

### Assurance conclusion

Based on our limited assurance procedures, as described in this statement as of 11 November 2020, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the following outstanding Green Bonds (“the Bonds or “the Green Bonds”) issued by Precinct Properties New Zealand Limited (“Precinct”):

- ▶ PCT 17/12/21 5.54% Precinct Properties New Zealand Limited Bonds (PT010)
- ▶ PCT 27/11/2024 4.42% Precinct Properties New Zealand Limited Bonds (PT020)

have not been presented, in all material respects, fairly and in accordance with the International Capital Market Association (“ICMA”) Green Bond Principles (June 2018) and the Precinct’s Sustainable Debt Framework (“Criteria”).

### Other Matters

We draw attention to the use of external property valuations to determine whether the value of the total project pool exceeds the combined value of Precinct the Green Bonds. Some of these external property valuations have been prepared as at 30 June 2020 and contain paragraphs explaining the valuations have been concluded on the basis of material valuation uncertainty due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the property market, indicating that less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuation than would normally be the case. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Scope

Ernst & Young (‘EY’, ‘we’) was engaged by Precinct to undertake a limited assurance engagement, as of 11 November 2020, in relation to Precinct’s Green Bonds in order to provide an opinion as to whether the subject matter detailed below (‘Subject Matter’) meets, in all material respects, the Criteria as present below.

### Subject Matter and Criteria

The subject matter and associated criteria for this limited assurance engagement are set out in the table below.

Subject Matter	Criteria
<p>The subject matter for this limited assurance engagement includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Environmental performance and information relating to additional projects to be funded by the Bonds</li> <li>▶ Policies and procedures relating to the management of the Bonds</li> <li>▶ Precinct’s green borrowing documentation including the Precinct’s Sustainable Debt Framework.</li> </ul>	<p>The ICMA Green Bond Principles (June 2018) requirements on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Use of Proceeds</li> <li>▶ Process for Project Evaluation and Selection</li> <li>▶ Management of Proceeds</li> <li>▶ Reporting.</li> </ul> <p>Criteria found at:</p> <p>The ICMA Green Bond Principles 2018<sup>1</sup>.</p>
<p>Technical details of the assets identified as ‘green’ (‘Green Assets’)</p>	<p>Use of Proceeds and Eligibility Criteria from Precinct’s Sustainable Debt Framework that eligible assets are office, industrial or retail buildings (including upgrades) that meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Certified as obtaining or targeting a minimum 5-Star NZGBC Green Star Built rating; or</li> <li>▶ Certified as obtaining or targeting a minimum 4-Star NABERSNZ Energy Base Building Rating or Energy Whole Building Rating.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.icmagroup.org/assets/documents/Regulatory/Green-Bonds/Green-Bonds-Principles-June-2018-270520.pdf>

### **Management Responsibility**

The management of Precinct is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Subject Matter. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and presentation of the Subject Matter that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### **Assurance Practitioner's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the Subject Matter, has not been presented, in all material respects, fairly and in accordance with the criteria detailed above. Our assurance engagement has been planned and performed in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000: *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* ('ISAE (NZ) 3000').

### **Level of Assurance**

Procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for, a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed. While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our assurance engagement was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls. Our procedures did not include testing controls or performing procedures relating to checking aggregation or calculation of data within IT systems.

### **Our Approach**

Our assurance procedures performed included, but were not limited to:

- ▶ Reviewing whether the policies and procedures established by Precinct related to the post issuance of the Green Bonds to assess whether they were aligned to the requirements of the Green Bond Principles 2018
- ▶ Confirming the eligibility of assets for inclusion in Precinct's Green Bonds use of proceeds pool against Precinct's Sustainable Debt Framework
- ▶ Interviewing selected business units and group level personnel to understand key issues related to Precinct's relevant policies and procedures
- ▶ Checking the accuracy of asset valuations
- ▶ Requesting documentation supporting assertions made in the Subject Matter
- ▶ Seeking management representation on key assertions.

### **Limitations**

There are inherent limitations in performing assurance – for example, assurance engagements are based on selective testing of the information being examined – and it is possible that fraud, error, or non-compliance may occur and not be detected. There are additional inherent risks associated with assurance over non-financial information including reporting against standards which require information to be assured against source data compiled using definitions and estimation methods that are developed by the reporting entity. Finally, adherence to ISAE (NZ) 3000 and the Green Bond Principles 2018 is subjective and will be interpreted differently by different stakeholder groups.

Our assurance was limited to Precinct's Green Bonds and did not include statutory financial statements. Our assurance is limited to policies and procedures in place as of 11 November 2020. Ernst & Young provides statutory audit services and other assurance services to Precinct. We provide an agreed upon procedures engagement recalculating the performance fee paid or payable to Precinct's manager. Ernst & Young and Precinct have entered an agreement in respect of our proposed occupancy of a Precinct property. Partners and employees may deal with Precinct on normal terms within the ordinary course of trading activities of the business of Precinct. We have no other relationship with, or interest in, Precinct.

