

# Product Review

# **IOOF MultiMix Australian Shares Trust**

#### **About this Review**

ASSET CLASS REVIEWED	AUSTRALIAN EQUITIES
SECTOR REVIEWED	AUSTRALIAN LARGE CAP
SUB SECTOR REVIEWED	MULTI-MANAGER
TOTAL FUNDS RATED	10

## **About this Fund**

ADOUT THIS FUND			
ASIC RG240 CLAS	SSIFIED	NO	
FUND REVIEWED		100F MULTIMIX AUSTRALIAN SHARES TRUST	
APIR CODE		10F0092AU	
PDS OBJECTIVE	TERM OF AUS RETURN A	PROVIDE CAPITAL GROWTH OVER THE LONG BY INVESTING IN A DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIO TRALIAN SHARES, AND TO ACHIEVE A TOTAL FTER FEES IN EXCESS OF THE S&P/ASX 300 ATION INDEX OVER A ROLLING SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD.	
INTERNAL OBJECTIVE		PERFORM THE S&P/ASX 300 ACCUMULATION BY 2.0% P.A. (BEFORE FEES) OVER ROLLING FIVE YEARS PERIODS.	
STATED RISK OBJECTIVE	TRAC	CKING ERROR OF LESS THAN 3.0% P.A. OVER ROLLING FIVE-YEAR PERIODS.	
DISTRIBUTION FR	EQUENCY	SEMI-ANNUAL	
FUND SIZE		\$576M (JANUARY 2023)	
FUND INCEPTION		29-04-2008	
ANNUAL FEES AN (PDS)	ND COSTS	1.33% P.A. (PERFORMANCE FEE MAY BE CHARGED ON SOME UNDERLYING STRATEGIES)	
RESPONSIBLE EN	ITITY	100F INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD	

# **About the Fund Manager**

FUND MANAGER		100F	INVESTMENT SERVIO	CES LTD
OWNERSHIP	100% OWNE	D BY INSIGNIA	FINANCIAL LTD. (A	SX: IFL)
ASSETS MANAGED	IN THIS \$	147.3BN (TOTA	L MULTI-ASSET TEA	M FUM)
SECTOR			(DECEMBER	₹ 2022)
YEARS MANAGING THIS ASSET CLASS 29				

#### **Investment Team**

INVESTMENT TEAM SIZE	3
INVESTMENT TEAM TURNOVER LOW / MOD	ERATE
STRUCTURE / LOCATION PM / MELBO	URNE

# Investment process

INVESTMENT STYLE	MULTI-MANAGER
BENCHMARK	S&P/ASX 300 ACCUMULATION INDEX
TYPICAL NUMBER OF MANAGERS	12
CASH LIMIT	MAXIMUM 10.0%

### **Fund rating history**

RECOMMENDED
RECOMMENDED
RECOMMENDED

# What this Rating means

The 'Recommended' rating indicates that Lonsec has strong conviction the financial product can generate risk adjusted returns in line with relevant objectives. The financial product is considered an appropriate entry point to this asset class or strategy.

# **Strengths**

- The Trust is managed by an experienced and well-led investment team.
- Increased breadth of resources and tools in particular manager research, asset allocation, performance analytics, governance and implementation teams.
- The Manager implements a robust and consistently applied investment process underpinning underlying manager selection and portfolio construction functions.
- Integration of the broader investment team has been progressing well to further enhance the Manager's investment capabilities.

## Weaknesses

 Although the value proposition is strong, the Trust's overall fee load is relatively high in the peer group.

## **Fund Risk Characteristics**

	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY RISK		•	
CAPITAL VOLATILITY			•
SECURITY CONCENTRATION RISK		•	
SECURITY LIQUIDITY RISK		•	

Risk categories are based on Lonsec's qualitative opinion of the risks inherent in the financial product's asset class and the risks relative to other financial products in the relevant Lonsec sector universe.

#### **BIOmetrics**

## **Aggregated risks**

Aggregated risks							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
STD RISK MEASURE						•	

A Standard Risk Measure score of 6 equates to a Risk Label of 'High' and an estimated number of negative annual returns over any 20 year period of 4 to less than 6. This is a measure of expected frequency (not magnitude) of capital losses, calculated in accordance with ASFA/FSC guidelines.

RISK TO INCOME	· .	•	
Features and benefits			
	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
COMPLEXITY		•	
ESG		•	

LOW

MODERATE

HIGH

**We strongly recommend that potential investors read the product disclosure statement** Lonsec Research Pty Ltd ABN 11 151 658 561 • AFSL No. 421 445 • This information must be read in conjunction with the warning, disclaimer, and disclosure at the end of this document. This report supersedes all prior reports.

#### Fee profile

	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
FEES VS. UNIVERSE			•
FEES VS. ASSET CLASS		•	)
FEES VS. SUB-SECTOR			•

Fee BIOmetrics are a function of expected total fee as a percentage of expected total return.

