

Russell Investments Australian Shares Core Fund

ARSN 125 507 226

Annual report

For the year ended 30 June 2025

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Contents

	Page
Directors' report	2
Auditor's independence declaration	5
Statement of comprehensive income	6
Statement of financial position	7
Statement of changes in equity	8
Statement of cash flows	9
Notes to the financial statements	10
Directors' declaration	29
Independent auditor's report to the unitholders of Russell Investments Australian Shares Core Fund	30

Directors' report

The directors of Russell Investment Management Ltd. (ABN 53 068 338 974 AFSL No. 247185), the Responsible Entity of Russell Investments Australian Shares Core Fund (the "Fund"), present their report together with the financial statements of the Fund, for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Principal activities

The Fund invests predominantly in shares listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. The Fund also invests in unlisted unit trusts. The Fund may also engage in the use of derivatives 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:

Jason Edgar (appointed as Managing Director and Chair of the Board, effective 12 August 2025)

Bronwyn Yates

James Harwood

Neil Rogan

David MacKenzie (retired, effective 4 July 2025)

Timothy Furlan (resigned, effective 11 February 2025)

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:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
Operating profit/(loss) (\$'000)	<u>58,815</u>	<u>114,533</u>
<i>Distributions</i>		
Distribution paid and payable (\$'000)	<u>44,636</u>	<u>89,470</u>
Distribution (Cents per unit - CPU)	<u>8.34</u>	<u>15.12</u>

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.

Directors' report (continued)

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2025 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 13 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 13 of the financial statements.

Interests in the Fund

The movement in units on issue in the Fund during the year is disclosed in note 8 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
24 September 2025



Auditor's Independence Declaration

As lead auditor for the audit of Russell Investments Australian Shares Core Fund for the year ended 30 June 2025, 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
24 September 2025

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Statement of comprehensive income

		Year ended	
		30 June 2025	30 June 2024
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Investment income			
Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost		34	53
Distribution income		14,942	28,802
Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		44,175	86,493
Other income		136	8
Total investment income/(loss)		<u>59,287</u>	<u>115,356</u>
Operating expenses			
Responsible Entity's fees	13	62	110
Custody fees		86	152
Auditor's remuneration	12	40	35
Transaction costs		258	432
Withholding taxes		17	29
Other operating expenses		9	65
Total operating expenses		<u>472</u>	<u>823</u>
Profit/(loss) for the year		<u>58,815</u>	<u>114,533</u>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>58,815</u>	<u>114,533</u>

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

Statement of financial position

		As at	
		30 June 2025	30 June 2024
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	10	12,841	11,474
Deposits held with brokers for margin		1,111	1,015
Receivables		1,757	2,010
Due from brokers - unsettled sales		-	2,728
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	5	434,851	463,043
Total assets		<u>450,560</u>	<u>480,270</u>
Liabilities			
Payables		163	471
Due to brokers - unsettled purchases		-	2,193
Total liabilities		<u>163</u>	<u>2,664</u>
Net assets attributable to unitholders - equity	8	<u>450,397</u>	<u>477,606</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 2025	30 June 2024
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Total equity at the beginning of the financial year		477,606	844,846
Comprehensive income for the year			
Profit/(loss) for the year		58,815	114,533
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		58,815	114,533
Transactions with unitholders	8		
Applications		25,062	13,214
Redemptions		(111,086)	(457,786)
Reinvestment of distributions		44,636	52,269
Distribution paid and payable	9	(44,636)	(89,470)
Total transactions with unitholders		(86,024)	(481,773)
Total equity at the end of the financial year		450,397	477,606

