

## Perpetual Investment Funds

# PERPETUAL GLOBAL ALLOCATION ALPHA FUND

April 2026

### FUND FACTS

**Investment objective:** Aims to provide long-term capital growth and outperform the MSCI World ex Australia Net Total Return Index (AUD) with lower risk (before fees and taxes) over rolling three-year periods.

### FUND BENEFITS

Provides investors with long-term growth opportunities across global equities. The fund is run by high quality investment teams.

### 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.

**Benchmark:** MSCI World Ex Australia Net Total Return Index (AUD) - since 1st October 2022

**Inception Date:** March 1999

**Size of Portfolio:** \$383.51 million as at 31 Mar 2026

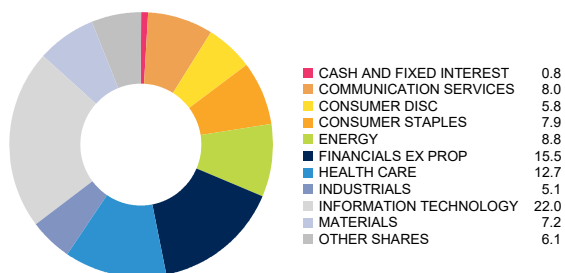
**APIR:** PER0066AU

**Management Fee:** 0.55%\*

**Investment style:** Active, fundamental, disciplined, value

**Suggested minimum investment period:** Five years or longer

### PORTFOLIO SECTORS



### TOP 10 STOCK HOLDINGS

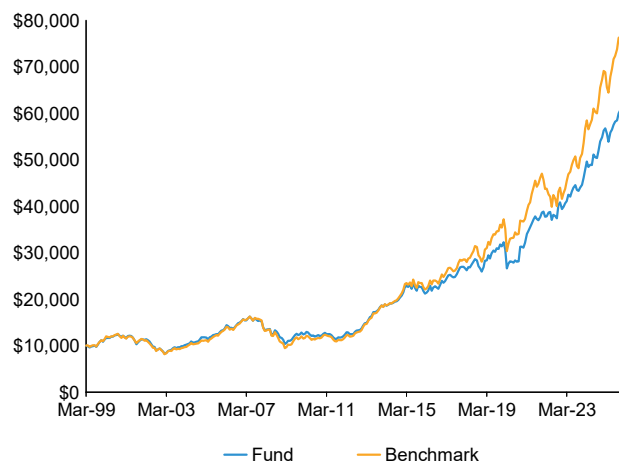
Stock Holding	% of Portfolio
Apple Inc.	2.9%
Microsoft Corporation	2.9%
NVIDIA Corporation	2.2%
Broadcom Inc.	1.5%
Alphabet Inc.	1.4%
Alphabet Inc.	1.3%
Chevron Corporation	1.1%
Amazon.com, Inc.	1.1%
AbbVie, Inc.	1.0%
Merck & Co., Inc.	1.0%

### PERFORMANCE- periods ending 30 April 2026

Period	Fund	Historical <sup>1</sup> Performance	Benchmark	Excess
1 month	2.76	-	4.44	-1.69
3 months	1.65	-	0.71	+0.94
1 year	12.05	-	15.06	-3.01
2 year p.a.	11.62	-	14.48	-2.86
3 year p.a.	12.44	-	16.52	-4.07
4 year p.a.	-	11.84	14.87	-3.03
5 year p.a.	-	11.72	12.97	-1.25
7 year p.a.	-	10.82	12.59	-1.77
10 year p.a.	-	10.71	12.53	-1.82

<sup>1</sup>Effective 1 October 2022 the Fund Investment strategy has changed; including the investment objective, investment approach and benchmark of the Fund. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Returns may differ due to different tax treatments.

### GROWTH OF \$10,000 SINCE INCEPTION



\*Information on Management Costs (including estimated indirect costs) is set out in the Fund's PDS.

## MARKET COMMENTARY

Equity markets rebounded strongly in April, looking beyond persistent geopolitical risks to post new highs. The dominant market story was one of renewed confidence, driven by a powerful risk-on rally centred on artificial intelligence (AI) stocks and buoyed by a very positive US corporate earnings season. Tensions between the US and Iran continued to dominate headlines, with the Strait of Hormuz remaining severely disrupted and Brent crude pushing to US\$114 per barrel by month-end. Yet global equities staged a remarkable recovery, led by extraordinary gains across the AI semiconductor supply chain, but with advances in all regions.