## What is this Fund?

- The IOOF MultiMix Australian Shares Trust (the 'Trust') is an active, multi-manager Australian equity strategy. The Trust utilises a highly-diversified portfolio of Australian investment managers, via a style-neutral active strategy that tilts towards micro, small and mid-cap managers. The Trust aims to outperform the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index (the 'Benchmark') by 2.0 % p.a. (before fees), with a Tracking Error of less than 3.0% p.a. over a rolling five-year period.
- The Trust is managed by IOOF Investment Services Ltd ('IOOF' or the 'Manager'). IOOF adopts a multimanager investment style, taking an active approach. IOOF's investment philosophy is guided by a number of key principles which have foundations in academic research; active managers can outperform sector benchmarks over the long-term, in-depth research and analysis can provide superior insight and provide the potential for outperformance, and investment style can have a significant impact on performance.
- The Manager seeks to generate returns through active manager selection and aims to blend a range of investment styles (value, growth, quality, momentum, income) while maintaining meaningful active stock and sector positioning. The Trust has a bias towards mid, small, and micro-cap investment managers with a view that active management in niche segments outperforms over the long term.
- IOOF also has a preference for high-conviction boutique managers and those with relatively low levels of funds under management ('FUM'). IOOF seeks to identify high-quality managers early on in their lifecycle, with a strong alignment of interests between investment staff and end investors.
- The Trust's PDS dated 30 June 2022 disclosed Annual Fees and Costs ('AFC') totalling 1.33% p.a. This value comprises (1) Management Fees and Costs of 0.80% p.a., (2) Performance Fees of 0.39% p.a., and (3) Net Transaction Costs of 0.14% p.a. In-line with RG97, some fees and costs have been estimated by the issuer on a reasonable basis. Actual fees and costs may vary from these estimates.
- The Trust charges buy/sell spreads set at 0.14% / 0.14%. These spreads can be subject to change, most notably during periods of market volatility, and can be sourced from the Manager's website.

# **Using this Fund**

This is General Advice only and should be read in conjunction with the Disclaimer, Disclosure and Warning on the final page.

- Lonsec notes that the Manager has produced a Target Market Determination ('TMD') which forms part of its design and distribution arrangements for the Trust. Lonsec has sighted the TMD that has been provided by the Manager and notes that this should be referred to for further details on the Target Market Summary Description of Target Market and Review Triggers.
- The Trust is a 100% growth-based portfolio with no exposure to income assets. It has a strong emphasis on maximising capital growth over the long-term. Investors should expect high short-term fluctuations in values and a higher chance of capital loss. However, they are prepared to accept this as a trade off in achieving their long-term investment objective.

## Suggested Lonsec risk profile suitability

SECURE DEFENSIVE CONSERVATIVE BALANCED GROWTH HIGH GROWTH

For guidance on appropriate asset allocations and risk profiles, refer to the latest Lonsec Strategic Asset Allocation Review and Risk Profile Definitions on our website.

# **Changes Since Previous Lonsec Review**

- Effective July 2022, Dan Farmer was appointed as the Chief Investment Officer ('CIO') for the combined heritage IOOF, MLC and OnePath multi-manager businesses. The investment team is structured with responsibilities broadly segmented by Portfolio Construction, Portfolio Enablement and Special Capabilities functions. A number of team member responsibilities will be transitioned in a measured way over time.
- In June 2022, James Tayler was appointed as Head of Responsible Investment.
- In August 2022, Myooran Mahalingam resigned from the Manager and Liam Wilson took over as Portfolio Manager for the MLC Global Equities portfolios, in addition to already being the PM for IOOF and OptiMix Global Equities portfolios.
- There has been additional investment team changes effective 12 September 2022 which include:
  - Paul Crisci departed the Manager and Peter Sumner was appointed as Portfolio Manager for the Australian Equities and A-REIT portfolios;
  - Simon Elimelakh, Head of Investment Portfolio Analytics, transitioned to a contracting role.
     Furthermore, the analysts previously reporting through to Elimelakh now report to Daniel Ackland, Investment Analytics Manager;
  - David Djukanovic, Head of Exposure
     Management and Trading, leads a team of five
     including Head of Derivatives, Clifford Bayne,
     who reports directly to Djukanovic.
- There have been no changes to the underlying manager line-up over the last 12 months.
- In January 2023, Insignia Financial entered into a binding share sale agreement to divest its remaining 45% equity stake in JANA to JANA's management team. JANA would become a wholly managementowned business following the transaction. The completion of this transaction is expected to occur in early 2023. Lonsec notes no changes in terms of JANA asset consulting services provided to the investment

