

# **Russell Investments Australian Bond Fund**

ARSN 092 806 169

## **Annual report**

**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

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## Annual report

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## Directors' report

The directors of Russell Investment Management Ltd. (ABN 53 068 338 974 AFSL No. 247185), the Responsible Entity of Russell Investments Australian Bond Fund (the "Fund"), present their report together with the financial statements of the Fund, for the year ended 30 June 2023.

### Principal activities

The Fund invests in Australian government securities, quasi-government and corporate securities. The Fund also invests in unlisted unit trusts. In addition, the portfolio may also include non-Australian governments, supranational, agency and corporate bonds, as well as mortgage and asset backed securities as set out in the Fund's governing documents and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's constitution.

The Fund utilises a multi-asset, multi-style, multi-manager investment approach which combines the individual strengths of multiple investment managers.

The Fund did not have any employees during the year.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the Fund's activities during the year or since the end of the year and up to the date of this report.

### Directors

The following persons held office as directors of Russell Investment Management Ltd. during the year or since the end of the year and up to the date of this report:

Peter Gunning  
 Jodie Hampshire  
 Symon Parish (resigned, effective 7 March 2023)  
 Bronwyn Yates  
 Neil Rogan (appointed, effective 9 December 2022)  
 James Harwood (appointed, effective 26 March 2023)

### Review and results of operations

There have been no significant changes to the Fund's operations since the previous financial year. During the year, the Fund continued to invest in accordance with its investment objective and investment strategy as set out in the governing documents of the Fund and the provisions of the Fund's constitution.

#### Results

The performance of the Fund, as represented by the results of its operations, was as follows:

	<b>Year ended</b>	
	<b>30 June 2023</b>	<b>30 June 2022</b>
Operating profit/(loss) before finance costs attributable to unitholders (\$'000)	<u><b>17,543</b></u>	<u>(112,037)</u>
<i>Distributions - Class A</i>		
Distribution paid and payable (\$'000)	<u><b>2,247</b></u>	<u>3,810</u>
Distribution (Cents per unit - CPU)	<u><b>0.56</b></u>	<u>0.85</u>
<i>Distributions - Class D</i>		
Distribution paid and payable (\$'000)	<u><b>6,473</b></u>	<u>7,023</u>
Distribution (Cents per unit - CPU)	<u><b>1.02</b></u>	<u>1.20</u>

## Directors' report (continued)

### Significant changes in state of affairs

In the opinion of the directors, there were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Fund that occurred during the financial year.

### Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2023 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:

- (i) the operations of the Fund in future financial years, or
- (ii) the results of those operations in future financial years, or
- (iii) the state of affairs of the Fund in future financial years.

### Likely developments and expected results of operations

The Fund will continue to be managed in accordance with the investment objectives and guidelines as set out in the governing documents of the Fund and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's constitution.

The results of the Fund's operations will be affected by a number of factors, including the performance of investment markets in which the Fund invests. Investment performance is not guaranteed and future returns may differ from past returns. As investment conditions change over time, past returns should not be used to predict future returns.

Further information on likely developments in the operations of the Fund and the expected results of those operations have not been included in this report because the Responsible Entity believes it would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Fund.

### Indemnity and insurance of officers and auditors

No insurance premiums are paid for out of the assets of the Fund in regards to insurance cover provided to either the officers of Russell Investment Management Ltd. or the auditors of the Fund. So long as the officers of Russell Investment Management Ltd. act in accordance with the Fund's constitution and the Law, the officers remain indemnified out of the assets of the Fund against losses incurred while acting on behalf of the Fund. The auditors of the Fund are in no way indemnified out of the assets of the Fund.

### Fees paid to and interests held in the Fund by the Responsible Entity or its associates

Fees paid to the Responsible Entity and its associates out of Fund property during the year are disclosed in note 16 of the financial statements.

No fees were paid out of Fund property to the directors of the Responsible Entity during the year.

The number of interests in the Fund held by the Responsible Entity or its associates as at the end of the financial year are disclosed in note 16 of the financial statements.

### Interests in the Fund

The movement in units on issue in the Fund during the year is disclosed in note 10 of the financial statements.

The value of the Fund's assets and liabilities is disclosed in the statement of financial position and derived using the basis set out in note 2 of the financial statements.

### Environmental regulation

The operations of the Fund are not subject to any particular or significant environmental regulations under Commonwealth, State or Territory law.

### Rounding of amounts to the nearest thousand dollars

Amounts in the Directors' report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars in accordance with *Australian Securities & Investments Commission ("ASIC") Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191*, unless otherwise indicated.

## **Directors' report (continued)**

### **Auditor's independence declaration**

A copy of the Auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 5.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



Director

Sydney  
22 September 2023



## Auditor's Independence Declaration

As lead auditor for the audit of Russell Investments Australian Bond Fund for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- (b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Cuthbert'.

Simon Cuthbert  
Partner  
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Sydney  
22 September 2023

## Statement of comprehensive income

		Year ended	
		30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Investment income</b>			
Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost	15	150	1
Interest income from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		24,218	23,009
Distribution income		2,509	1,960
Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	5	(6,702)	(134,091)
Net foreign exchange gains/(losses)		(378)	(23)
Other income		86	94
<b>Total investment income/(loss)</b>		<u>19,883</u>	<u>(109,050)</u>
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
Management fees	16	1,848	2,284
Responsible Entity's fees	16	124	138
Custody fees		233	316
Auditor's remuneration	14	35	35
Transaction costs		73	102
Other operating expenses		27	112
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<u>2,340</u>	<u>2,987</u>
<b>Operating profit/(loss) for the year</b>		<u>17,543</u>	<u>(112,037)</u>
<b>Finance costs attributable to unitholders</b>			
Distributions to unitholders	11	(8,720)	(10,833)
(Increase)/decrease in net assets attributable to unitholders	10	(8,823)	122,870
<b>Profit/(loss) for the year</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Other comprehensive income for the year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The above statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of financial position

		As at	
		30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	12	71,483	55,822
Deposits held with brokers for margin		7,282	10,551
Receivables		5,609	5,218
Due from brokers - unsettled sales		3,289	-
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	6	<u>833,565</u>	<u>801,302</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>921,228</u>	<u>872,893</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Payables		1,085	1,497
Distribution payable	11	277	-
Due to brokers - unsettled purchases		2,663	1,392
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	7	<u>3,110</u>	<u>5,062</u>
<b>Total liabilities (excluding net assets attributable to unitholders)</b>		<u>7,135</u>	<u>7,951</u>
<b>Net assets attributable to unitholders - liability</b>	10	<u>914,093</u>	<u>864,942</u>

*The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*



## Statement of changes in equity

	Year ended	
	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Total equity at the beginning of the financial year</b>	-	-
Profit/(loss) for the year	-	-
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	-	-
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	-	-
<b>Total equity at the end of the financial year</b>	-	-

Under Australian Accounting Standards, net assets attributable to unitholders are classified as a liability rather than equity. As a result there was no equity at the start or end of the year.

