

Perpetual Investment Funds

PERPETUAL ESG CREDIT INCOME FUND - CLASS A

March 2026

FUND FACTS

Investment objective: To provide investors with regular income and consistent returns above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (before fees and taxes) over rolling three-year periods by investing in a diverse range of income generating assets that meet Perpetual's ESG and values-based criteria.

Benchmark: Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index
Inception date: June 2018
Size of fund: \$93.4 million as at 31 December 2025
APIR: PER1744AU
Mgmt Fee: 0.59% pa*
Benchmark Yield: 4.117% as at 31 March 2026
Suggested minimum investment period: Three years or longer

FUND BENEFITS

Provides investors access to an actively managed credit and fixed income fund and the opportunity to align their investments with their personal values and ESG preferences.

FUND RISKS

All investments carry risk and different strategies may carry different levels of risk. The relevant product disclosure statement or offer document for a fund should be considered before deciding whether to acquire or hold units in that fund. Your financial adviser can assist you in determining whether a fund is suited to your financial needs.

TOTAL RETURNS % (AFTER FEES) AS AT 31 March 2026

| | 1 MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 1 YR | 2 YRS PA | 3 YRS PA | 5 YRS PA | 7 YRS PA | INCEPT PA |
|--|-------|--------|--------|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Perpetual ESG Credit Income Fund – Class A | -0.14 | 0.75 | 1.89 | 5.62 | 6.38 | 7.14 | 4.97 | 4.43 | 4.22 |
| Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index | 0.32 | 0.91 | 1.82 | 3.80 | 4.13 | 4.15 | 2.89 | 1.55 | 2.23 |

Please note: Performance for Perpetual's complete list of investment funds is available on www.perpetual.com.au. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- War in Iran and rising oil prices contribute to market volatility;
- Credit spreads widen on geopolitical, inflation and growth concerns;
- RBA raises rates; bond yields rise along the curve;
- New issuance disrupted; securitisation volumes resilient
- The credit outlook is negative.

ESG APPROACH

Before being considered for investment, companies or issuers must pass a series of exclusionary screens. The screening processes is designed to limit the investible universe to only those companies or issuers that meet minimum values-based and ESG standards. The Perpetual ESG Credit Income Fund first applies a values-based and ESG exclusionary screen. Sovereign issuers are subject to a separate exclusionary screen. Please refer to the Perpetual Investment Funds PDS for further information.

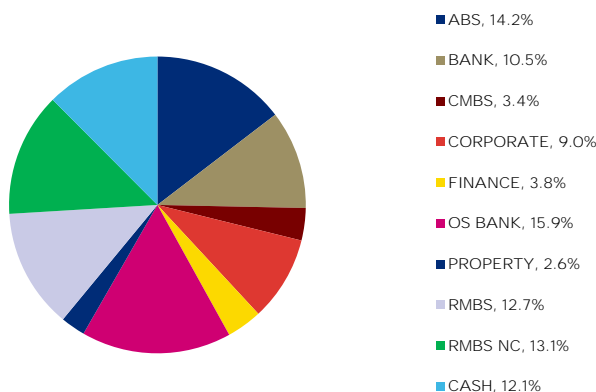
PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION

| | BREAKDOWN |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Senior Debt | 21.54% |
| Subordinated Debt | 56.66% |
| Hybrid Debt | 21.79% |
| Running Yield [#] | 5.47% |
| Portfolio Weighted Average Life (yrs) | 3.57 yrs |
| No. Securities | 98 |
| Modified Duration | 0.12 |

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

[#]The methodology used to calculate Running Yield is derived from FactSet, and calculated as follows: The coupon rate of the security / the capital price of the security. Note that the exception is discounted securities, where a Yield to Maturity calculation is used.

PORTFOLIO SECTORS



MARKET COMMENTARY

March proved a challenging month for Australian fixed income, as geopolitical turmoil in the Middle East dominated sentiment and forced a significant repricing of the rate outlook. The US-Israel conflict with Iran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz — a chokepoint for roughly 20% of global oil supply — sending oil prices sharply higher and reigniting stagflation concerns. The war created volatility across energy, rates, equities and credit markets as inflation was re-priced, as was central bank paths and recession risks.

Against this backdrop, the RBA delivered a 0.25% rate hike, albeit on a narrow 5–4 vote, reinforcing its view that the economy has been running above potential and that inflation remains uncomfortably elevated. The decision was framed as a response to pre-existing domestic inflationary pressures rather than the oil shock directly, though the two are difficult to disentangle. Australian government bond yields moved sharply higher across the curve. Market pricing for the end-2026 cash rate peaked near 4.8% — around 2.5 additional hikes — up sharply from February's close. With Q1 CPI due ahead of the May RBA meeting — where markets are currently pricing a 60% probability of another hike to 4.35% — volatility looks set to persist into April.