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

Statement of cash flows

		Year ended	
		30 June 2025	30 June 2024
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		251,880	412,571
Purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		(178,788)	(370,578)
Distribution received		14,981	30,809
Interest received		34	53
Amount (paid to)/received from brokers for margin		(96)	940
Other income received		143	28
Responsible Entity's fees paid		(62)	(112)
Payment of other expenses		(363)	(738)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	11(a)	<u>87,729</u>	<u>72,973</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from applications by unitholders		25,062	13,214
Payments for redemptions by unitholders		(111,424)	(86,733)
Distribution paid		-	(8,383)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities		<u>(86,362)</u>	<u>(81,902)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		1,367	(8,929)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<u>11,474</u>	<u>20,403</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	10	<u>12,841</u>	<u>11,474</u>
Non-cash financing activities	11(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 Shares Core Fund (the “Fund”) as an individual entity. The Fund was constituted on 30 May 2007. The Fund will terminate on 29 May 2087 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 predominantly in shares listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. The Fund also invests in unlisted unit trusts. The Fund may also engage in the use of derivatives 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 24 September 2025. The directors of the Responsible Entity have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

2 Material 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 (IASB).

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 2024 that have a material impact on the amounts recognised in the prior periods or will affect the current or future periods.

New standards, amendments and interpretations effective after 1 July 2025 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 2025, and have not been early adopted in preparing these financial statements.

2 Material accounting policies (continued)

(a) Basis of preparation (continued)

The Fund's assessment of the impact of these new standards and amendments is set out below:

(i) *AASB 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements* ("AASB 18") effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2027)

The IASB issued the new standard on presentation and disclosure in financial statements, which replaces AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, with a focus on updates to the statement of comprehensive income.

The key new concepts introduced in AASB 18 relate to:

- the structure of the statement of comprehensive income with defined subtotals;
- the requirement to determine the most useful structured summary for presenting expenses in the statement of comprehensive income;
- required disclosures in a single note within the financial statements for certain profit or loss performance measures that are reported outside an entity's financial statements (that is, management-defined performance measures); and
- enhanced principles on aggregation and disaggregation which apply to the primary financial statements and notes in general.

(ii) *Amendments to the Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments – Amendments to AASB 9 and AASB 7* (effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2026)

The AASB issued targeted amendments to AASB 9 and AASB 7 to respond to recent questions arising in practice, and to include new requirements for all reporting entities. Among other amendments, the AASB included clarifying the date of recognition and derecognition of some financial assets and liabilities, with a new exception for some financial liabilities settled through an electronic cash transfer system.

The Fund is currently assessing the effects of the forthcoming standards and amendments.

No other new standards or amendments to standards are expected to have a material effect on the financial statements of the Fund.

(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.

(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.

2 Material accounting policies (continued)

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

(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.

The units are carried at the redemption amount that is payable at statement of financial position 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 equity as they satisfy the following criteria:

- the puttable financial instrument entitles the holder to a pro-rata share of net assets in the event of the Fund's liquidation;
- the puttable financial instrument is in the class of instruments that is subordinate to all other classes of instruments and class features are identical;
- the puttable financial instrument does not include any contractual obligations to deliver cash or another financial asset, or to exchange financial instruments with another entity under potentially unfavourable conditions to the Fund, and it is not a contract settled in the Fund's own equity instruments; and
- the total expected cash flows attributable to the puttable financial instrument over the life are based substantially on the profit or loss.

(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, investments in cash management trusts, 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.

2 Material accounting policies (continued)

(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.

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.

(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) 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.

2 Material accounting policies (continued)

(k) 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.

(l) Receivables

Receivables may include amounts for dividends, 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.

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.

(m) Payables

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

(n) 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.

(o) 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.

(p) 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.

2 Material accounting policies (continued)

(p) Use of estimates (continued)

For the majority of the Fund's financial instruments, quoted market prices are readily available. However, certain financial instruments, for example over-the-counter derivatives or unquoted securities, 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.

(q) 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. The Fund's investment managers have non-discretionary asset management assignments pursuant to which they provide a model portfolio to Russell Investment Management Ltd. representing their investment recommendations, based upon which Russell Investment Management Ltd., purchases and sells securities for the Fund. For fund assets not allocated to investment manager strategies, Russell Investment Management Ltd. utilises quantitative and/or rules-based processes and qualitative analysis to assess fund characteristics and invest in securities and instruments which provide the desired exposures.

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

The Fund is exposed to equity securities, unit trusts and derivative securities price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which prices in the future are uncertain. Where non-monetary 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. They are classified on the statement of financial position as financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss. All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital.