*The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

## Statement of cash flows

		Year ended	
		30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		295,261	487,620
Purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		(337,336)	(293,243)
Distribution received		1,432	1,804
Interest received		23,871	23,218
Amount received from/(paid to) brokers for margin		3,269	(5,456)
Other income received		87	187
Management fees paid		(1,856)	(2,307)
Responsible Entity's fees paid		(124)	(141)
Payment of other expenses		(404)	(695)
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b>	13(a)	<b>(15,800)</b>	<b>210,987</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from applications by unitholders		263,282	209,010
Payments for redemptions by unitholders		(230,985)	(399,897)
Distribution paid		(780)	(12,093)
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities</b>		<b>31,517</b>	<b>(202,980)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>15,717</b>	<b>8,007</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		55,822	47,749
Effects of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents		(56)	66
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	12	<b>71,483</b>	<b>55,822</b>
Non-cash financing activities	13(b)		

*The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

## 1 General information

The financial statements cover Russell Investments Australian Bond Fund (the “Fund”) as an individual entity. The Fund was constituted on 1 December 1997. The Fund will terminate on 30 November 2077 unless terminated earlier in accordance with the provisions of the Fund’s constitution.

The Responsible Entity of the Fund is Russell Investment Management Ltd. (the “Responsible Entity”). The Responsible Entity’s registered office is Level 28, 85 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. The financial statements are presented in the Australian currency.

The Fund invests in Australian government securities, quasi-government and corporate securities. The Fund also invests in unlisted unit trusts. In addition, the portfolio may also include non-Australian governments, supranational, agency and corporate bonds, as well as mortgage and asset backed securities as set out in the Fund’s governing documents and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund’s constitution.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors of the Responsible Entity on 22 September 2023. The directors of the Responsible Entity have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented, unless otherwise stated in the following text.

### (a) Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Corporations Act 2001* in Australia. The Fund is a for-profit fund for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared on the basis of fair value measurement of assets and liabilities except where otherwise stated.

The statement of financial position is presented on a liquidity basis. Assets and liabilities are presented in decreasing order of liquidity and are not distinguished between current and non-current. All balances are expected to be recovered or settled within twelve months, except for investments in financial assets and liabilities and net assets attributable to unitholders.

The Fund manages financial assets at fair value through profit or loss based on the economic circumstances at any given point in time, as well as to meet any liquidity requirements. As such, it is expected that a portion of the portfolio will be realised within twelve months, however, an estimate of that amount cannot be determined as at reporting date.

#### *Compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)*

The financial statements of the Fund also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

#### *New and amended accounting standards adopted by the Fund*

There are no standards, interpretations or amendments to existing standards that are effective for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 July 2022 that have a material impact on the amounts recognised in the prior periods or will affect the current or future periods.

#### *New accounting standards, amendments and interpretations effective after 1 July 2023 and have not been early adopted*

A number of new accounting standards, amendments to standards and interpretations have been published that are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 July 2023, and have not been early adopted in preparing these financial statements. None of these are expected to have a material effect on the financial statements of the Fund in the current or future reporting periods and on foreseeable future transactions.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (b) Financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

#### *(i) Classification*

##### *Assets*

The Fund classifies its investments based on its business model for managing those financial assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics. The Fund's portfolio of financial assets is managed and performance is evaluated on a fair value basis in accordance with the Fund's documented investment strategy. The Fund's policy is for the Responsible Entity to evaluate the information about these financial assets on a fair value basis together with other related financial information.

For equity securities, unit trusts and derivatives, the contractual cash flows of these instruments do not represent solely payments of principal and interest. Consequently, these investments are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

For debt securities, the contractual cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, however they are neither held for collecting contractual cash flows nor held both for collecting contractual cash flows and for sale. The collection of contractual cash flows is only incidental to achieving the Fund's business model's objective. Consequently, the debt securities are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

##### *Liabilities*

Derivative contracts that have a negative fair value are presented as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss.

#### *(ii) Recognition and derecognition*

The Fund recognises financial assets and financial liabilities on the date it becomes party to the contractual agreement (trade date) and recognises changes in fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities from this date.

Investments are derecognised when the right to receive cash flows from the investments have expired or the Fund has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

#### *(iii) Measurement*

At initial recognition, the Fund measures financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. Transaction costs of financial assets and financial liabilities carried at fair value through profit or loss are expensed in the statement of comprehensive income.

Subsequent to initial recognition, all financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss category are presented in the statement of comprehensive income within 'net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss' in the period in which they arise.

For further details on how the fair values of financial instruments are determined see note 4 to the financial statements.

#### *(iv) Offsetting financial instruments*

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the statement of financial position when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. There was no significant offsetting in the Fund.

### (c) Net assets attributable to unitholders

Units are redeemable at the unitholders' option, however, applications and redemptions may be suspended by the Responsible Entity if it is in the best interests of the unitholders.

The units can be put back to the Fund at any time for cash or in specie based on the redemption price, which is equal to a proportionate share of the Fund's net asset value attributable to the unitholders.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (c) Net assets attributable to unitholders (continued)

The units are carried at the redemption amount that is payable at balance sheet date if the holder exercises the right to put the unit back to the Fund. This amount represents the expected cash flows on redemption of these units.

Under AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*, puttable financial instruments are classified as equity where certain strict criteria are met. The Fund classifies the net assets attributable to unitholders as liabilities as they do not satisfy all the criteria.

### (d) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of presentation in the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Payments and receipts relating to the purchase and sale of investment securities are classified as cash flows from operating activities, as movements in the fair value of these securities represent the Fund's main income generating activity.

### (e) Deposits held with broker for margin

Margin accounts comprise cash held as collateral for derivative transactions. The cash is held by the broker and is only available to meet margin calls. It is not included as a component of cash and cash equivalents.

### (f) Investment income

Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost is recognised on a time-proportionate basis using the effective interest method and includes interest from cash and cash equivalents.

Interest from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is determined based on the contractual coupon interest rate and includes interest from debt securities.

Dividend and distribution income from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income within distribution income when the Fund's right to receive payments is established.

Other changes in fair value for such instruments are recorded in accordance with the policies described in note 2(b) to the financial statements.

### (g) Expenses

All expenses, including Responsible Entity's fees, management fees and custodian fees, are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income on an accruals basis. The Responsible Entity is entitled under the Fund's constitution to be reimbursed for certain expenses incurred in administering the Fund.

### (h) Income tax

Under current legislation, the Fund is not subject to income tax provided it attributes the entirety of its taxable income to its unitholders.

In the event that the Fund incurs withholding taxes imposed by certain countries on investment income and capital gains, such income or gains are recorded gross of withholding taxes in the statement of comprehensive income. Withholding taxes are included in the statement of comprehensive income within other operating expenses.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (i) Distributions to unitholders

Distributions are payable as set out in the Fund's product disclosure statement and/or Fund's constitution. Such distributions are recognised as payable when they are determined by the Responsible Entity of the Fund.

### (j) Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders

Income not distributed is included in net assets attributable to unitholders. Movements in net assets attributable to unitholders are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as finance costs.

