

## NEW RIAA CEO APPOINTED

The Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Simon O'Connor as its new Chief Executive. Mr O'Connor's appointment follows Louise O'Halloran stepping down at the end of 2012 after more than a decade leading the growth of responsible investment in Australia.

Mr O'Connor brings more than ten years' of international experience from both financial services and sustainability spheres, including as Director and Senior Economist for Economists at Large, Senior Investment Analyst at Innovest (now MSCI), and most recently as leading Economic Advisor for the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF).

Mr O'Connor has played a critical role during his time at ACF in leading the debate on issues important to the development of sustainable financial markets. These issues included the financing of Australia's low carbon economy, carbon pricing, forestry and resources.

Pablo Berrutti, Chair of RIAA's Board of Directors, noted that Mr O'Connor's appointment comes at a critical point in the evolution of responsible investment.

*"We are thrilled that Simon is joining RIAA, and are particularly excited about Simon's track record in linking civil society and the investment community. Strengthening these connections, as many sustainability leaders in the corporate sector have done, will be critical to ensuring that the investment industry can meet the needs of beneficiaries in the coming decades."*

Mr O'Connor's practical experience as an analyst and economist is also expected to bring unique insights which will allow RIAA to better serve its members, who span the investment value chain across Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Berrutti said, *"RIAA and the RI Academy have an important role to play in building strong networks across our industry, leading debates on issues important to our members and supporting skills development throughout our region. Simon provides RIAA with the right leadership for the next phase of our development and to support the changing needs of our members"*

## NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

### ABOUT THE RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION

The Responsible Investment Association is the peak industry body for institutions and professionals working in responsible investment in Australasia. RIAA's purpose is to provide training, professional development, events, research and policy initiatives that will promote stable markets, maximise financial returns and create positive environmental, social and governance outcomes.

For more information about the RIAA please contact the team at [info@responsibleinvestment.org](mailto:info@responsibleinvestment.org)