# **Lonsec Opinion of this Fund**

#### People and resources

- Insignia Financial Limited ('Insignia Financial', ASX code: IFL) is a leading provider of wealth management services including superannuation, platform administration and investment management, with over \$285.1bn assets under management and administration as 31 December 2022. Following the completion of the acquisition of MLC Wealth ('MLC') from National Australian Bank (ASX Code: NAB) in May 2021, Lonsec believes there are meaningful synergies realised from the breadth of resources, investment and risk management tools and significant collective industry experience of the combined businesses. The investment team members continue to collaborate effectively to manage their respective products.
- Effective 4 July 2022, Dan Farmer was appointed as the Chief Investment Officer ('CIO') for the combined heritage IOOF, OnePath and MLC multi-manager businesses. Lonsec believes that Farmer possesses the appropriate experience and skillset to lead the team and has skilfully navigated the significant changes arising from the MLC/Insignia Financial Ltd merger. Farmer previously was CIO of the IOOF investment management division and prior to this role, he was the Portfolio Manager for the Australian equities portfolios. Prior to joining the Insignia Financial, Farmer was Senior Executive Investments at Telstra Super. Furthermore, succession planning efforts also saw the appointment of Stanley Yeo as Deputy CIO and Head of Equities in 2021. Moreover and subsequent to the investment team restructure occurring in 2022, Yeo was appointed to Head of Strategy and Equities. The Trust is managed by Portfolio Manager, Australian Equities, Peter Sumner. In light of the integration process, Sumner was appointed in September 2022 after the departure of the previous portfolio manager Paul Crisci.
- Lonsec considers Sumner to be suitably qualified and adept at managing the Trust given his substantial experience in Australian equities strategies. Sumner has over three decades of experience in the investment industry having held various portfolio management roles across several asset classes including Portfolio Manager of Australian Equities for the MLC suite of products since 2008. Sumner is also responsible for the A-REIT portfolios within the organisation. Lonsec considers Sumner to exhibit a high degree of awareness concerning risk constraints and seeking out opportunities that offer additional alpha without compromising on quality. Yeo, as Head of Strategy and Equities, is the backup Portfolio Manager and has a wealth of experience and oversight of the strategy alongside Farmer who also previously managed this strategy as Portfolio
- The team is well-resourced consisting of 46 people in total, including Farmer and Yeo. The investment team has been recently restructured with responsibilities broadly segmented by Portfolio Construction, Portfolio Enablement and Special Capabilities functions. A number of team members' responsibilities will be transitioned in a measured way over time. While the senior team member departures are disappointing, Lonsec believes the

- reporting lines, roles and responsibilities remain clearly defined under the current structure with team integration progressing well.
- Lonsec views key person risk associated with Peter Sumner as low to moderate given the support and backup structure implemented.
- Lonsec considers the alignment of interest to investors to be moderate. 60% of the remuneration of the investment teams is directly linked to the performance of the multi-manager range of funds, which is heavily weighted to three and five year returns and can be taken as cash, salary sacrifice to superannuation or a combination of the above. The bonuses have a deferral component which promotes further alignment across the team.

# Research and portfolio construction

- Overall, Lonsec considers the manager research process to be detailed and transparent. The Manager's research process integrates both quantitative and qualitative factors. The quantitative process is used to establish specific risk/return objectives at both the Trust and sector level and also to assist in screening, modelling and identifying managers that in aggregate have the attributes to construct a blended portfolio to meet a specific return and risk target.
- The Manager's research process aims to establish a narrow universe of funds that have been filtered by various criteria including the team's house views on suitable styles of managers for given asset classes. The Manager relies on the services of an external asset consultant, Mercer, when formulating individual strategies, and ad-hoc advice in strategic asset allocation and strategic tilting. Lonsec views Mercer as well-equipped to provide guidance and advice to the team. Combined with the team's sector specialist model, Mercer's MRB has allowed the Manager to undertake research across a broader range of underlying managers and strategies. While Lonsec has a positive view of the depth and breadth of Mercer's domestic and global manager coverage, Lonsec is seeking stability at Mercer following an increased turnover within Mercer's Manager Research Boutique (MRB) over recent years.
- Furthermore, Lonsec notes the investment team also has access to the asset consulting services of JANA. As the broader team integration continues to progress, Lonsec will be better able to assess JANA's input in the Manager's investment process. Lonsec will continue to monitor the team's relationship with JANA in future reviews following the binding share sale agreement to divest Insignia Financial's remaining 45% equity stake to JANA to JANA's management team.
- In constructing the portfolio, Lonsec believes IOOF takes appropriate levels of activeness to achieve the Trust's objective. The Manager has a deliberate smaller market capitalisation bias and allocation to non-traditional or niche strategies which may result in performance that differs substantially from peers and benchmark over an investment cycle.
- IOOF's Australian Boutique Manager Portfolio is an attractive feature of the Trust. IOOF seeks to identify high-quality managers early on in their development

when fees are low and alpha potential is typically at its highest. The Manager has on a number of occasions been the first institutional manager to award mandates to these particular strategies. Approximately 12% of the Trust is currently invested in 'boutique' managers. Lonsec highlights these investments may have elevated risk profiles (business and investment) that should be compensated with higher expected returns. However, Lonsec believes IOOF has appropriate processes in place to effectively monitor these investment managers and act in a timely manner should any characteristics change.