### (k) Foreign currency translation

#### (i) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the Fund's financial statements are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates (the "functional currency"). This is the Australian Dollar, which reflects the currency of the economy in which the Fund competes for funds and is regulated. The Australian Dollar is also the Fund's presentation currency.

#### (ii) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translations at year end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income in net foreign exchange gains/(losses).

Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when fair value was determined. Translation differences on assets and liabilities carried at fair value are reported in the statement of comprehensive income on a net basis within net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss.

### (l) Balances due from/to brokers

Amounts due from/to brokers represent receivables for securities sold and payables for securities purchased that have been contracted for but not yet delivered by the end of the year. The due from brokers balance is held for collection and consequently measured at amortised cost.

### (m) Receivables

Receivables may include amounts for accrued interest and unit trust distributions. Dividends and unit trust distributions are accrued when the right to receive payment is established. Interest is accrued at the end of each reporting period from the time of last payment in accordance with the policy set out in note 2(f) above. Amounts are generally received within 30 days of being recorded as receivables.

These amounts are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. At each reporting date, the Fund shall measure the loss allowance on receivables at an amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses if the credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition. If, at the reporting date, the credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition, the Fund shall measure the loss allowance at an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses. Significant financial difficulties of the counterparty, probability that the counterparty will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default in payments are all considered indicators that a loss allowance may be required. If the credit risk increases to the point that it is considered to be credit impaired, interest income will be calculated based on the gross carrying amount adjusted for the loss allowance. A significant increase in credit risk is defined by management as any contractual payment which is more than 30 days past due. Any contractual payment which is more than 90 days past due is considered credit impaired.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (m) Receivables (continued)

The amount of the impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss within other expenses. When a trade receivable for which an impairment allowance had been recognised becomes uncollectible in a subsequent period, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in profit or loss.

### (n) Payables

Payables include liabilities and accrued expenses owed by the Fund which are unpaid as at the end of the reporting period.

### (o) Applications and redemptions

Applications received for units in the Fund are recorded net of any entry fees payable prior to the issue of units in the Fund. Redemptions from the Fund are recorded gross of any exit fees payable after the cancellation of units redeemed.

### (p) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The GST incurred on the costs of various services provided to the Fund by third parties such as custodial services and investment management fees have been passed onto the Fund. The Fund qualifies for Reduced Input Tax Credits (RITC) at a rate of at least 55% or 75%; hence investment management fees, custodial fees and other expenses have been recognised in the statement of comprehensive income net of the amount of GST recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Accounts payable are inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from the ATO is included in receivables in the statement of financial position. Cash flows relating to GST are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis.

### (q) Use of estimates

The Fund makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. Estimates are continually evaluated and based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

For financial instruments which are quoted, market prices are adopted in their valuation. However, certain financial instruments are fair valued using valuation techniques. Where valuation techniques (for example, pricing models) are used to determine fair values, they are validated and periodically reviewed by experienced personnel of the Responsible Entity, independent of the area that created them.

Models use observable data, to the extent practicable. However, areas such as credit risk (both own and counterparty), volatilities and correlations require management to make estimates. Changes in assumptions about these factors could affect the reported fair value of financial instruments.

For more information on credit risk and how fair value is calculated see note 3 and note 4 to the financial statements.

### (r) Rounding of amounts

Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars in accordance with *Australian Securities & Investments Commission ("ASIC") Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191*, unless otherwise indicated.

### 3 Financial risk management

The Fund's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk (including price risk, foreign exchange risk and interest rate risk), credit risk and liquidity risk.

The Fund's overall risk management process focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Fund's financial performance. The Fund combines managers with varied investment styles to achieve returns in a broad range of market conditions and to manage exposure to risk through diversification.

The Fund's multi-manager process differentiates it from single-manager funds. As a manager of managers, the Russell Investment Management Ltd. delegates some of the management of its funds to external investment managers. The risk management process operates at a number of levels. In addition to monitoring investment activity and exposure at the point of execution by an investment manager, Russell Investment Management Ltd. oversees and monitors the overall level of risk in the Fund.

#### (a) Market risk

##### *(i) Price risk*

Price risk arises from investments held for which prices in the future are uncertain. The majority of the Fund's directly held financial assets and liabilities are interest bearing securities which have exposure primarily relating to interest rate movement and credit risk, thus there is no significant exposure to price risk.

The Fund's investments in derivative instruments can be subject to market price risk arising from uncertainties about future prices of the instruments. Except for derivatives, the maximum loss resulting from financial instruments is determined by fair value of the financial instruments. Possible losses from derivatives can be unlimited.

Where financial instruments are denominated in currencies other than the Australian Dollar, the price in the future will also fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. Paragraph (ii) 'Foreign exchange risk' below sets out details relating to this component of price risk.

##### *(ii) Foreign exchange risk*

The majority of the Fund's assets are interest rate securities denominated in Australian Dollar. Therefore, the Fund is not subject to significant risk due to fluctuations in the prevailing levels of foreign exchange rates.

The foreign exchange risk disclosures have been prepared on the basis of the Fund's direct investment and not on a look through basis for foreign investments held indirectly through AU\$ priced unlisted unit trusts. Consequently, the disclosure of foreign exchange risk below would not include foreign exposure within the underlying funds.

##### *(iii) Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk*

The Fund is exposed to cash flow interest rate risk on financial instruments with variable interest rates. Financial instruments with fixed rates expose the Fund to fair value interest rate risk.

The Fund's interest bearing financial assets expose it to risks associated with the effects of fluctuations in the prevailing levels of market interest rates on its financial position and cash flows. The risk is measured using sensitivity analysis.



### 3 Financial risk management (continued)

#### (iii) Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk (continued)

The table below summarises the Fund's exposure to interest rate risk. It includes the Fund's assets and liabilities at fair values, categorised by the earlier of contractual re-pricing or maturity dates.

30 June 2023	Floating interest rate \$'000	Fixed interest rate \$'000	Non-interest bearing \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	25,875	-	45,608	71,483
Deposits held with brokers for margin	7,282	-	-	7,282
Receivables	-	-	5,609	5,609
Due from brokers - unsettled sales	-	-	3,289	3,289
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	65,522	684,822	83,221	833,565
<b>Financial liabilities</b>				
Payables	-	-	(1,085)	(1,085)
Distribution payable	-	-	(277)	(277)
Due to brokers - unsettled purchases	-	-	(2,663)	(2,663)
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	(28)	(2,546)	(536)	(3,110)
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in exposure from</b>				
Interest rate futures (notional principal)	(626)	97,555	-	96,929
Interest rate swaps (notional principal)	85,888	103,865	-	189,753
Net exposure	183,913	883,696	133,166	1,200,775

30 June 2022	Floating interest rate \$'000	Fixed interest rate \$'000	Non-interest bearing \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	23,524	-	32,298	55,822
Deposits held with brokers for margin	10,551	-	-	10,551
Receivables	-	-	5,218	5,218
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	59,914	658,769	82,619	801,302
<b>Financial liabilities</b>				
Payables	-	-	(1,497)	(1,497)
Due to brokers - unsettled purchases	-	-	(1,392)	(1,392)
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	(174)	(3,886)	(1,002)	(5,062)
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in exposure from</b>				
Interest rate futures (notional principal)	(3,206)	78,185	-	74,979
Interest rate swaps (notional principal)	71,288	71,433	-	142,721
Net exposure	161,897	804,501	116,244	1,082,642

An analysis of financial liabilities by maturities is provided in paragraph (d) on page 18.