Domestic credit spreads widened materially over the month reflecting uncertain economic and geopolitical conditions alongside rising concerns around the private credit sector. Higher beta sectors including subordinated major banks widened more sharply.

Primary market issuance paused briefly following the commencement of strikes in Iran before resuming albeit at a lower volume than previous months. Securitisation activity dominated deal flow, contributing to pressure on spreads as the market digested robust volumes in an uncertain economic climate.

PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

Credit spread widening was the key determinant of relative performance over the period. Allocation to higher beta sectors including domestic bank subordinated and offshore bank hybrid positions detracted from performance. Securitised sectors also saw widening reflecting supply factors alongside the broader risk off market dynamic although this was offset by the strong running yield. The Funds conservative positioning mitigated the impact of the selloff in credit with relatively short spread duration (~3 years) and healthy cash allocation (12% at month end) helping to limit the impact of widening spreads.

Income return contributed positively to performance over the period partially offsetting the detraction from spread expansion. Despite a healthy cash allocation, the Fund retains a yield premium above benchmark, attributable primarily to RMBS and offshore bank allocations. The **Portfolio's running yield** was 5.5% at month end, with the spread (credit yield premium) measured at 1.8%.

Duration positioning was a key contributing factor for performance mitigating much of the impact of widening spreads. Manager actively traded duration throughout the month within the funds relatively tight (+/- 0.75 years from benchmark) active duration limit. At the end of February, the Fund held 0.8 years of duration. Following the commencement of strikes in Iran, the Manager closed this position, as yields rallied during the initial flight to safety. Throughout the remainder of March, the Manager utilised 3-year government bond futures to add and reduce interest rate risk to take advantage of volatility as a result of geopolitical and monetary policy news flow, before taking profit, ending the month with a duration position near neutral.

The Manager was active in secondary markets during the month, taking advantage of elevated selling activity to add positions at attractive valuations. This included increasing allocation to USD and EUR denominated subordinated and hybrid positions. Elsewhere, the Manager elected to trim REITs, ABS and domestic bank exposures while increasing allocation to cash and prime RMBS.

The outlook for credit remains negative reflecting uncertain geopolitical, economic and monetary policy factors. In these conditions risk management remains paramount. The Fund retains a material cash allocation to manage liquidity risks while providing ample dry powder to take advantage of relative value opportunities presented by recent volatility.

The Fund invests in quality issuers that meet Perpetual's ESG and Values based criteria relating to what the company is in the business of and the way business operations are conducted respectively. Upon application of the ESG and Values based criteria, several bond issuers have been screened out. These include, for example, companies involved in the extraction of fossil fuels or companies whose revenues are significantly associated with socially questionable products or services.

OUTLOOK

The credit outlook declined in March to end the month with a strong negative reading.

Valuation indicators neutral despite spread widening across AU investment grade, US Investment Grade and US High Yield. The disruption of primary markets as a result of the war in Iran and associated uncertainty saw decline in opportunistic issuance. AUD credit is still offering reasonable relative value.

The ongoing Middle East conflict remains the key driver of the macroeconomic outlook. Even if traffic through the Strait of Hormuz normalizes, damage to production infrastructure is expected to limit supply recovery and sustained high oil prices will slow global growth. The ratio of upgrades to downgrades remains in positive territory despite the uncertain economic and monetary policy outlook.

Market demand has been impacted by the geopolitical volatility with persistent selling observed and buyers predominantly active at discounted levels with bid depth inconsistent. Year to date issuance remains elevated despite the easing observed in March.

Technical indicators have worsened contributing to the negative credit outlook. While cash balances among real money accounts have increased and dealer inventories remain neutral, US credit, Equity and Equity volatility indicators are all marginally negative.

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The product disclosure statement (PDS) for the relevant fund, issued by PIML, should be considered before deciding whether to acquire or hold units in the fund. The PDS and Target Market Determination can be obtained by calling 1800 022 033 or visiting our website www.perpetual.com.au. No company in the Perpetual Group (Perpetual Limited ABN 86 000 431 827 and its subsidiaries) guarantees the performance of any fund or the return of an investor's capital. Total return shown for the fund(s) have been calculated using exit prices after taking into account all of Perpetual's ongoing fees and assuming reinvestment of distributions. No allowance has been made for contribution or withdrawal fees or taxation (except in the case of superannuation funds, as applicable). Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

MORE INFORMATION

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