Russell Investment Management Ltd. moderates this risk by diversifying the management of its assets by allocating them between one or more investment managers. The Fund's investment managers monitor their model portfolio holdings on a daily basis. Russell Investment Management Ltd. will monitor the Fund's characteristics in detail with the investment managers regularly. Russell Investment Management Ltd. also reviews the Fund's portfolio characteristics in its entirety such as country allocations, capitalisation, industry sector weights, price/book levels, currency exposure, and quality exposure and other key risk measures.

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(a) Market risk (continued)

(i) Price risk (continued)

The table on page 16 summarises the impact of an increase/decrease on the Fund's net assets attributable to unitholders at 30 June 2025. The analysis is based on the assumptions that the underlying investments increased/decreased by 15% (2024: 15%) with all other variables held constant. The impact mainly arises from the possible change in the fair value of listed equities, unit trusts and equity derivatives.

(ii) Foreign exchange risk

The majority of the Fund's assets are listed shares or unit trusts equities denominated in Australian Dollar. Therefore, the Fund is not subject to significant risk due to fluctuations in the prevailing levels of foreign exchange rates.

(iii) Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk

The majority of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities are non-interest bearing or have a very short time to maturity. As a result, the Fund is not subject to significant risk due to fluctuations in the prevailing levels of market interest rates. Any excess cash and cash equivalents are invested at short term market interest rates.

(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. 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 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 should not be used to predict future variations in the risk variables.

	Price risk Impact on operating profit/net assets attributable to unitholders	
	-15% \$'000	+15% \$'000
30 June 2025	(67,340)	67,340
30 June 2024	(71,445)	71,445

The sensitivity factors for 30 June 2024 were +/-15% for price 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.

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(c) Credit risk (continued)

The Fund's main credit risk concentrations arise from trading equity and financial derivative instruments. 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.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the carrying amount of the financial assets.

All transactions in listed 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.

At the reporting date the exposure to credit risk for cash and cash equivalents, deposits with banks and amounts due from brokers is considered low as majority counterparties of the Fund have a rating of investment grade or higher (as determined by external credit rating agencies). Periodic monitoring and an annual credit review are performed on the custodian by a credit research team. This review may include as appropriate an assessment of the custodian's liquidity position, income streams, asset quality and credit ratings.

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 2025, State Street Australia Limited had a credit rating of Aa1 (2024: Aa1). At 30 June 2025, 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 and margin calls on derivatives. The liquidity risks associated with the need to satisfy unitholders' requests for redemptions are mitigated by maintaining a pool of cash to satisfy usual levels of demand. In addition, the Fund may restrict redemptions on a temporary basis in line with the provisions of the Fund's governing documents.

Generally, the Fund's assets are comprised of actively traded and highly liquid securities. The Fund also invests in derivative contracts traded over the counter, which are not traded in an organised market and may be illiquid. 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. 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. Refer to note 6 and note 7 for the type of financial instruments held by the Fund.

(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.

	Less than 1 month \$'000	1-6 months \$'000	6-12 months \$'000	Over 12 months \$'000	No stated maturity \$'000
At 30 June 2025					
Payables	163	-	-	-	-
Undiscounted contractual cash flows	163	-	-	-	-

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(d) Liquidity risk (continued)

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

At 30 June 2024	Less than 1 month \$'000	1-6 months \$'000	6-12 months \$'000	Over 12 months \$'000	No stated maturity \$'000
Payables	471	-	-	-	-
Due to brokers - unsettled purchases	<u>2,193</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Undiscounted contractual cash flows	<u>2,664</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

4 Fair value measurement

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

- Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL) (see note 5)
- Derivative financial instruments (see note 6)

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); and
- inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs) (level 3).

(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 prices from underlying unlisted investment trusts.

4 Fair value measurement (continued)

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 2025	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
Financial assets				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:				
Derivatives	3	-	-	3
Equity securities	404,706	899	-	405,605
Unit trusts	29,243	-	-	29,243
Total	433,952	899	-	434,851

As at 30 June 2024	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
Financial assets				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:				
Derivatives	74	-	-	74
Equity securities	438,921	-	-	438,921
Unit trusts	24,048	-	-	24,048
Total	463,043	-	-	463,043

Equities securities disclosed above include equity 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 2025 and year ended 30 June 2024. There were also no changes made to any of the valuation techniques applied as of 30 June 2025.