### 3 Financial risk management (continued)

#### (iii) Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk (continued)

The table below summarises the impact of an increase/decrease of interest rates on the Fund's operating profit and net assets attributable to unitholders through changes in fair value or changes in future cash flows. The analysis is based on the assumption that interest rates changed by +/-100 basis points (2022:+/- 100 basis points) from the year end rates with all other variables held constant. The impact mainly arises from changes in the fair value of interest rate securities.

#### (b) Summarised sensitivity analysis

The following table summarises the sensitivity of the Fund's operating profit and net assets attributable to unitholders to price risk and interest rate risk. The reasonably possible movements in the risk variables have been determined based on management's best estimate, having regard to a number of factors, including historical levels of changes in interest rates, modified duration, historical correlation of the Fund's investments with the relevant benchmark and market volatility. However, actual movements in the risk variables may be greater or less than anticipated due to a number of factors, including unusually large market shocks resulting from changes in the performance of the economies, markets and securities in which the Fund invests. As a result, historic variations in risk variables are not a definitive indicator of future variations in the risk variables.

	Price risk Impact on operating profit/net assets attributable to unitholders		Interest rate risk Impact on operating profit/net assets attributable to unitholders	
	-5% \$'000	+5% \$'000	-100bps \$'000	+100bps \$'000
30 June 2023	(4,142)	4,142	36,707	(36,707)
30 June 2022	(4,087)	4,087	36,559	(36,559)

The sensitivity factors for 30 June 2022 were +/-5% for price risk and 100 bps for interest rate risk.

Some limitations of the sensitivity analysis above are:

1. The models are based on historical data and cannot take account of the fact that future market movements, correlations between markets and levels of market liquidity in conditions of market stress may bear no relation to historical patterns;
2. The market risk information is a relative estimate of risk rather than a precise and accurate number; and
3. The market information represents a hypothetical outcome and is not intended to be predictive; and future market conditions could vary significantly from those experienced in the past.

#### (c) Credit risk

The Fund is exposed to credit risk, which is the risk that a counterparty will be unable to pay amounts in full when they fall due.

Credit risk primarily arises from investments in debt securities and from trading derivative products. Other credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents, deposits with banks and other financial institutions, receivables and amounts due from brokers. None of these assets are impaired nor past due but not impaired. At the end of the reporting period the exposure to credit risk for cash and cash equivalents, deposits with banks and amounts due from brokers is considered low as all counterparties of the Fund have a rating of investment grade or higher (as determined by external credit rating agencies).

In addition, OTC financial derivative contracts have an exposure to counterparty risk such that the counterparty may become insolvent or otherwise incapable of meeting its obligations under a derivative contract. This includes the legal risk arising from a contract being unenforceable. Collateral may be pledged, generally by way of cash or cash equivalents, and held by the counterparty for open futures contracts, options and swap contracts.

### 3 Financial risk management (continued)

#### (c) Credit risk (continued)

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the carrying amount of the financial assets. An analysis of debt securities by rating is set out in the table below.

	As at	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
<b>Australian debt securities</b>		
<b>Rating</b>		
AAA to AAA-	234,309	243,690
AA+ to AA-	270,930	211,982
A+ to A-	116,367	136,348
BBB+ to BBB-	124,777	122,031
Total	746,383	714,051

	As at	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
<b>International debt securities</b>		
<b>Rating</b>		
A+ to A-	355	786
BBB+ to BBB-	2,099	1,580
Unrated	14	13
Total	2,468	2,379

All transactions in debt securities are settled/paid for upon delivery using approved brokers. The risk of default is considered minimal, as delivery of securities sold is only made once the broker has received payment. Payment is made on a purchase once the securities have been received by the broker. The trade will fail if either party fails to meet its obligation.

The clearing and depository operations for the Fund's security transactions are mainly concentrated with one counterparty, namely State Street Australia Limited. At 30 June 2023, State Street Australia Limited had a credit rating of Aa1 (2022: Aa1). At 30 June 2023, substantially all cash and investments are held in custody by State Street Australia Limited or through a sub-custodian.

#### (d) Liquidity risk

The Fund is exposed to daily cash redemptions of redeemable units. In addition, the Fund may restrict redemptions on a temporary basis in line with the provisions of the Fund's governing documents. It therefore primarily holds investments that are traded in an active market and can be readily disposed.

The Fund primarily holds investments that are traded in an active market and can be readily disposed. However it may invest in derivative contracts and fixed income securities that are traded over the counter or on secondary markets. These markets may be illiquid and as a result, the Fund may not be able to quickly liquidate its investments in these instruments at an amount close to their fair value to meet its liquidity requirements or to respond to specific events such as deterioration in the creditworthiness of any particular issuer or counterparty. Refer to note 6 and 7 for the type of financial instruments held by the Fund.

### 3 Financial risk management (continued)

#### (d) Liquidity risk (continued)

The Fund delegates some of liquidity risk management to external investment managers who monitor their model liquidity positions on a regular basis. In addition, Russell Investment Management Ltd. monitors the Fund's liquidity position on a daily basis.

##### (i) Maturities of non-derivative financial liabilities

The table below analyses the Fund's non-derivative financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at the end of the reporting period to the contractual maturity date. The amounts in the table are contractual undiscounted cash flows. Units are redeemed on demand at the unitholder's option. However, the board of the Responsible Entity does not envisage that the contractual maturity disclosed in the table below will be representative of the actual cash outflows, as holders of these instruments typically retain them for the medium to long term.

	Less than 1 month \$'000	1-6 months \$'000	6-12 months \$'000	Over 12 months \$'000	No stated maturity \$'000
<b>At 30 June 2023</b>					
Payables	1,085	-	-	-	-
Distribution payable	277	-	-	-	-
Due to brokers - unsettled purchases	2,663	-	-	-	-
Net assets attributable to unitholders	<u>914,093</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Undiscounted contractual cash flows	<u>918,118</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	Less than 1 month \$'000	1-6 months \$'000	6-12 months \$'000	Over 12 months \$'000	No stated maturity \$'000
<b>At 30 June 2022</b>					
Payables	1,497	-	-	-	-
Due to brokers - unsettled purchases	1,392	-	-	-	-
Net assets attributable to unitholders	<u>864,942</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Undiscounted contractual cash flows	<u>867,831</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

### 3 Financial risk management (continued)

#### (d) Liquidity risk (continued)

##### (ii) Maturities of net settled derivative financial instruments

The table below analyses the Fund's net settled derivative financial instruments in a loss position for which the contractual maturities are considered to be essential to an understanding of the timing of cash flows based on the Fund's investment strategy.