- The Trust also invests in niche strategies such as the BioScience Managers Biomedical Translation Fund I. IOOF is experienced with these types of strategies, and Lonsec considers the size of the investments to be appropriate from a risk management perspective. That said, Lonsec remains mindful that such positions have the potential to encounter liquidity issues in times of market stress and cautions that consideration should be taken particularly in light of the current overweight position in micro and small caps.
- IOOF has displayed strong discipline in removing underperforming or unsuitable strategies from the Trust as and when the need arises. Pleasingly, this discipline has been applied equally to both external and internal strategies.
- Pleasingly, the Manager has a well-developed list of designated back-up managers in the event of an adverse scenario eventuating (i.e. key portfolio manager departing). Lonsec looks favourably on multi-manager strategies having well-formulated contingency plans, believing it to be consistent with industry 'best practice'.

## **ESG Integration**

- Lonsec's ESG integration assessment considers how rigorous, robust and structured the ESG process for the Trust is as well as how well it integrates into the overall investment process and the Manager's overall policy and reporting framework. The assessment is not intended to assess the underlying holdings of the Trust's portfolio or the Manager's adherence to any form of impact, green / sustainable or ethical standards.
- At the corporate level Lonsec views the Manager's overall ESG policy framework and disclosure as behind peers. The Manager has an articulated commitment to the integration of ESG within their investment process with a public positioning and policy framework. The Responsible Investment Position Statement together with proxy voting policy is freely available on the firm's website. The Responsible Investment Position Statement also provides details on engagement practices, however, is considered rather high-level compared to peers. The level of details with respect to the proxy voting policy and voting outcomes is lagging peers. The policy and reporting on voting outcomes lack depth compared to peers.
- The Manager has indicated that their Responsible Investment style is "ESG Integration" and as such that they take Environmental, Social and Governance factors into consideration when assessing investment opportunities. With a primary ESG style of

- "Stewardship" Managers will usually focus their ESG strategy on Engagement and Voting as the key tool in managing their ESG risks. While stewardship approaches are common across most Managers, they can form the key ESG strategy employed by some Managers. Due to the qualitative nature of this style Lonsec highlights the need for Managers to provide clear and detailed reporting on both engagement and voting activities and recommends investors review the Trust's stewardship reporting where available.
- Lonsec's review of ESG integration for Multi Asset Funds such as this, reviews only the ESG components of the selection of underlying strategies or managers. It does not review the ESG integration at the level of each of the underlying funds or strategies.
- While the Manager does have some minimum standards for Manager selection and monitoring they are seen by Lonsec as being very light touch.
- There are no signs that company engagement on ESG issues is a component of the Manager's current investment approach for this Fund.
- ESG does not form a component of the Managers broader compliance framework and overall transparency provided to investors is lagging.
- In June 2022, James Tayler was appointed as Head of Responsible Investment. Lonsec expects Tayler's appointment to expand the scope of the Manager's ESG integration through time.

#### **Risk management**

- Lonsec has been satisfied with the structure of the risk management functions embedded within the investment process. While continually evolving, the Manager has integrated compliance systems that enable underlying mandates to be implemented to ensure compliance with their predefined guidelines.
- Underlying managers are typically accessed via separately managed accounts enabling the Manager to tailor mandates to its requirements, e.g. maximum stock bet limits or maximum cash holdings. Lonsec considers this a positive structure as it can facilitate tighter portfolio construction, better product design control, the opportunity for better pricing, improved tax efficiency for investors and the ability to manage implementation and transitions more efficiently.
- The Manager closely monitors manager portfolios and weightings on a daily basis and investigates daily any excess return outliers exceeding the 99% confidence level. In Lonsec's opinion, ongoing mandate monitoring is very important within the Multi-Manager structure, as it is just as critical for underlying managers to be adhering to their investment process as it is that the process is of high quality.
- The Product Operational Accounting and the Office
  of the Responsible Entity undertakes operational
  due diligence on potential investment managers and
  undertakes annual reviews of the operational risks
  associated with employed managers. Lonsec views
  this positively as it reduces the workload of Portfolio
  Managers and improves specialisation.
- The team is continuing to improve the transparency of the underlying portfolios, and have added these portfolios into Bloomberg PORT and FactSet.

#### **Fees**

• The Trust's fee comprises a management fee of 0.80% p.a., an estimated performance fee of 0.39% p.a., and net transaction costs of 0.14% p.a. Lonsec considers the total fee load for the Trust (AFC of 1.33% p.a.) is expensive compared to peers.

