we are investing responsibly, but also that our investments make a positive contribution to environmental and social outcomes in the communities we invest in, and the community we serve."

She said, "We have set an ambitious target to grow our assets to \$500 million by 2023 – almost doubling our current valuation.

"Building on existing holdings in Gosford and Parramatta, our diversification strategy is linked to greater investment in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra – with a focus on government accommodation as well as broader commercial and industrial properties.



“Also key to our growth will be servicing regional Queensland’s government accommodation needs and developing new revenue streams from fee-based property consulting and joint-ventures.

“Diversifying and rebalancing our investments will build on CBIC’S strong performance for the city of Brisbane and strengthen our risk profile.”

Ms Rourke said strong returns would allow CBIC to cement its status as a true ‘urban wealth fund’.

“As an urban wealth fund, CBIC is delivering long-term investment growth that helps fund Brisbane’s future amenity needs – unlocking the potential of surplus Council assets and delivering strong, sustainable and socially responsible investment for the city,” she said.

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About CBIC

Brisbane’s ‘urban wealth fund’, CBIC was established in 2008 to invest funds on behalf of the Brisbane City Council to help strengthen its financial position, deliver services, and improve the City of Brisbane.

From the initial seed funding of \$135 million CBIC has now grown to \$284 million in net assets and has paid a total of \$151 million in dividends.

In 2019, Brisbane City Council announced that a five-year program of investment in parks, sporting fields and green space for community sport and recreation will be funded by dividends from CBIC.

CBIC is committed to integrating responsible investing principles into its investment decisions to deliver better outcomes, and ensure that as a government-backed investor, CBIC makes a positive contribution to communities and the environment.