	Less than 1 month \$'000	1-6 months \$'000	6-12 months \$'000	Over 12 months \$'000
<b>At 30 June 2023</b>				
Net settled derivatives				
Swaptions	-	-	-	159
Australian interest rate futures	-	597	-	-
International interest rate futures	-	482	-	-
Foreign currency contracts	161	16	-	-
Credit default swaps	-	-	-	200
Interest rate swaps	-	-	663	832
	Less than 1 month \$'000	1-6 months \$'000	6-12 months \$'000	Over 12 months \$'000
<b>At 30 June 2022</b>				
Net settled derivatives				
Australian interest rate futures	-	264	-	-
International interest rate futures	-	125	-	-
Foreign currency contracts	451	41	-	-
Credit default swaps	-	-	-	510
Interest rate swaps	-	-	-	3,671

All derivative financial instruments entered into by the Fund are settled on a net basis.

### 4 Fair value measurement

The Fund measures and recognises the following assets and liabilities at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Financial assets / liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL) (see note 6 and note 7)
- Derivative financial instruments (see note 8)

The Fund has no assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis in the current reporting period.

AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* requires disclosure of fair value measurements by level of the following fair value hierarchy:

- quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1);
- inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly (level 2); or
- inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs) (level 3).

#### 4 Fair value measurement (continued)

##### (i) Fair value in an active market (level 1)

The Fund values its investments in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 2. For the majority of its investments, the Fund relies on information provided by independent pricing services for the valuation of its investments.

The quoted market prices used for both financial assets and financial liabilities were last traded prices other than exchange traded futures, which are valued at the market closing price.

##### (ii) Valuation techniques used to derive level 2 and level 3 fair value

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market are determined by using quoted market prices, dealer quotes and/or valuation techniques.

Forward currency contracts are valued using quoted exchange rates and yield curves derived from quoted interest rates matching maturities of the contracts as at the valuation date.

##### Recognised fair value measurements

The following table presents the Fund's assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value through profit or loss across the fair value hierarchy.

As at 30 June 2023	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:				
Derivatives	33	1,833	-	1,866
Unit trusts	56,347	26,501	-	82,848
Debt securities	-	748,843	8	748,851
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,380</b>	<b>777,177</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>833,565</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>				
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss:				
Derivatives	1,079	2,031	-	3,110
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,110</b>

#### 4 Fair value measurement (continued)

##### Recognised fair value measurements (continued)

As at 30 June 2022	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:				
Derivatives	582	2,552	-	3,134
Unit trusts	55,873	25,865	-	81,738
Debt securities	-	716,424	6	716,430
<b>Total</b>	<u>56,455</u>	<u>744,841</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>801,302</u>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>				
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss:				
Derivatives	389	4,673	-	5,062
<b>Total</b>	<u>389</u>	<u>4,673</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,062</u>

Debt securities disclosed above include debt securities on loan.

The Fund's policy is to recognise transfers into and transfers out of fair value hierarchy levels as at the end of the reporting period.

##### (i) Transfers between levels

There were no transfers between levels for the year ended 30 June 2023 and year ended 30 June 2022. There were also no changes made to any of the valuation techniques applied as of 30 June 2023.

##### (ii) Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

The following table presents the movement in level 3 instruments for the year ended 30 June 2023:

For the year ended 30 June 2023	Debt securities \$'000
Opening balance	6
Purchases	-
Sales	(2)
Transfers	-
Gains/(losses) recognised in statement of comprehensive income*	4
Closing balance	<u>8</u>
*includes unrealised gains/(losses) recognised in the statement of comprehensive income attributable to balances held at the end of the reporting period	<u>2</u>

## 4 Fair value measurement (continued)

### (ii) Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3) (continued)

The following table presents the movement in level 3 instruments for the year ended 30 June 2022:

	Debt securities \$'000
For the year ended 30 June 2022	
Opening balance	7
Purchases	-
Sales	(9)
Transfers	-
Gains/(losses) recognised in statement of comprehensive income*	<u>8</u>
Closing balance	<u>6</u>
*includes unrealised gains/(losses) recognised in the statement of comprehensive income attributable to balances held at the end of the reporting period	<u>(1)</u>

### (iii) Valuation processes

Portfolio reviews are undertaken regularly by management to identify securities that potentially may not be actively traded or have stale security pricing. This process identifies securities which could be regarded as being level 2 or level 3 securities.

### (iv) Fair values of other financial instruments

The Fund has assets and liabilities carried at amortised cost. Due to their short-term nature, their carrying values are a reasonable approximation of fair value.

## 5 Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss

Net gains/(losses) recognised in relation to financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Net gains/(losses) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	<u>(2,155)</u>	<u>(128,042)</u>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>		
Net gains/(losses) on financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	<u>(4,547)</u>	<u>(6,049)</u>
	<u>(6,702)</u>	<u>(134,091)</u>



## 6 Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

	As at	
	30 June 2023 Fair value \$'000	30 June 2022 Fair value \$'000
<b>Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</b>		
Derivatives	1,866	3,134
Unit trusts	82,848	81,738
Debt securities	748,851	716,430
<b>Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>833,565</b>	<b>801,302</b>
<b>Comprising:</b>		
<b>Derivatives</b>		
Australian interest rate futures	2	186
International interest rate futures	31	396
Foreign currency contracts	373	808
Credit default swaps	-	73
Interest rate swaps	1,460	1,671
Total derivatives	1,866	3,134
<b>Unit trusts</b>		
Australian unit trusts	82,848	55,873
International unit trusts	-	25,865
Total unit trusts	82,848	81,738
<b>Debt securities</b>		
Government securities	371,761	348,238
Corporate bonds	363,859	354,766
Mortgage backed securities	12,184	12,058
Asset backed securities	1,047	1,368
Total debt securities	748,851	716,430
<b>Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>833,565</b>	<b>801,302</b>

An overview of the risk exposures and fair value measurements relating to financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is included in note 3 and note 4 to the financial statements.

## 7 Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

	As at	
	30 June 2023 Fair value \$'000	30 June 2022 Fair value \$'000
<b>Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss</b>		
Derivatives	3,110	5,062
<b>Total financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>3,110</b>	<b>5,062</b>
<b>Comprising:</b>		
<b>Derivatives</b>		
Australian interest rate futures	597	264
International interest rate futures	482	125
Swaptions	159	-
Foreign currency contracts	177	492
Credit default swaps	200	510
Interest rate swaps	1,495	3,671
Total derivatives	3,110	5,062
<b>Total financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>3,110</b>	<b>5,062</b>

An overview of the risk exposures and fair value measurements relating to financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss is included in note 3 and note 4 to the financial statements.

## 8 Derivative financial instruments

In the normal course of business the Fund enters into transactions in various derivative financial instruments which have certain risks. A derivative is a financial instrument or other contract which is settled at a future date and whose value changes in response to the change in a specified interest rate, financial instrument price, commodity price, foreign exchange rate, index of prices or rates, credit rating, credit index or other variable.

Derivative financial instruments require no initial net investment or an initial net investment that is smaller than would be required for other types of contracts that would be expected to have a similar response to changes in market factors.