#### **Product**

- The Trust is a relatively vanilla Australian equities multi-manager strategy. Hence, Lonsec does not consider it to be operationally challenging to implement. Additionally, the Manager employs highquality 'tier 1' service providers.
- The Fund is a registered managed investment scheme ('MIS') for which IOOF Investment Services Ltd ('IOOF'), the Responsible Entity ('RE'), is a related entity. The RE is responsible for operating and managing the MIS, holds an AFSL and as such is required to comply with its AFSL and RE obligations as outlined under the Corporations Act. Lonsec notes the RE has built experience in operating and managing a number of schemes over an extended period of time and is expected to have a governance framework in place to deal with any perceived conflicts of interest.
- The Trust has been in outflow over the short-tomedium term which heightens the potential for wind-up risk if this trend was to materially accelerate. That said, Lonsec acknowledges that the Trust is already large scale with the Manager remaining fully committed to this product.

#### **Performance**

- The Trust aims to achieve returns (before fees and charges) that exceed the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index by 2.0% p.a. over rolling five years.
- As at 28 February 2023, the Trust delivered a total return (net of fees) of 2.0%, 7.4% p.a. and 7.6% p.a. over the one, three and five-year periods, respectively. The Trust was in line with the peer median over three years but outperformed the peer median over five years. However, over the one-year period, the Fund's total returns were materially lower than that of the peer median. The Fund has underperformed the benchmark over these periods, therefore failing to meet its internal investment objective.
- During these periods, the Trust's volatility (as measured by the annualised standard deviation) was lower than the peer group median metrics.
   The maximum drawdown was in line with the peer median over the one-year period and smaller over the three and five-year periods.
- As at 28 February 2023, the Trust's returns and annualised standard deviation have resulted in a Sharpe Ratio that was broadly in line with the peer median metrics over three years, whilst being higher over five years to 28 February 2023. In contrast, the Fund's Sharpe Ratio was lower than that of the peer median over the one-year period.

#### Overall

- Lonsec has maintained the Trust's 'Recommended' rating at its recent review. The rating reflects the high regard and conviction for the experience and calibre of the broader investment team. Further, lead Portfolio Manager, Peter Sumner is considered sufficiently skilled and experienced to manage the Trust effectively. The rating is also underpinned by Lonsec's positive view of the Trust's robust and repeatable investment process. The increased resourcing from the combined heritage IOOF, OnePath and MLC businesses, provides further depth of expertise within investment management, asset allocation and risk management.
- Lonsec believes the Trust encompasses a
   differentiated feature in its willingness to back
   boutique investment managers early in their lifecycle,
   and the usage of small, micro-cap and more niche
   strategies such as health care funds. Lonsec notes the
   Trust's overall fee load is considered high.

# **People and Resources**

#### **Corporate overview**

Insignia Financial Ltd ('Insignia Financial') is a wealth management company offering products and services across, financial advice and distribution, portfolio and estate administration, and investment management. Insignia Financial is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange ('ASX'). As of 31 December 2022, Insignia Financial had \$285.1bn in Funds Under Management and Administration.

These services are operated through a suite of brands including IOOF, Shadforth, Lonsdale, Bridges Financial Services, Consultum Financial Advisers, M3 Financial Services and RI Advice.

#### Size and experience

NAME	POSITION	EXPERIENCE INDUSTRY / FIRM
DANIEL FARMER	CIO	27 / 13
PETER SUMNER*	PORTFOLIO MANAGER, AUSTRALIAN EQUITIES	34 / 34
STANLEY YEO#	HEAD OF STRATEGY AND EQUITIES	23 / 13

<sup>\*</sup> Lead Portfolio Manager# Primary back-up

The Investment Team is structured along specialist lines. Peter Sumner was appointed Portfolio Manager, Australian Equities and A-REITs in September 2022 as a result of the MLC merger and broader investment team restructuring. Sumner possesses 34 years of experience, having worked across fixed income and equity portfolio management roles throughout his tenure at MLC. In particular, Sumner has been Portfolio Manager, Australian Equities since 2008 at MLC. Yeo, as Head of Strategy and Equities, is the backup Portfolio Manager and has oversight of the strategy alongside Farmer (CIO), who also previously managed this strategy as Portfolio Manager.

In total, the investment team consists of 46 personnel across several specialised asset classes and functions. The senior members of the investment team comprise an average of 25 years of industry experience. The Team is led by CIO, Dan Farmer and includes 10 Heads of

Asset Classes and Implementation, with additional support from approximately 35 Portfolio Managers and supporting analysts.

The Portfolio Manager conducts qualitative and quantitative research and provides overall data support and recommendations to the five-member Investment Management Committee ('IMC'). The IMC ultimately considers and approves asset allocation decisions and manager appointments.

The IMC meets bi-monthly or more frequently if required, and comprises Anthony Hodges (Chairman and External Member), Denise Allen, and Mary-Anne Nunan (External Members). Daniel Farmer (CIO) and Stanley Yeo (Head of Strategy and Equities). Osvaldo Acosta (Head of Fixed Interest Assets) has been appointed as Secretary.

Back-office functions are performed by IOOF's Investment Operations Team. Compliance monitoring, custody, unit pricing, registry, and financial reporting functions are outsourced to various parties including Insignia Financial and JP Morgan; while transition management and implementation are performed by a panel of transition managers including Citi, Macquarie, UBS, and State Street.

