

# VanEck– Vectors MSCI Australian Sustainable Equity ETF (GRNV)

Ethical Survey, as voted by members of the Ethical Advisers Co-Op



Poor | Disappointing | Average | Appealing | Excellent

As voted by Ethical Adviser Co-op members. Find a specialised ethical adviser near you: [www.ethicaladviserscoop.org/find-an-adviser.html](http://www.ethicaladviserscoop.org/find-an-adviser.html)

## Fund Overview

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This is an actively managed Australian company ETF. This tracks the MSCI Australia IMI Select SRI Screened Index which has been negatively screened. The exclusions are based on business activities and ESG ratings as determined by MSCI.

## Ethical Concerns

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### Investments

- ✘ Some investments in the Fund may be problematic for ethical investors, such as:
  - Mineral mining: Newcrest Mining Ltd (gold mining tailings into oceans and dam breach) and Oz Minerals
  - Fossil-fuel intensive industries: Transurban Ltd and Sydney Airport
  - Mining Logistics: Orica (mining blasting systems, a leading supplier of sodium cyanide for gold extraction)
  - Uranium mining exposure: Toro Energy (through Oz Minerals)
  - Other holdings with ethical concerns: CBA, ANZ, IAG, AMP and CSR

### Other concerns

- ✘ VanEck do not specialise in ethical investments.

## Good Points

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- ✓ Fund excludes adult entertainment, alcohol, animal welfare, civilian firearms, conventional weapons, controversial weapons, fossil fuels, gambling, genetically modified organisms (gmo), nuclear power, nuclear weapons, tobacco, low nutrition products, and companies flagged for ESG controversies.
- ✓ Provides detail of the ethical screening process in the [Supplementary PDS](#).
- ✓ Some commitment to transparency by being [UNPRI](#) signatory, but not RIAA certified.
- ✓ Average transparency, with [holdings](#) on the public website but too soon for voting history.

## About the 'Ethical Survey'

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### About the Ethical Advisers Co-Op

The Ethical Advisers Co-op is a group of 35 financial advisers who are passionate about ethics and finance. The Co-op was established as a not-for-profit over 10 years ago to enable likeminded financial advisers to work together to represent the voice of the consumer. We work to shift the super and investment industry into being more ethically aligned with their clients' objectives. The Co-op's nationwide membership of ethical financial advisers help over 3,300 Australians make financial decisions and invest in line with their ethical values.

### How the Leaf-System Works

The ethical rating is voted by Australian financial advisers who specialise in ethical investments (Co-op members). The advisers assess if fund ethics suit their average ethical client, and if it matches with the average client's expectations and objectives. The advisers consider how successful the fund is at; 1) removing industries and stocks harmful to the environment and society 2) including companies with environmental or social benefits, and 3) providing evidence of actions from the fund which benefit society and/or the environment. The quality of information the fund provides on its ethical policies, companies invested in, and proxy voting is important in assessing if a fund is as ethical as claimed. The final rating is an average of these votes.

Financial advisers are voluntarily participating to help ethical consumers gain a quick understanding of how the clients of a group of industry professionals view the ethics of each fund. The Co-op and the advisers do not receive any form of remuneration or reward for participating.

### Further Research

#### *Does your fund walk the talk?*

The Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR) – a not-for-profit shareholder advocacy organisation – pushes for transparency around whether your super fund 'walks the talk' on issues such as climate and human rights. You can find details on your super fund [here](#).

#### *Is your fund investing in fossil fuels?*

Market Forces is a not-for-profit delivering transparency on fossil fuel lending, insuring and investing within super funds, banks and insurance companies. You can see how exposed your super fund, bank or insurance company is to the fossil fuel industry [here](#).

#### *If the fund is certified by the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA)*

You can find more ethical and investment information for certified funds [here](#).

#### *More information on this fund*

For exact details of the fund's claimed ethics, costs and legal details see the fund's Product Disclosure Statement - available on their website.

*Vote based on information last updated 25<sup>th</sup> August 2019*