Derivative transactions include many different instruments, such as forwards, futures, options and swaps. Derivatives are considered to be part of the investment process and the use of derivatives is an essential part of the Fund's portfolio management. Derivatives are not managed in isolation. Consequently, the use of derivatives is multifaceted and includes:

- hedging to protect an asset or liability of the Fund against a fluctuation in market values or to reduce volatility;
- a substitution for trading of physical securities; and
- adjusting asset exposures within the parameters set in the investment strategy, and adjusting the duration of fixed interest portfolios or the weighted average maturity of cash portfolios.

While derivatives are used for trading purposes, they are not used to gear (leverage) a portfolio. Gearing a portfolio would occur if the level of exposure to the markets exceeds the underlying value of the Fund.

## 8 Derivative financial instruments (continued)

The Fund holds the following derivative instruments:

### (a) Futures

Futures are contractual obligations to buy or sell financial instruments on a future date at a specified price established in an organised market. The futures contracts are collateralized by cash or marketable securities. Changes in futures contracts' values are usually settled net daily with the exchange. Interest rate futures are contractual obligations to receive or pay a net amount based on changes in interest rates at a future date at a specified price, established in an organised financial market.

### (b) Foreign currency contracts

Foreign currency contracts are primarily used by the Fund to hedge against foreign currency exchange rate risk on its non-Australian Dollar denominated trading securities. The Fund agrees to receive or deliver a fixed quantity of foreign currency for an agreed upon price on an agreed future date. Foreign currency contracts are valued at the prevailing bid price at the end of each reporting period. The Fund recognises a gain or loss equal to the change in fair value at the end of each reporting period.

### (c) Swaps

An interest rate swap is an agreement between two parties to exchange their interest obligations (payments) or receipts at set intervals on a notional principal amount over an agreed time period.

The fair value of interest rate swaps is the estimated amount that the entity would receive or pay to terminate the swap at the end of the reporting period, taking into account current interest rates and the current creditworthiness of the swap counterparties.

A credit default swap is an agreement whereby one counterparty pays a regular fee, usually expressed as a percentage of the notional principle, to another counterparty in return for security against default by underlying loan or asset.

The Fund's derivative financial instruments at year end are detailed below. In the table below, foreign currency contracts have been presented on a net notional basis. All other derivative contract notionals have been presented on a gross basis. For more information on the net exposure of these derivatives see note 3 to the financial statements.

#### As at 30 June 2023

	Contract/ notional \$'000	Fair Values	
		Assets \$'000	Liabilities \$'000
Swaptions	17,400	-	159
Australian interest rate futures	89,200	2	597
International interest rate futures	45,605	31	482
Foreign currency contracts	15,363	373	177
Credit default swaps	13,385	-	200
Interest rate swaps	189,753	1,460	1,495
	<b>370,706</b>	<b>1,866</b>	<b>3,110</b>

## 8 Derivative financial instruments (continued)

As at 30 June 2022

	Contract/ notional \$'000	Fair Values	
		Assets	Liabilities
		\$'000	\$'000
Australian interest rate futures	235,506	186	264
International interest rate futures	29,877	396	125
Foreign currency contracts	12,462	808	492
Credit default swaps	40,790	73	510
Interest rate swaps	<u>142,721</u>	<u>1,671</u>	<u>3,671</u>
	<u>461,356</u>	<u>3,134</u>	<u>5,062</u>

An overview of the risk exposures and fair value measurements relating to derivatives is included in note 3 and note 4 to the financial statements.

As at the reporting date, the Fund largely hedged its transactions or positions by holding foreign currency contracts with a gross notional value of \$43,849,630 (2022: \$107,025,240) comprising of buy \$29,606,378 (2022: \$47,281,627) and sell \$14,243,252 (2022: \$59,743,613) resulting in net exposure of \$15,363,126 (2022: \$12,461,986).

## 9 Structured entities

A structured entity is an entity in which voting or similar rights are not the dominant factor in deciding control. Structured entities are generally created to achieve a narrow and well defined objective with restrictions around their ongoing activities. Depending on the Fund's power over the activities of the entity and its exposure to and ability to influence its own returns, it may control the entity. However, the Fund applies the Investment Entity Exception available under AASB 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements* and therefore does not consolidate its controlled entities. In other cases, it may have exposure to such an entity but not control it.

An interest in a structured entity is any form of contractual or non-contractual involvement which creates variability in returns arising from the performance of the entity for the Fund. Such interests include holdings of units in unlisted trusts.

The nature and extent of the Fund's interests in related structured entities are summarised in notes 6 and 16.

The nature and extent of the Fund's investments in unrelated investment funds are disclosed in the following table:

Name	Fair value of investment		Interest held	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	%	%
Legg Mason Western Asset Global Multi Strategy Fund	<b>26,500</b>	25,865	<b>0.19</b>	0.17

During the year ended 30 June 2023 total income distributions from investments in structured entities were \$2,508,719 (2022: \$1,960,012).

During the year ended 30 June 2023 total net gains/(losses) incurred on investments in structured entities were \$471,684 (2022: \$(13,954,056)).

The Fund has exposures to unconsolidated structured entities through its investment activities. The Fund's maximum exposure to loss is restricted to the carrying value of the asset.

## 9 Structured entities (continued)

The Fund's overall risk management program focuses on ensuring compliance with its governing documents and seeks to maximise the returns derived for the level of risk to which the Fund is exposed. The risks associated with the investments are referred to in note 3.

During the year the Fund did not provide financial support to unconsolidated structured entities and has no intention of providing financial or other support. The Fund's investment strategy entails investments in other funds on a regular basis. The Fund intends to continue investing in other funds.

As at 30 June 2023, there were no capital commitment obligations other than what is in unsettled sales or unsettled purchases in the balance sheet (2022: \$Nil).

## 10 Net assets attributable to unitholders

Movements in the number of units and net assets attributable to unitholders during the year were as follows:

	Year ended		
	30 June 2023 No.'000	30 June 2022 No.'000	30 June 2023 No.'000
<b>Class A</b>			
Opening balance	441,985	431,273	382,184
Applications	68,010	154,796	60,616
Redemptions	(82,171)	(145,151)	(72,056)
Units issued upon reinvestment of distributions	1,354	1,067	1,190
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders	-	-	3,127
Closing balance	429,178	441,985	375,061
<b>Class D</b>			
Opening balance	559,462	759,497	482,758
Applications	229,861	59,657	202,666
Redemptions	(178,578)	(267,102)	(158,561)
Units issued upon reinvestment of distributions	7,335	7,410	6,473
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders	-	-	5,696
Closing balance	618,080	559,462	539,032
<b>Total net assets attributable to unitholders - liability</b>	<b>1,047,258</b>	<b>1,001,447</b>	<b>914,093</b>

As stipulated within the Fund's constitution, each unit represents a right to an individual share in the Fund and does not extend to a right to the underlying assets of the Fund.

There are two separate classes of units. Each unit within the same class has the same rights as all other units within that class. Except for different management fee rates, the two different classes have the same preferences and restrictions. Refer to note 16 for the applicable management fee rates.

