

## Perpetual Pure Series Funds

# PERPETUAL PURE EQUITY ALPHA FUND - CLASS A

March 2026

### FUND FACTS

**Investment objective:** Aims to generate positive returns over a market cycle irrespective of market conditions by investing in both long and short positions of predominantly Australian shares.

### FUND BENEFITS

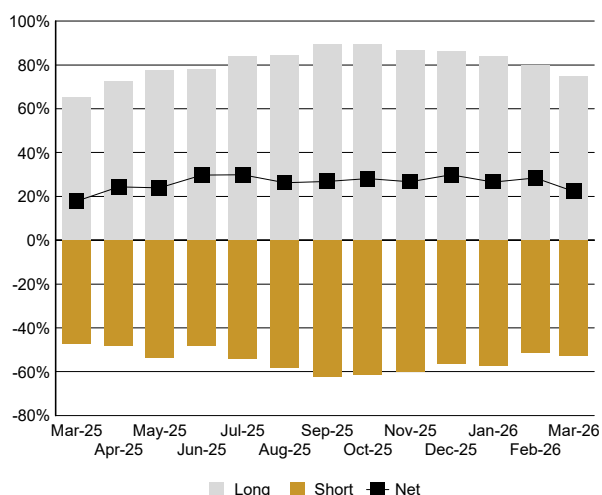
The Fund aims to achieve performance objectives by adopting a bottom-up stock selection process for both long and short positions, combined with a top down approach to managing market exposure. Decisions to buy or sell are based mainly on fundamental stock analysis, complemented by the identification of special opportunities.

### FUND RISKS

All investments carry risk and different strategies may carry different levels of risk. The relevant product disclosure statement or offer document for a fund should be considered before deciding whether to acquire or hold units in that fund. Your financial adviser can assist you in determining whether a fund is suited to your financial needs.

<b>Inception Date:</b>	March 2012
<b>Size of fund:</b>	\$318.42 million as at 31 Dec 2025
<b>APIR:</b>	PERo668AU
<b>Fund Managers:</b>	Sean Roger & Anthony About
<b>Management Fee:</b>	1.28%*
<b>Performance Fee:</b>	20.5% of outperformance*
<b>Performance Hurdle:</b>	RBA Cash Rate Index
<b>Investment style:</b>	Active, fundamental, bottom-up, value
<b>Suggested minimum investment period:</b>	Five years or longer

### HISTORICAL MARKET EXPOSURE



### TOP 5 STOCK HOLDINGS (LONG)

	% of Portfolio
Washington H. Soul Patt.	6.8%
Cobram Estate Olives Ltd.	4.0%
News Corporation	3.9%
Servcorp Limited	3.6%
New Hope Corporation Limited	2.9%

\* Information on Management Costs (including estimated indirect costs) and a full description of the Fund's performance fee is set out in the Fund's PDS.

### GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF MATERIAL ASSETS

The Fund holds no single international asset representing more than 10% of the Fund's net asset value.

### NET PERFORMANCE- periods ending 31 March 2026

	Fund	RBA Cash Rate Index*
1 month	0.41	0.34
3 months	-0.63	0.94
1 year	9.48	3.85
2 year p.a.	6.12	4.13
3 year p.a.	5.83	4.16
4 year p.a.	5.85	3.64
5 year p.a.	6.23	2.92
7 year p.a.	6.77	2.25
10 year p.a.	6.10	2.04
Since incep. p.a.	6.97	2.21

\*RBA Cash Rate Index is the Performance Hurdle.

### PORTFOLIO SECTORS

	Long	Short	Net
Communication Services	9.1	-2.1	7.0
Consumer Discretionary	7.7	-8.3	-0.5
Consumer Staples	5.5	-5.9	-0.4
Energy	4.6	-0.5	4.1
Financials ex Property Trusts	11.1	-14.4	-3.3
Health Care	6.1	-1.8	4.4
Industrials	9.0	-7.6	1.4
Information Technology	0.0	-3.1	-3.1
Materials	9.6	-4.8	4.8
Other Shares	0.8	0.0	0.8
Property Trusts	0.0	0.0	0.0
Real Estate	8.9	-2.3	6.6
Utilities	1.7	-1.2	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>74.2</b>	<b>-51.9</b>	<b>22.3</b>

### PORTFOLIO FUNDAMENTALS^

	Portfolio
Price / Earnings*	16.6
Dividend Yield*	2.8%
Price / Book	2.3
Debt / Equity	41.0%
Return on Equity*	13.8%

^ Portfolio Fundamentals are compiled using our methodology and provided only for the purpose of illustrating Perpetual's investment style in action. These figures are forecast estimates, calculated based on consensus broker estimates where available, and should not be relied upon. Dividend Yield is a dividend forecast of underlying securities for the portfolio and does not reflect the distributions to be determined for the fund.

\* Forward looking 12-month estimate.