- Global shares (+8.9%) staged a powerful rebound in April, underpinned by US equities (+10.5%), which benefited from a decisive rotation back into AI stocks and were buoyed by a strong earnings season in which 84% of reporting S & P 500 companies beat consensus expectations, with aggregate EPS growth of approximately 14.5% year-on-year. Resilient activity data and the Fed remaining on hold were also constructive.
- April saw a sharp reversal in equity market leadership with the Russell 1000 Growth index (+ 11.9%) outperforming its value peer (+8.2%) as investor appetite for companies leveraged to the AI investment cycle returned in force.
- Japanese equities (+16.1%) outperformed developed market peers, supported by yen weakness and the return of foreign investors to Japanese technology-related names.
- European equities (+6.2%) performed well as markets increasingly priced a contained Middle East outcome, and resilient global growth and strong US earnings supported cyclicals and exporters around the world. The rally was also aided by corporates having stronger-than-expected pricing power and improving financial conditions as the ECB remained on hold.
- UK equities (+2.3%) rose but underperformed primarily because the UK is one of the most stagflation-sensitive major markets which had greater sensitivity to higher energy costs and tighter financial conditions. The bourse also has limited exposure to the AI phenomenon, and rising bond yields and renewed inflation concerns weighed on domestic cyclicals and rate-sensitive sectors. - Australian shares (+ 2.2%) advanced modestly, underperforming the broader global rally as the Australian market's more limited direct exposure to the AI theme constrained returns.
- Emerging markets (+13.3%) outperformed their DM peers, powered by extraordinary gains in Taiwan (+ 22.7%) and South Korea (+33.9%) and other parts of EM Asia, where the global capex and semiconductor investment boom continued to drive strong earnings upgrades and capital inflows.
- Commodity markets gained broadly, with energy and industrial metals the clear outperformers, reflecting both the sustained supply disruption from the Strait of Hormuz closure and surging real-world demand for materials underpinning the global AI data centre buildout.

The strong rally in risk markets during April was supported by strong US corporate earnings results and centred primarily on companies exposed to AI and the technology supply chain. Both the percentage of S & P 500 companies reporting earnings above expectations (84%) and the magnitude of those surprises were above recent averages. The largest contributors to the acceleration in earnings growth have been three of the "Magnificent 7" (Alphabet, Amazon and Meta). A key theme for the season has been its broad strength, with cyclical sectors contributing meaningfully despite a softer quarter of economic growth. Markets have notably rewarded revenue growth, not just cost discipline, with rising revenue growth and margins both contributing to corporate bottom lines.

We continue to look for opportunities in companies and sectors with more reasonable valuations, strong balance sheets, and earnings that are beatable against modest consensus expectations, particularly where the AI-driven capital expenditure cycle may benefit industries beyond the technology sector itself.

Geopolitical uncertainty persisted throughout April, with the Strait of Hormuz effectively closed which pushed spot Brent crude prices to US \$114 per barrel by month-end. The key for markets from here is not how high energy prices go, but rather where they stay; prices sustained above US \$110 per barrel for an extended period would be expected to trigger a material decline in consensus global growth and a rise in global inflation expectations, thereby threatening the duration of the business cycle. At present, markets have seemingly factored in that de-escalation is desired and beneficial for both sides. However, the bar for an oil spike threatening the business cycle is high given the development of large services industries, the world's reduced energy intensity, the strong state of global corporate balance sheets, and more diversified energy supply across regions and energy types.

The US Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged at its April FOMC meeting, as the FOMC weighed temporary energy-driven inflation against the resilience of the US labour market and consumer spending. By month end, market pricing implies that the Federal Reserve will hold rates steady for the remainder of 2026, with rate cuts increasingly pushed into 2027. The Bank of Japan, by contrast, moved to a more hawkish stance over the month, with upward revisions to its inflation forecasts leading markets to bring forward expectations for further rate hikes. Ten-year Japanese government bond yields rose to their highest level since 1997, reflecting the combination of imported energy inflation and a reassessment of fiscal sustainability given Japan's large stockpile of debt and the newly elected PM's desire to increase spending and lower taxes. In Europe, the ECB held rates at its April meeting, acknowledging the stagflationary pressures from elevated energy costs against a backdrop of weakening business activity, with eurozone Purchasing Managers' Index coming in a bit soft, although it is still aligned with GDP of about +0.4 %QA in the Jun'26 quarter.

In Australia, there was no RBA Board meeting in April, but the Bank remained very much in focus over the month as the release of March quarter CPI data showed that headline inflation rose to +4.6%Y in the year to March 2026, its highest reading in 30 months, while trimmed mean inflation rose a slightly softer +0.8%Q to +3.5%Y. Against a backdrop of weakening consumer and business confidence, the RBA will be balancing the risk of higher inflation against downside risks to growth and the labour market. While the economy has shown improved growth momentum in recent quarters, the medium-term outlook remains tepid, with zero real wages growth expected over the next few years and an increasingly cautious corporate sector as the impact of previous (and upcoming) rate hikes slowly filters through the economy.

## PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

Nokia Oyj is a global communications technology company that provides network infrastructure (including optical and IP routing), mobile networks, and related software and services to telecom operators, enterprises, and cloud providers. Nokia outperformed after delivering a "beat and raise" quarter, showing that prior guidance was conservative and that demand is strengthening across key growth engines. Management lifted Network Infrastructure growth expectations to 12-14% for 2026 (from 6-8%), highlighted accelerating momentum in optical and IP networks, and pointed to robust AI /cloud driven demand with AI & Cloud revenue up sharply and AI & Cloud orders at €1B, reinforcing the narrative of an AI driven traffic and capacity "supercycle." The combination of stronger visibility, improving mix, and a message that the company is tracking above the midpoint of full year operating profit guidance supported re rating potential versus optical peers.

Microchip Technology Incorporated designs and manufactures semiconductors, best known for microcontrollers (MCUs) and complementary analog and connectivity products used broadly across industrial, automotive, and embedded applications. Microchip outperformed primarily on sector read through and beta rather than company specific news, as the broader semiconductor complex rallied on signs of improving industrial demand and stabilizing auto trends following prior inventory corrections. Positive guidance and commentary from large analog /industrial peers pulled Microchip higher as investors

anticipated a more constructive setup into its upcoming earnings. In short, Microchip benefited from the April rotation back into AI and cycle exposed hardware, with the market positioning for better second half demand dynamics and a friendlier industry tape.

GE Healthcare Technologies Inc. detracted from relative performance during the month as investors reacted negatively to near term margin pressure despite solid underlying demand trends. The company, which provides medical imaging equipment, diagnostics, and related healthcare technology solutions to hospitals and providers globally, reported results showing revenue and orders modestly ahead of expectations, highlighting continued customer demand across its portfolio. However, margins declined more than anticipated, driven by higher input costs such as memory components and freight, as well as the lingering impact of tariffs and a temporary recall in its tracer business, which weighed on sentiment. Management noted that pricing actions tend to flow through with a lag given the company's sizable backlog, creating a disconnect between current cost inflation and near term profitability. While this dynamic pressured the stock during the month, the company reiterated its full year organic growth outlook and expressed confidence that productivity initiatives and easing tariff comparisons should support margin recovery over time.

Merck & Co., Inc. detracted from relative performance during the month as investor focus shifted away from solid near term execution toward heightened uncertainty around pipeline catalysts and competitive dynamics. The company, which develops and markets prescription medicines, vaccines, and animal health products globally, reported a strong quarterly result with a notable revenue and earnings beat driven largely by continued strength in its flagship oncology franchise. Despite this, the stock weakened as the market looked through the near term benefit of favorable purchasing timing and inventory effects and instead focused on upcoming clinical readouts and elevated expectations priced into the shares. In particular, headline noise around competitive oncology data and mixed trial outcomes reduced optimism around incremental upside from certain late stage programs, even though management reiterated confidence in the broader pipeline and maintained guidance. Additional investor caution stemmed from concerns about capital allocation and the potential for larger scale acquisitions, which could deviate from the company's historically disciplined, smaller "string of pearls" approach to business development.

## OUTLOOK

Markets are facing challenges in both the near term (geopolitical concerns, inflation risks, central banks potentially having to hike further, rich expectations for corporate EPS growth, and markets trading above 80th percentile valuations) and the long term (investors living in a '4% world', given high valuations and markets likely having already priced in years of productivity improvement). The state of PEs, and elevated market concentration, alongside the preponderance of valuation-agnostic passive funds, have made regional equity markets increasingly vulnerable to unforeseen events.

The Fund continues to target less expensive parts of the global sharemarket in addition to providing greater sector and regional diversification relative to increasingly concentrated market weighted indices.

We continue to manage downside risks by maintaining little or no exposure to the most expensive parts of the global equity and credit markets, and we have zero exposure to private markets given their liquidity and valuation risks, where a left-tail event could spark vulnerabilities and contagion. The Fund complements this with option protection where it has been attractively priced to implement. This includes cost-effective S & P 500 put options, which risk only the premium if markets rise while providing protection against downturns without requiring precise market timing. The Fund also maintains a US dollar call option against the Hong Kong dollar, which provides inexpensive protection against geopolitical risks.

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Cash levels have not been calculated on a look-through basis. The underlying investments of the fund will also have a proportion of their assets invested in liquid assets.

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## MORE INFORMATION

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