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

The Fund did not hold any financial instruments with fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs during the year ended 30 June 2025 or year ended 30 June 2024.

(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 Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

	As at	
	30 June 2025 Fair value \$'000	30 June 2024 Fair value \$'000
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		
Derivatives	3	74
Equity securities	405,605	438,921
Unit trusts	29,243	24,048
Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	434,851	463,043
Comprising:		
Derivatives		
Australian share price index futures	3	74
Total derivatives	3	74
Equity securities		
Australian equity securities	405,605	438,921
Total equity securities	405,605	438,921
Unit trusts		
Real estate investment trusts	29,243	24,048
Total unit trusts	29,243	24,048
Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	434,851	463,043

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.

6 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.

6 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.

The Fund's derivative financial instruments at year end are detailed below. In the table below, 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 2025

	Contract/ notional \$'000	Fair Values	
		Assets \$'000	Liabilities \$'000
Australian share price index futures	14,083	3	-
	14,083	3	-

As at 30 June 2024

	Contract/ notional \$'000	Fair Values	
		Assets \$'000	Liabilities \$'000
Australian share price index futures	13,333	74	-
	13,333	74	-

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.

7 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 5 and 13.

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.

7 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 2025, there were no capital commitment obligations other than what is in unsettled sales or unsettled purchases in the statement of financial position (2024: \$Nil).

8 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 2025 No.'000	30 June 2024 No.'000	30 June 2025 \$'000	30 June 2024 \$'000
Opening balance	626,163	1,130,357	477,606	844,846
Applications	30,730	17,204	25,062	13,214
Redemptions	(137,090)	(589,400)	(111,086)	(457,786)
Units issued upon reinvestment of distributions	56,867	68,002	44,636	52,269
Distribution paid and payable	-	-	(44,636)	(89,470)
Profit/(loss) for the year	-	-	58,815	114,533
Closing balance	576,670	626,163	450,397	477,606

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 no separate classes of units and each unit has the same rights attaching to it as all other units of the Fund.

Capital risk management

Management considers its net assets attributable to unitholders as capital. 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.

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.

9 Distributions to unitholders

The distributions for the year were as follows:

	Year ended			
	30 June 2025 \$'000	30 June 2025 CPU	30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2024 CPU
Interim distributions	9,094	1.65	47,232	7.72
Final distributions	<u>35,542</u>	<u>6.69</u>	<u>42,238</u>	<u>7.40</u>
Total distributions for the year	<u>44,636</u>	<u>8.34</u>	<u>89,470</u>	<u>15.12</u>

10 Cash and cash equivalents

	As at	
	30 June 2025 \$'000	30 June 2024 \$'000
Cash at bank	646	597
Cash trusts	<u>12,195</u>	<u>10,877</u>
	<u>12,841</u>	<u>11,474</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 13 in Related Party Transactions.

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

	Year ended	
	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		
Profit/(loss) for the year	58,815	114,533
Purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	(178,788)	(370,578)
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	251,880	412,571
Net (gains)/losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	(44,175)	(86,493)
Distribution income reinvested	(190)	-
Net change in receivables	253	2,056
Net change in payables	30	(56)
Amount (paid to)/received from brokers for margin accounts	(96)	940
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	87,729	72,973
(b) Non-cash financing activities		
During the year, the following distribution payments were satisfied by the issue of units under the distribution reinvestment plan	44,636	52,269
During the year, the following redemptions were satisfied by in specie transfer of assets	-	370,716

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.

12 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 2025	30 June 2024
	\$	\$
PricewaterhouseCoopers Australian firm		
<i>Audit and other assurance services</i>		
Audit and review of financial statements	25,500	21,070
Compliance plan audit	1,945	1,827
Total remuneration for audit and other assurance services	27,445	22,897
<i>Taxation services</i>		
Tax compliance services	12,628	11,826
Total remuneration for taxation services	12,628	11,826
Total remuneration of PricewaterhouseCoopers	40,073	34,723

13 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. Amounts retained by affiliates of the Responsible Entity for the year ended 30 June 2025 were \$176,763 (2024: \$245,878).