#### Remuneration

The investment team is rewarded with a combination of base salary and variable bonus. Remuneration of the investment teams is directly linked to the performance of the multi-manager range of funds. Typically, 60% of a team member's variable remuneration is linked to the performance of the funds with 20% linked to broader product development initiatives and the remaining 20% related to behaviours and risk metrics. Variable remuneration is heavily weighted to longer term performance, with 85% based on three and five year returns, and can be taken as cash, salary sacrifice to superannuation or a combination of the above.

# **Asset Consultant**

IOOF appointed Mercer as its primary external asset consultant in July 2017 and MLC has a long standing relationship with JANA (JANA was previously a fully owned subsidiary of NAB. Insignia Financial Ltd sold its remaining minority share to JANA in January 2023). Post IOOF's acquisition of MLC, the broader Insignia Financial multi manager business benefit from consultancy and research services provided by both Mercer and JANA.

These services include manager research and consultancy services when performing due diligence on prospective and currently appointed underlying managers, designing neutral benchmarks, stress testing, strategic tilting advice and performing various other risk management functions. In addition to Mercer and JANA, Neuberger Berman assists in Alternative's research. Neuberger Berman is an 80-year old private employee-owned investment manager. The firm manages equities, fixed income, private equity and hedge fund portfolios for institutions and advisors. With offices in 36 cities worldwide, Neuberger Berman's team employs more than 2,400 professionals and manages more than US\$402bn in assets under management as at December 2021.

# Research Approach

Overview		
RESEARCH PHILOSOPHY	BL	ENDED QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH
TARGET MANAGER	HIGH QUALI	TY BETA AND ALPHA MANAGERS, BOTH ESTABLISHED AND BOUTIQUE
NO. OF MANAGER	S IN UNIVERSE	UNLIMITED
NO. OF MANAGER RESEARCHED	S ACTIVELY	ALL MANAGERS RESEARCHED BY MERCER
RESEARCH INPUTS	VARIOUS - MAI	NAGER MEETINGS, ASSET CONSULTANTS ETC.

IOOF's integrated quantitative and qualitative investment process aims to establish a narrow universe of funds that have been filtered by various criteria including IOOF's house views on suitable styles of managers for given asset classes and managers rated highly by Mercer. Qualitative research then focuses on the firm's background and history, the key people and resources, investment style and strategy, portfolio construction, and constraints.

#### **Screening of Managers**

IOOF places a strong emphasis on active risk budgeting when in the Portfolio Construction process, and therefore identifies the type of managers/mandates required to fulfill particular roles within the available tracking error budget. As such, managers who would be unlikely to fulfill a certain role within the portfolio will be screened out. This approach allows IOOF to minimize the universe of products to a manageable size rather than considering all available managers in each asset class. IOOF also has access to Mercer's Global Investment Manager Database ('GIMD'), an online database which covers approximately 5,300 managers and 26,000 funds to enhance the scope of their research capability and as an additional tool for filtering to identify the most suitable funds.

Typically, IOOF will focus its research on managers rated B+ or higher by Mercer. However, the discovery of managers may be sourced through any source including Mercer, directly by IOOF, through existing networks and contacts with other industry participants, such as managers, consultants or superannuation plan operators. The IOOF investment team are encouraged to have a wide opportunity set for investment ideas.

#### **Research focus**

The list of potential managers identified as research priorities by the screening process will then be subject to additional research by the IOOF team before they can be included in a portfolio. This 'double' layer of manager research typically ensures that final funds in the portfolios have undergone a rigorous review process.

IOOF undertakes a mix of both qualitative and quantitative research. From a qualitative perspective, IOOF considers factors such as the firm's background and history, financial position, the calibre of key decision-makers and the depth of available resources, investment strategy and style, idea generation and portfolio construction processes, and implementation constraints. The types of quantitative analysis conducted will include various types of performance, return and style-based analytics, various types of portfolio holdings-based attribution, and risk factor analytics.

# **Portfolio Construction**

# DVERVIEW BENCHMARK RETURN OBJECTIVE (INTERNAL) RISK OBJECTIVE (INTERNAL)

IOOF's primary objective with respect to the determination of manager weightings is to achieve a style-neutral portfolio free from any undesired systematic style, capitalisation, or other factor biases relative to the relevant benchmark. Manager weightings are also determined via an assessment of contribution to total active risk to ensure no one manager has a disproportionate expected contribution. However, a manager's contribution to total active risk is not considered in isolation but with reference to the correlation of its excess returns with other managers and the objective of the product.

In the first instance, active risk and return targets are set for the Trust's risk profile. The tracking error or risk budget is then apportioned between allowable asset classes based on IOOF's house views of the available risks and opportunities. Finally, managers are selected and blended to fill the risk budget, with each manager's contribution to risk being commensurate with their expected contribution to the alpha target. The number and style of managers within each asset class are also pre-determined according to IOOF's house view.