### **Use of Report**

Our responsibility in performing our assurance activities is to the Directors and Management of Precinct only and in accordance with the terms of reference for this engagement as agreed with them. We do not therefore accept or assume any responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person or organisation. Any reliance any such third party may place on Precinct's Green Bonds is entirely at its own risk. No statement is made as to whether the criteria are appropriate for any third-party purpose.

### **Our Independence and Assurance Team**

In accordance with APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners*, the firm and all professional personnel involved in this engagement have met the independence requirements of New Zealand or International professional ethical requirements. Our team has the required competencies and experience for this assurance engagement.

### **Observations on particular aspects of our engagement:**

We provide selected observations aligning to the Green Bond Principles 2018 core components, to provide the reader with further understanding on how these Green Bonds meets the Criteria. These observations are not intended to detract from our conclusion provided above.

#### **Use of Proceeds:**

- ▶ Proceeds from the Green Bonds are intended to be used for financing and re-financing purposes.
- ▶ Proceeds are intended to be allocated to office, industrial and retail buildings (including upgrades) owned or undertaken by Precinct that have, or are targeting, a minimum of a 5-Star New Zealand Green Building Council (NZGBC) Green Star Built rating and/or a 4-Star NABERSNZ Energy Base Building Rating or Energy Whole Building Rating.
- ▶ Any building that fails to meet the Eligibility Criteria set out in the Sustainable Debt Framework or loses its rating during the tenor of the bond will no longer be categorised as an Eligible Asset and the total value of the Eligible Projects will be reduced by the value of the removed asset.
- ▶ The NZGBC Green Star rating (Green Star NZ) is an internationally recognised standard developed for New Zealand. Green Star NZ is aligned with the other major international building rating tools, including the British BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) system and the North American LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) system. Green Star NZ assesses the overall environmental impact of a building covering the following categories: Energy, Water, Materials, Indoor Environment Quality, Transport, Land Use & Ecology, Management, Emissions, and Innovation. It rates buildings from 0 to 6 Stars. Buildings that achieve a 4, 5, or 6 Star rating receive Green Star certification.
- ▶ NABERSNZ rating is adapted from the National Australian Building Environment Rating System (NABERS) and is a national rating tool for commercial buildings administered by NZGBC. NABERSNZ rates the actual environmental operational performance of office buildings across Energy, Water, Waste and Indoor Environment. It rates buildings from 0 to 6 Stars. Buildings that achieve a 4, 5, or 6 Star rating are assessed as having excellent performance, market leading performance and aspirational performance respectively.
- ▶ The use of proceeds of these Bonds aligns with the Green Bond Principles 2018 project category “green buildings which meet regional, national or internationally recognised standards and certifications”.

#### **Process for Project Evaluation and Selection**

- ▶ Precinct has developed a Sustainable Debt Framework that outlines the environmental objectives of Green Bonds, eligibility criteria for determining Green Assets and the process for project selection and evaluation. The list of Precinct’s eligible Green Assets tested is included in Annex A.

#### **Management of Proceeds**

- ▶ Precinct has set-up an internal Working Group for sustainable debt to oversee the governance of Green Bonds
- ▶ Precinct has implemented processes to manage proceeds received from Green Bonds and to monitor the on-going use of proceeds. These processes include:
  - ▶ A tracking process through existing internal reporting systems to allocate funds received to Green Assets
  - ▶ A process for deploying any unallocated proceeds to temporary cash equivalent investments
  - ▶ An annual process for monitoring the on-going use of proceeds
- ▶ Precinct will obtain on-going assurance over the Green Bond portfolio to confirm that the Green Assets continue to meet the Green Bond Principles 2018 and the requirements as set out in the Sustainable Debt Framework.

#### **Reporting**

- ▶ Precinct will report on the use of proceeds of Green Bonds at least on an annual basis that will include a list of Green Assets, the amount allocated to each Green Asset and the Green Star rating and/or NABERSNZ rating of each Green Asset.



Ernst & Young Limited

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Bennett', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Graeme Bennett  
EY Assurance Partner

9 November 2020

## Annex A

### Precinct's list of eligible green assets

#### *Existing Green Assets:*

Nominated Project	Class	Country
Jarden House, 21 Queen Street, Auckland	Green Buildings	New Zealand
AMP Centre, 29 Customs Street, Auckland	Green Buildings	New Zealand
Mason Brothers, 139 Pakenham Street, Auckland	Green Buildings	New Zealand
Building 5A, 12 Madden Street, Auckland	Green Buildings	New Zealand
Commercial Bay Tower, 15 Customs Street, Auckland	Green Buildings	New Zealand
Charles Fergusson Building, 38 Bowen Street, Wellington	Green Buildings	New Zealand
Defence House, 34 Bowen Street, Wellington	Green Buildings	New Zealand

#### *Development Green Assets:*

Nominated Project	Class	Country
10 Madden Street, Auckland	Green Buildings	New Zealand
40 Bowen Street, Wellington	Green Buildings	New Zealand