## MARKET COMMENTARY

The S&P/ASX 300 declined 2.0% over the March quarter, masking considerable intra quarter volatility as early momentum gave way to a sharp reversal. The market rallied strongly through January and February, reaching new highs before surrendering those gains and more in March as geopolitical escalation and renewed inflationary pressures drove the worst monthly drawdown in nearly three years. Energy was a standout performer across the quarter, buoyed by rising oil prices linked to Middle East supply disruptions. Technology continued its prolonged de-rating, extending losses amid ongoing concerns around AI disruption and valuation. The RBA tightened policy twice during the quarter, lifting the cash rate to 4.10%, as persistently elevated inflation and a resilient labour market left the board with little room to pause. This tightening backdrop contributed to a notable divergence between large and small caps, with large caps offering relative shelter as risk appetite deteriorated. By quarter end, sentiment had shifted materially, with volatility measures surging and the market pricing a more cautious macro outlook.

## PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

The portfolio's largest positions include Washington H. Soul Pattinson, Cobram Estate Olives and Servcorp. Conversely, the portfolio's largest short positions include select names in the Financial and Consumer Discretionary sectors.

Washington H. Soul Pattinson (SOL) performed well over the quarter, climbing 8.8% post release of its interim result, the first reflecting post combination with Brickworks. The result reflected another period of solid cashflow and growth in net asset value. In a market environment where valuations remain elevated, SOL's diversified portfolio and highly regarded management team offer an attractive exposure through current volatility. Positioning has rotated into alternative assets including private credit, where management are seeing no signs of stress given their more old economy oriented exposure, and private equity. With a proven track record of patient capital management, we believe SOL remains well positioned to deliver long term risk adjusted value.

Ramsay Health Care contributed to portfolio performance, closing the quarter up 14.7% driven by a series of positive developments. The appointment of a new chair and management team has started to see operational improvement visible in utilisation rates and margin stabilisation. Management continued to execute effectively, announcing the much anticipated in specie distribution of the Ramsay Santé shareholding, a transaction that will further highlight the quality of the Australian assets and materially reduce the debt burden, simplifying the investment case considerably. Additionally, RHC is well positioned to benefit from industry consolidation and the exit of weaker competitors, which should support a sustained recovery in margins over the medium to long term. Ramsay represents an opportunity for investors to gain exposure to high quality, infrastructure like assets, with transformation initiatives well underway and operational efficiencies continuing to improve. Looking ahead, we will be monitoring the outcome of the Fair Work Commission ruling on nurse wages where the critical question being the extent to which Ramsay can pass through these cost increases to private health insurers, and the timing of any such renegotiation.

Flutter Entertainment detracted from portfolio performance over the March quarter, with the share price materially underperforming following a sharp selloff in January and February. The weakness was driven by industry data pointing to a slowdown in US online sports betting handle, and December data for New York showing FanDuel handle tracking down 13%. Concerns around sustained handle softness were compounded by heightened market focus on the potential competitive threat from emerging prediction markets. Flutter has launched its own prediction market offering, with a broader product rollout and improved functionality expected through the remainder of CY26. Importantly, management reiterated confidence in the long term structural growth of US online sports betting and iGaming, underpinned by market share leadership, operating leverage, and disciplined capital allocation. We believe the current share price reflects overly pessimistic assumptions.

The overweight position in Light & Wonder (LNW) detracted from portfolio performance over the quarter, declining 24.2% for the quarter, with the selloff driven by two key concerns: expectations of weaker consumer spending arising from escalating US Iran tensions, and broader market questions around the potential impact of AI on the gaming sector. Notwithstanding these headwinds, the stock was sold consistent with the broader de rating of gaming/leisure stocks. LNW continues to take market share underpinned by a strong suite of new premium games, and gaming spend has proven resilient in previous economic downturns, providing a degree of confidence that consumer spending fears may be overstated. Additionally, land based gaming accounts for over two thirds of the business and is relatively defensible against AI generated competition, given regulatory and licensing barriers as well as the deep integration of software and hardware that is difficult to replicate digitally. At the time of writing, the stock trades at a 12x PE multiple, we believe that the market is yet to fully reflect the earnings durability of the underlying business.

## OUTLOOK

With tensions escalating rapidly in the Middle East, comparisons to past crises – particularly the 1970s oil shocks – are inevitable. Like then, equity markets entered this period on elevated valuations. While the selloff has been meaningful, it still reflects a base case that avoids worst case outcomes – and valuations remain stretched. The US market, at 19.3x forward P/E, sits at a 17.3% premium to its 20 year average (around the 78th percentile). Australia, at 17.2x, appears more modest, but for a resources and financials heavy market, this still represents a 15.8% premium – near the 84th percentile. We continue to favour real business with quality balance sheets and hard assets over financial leverage and growthier names.

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The performance fee is equal to 20.50% of daily outperformance over the hurdle rate of return. The current hurdle rate is the Reserve Bank of Australia cash rate. Performance fees are accrued daily and payable six monthly, however will only be paid in the event that the Fund's return over the performance fee calculation period is positive and the performance fee accrual is positive. For further information on the calculation of the performance fee please consult the Fund's PDS.

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## MORE INFORMATION

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