Manager blending is conducted following both qualitative and quantitative assessments. The qualitative analysis includes a comparative analysis of each manager, and the diversification benefits they offer. Quantitative analysis includes factors such as correlation, historical returns, style biases, capitalisation analysis, regression analysis, and various risk analytics.

Prior to submitting a manager recommendation to the IMC, the recommendation is peer-reviewed by the Investment Manager Peer Review Group. This group consists of senior investment professionals (Chief Investment Officer and Portfolio Managers) that are ultimately responsible for the review of manager proposals before being formally considered by the IMC. This ensures any manager proposal to the IMC has been rigorously peer-reviewed as a means of quality control and to minimise individual bias and subjectivity. It is also a means to consider the manager's proposal in a total portfolio context.

The following summarises the underlying managers within the Trust as of 31 December 2022. Consistent with IOOF's aim of broad style neutrality, there is a selection of managers with varying investment styles.

#### **Broad Cap**

- Franklin Templeton Martin Currie Dynamic Value
- Vinva Alpha Extension
- Alliance Bernstein Concentrated Equity
- Alliance Bernstein Managed Volatility
- Invesco Australian Equity Efficient Income
- Quest Asset Partners

• Northcape Capital

## **Small and micro-cap**

- OC Micro and Small Cap
- Acorn Micro Cap

## **Boutique managers**

- Selector Mid Cap
- OPBM Asia Pacific Micro Healthcare
- BioScience Managers Biomedical Translation Fund

#### Other

IOOF Cash Management Trust

# **Risk Management**

Risk limits	
SEPARATE RISK MONITORING TEAM	YES
STOCK LIMIT	NONE
SECTOR LIMIT	NONE
CASH LIMIT	10%

All underlying managers are subject to constraints as specified in an investment management agreement. Most underlying managers are accessed via separately managed accounts. This enables IOOF to tailor mandates to its requirements, for example, maximum stock exposure limits or maximum cash holdings.

The risk tools employed by IOOF include Bloomberg, Factset, and BARRA. Risk analysis is also completed by Mercer, whenever a change to the portfolio is proposed.

#### **Risk monitoring**

The IOOF investment manager monitoring process consists of a number of prescribed stages. This includes the review of monthly investment reports, review of quarterly manager questionnaires, formal quarterly manager interviews, quarterly manager review notes, ongoing quantitative performance analytics, and ongoing review of external research. Quarterly Manager Questionnaires cover not only risk and performance but also any changes or developments in people or processes. Formal manager interviews (and site visits where practical) are also conducted on an ad-hoc basis where required.

Manager weightings are monitored on a daily basis and are rebalanced on an ongoing basis using cashflows. Using cashflows in this way means that active rebalancing of the portfolio is rarely required which minimises turnover and transaction costs/tax implications.

Product Operational Accounting and the Office of the Responsible Entity works with the Investment Team to review and assess the operational capabilities of all manager appointments.

This team also monitors, reviews and assesses the operational risks associated with employed Investment Managers on an annual basis.

Operational due diligence includes a review of the systems, policies, processes and resources managers have in place to monitor and manage operational risk exposures. Reviews typically focus on the below areas:

- Professional indemnity insurance
- Auditing Practices (with reference to GS007 requirements)
- Organisational structures

# Lonsec

# **IOOF MultiMix Australian Shares Trust**

- · Business Continuity Management
- Policy Summaries
- Risk Management Approaches
- Investment Compliance
- Breaches & Incidents

#### **Implementation**

Portfolio allocations are monitored daily and rebalanced as necessary (subject to a tolerance range of +/-3% at the asset class level and +/-5% at the manager level). Cashflows are actively used to rebalance the portfolio on an ongoing basis, so the tolerance bands are rarely breached. Cashflows are allocated using a proprietary cashflow management system which allows for straight through processing to underlying investment managers.

External transition managers are appointed from a panel at 'arm's length' to ensure that objectivity is maintained. Custody, unit pricing, registry and financial reporting functions are outsourced to various parties including IOOF and JP Morgan.

## **Risks**

An investment in the Trust carries a number of standard investment risks associated with investment markets. These include economic, market, political, legal, tax and regulatory risks. Investors should read the PDS before making a decision to invest or not invest. Lonsec considers the major risks to be:

## **Market risk**

Investment returns are influenced by the performance of the market as a whole. This means that your investments can be affected by things like changes in interest rates, investor sentiment and global events, depending on which markets or asset classes you invest in and the timeframe you are considering.

## Security and investment-specific risk

Within each asset class and each fund, individual securities like mortgages, shares, fixed interest securities or hybrid securities can be affected by risks that are specific to that investment or that security. For example, the value of a company's shares can be influenced by changes in company management, its business environment or profitability. These risks can also impact the company's ability to repay its debt.

## **Derivatives**

The manager has scope, via their PDS, to implement various derivative strategies with the objective of mitigating equity market risks. Lonsec does not expect this to be a widely adopted strategy.