### Capital risk management

Management considers its net assets attributable to unitholders as capital, notwithstanding net assets attributable to unitholders are classified as a liability. The amount of net assets attributable to unitholders can change significantly on a daily basis as the Fund is subject to daily applications and redemptions at the discretion of unitholders.

## 10 Net assets attributable to unitholders (continued)

### Capital risk management (continued)

Daily applications and redemptions are reviewed relative to the liquidity of the Fund's underlying assets on a daily basis by the Responsible Entity. Under the terms of the Fund's constitution, the Responsible Entity has the discretion to reject an application for units and to defer or adjust a redemption of units if the exercise of such discretion is in the best interests of unitholders. The Fund did not restrict or reject any redemptions in the financial year.

## 11 Distributions to unitholders

The distributions for the year were as follows:

	Year ended			
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2023 CPU	30 June 2022 \$'000	30 June 2022 CPU
<b>Class A</b>				
Interim distributions	1,001	0.27	3,810	0.85
Final distributions	<u>1,246</u>	<u>0.29</u>	-	-
Distributions for the year	<u>2,247</u>	<u>0.56</u>	<u>3,810</u>	<u>0.85</u>
<b>Class D</b>				
Interim distributions	3,823	0.59	7,023	1.20
Final distributions	<u>2,650</u>	<u>0.43</u>	-	-
Distributions for the year	<u>6,473</u>	<u>1.02</u>	<u>7,023</u>	<u>1.20</u>
<b>Total distributions for the year</b>	<u>8,720</u>		<u>10,833</u>	

At 30 June 2023, the above distributions for class A and class D include distribution payable amount of \$277,062 (2022: \$0) and \$0 (2022: \$0) respectively.

## 12 Cash and cash equivalents

	As at	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
Cash at bank	23,869	21,743
Cash equivalents	-	2
Cash trusts	45,608	32,298
Call accounts	<u>2,006</u>	<u>1,779</u>
	<u>71,483</u>	<u>55,822</u>

Cash trusts include holdings in units of the Russell Cash Sweep Fund. On a look through basis the underlying investments of the cash trust are substantially in cash and cash equivalents. The nature and extent of the Fund's interest in the cash trust is disclosed in note 16 in Related Party Transactions.

### 13 Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	Year ended	
	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>(a) Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b>		
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders	8,823	(122,870)
Distributions to unitholders	8,720	10,833
Purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	(337,336)	(293,243)
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	295,261	487,620
Net (gains)/losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	6,702	134,091
Net interest bought/(sold)	215	(1,309)
Distribution income reinvested	(1,397)	(1,145)
Net change in receivables	(391)	2,599
Net change in payables	(44)	(156)
Amount received from/(paid to) brokers for margin accounts	3,269	(5,456)
Effects of foreign currency exchange rate changes	378	23
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b>	<b>(15,800)</b>	<b>210,987</b>
<b>(b) Non-cash financing activities</b>		
During the year, the following distribution payments were satisfied by the issue of units under the distribution reinvestment plan	7,663	8,045

As described in note 2(j), income not distributed is included in net assets attributable to unitholders. The change in this amount each period (as reported in (a) above) represents a non-cash financing cost as it is not settled in cash until such time as it becomes distributable.

### 14 Auditor's remuneration

During the year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by the auditor of the Fund:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
<b>PricewaterhouseCoopers Australian firm</b>		
<i>Audit and other assurance services</i>		
Audit and review of financial statements	21,500	21,629
Compliance plan audit	1,970	1,838
Total remuneration for audit and other assurance services	23,470	23,467
<i>Taxation services</i>		
Tax compliance services	11,523	11,120
Total remuneration for taxation services	11,523	11,120
Total remuneration of PricewaterhouseCoopers	34,993	34,587

## 15 Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost

	Year ended	
	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest income other	25	-
Interest income from cash and cash equivalents	125	1
	<u>150</u>	<u>1</u>

## 16 Related party transactions

### Responsible Entity

Russell Investment Management Ltd. (ABN 53 068 338 974), the Responsible Entity and manager of the Fund, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Russell Investment Group Pty Ltd (Australia).

The Responsible Entity is engaged in the business of providing investment management and administrative services on behalf of the Fund. It has appointed State Street Australia Limited to perform custody and certain administrative functions. To implement the multi-asset, multi-style, multi-manager diversification technique in relation to the Fund, the Responsible Entity will: (i) engage and, where necessary, replace the investment managers for the Fund; (ii) allocate assets among investment managers within the Fund; and (iii) monitor each investment manager's overall investment performance. For services rendered, the Fund pays the Responsible Entity a fee as discussed below.

The Responsible Entity retains the right under the terms of its agreements with the investment managers to direct them, subject to a requirement of best execution, to execute transactions that enable it to purchase brokerage and research services that assist in the provision of investment services to the Responsible Entity and are in the best interests of the unitholders. In addition, the investment managers may elect to purchase research services for their own benefit, subject to the best execution requirement. Brokerage and research services include (1) fundamental market research including performance characteristics of asset classes, investment styles, and allocation strategies; (2) advice either directly or indirectly through publications or writings as to the value of securities, the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities and the availability of securities or of purchasers or sellers of securities; (3) analysis and reports concerning issuers, industries, securities, economic factors and trends, portfolio strategy and the performance of accounts; and (4) effecting securities transactions and performing functions incidental thereto (such as clearance and settlement) or that are required in connection therewith.

The Responsible Entity has received the following goods and services from brokers and dealers generally over the period of these accounts:

- written and oral research reports from brokers or dealers;
- computer based financial analytical systems, together with their associated software and servicing support; and
- statistical analysis relating to markets, companies, industries, business and economic factors, market trends and portfolio strategies.

### Brokerage commissions

The Fund may effect portfolio transactions through an affiliate of the Responsible Entity, when an investment manager determines that a Fund will receive competitive execution, price, and commissions. No commissions were retained by affiliates of the Responsible Entity for the year ended 30 June 2023 (2022: \$Nil).

Additionally, the Fund paid brokerage commissions to non-affiliated brokers who provided brokerage and research services to the Responsible Entity.



## 16 Related party transactions (continued)

### Key management personnel

#### (a) Directors

Key management personnel includes persons who were directors of Russell Investment Management Ltd. at any time during the financial year as follows:

Peter Gunning  
Jodie Hampshire  
Symon Parish (resigned, effective 7 March 2023)  
Bronwyn Yates  
Neil Rogan (appointed, effective 9 December 2022)  
James Harwood (appointed, effective 26 March 2023)

#### (b) Other key management personnel

There were no other persons with responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Fund, directly or indirectly during the financial year.

### Key management personnel unitholdings

No key management personnel of the Responsible Entity held units in the Fund as at 30 June 2023 (2022: Nil).

### Key management personnel compensation

Key management personnel are paid by Russell Investment Group Pty Ltd. Payments made from the Fund to Russell Investment Group Pty Ltd do not include any amounts directly attributable to the compensation of key management personnel.

