

## Perpetual Investment Funds

# PERPETUAL SHARE-PLUS LONG-SHORT FUND

May 2025

### FUND FACTS

**Investment objective:** Aims to provide long-term capital growth and income through investment in quality shares and taking short positions predominantly in selected Australian shares.

### FUND BENEFITS

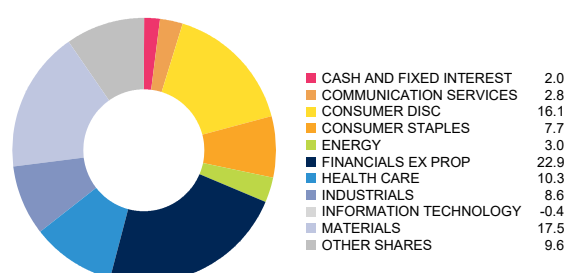
Offers broad market exposure with the potential for higher returns through the use of shorting (taking short positions) within a risk-controlled environment, and actively managed by one of Australia's most experienced investment management teams.

### 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.

<b>Benchmark:</b>	S&P/ASX 300 Accum. Index
<b>Inception Date:</b>	March 2003
<b>Size of Portfolio:</b>	\$828.82 million as at 31 Mar 2025
<b>APIR:</b>	PER0072AU
<b>Management Fee:</b>	0.99%*
<b>Performance Fee:</b>	13.98% of outperformance*
<b>Investment style:</b>	Active, fundamental, bottom-up, value
<b>Suggested minimum investment period:</b>	Five years or longer

### PORTFOLIO SECTORS



### TOP 5 STOCK HOLDINGS

	% of Portfolio
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	8.5%
BHP Group Ltd	7.2%
Flutter Entertainment Plc	6.1%
Goodman Group	5.4%
Westpac Banking Corporation	4.4%

### MARKET EXPOSURE

	% of Portfolio
Long	118.8%
Short	-20.8%
Net	98.0%

### NET PERFORMANCE - periods ending 31 May 2025

	Fund	Benchmark #	Excess
1 month	2.81	4.20	-1.39
3 months	0.32	4.34	-4.02
1 year	5.04	13.17	-8.13
2 year p.a.	8.84	13.00	-4.15
3 year p.a.	6.95	9.34	-2.38
4 year p.a.	8.87	8.16	+0.71
5 year p.a.	12.56	11.99	+0.57
7 year p.a.	8.53	8.99	-0.46
10 year p.a.	8.04	8.10	-0.06
Since incep. p.a.	11.08	9.63	+1.45

Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Returns may differ due to different tax treatments.

### GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

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

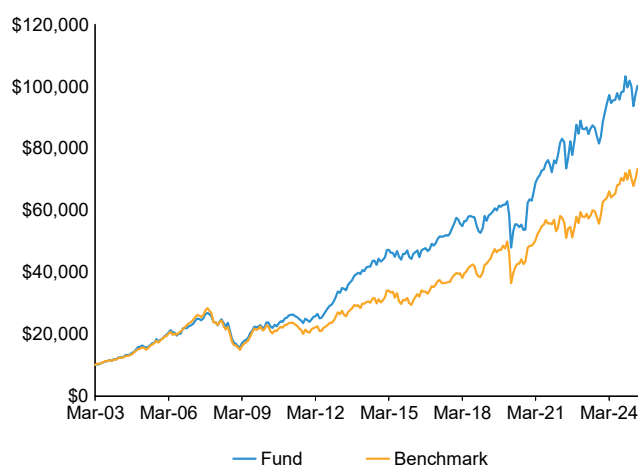
### PORTFOLIO FUNDAMENTALS<sup>^</sup>

	Portfolio	Benchmark
Price / Earnings*	19.0	18.8
Dividend Yield*	2.9%	3.5%
Price / Book	2.4	2.3
Debt / Equity	39.3%	38.9%
Return on Equity*	11.7%	12.6%

<sup>^</sup> Portfolio Fundamentals are compiled using our methodology and provided only for the purpose of illustrating the Fund'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.

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



\*Information on Management Costs and a full description of the Fund's performance fee is set out in the Fund's PDS.

## MARKET COMMENTARY

The S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index rose 4.2% in May, marking a strong rebound after April's tariff-driven sell-off. Global markets found relief as President Trump paused his sweeping tariff agenda, fuelling hopes the so-called "Trump put" - the tendency to reverse course after market weakness - remains intact. The rally was further supported by stronger-than-expected US earnings, with over 70% of S&P 500 companies beating estimates, helping risk sentiment recover. Locally, Information Technology (+18.8%) surged on AI optimism, while Energy (+8.7%) rebounded alongside firmer oil prices. Defensive sectors lagged as risk appetite returned, with Health Care (+1.4%), Consumer Staples (+1.2%) and Utilities (+0.3%) underperforming. Despite the rally, Australian forward earnings expectations softened further, and gains were driven by valuation expansion, with the market's P/E multiple returning to recent highs at 18.6x. While valuations have risen and local earnings forecasts remain more measured than global peers, the environment continues to present selective opportunities - particularly for investors focused on quality, resilient business models and disciplined capital allocation.

## PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

The portfolio's largest overweight positions include Flutter Entertainment Plc, Goodman Group and Cobram Estate Olives. Conversely, the portfolio's largest underweight positions include ANZ Group Holdings Limited (not held), Macquarie Group Ltd (not held) and Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

The portfolio's overweight to EVT Limited contributed to relative performance over May (+15.0%) as the stock continued to appreciate despite the lack of announced news. We took a position in EVT when the share price reflected only the value of its property portfolio and attributed little to its operating businesses. A recovery in cinema earnings is underway, supported by an improving box office pipeline and growing spend per visitor. Operating leverage in cinemas remains underappreciated, particularly given the fixed-cost nature of the model. Meanwhile, the company's hotel and property assets offer embedded value, with planned divestments and strategic reviews acting as near-term catalysts. As earnings momentum builds and asset-level transparency improves, we remain convinced in EVT and believe the market will narrow the valuation gap implied by its current trading levels.

Ramsay Healthcare contributed to performance over the month (+15.2%) as the stock reported third quarter earnings and Healthscope entered receivership, creating potential upside for Ramsay Healthcare through reduced sector capacity and targeted acquisition opportunities. Ramsay is contending with a slow recovery in domestic hospital volumes and sustained cost pressure from wage inflation. Despite growth in insured lives, overnight admissions remain below pre-COVID levels, reflecting structural shifts in utilisation, including growth in day procedures and a rise in exclusionary policies. This dynamic has constrained Ramsay's revenue recovery and limits near-term margin expansion. In parallel, elevated wage pressures from recent Enterprise Bargaining Agreement renewals and pending Fair Work Commission outcomes present additional headwinds. While indexation by insurers may offset some of these costs, sustainability remains uncertain. Offshore, Ramsay Sante continues to underperform, with divestment under review.

The overweight position in Iluka Resources detracted from performance over May (-11.6%) despite giving an investor briefing early in the month. The investor briefing highlighted the significant value on offer in the company with the companies market capitalisation close to the value reflected by the sale of its inventory and stake in Deterra Royalties. There remains further value to be unlocked if investors could gain confidence around the Eneabba refinery however major uncertainty around cost overruns and a slow and difficult ramp up process with no certain offtake dampen confidence. If management do execute well however, the stock at current levels represents significant upside. Iluka is a major producer of rutile and synthetic rutile that is used to produce pigment (paint) and largest producer of zircon that is used to produce ceramics (tiles) and a recovery in these markets can be met by releasing excess inventory and reducing working capital before production is restarted. Iluka has a very strong balance sheet (net cash) and also owns a valuable stake in Deterra Royalties, which was spun-off in an IPO so is able to buffer these periods of demand distortion that is a feature of these markets.

BlueScope detracted from portfolio performance in May as the stock fell -4.7% on the back of Trump finally giving the greenlight to the US Steel and Nippon "partnership". Nippon promised extensive investment in the US to get the deal approved, promising to build a new steel mill, preserve existing steelworker jobs and potentially add more unionised roles. The approved was granted despite the steel lobby indicating a US Steel, revitalised with Nippon capital, could force industry distress and lead to investment and job cuts from incumbents. This ultimately threatens the long term thesis based on industry rationality including capacity and pricing. Despite the noise, we are observing positive trends with hot-rolled coil steel prices increasing. BlueScope remains one of the highest quality steel producers globally, with a capable management team, a significant asset in Port Kembla, and the Colorbond brand, which not only boosts margins but also represents a substantial overseas opportunity.

## OUTLOOK

Markets are at a critical crossroads. Despite rising concern over the U.S. debt and deficit—highlighted by talk of another "big, beautiful bill" that would further increase liabilities—equity markets remain surprisingly resilient. Bond vigilantes are showing signs of returning, and fears about future inflation persist. Yet markets have quickly rebounded into growth and tech trades, reversing the sharp sell-off seen from February through early April. To be fair, some of this optimism is supported by strong fundamentals, such as Nvidia's continued robust revenue growth. However, a deeper shift appears to be underway. The global economy is entering a period of rebalancing, and markets normally follow. US equity markets are still trading near peak valuations, with peak profit margins and a peaking U.S. dollar—conditions that are rarely sustainable. Historically, such peaks in 1985 and 2000 have marked turning points where global capital begins to flow toward regions offering more attractive valuations, often in emerging markets. At the same time, the policy backdrop is shifting. The Trump administration is focused on opening up global market access and challenging the use of currency policy and regulation as tools of trade suppression. In parallel, both the U.S. and U.K. are moving toward banking deregulation to stimulate credit growth. Meanwhile, Germany is reflatting its economy through structural reforms and a €500 billion defence and infrastructure fund. India is overtaking Japan to become one of the top three economies. Together, these forces point to an inflection point—for the global economy and for market leadership. Investors should be alert to the possibility that the next phase may look very different from the last, both for Australia and other world markets.

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The performance fee is equal to 13.98% of daily outperformance over the hurdle rate of return. The current hurdle rate is the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index + 2%pa. Performance fees are accrued daily 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.

# The Ordinaries benchmark prior to 1/4/2000 was the ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index. From 1/4/2000 to current the benchmark is S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index.

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## MORE INFORMATION

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