

Suntec Real Estate Investment Trust ("Suntec REIT")



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 15 APRIL 2021

RESPONSES TO THE SUBSTANTIAL AND RELEVANT QUESTIONS

ARA Trust Management (Suntec) Limited (the "Manager"), as manager of Suntec Real Estate Investment Trust ("Suntec REIT") would like to thank unitholders of Suntec REIT ("Unitholders") for submitting their questions in advance of Suntec REIT's Annual General Meeting ("AGM") to be held by electronic means at 10.30 a.m. on 15 April 2021.

The Manager will address the substantial and relevant questions with regards to the resolutions tabled. As there are areas of overlap in the questions raised, we have grouped related and similar questions together and provided our corresponding responses to them.

Please refer to <u>Annex A</u> for the list of substantial and relevant questions, and the Manager's responses to these questions.

For full details on Suntec REIT's financial results for the financial year ended 31 December 2020, please refer to Suntec REIT's 2020 Annual Report on Suntec REIT's website at <u>https://suntecreit.listedcompany.com/ar.html</u>.

By Order of the Board ARA Trust Management (Suntec) Limited (as manager of Suntec Real Estate Investment Trust) (Company registration no. 200410976R)

Chong Kee Hiong Director 15 April 2021

Annex A

Please refer to our responses to the questions as set out in the table below:

Acquisitions

Questions	Responses
1. What are the expansion plans for	The Manager actively sources for acquisitions that fits
2021/2022?	Suntec REIT's investment strategy and are Distribution
	Per Unit ("DPU") accretive. Currently, Singapore,
	Australia and United Kingdom assets constitute approximately 76%, 17% and 7% of Suntec REIT's assets under management ("AUM") respectively.
	Suntec REIT will remain Singapore-centric. The Manager expects 30% to 40% of its AUM to be overseas assets in the next few years. The Manager will continue to source for accretive opportunities in these countries to deliver long term value to Unitholders.

Tenant Assistance

Questions	Responses
1. How many tenants are we still	Following the re-opening of the Singapore economy, the
giving rental relief?	recovery of the retail business has been uneven with
	some trade categories recovering faster than others.
2. What percentage of tenants	Calibrated assistance such as short-term restructuring
would that be?	of rent (comprising a lower fixed rent with a higher gross
	turnover component) were granted to approximately
3. When would this rental relief	one-third of the retail tenants, based on the net lettable
cease?	area ("NLA") of Suntec REIT's Singapore retail portfolio.
	Most of these short-term restructuring will end by Q2
	2021. Rent rebates will be granted to about one per cent
	of the retail tenants for a few months.
	In Australia and United Kingdom, rent rebates and rent
	deferment are expected to be granted in 2021 to retail
	tenants that continue to be adversely impacted by the
	pandemic.
	In United Kingdom, the rent reliefs for retail tenants will
	be covered by the 2-year guarantee that Suntec REIT
	has secured from the vendor.

Capital Management

Questions	Responses
1. Does management intend to	The Manager strives to maintain an appropriate capital
improve (reduce) the gearing	structure, balancing optimal returns to Unitholders,
ratio in due course?	interest coverage and aggregate leverage ratio ("ALR").
	The target ALR for Suntec REIT is between 40% to 45%
2. What is the management's view	with interest coverage multiple of about 2.5 times or
on where the "comfortable"	higher.
gearing ratio for Suntec REIT should lie?	As of 31 December 2020, there are undrawn facilities of S\$750 million, which is adequate for Suntec REIT's
 Are we looking at a rights issue or placement exercise for Suntec REIT soon? 	2021 refinancing needs.

Resolution 3

Questions	Responses
 Please share your plans on the issuing of new units? 	Generally, units if issued, are to fund acquisitions, asset enhancements, capital management and/or working capital purposes to maintain an appropriate debt and equity capital structure. Since its inception, the Manager has elected to receive a portion of its asset management fees in units, aligning the interests of the Manager with Unitholders.