The value of a derivative will generally move according to movements in the underlying asset, and therefore carries the risks associated with that asset. There is also the risk of potentially magnifying gains or losses through the use of derivatives. In addition to this there is potential illiquidity of the derivative. The Trust's derivative positions are constantly governed by a strict internal risk management process to monitor any exposures derived from the implementation of derivatives.

#### Other risks

Please refer to the Trust's PDS for more details on items identified by the Responsible Entity and Manager

including Liquidity Risk, Counterparty Risk, Legal and Regulatory Risk.

# Quantitative Performance Analysis - annualised after-fee % returns (at 28-2-2023)

#### **Performance metrics**

	1 YR		3 YR		5 YR		10 YR	
	FUND	PEER MEDIAN						
PERFORMANCE (% PA)	2.02	5.63	7.43	7.43	7.61	6.77	8.29	7.26
STANDARD DEVIATION (% PA)	16.77	17.51	17.78	19.22	15.59	16.63	13.28	14.07
EXCESS RETURN (% PA)	-4.53	-0.91	-0.51	-0.51	-0.27	-0.69	0.38	-1.03
OUTPERFORMANCE RATIO (% PA)	41.67	50.00	44.44	44.44	46.67	43.33	50.00	44.17
WORST DRAWDOWN (%)	-11.17	-11.17	-19.26	-21.82	-25.73	-28.17	-25.73	-28.17
TIME TO RECOVERY (MTHS)	NR	NR	5	8	8	12	8	12
SHARPE RATIO	0.02	0.23	0.38	0.37	0.42	0.33	0.50	0.39
INFORMATION RATIO	-1.06	-0.42	-0.14	-0.15	-0.08	-0.41	0.12	-0.30
TRACKING ERROR (% PA)	4.29	2.52	3.54	2.40	3.52	2.24	3.08	1.87

PRODUCT: 100F MULTIMIX AUSTRALIAN SHARES TRUST

LONSEC PEER GROUP: AUSTRALIAN EQUITIES - AUSTRALIAN LARGE CAP - MULTI-MANAGER

PRODUCT BENCHMARK: S&P/ASX 300 TR INDEX AUD

CASH BENCHMARK: BLOOMBERG AUSBOND BANK BILL INDEX AUD

TIME TO RECOVERY: NR - NOT RECOVERED, DASH - NO DRAWDOWN DURING PERIOD

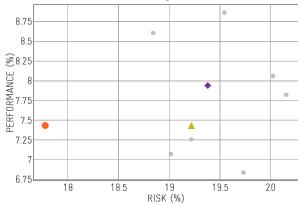
# Growth of \$10,000 over 10 years



—— IOOF MULIIMIX AUSTRALIAN SHARES TRUST

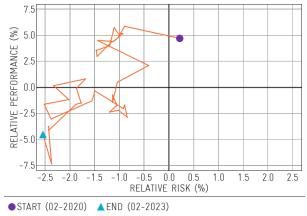
----- S&P/ASX 300 TR INDEX AUD

# Risk-return chart over three years

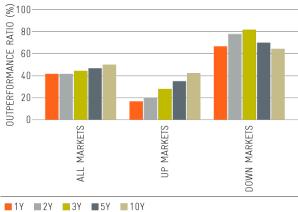


- 100F MULTIMIX AUSTRALIAN SHARES TRUST
- ◆S&P/ASX 300 TR INDEX AUD
- ▲ PEER MEDIAN
- DEEDS

# **Snail trail**



**Outperformance consistency** 



## Glossary

**Total return** 'Top line' actual return, after fees **Excess return** Return in excess of the benchmark return **Standard deviation** Volatility of monthly Absolute

Returns

**Tracking error** Volatility of monthly Excess Returns against the benchmark (the Standard Deviation of monthly Excess Returns)

**Sharpe ratio** Absolute reward for absolute risk taken (outperformance of the risk free return (Bank Bills) / Standard Deviation)

**Information ratio** Relative reward for relative risk taken (Excess Returns / Tracking Error)

**Worst drawdown** The worst cumulative loss ('peak to trough') experienced over the period assessed

**Time to recovery** The number of months taken to recover the Worst Drawdown

**Snail Trail** A trailing 12-month relative performance and relative risk measurement over the benchmark. The trail is generated using a 12-month rolling window over the specified period

# **About Lonsec**

Lonsec Research Pty Ltd (Lonsec) is an investment research house with specialist areas of expertise, that was originally established in 1994 and the current entity was registered on 23 June 2011. From 1 July 2011, Lonsec became a fully owned subsidiary of Lonsec Fiscal Holdings Pty Ltd, a privately owned entity with a multibrand strategy of providing leading financial services research and investment execution. Lonsec believes that professional financial advisers need informed opinions on the best investment strategies and financial products to provide real value for their clients. To meet this need, Lonsec has in place an experienced research team, which draws on a robust research process to undertake in-depth assessment of managed fund products.

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