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

13 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:

Jason Edgar (appointed as Managing Director and Chair of the Board, effective 12 August 2025)

Bronwyn Yates

James Harwood

Neil Rogan

David MacKenzie (retired, effective 4 July 2025)

Timothy Furlan (resigned, effective 11 February 2025)

(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 2025 (2024: 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 of the Fund as follows:

Russell Investments Australian Shares Core Fund - Class D - Management fee Nil% (2024: Nil%) per annum.

The Responsible Entity's fee is 0.013% (2024: 0.013%) per annum of the average daily net assets for 2025.

13 Related party transactions (continued)

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

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 2025	30 June 2024
	\$	\$
Responsible Entity's fees for the year incurred by the Fund	61,896	109,929
Aggregate amounts payable to the Responsible Entity at the end of the reporting period	6,792	6,896

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 2025

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 Balanced Fund	249,784,640	208,634,420	162,747,991	36.18	20,687,132	61,837,352	16,241,055
Russell Investments Conservative Fund	28,785,528	28,256,044	22,041,495	4.90	3,191,069	3,720,553	2,213,719
Russell Investments Diversified 50 Fund	67,485,078	57,801,042	45,088,454	10.02	6,105,192	15,789,228	4,523,221
Russell Investments Growth Fund	133,406,866	120,463,322	93,968,980	20.89	11,868,642	24,812,186	9,315,740
Russell Investments High Growth Fund	49,883,787	42,956,563	33,508,826	7.45	5,612,443	12,539,667	3,336,481
Russell Investments Pooled Superannuation Trust	325,682	360,915	281,536	0.06	35,233	-	27,648
Russell Investments Australian Shares Fund	96,492,168	118,197,683	92,201,639	20.50	40,097,024	18,391,509	8,978,635

30 June 2024

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 Balanced Fund	250,418,537	249,784,640	190,282,192	39.89	29,697,038	30,330,935	20,758,086
Russell Investments Conservative Fund	42,038,180	28,785,528	21,928,383	4.60	3,294,947	16,547,599	2,535,093
Russell Investments Diversified 50 Fund	74,608,939	67,485,078	51,409,120	10.78	8,685,800	15,809,661	5,679,024
Russell Investments Growth Fund	119,421,283	133,406,866	101,627,349	21.30	22,392,583	8,407,000	11,073,379
Russell Investments High Growth Fund	42,859,511	49,883,787	38,000,721	7.97	9,491,589	2,467,313	4,131,140
Russell Investments Pooled Superannuation Trust	152,702	325,682	248,100	0.05	172,980	-	24,581
Russell Investments Australian Shares Fund	98,928,929	96,492,168	73,506,286	15.41	11,471,762	13,908,523	8,068,096

13 Related party transactions (continued)

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	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
	\$	\$	%	%	\$	\$	No.	No.	No.	No.
Russell Cash Sweep Fund	12,195,054	10,877,131	2.83	3.57	421,242	590,370	83,539,644	160,149,491	82,221,721	168,649,462

14 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 2025 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the year ended on that date.

15 Contingent assets and liabilities and commitments

There were no outstanding contingent assets, liabilities or commitments as at 30 June 2025 and 30 June 2024.

Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the directors of the Responsible Entity:

- (a) the financial statements and notes set out on pages 6 to 28 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 2025 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
24 September 2025



Independent auditor's report

To the unitholders of Russell Investments Australian Shares Core Fund

Our opinion

In our opinion:

The accompanying financial report of Russell Investments Australian Shares Core 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 2025 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 2025
- 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, including material accounting policy information and other explanatory information
- the directors' declaration.

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.

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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.

Other information

The directors of Russell Investment Management Ltd. (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 2025, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

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

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.

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 in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001*, including giving a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors of the Responsible Entity determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that 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 intend to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

A stylized, handwritten-style signature of the PricewaterhouseCoopers firm.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

A handwritten signature of Simon Cuthbert.

Simon Cuthbert
Partner

Sydney
24 September 2025