### Key management personnel loan disclosures

The Fund has not made, guaranteed or secured, directly or indirectly, any loans to the key management personnel or their personally related entities at any time during the reporting period.

### Other transactions within the Fund

Apart from those details disclosed in this note, no key management personnel have entered into any transaction with the Fund since the end of the previous financial year and there were no material balance involving directors' interests outstanding at year end.

### Responsible Entity's/manager's fees and other transactions

Under the terms of the Fund's constitution, the Responsible Entity is entitled to receive management fees and Responsible Entity's fees, calculated by reference to the average daily net assets (excluding net assets attributable to unitholders) of the Fund as follows:

Russell Investments Australian Bond Fund - Class A - Management fee 0.513% (2022: 0.513%) per annum.

Russell Investments Australian Bond Fund - Class D - Management fee Nil% (2022: Nil%) per annum.

## 16 Related party transactions (continued)

### Responsible Entity's/manager's fees and other transactions (continued)

The Responsible Entity's fee is 0.013% (2022: 0.013%) per annum of the average daily net assets (excluding net assets attributable to unitholders) for 2023. It is at the managers discretion to waive or rebate fees for specific wholesale investors as defined under section 761G of the *Corporations Act 2001*. The management fee rebates are disclosed as other operating income in the statement of comprehensive income.

All related party transactions are conducted on normal commercial terms and conditions. The transactions during the year and amounts payable at year end between the Fund and the Responsible Entity were as follows:

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
Management fees for the year incurred by the Fund	1,847,868	2,283,710
Responsible Entity's fees for the year incurred by the Fund	123,860	137,560
Aggregate amounts payable to the manager at the end of the reporting period	161,047	168,966
Aggregate amounts payable to the Responsible Entity at the end of the reporting period	62,970	62,560

### Related party unitholdings

Parties related to the Fund (including Russell Investment Management Ltd., its affiliates and other schemes managed by, or under trusteeship of Russell Investment Management Ltd. or its affiliates), held units in the Fund as follows:

#### 30 June 2023

Unitholders	Number of units held opening (Units)	Number of units held closing (Units)	Fair value of investment (\$)	Interest held (%)	Number of units acquired (Units)	Number of units disposed (Units)	Distribution paid/payable by the Fund (\$)
Russell Investments Multi-Asset Income Strategy Fund	16,674,585	41,773,371	36,397,222	3.99	25,223,435	124,649	348,491
Russell Investments Balanced Fund	55,810,101	35,839,122	31,226,698	3.42	3,133,115	23,104,094	423,237
Russell Investments Conservative Fund	124,555,200	103,117,092	89,846,128	9.85	3,341,125	24,779,233	1,071,221
Russell Investments Diversified 50 Fund	83,370,711	75,672,589	65,933,678	7.23	2,595,428	10,293,550	792,388
Russell Investments Growth Fund	9,511,855	8,689,988	7,571,604	0.83	2,218,697	3,040,564	95,490
Russell Investments Pooled Superannuation Trust	258,653,609	327,231,248	285,117,240	31.25	183,018,435	114,440,796	3,520,631
Russell Investments Multi-Asset Growth Strategy Fund	10,376,417	19,896,706	17,336,039	1.90	12,188,612	2,668,323	173,681
Russell Investments Multi-Asset Growth Strategy Plus Fund	509,614	5,860,440	5,106,213	0.56	5,477,563	126,737	48,280

## 16 Related party transactions (continued)

### Related party unitholdings (continued)

30 June 2022

Unitholders	Number of units held opening (Units)	Number of units held closing (Units)	Fair value of investment (\$)	Interest held (%)	Number of units acquired (Units)	Number of units disposed (Units)	Distribution paid/payable by the Fund (\$)
Russell Investments Multi-Asset Income Strategy Fund	12,395,431	16,674,585	14,388,500	1.67	5,171,255	892,101	165,607
Russell Investments Balanced Fund	78,658,256	55,810,101	48,158,536	5.57	1,383,814	24,231,969	707,680
Russell Investments Conservative Fund	137,759,061	124,555,200	107,478,682	12.44	19,656,591	32,860,452	1,478,340
Russell Investments Diversified 50 Fund	98,290,895	83,370,711	71,940,586	8.33	3,180,959	18,101,143	996,983
Russell Investments Growth Fund	10,354,317	9,511,855	8,207,780	0.95	119,378	961,840	112,965
Russell Investments Pooled Superannuation Trust	341,362,510	258,653,609	223,192,199	25.83	33,713,918	116,422,819	3,268,603
Russell Investments Multi-Asset Growth Strategy Fund	10,220,713	10,376,417	8,953,810	1.04	485,112	329,408	122,366
Russell Investments Multi-Asset Growth Strategy Plus Fund	428,597	509,614	439,745	0.05	492,782	411,765	5,820
Russell Investments Master Trust	55,586,318	-	-	-	1,170,110	56,756,428	-
Russell Investments Wholesale Blended Balanced Fund	14,440,903	-	-	-	1,693,282	16,134,185	165,327

### Investments

The Fund held investments in the following schemes which are also managed by Russell Investment Management Ltd. or its related parties:

	Fair value of investments		Interest held		Distribution received/receivable		Units acquired during the year		Units disposed during the year	
	2023 \$	2022 \$	2023 %	2022 %	2023 \$	2022 \$	2023 No.	2022 No.	2023 No.	2022 No.
Russell Cash Sweep Fund	45,607,964	32,298,423	10.50	8.68	794,660	27,427	279,790,218	227,797,961	266,480,677	210,280,464
Russell Investments Australian Government Bond ETF	35,104,171	35,066,424	33.08	48.09	317,002	710,308	-	-	-	-
Russell Investments Australian Semi-Government Bond ETF	21,242,855	20,806,817	44.42	2.50	-	77,216	-	-	-	-

## **17 Events occurring after the reporting period**

No significant events have occurred since the end of the reporting period which would impact on the financial position of the Fund disclosed in the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the year ended on that date.

## **18 Contingent assets and liabilities and commitments**

There were no outstanding contingent assets, liabilities or commitments as at 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2022.

## Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the directors of the Responsible Entity:

- (a) the financial statements and notes set out on pages 6 to 35 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - (i) complying with Accounting Standards, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, and
  - (ii) giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date.
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Fund will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable, and
- (c) Note 2(a) confirms that the financial statements also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



Director

Sydney  
22 September 2023



## Independent auditor's report

To the unitholders of Russell Investments Australian Bond Fund

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### Our opinion

In our opinion:

The accompanying financial report of Russell Investments Australian Bond Fund (the Fund) is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

### What we have audited

The financial report comprises:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023
- the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- the notes to the financial statements, which include significant accounting policies and other explanatory information
- the directors' declaration.

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### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Independence

We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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### Other information

The directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2023, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

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Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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### **Responsibilities of the directors of the Responsible Entity for the financial report**

The directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors of the Responsible Entity determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for assessing the ability of the Fund to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors of the Responsible Entity either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

[http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

A stylized, handwritten signature of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

A handwritten signature of Simon Cuthbert.

Simon Cuthbert  
Partner

Sydney  
22 September 2023