Others

Questions	Responses
With reference to the new Code of	Suntec REIT supports the new Code of Conduct on
Conduct for Leasing of Retail	tenancy agreements. The new code will help to build trust,
Premises in Singapore (the "Code	reduce ambiguity, and provide greater clarity on the 'rules
of Conduct");	of engagement' during lease negotiations. With the new
1. What percentage of Singapore	code in place, the Manager is confident that landlord-tenant
tenants are on the two-tier	relationships will be enhanced over time, and all parties can
rental system?	focus on the more important objectives of achieving long-
2. What is the management view	term business success and helping the Singapore retail
on the new Code of Conduct?	sector recover and emerge stronger from the impact of
3. What impact would this new	COVID-19.
Code of Conduct have on	
Suntec REIT?	The new Code of Conduct for leasing of retail premises is
	not expected to have a significant impact on Suntec REIT's
	retail revenue.
	More than half of Suntec REIT's retail tenants in Singapore
	have a variable gross turnover component in their rent

		structure. Specifically, variable rent collected from leases comprising an "either/or, whichever is higher" formula does not contribute significantly to Suntec REIT's retail revenue.
4.	Please provide a fuller explanation why remuneration, in bands, was not provided.	The Manager is of view that the competition for talent in the real estate investment management industry is very keen and the Manager has in the interests of Unitholders, opted not to disclose the remuneration. The remuneration of all employees is paid out from the REIT management fees the Manager receives from Suntec REIT. The performance-based renumeration framework ensures that key management's interests are aligned with Unitholders.
5.	Please explain why Suntec REIT once again decided not to hold a physical AGM (or at least semi-physical ones) this year.	Despite the relaxation of capacity limits, the Manager has given due consideration to public health and other risks and has decided to err on the side of caution to conduct the meeting virtually to minimise physical interactions.

ABOUT SUNTEC REIT

Listed on 9 December 2004, Suntec REIT holds properties in Suntec City, Singapore's largest integrated commercial development (including one of Singapore's largest shopping Mall), a 66.3% interest in Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre, a one-third interest in One Raffles Quay, a one-third interest in Marina Bay Financial Centre Towers 1 and 2 and the Marina Bay Link Mall, and a 30.0% interest in 9 Penang Road. Suntec REIT holds a 100% interest in a commercial building located at 177 Pacific Highway, Sydney, a 100% interest in a commercial building located at 21 Harris Street, Pyrmont, Sydney, a 50.0% interest in Southgate Complex, Melbourne, a 50.0% interest in a commercial building located at Olderfleet 477 Collins Street, Melbourne and a 100% interest in a commercial building located at 55 Currie Street, Adelaide, Australia. Suntec REIT also holds a 50.0% interest in Nova Properties located in London, United Kingdom. Its aim is to invest in income-producing real estate which is primarily used for office and/or retail purposes. Suntec REIT is managed by an external manager, ARA Trust Management (Suntec) Limited. For more details, please visit <u>www.suntecreit.com</u>.

ABOUT ARA TRUST MANAGEMENT (SUNTEC) LIMITED

Suntec REIT is managed by ARA Trust Management (Suntec) Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ARA Asset Management Limited ("**ARA**" or the "**Group**").

ARA operates a diversified platform across assets, strategies and geographies, with approximately S\$116 billion¹ in gross assets under management globally, as at 31 December 2020. It offers valueadded investment solutions in both public and private markets, managing listed and unlisted real estate investment trusts (REITs) and private funds in real estate, infrastructure and credit across 28 countries. As part of its investor-operator philosophy, the Group also operates a real estate management services division with local teams to manage its assets worldwide.

ARA's multi-platform, multi-product global fund management business is driven by dedicated teams with in-depth market knowledge and local expertise in all countries where it operates and invests. The Group strives to work sustainably, is mindful of its impact on the environment, and aims to leverage technology to work smart and achieve better outcomes for its stakeholders. Built on a foundation of strong corporate governance and business integrity, ARA manages funds on behalf of many of the world's largest pension funds, sovereign wealth funds and financial institutions.

For more information, please visit <u>www.ara-group.com</u>.

¹ Includes assets under management by ARA Asset Management Limited and the Group of companies ("ARA Group") and its Associates as at 31 December 2020