

Perpetual Investment Funds

PERPETUAL GLOBAL ALLOCATION ALPHA FUND

July 2025

FUND FACTS

Investment objective: Aims to provide long-term capital growth and outperform the MSCI World ex Australia Net Total Return Index (AUD) with lower risk (before fees and taxes) over rolling three-year periods.

FUND BENEFITS

Provides investors with long-term growth opportunities across global equities. The fund is run by high quality investment teams.

FUND RISKS

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

Benchmark: MSCI World Ex Australia Net Total Return Index (AUD) - since 1st October 2022

Inception Date: March 1999

Size of Portfolio: \$69.85 million as at 30 June 2025

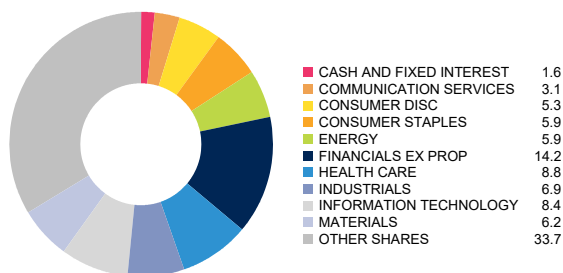
APIR: PER0066AU

Management Fee: 0.55%*

Investment style: Active, fundamental, disciplined, value

Suggested minimum investment period: Five years or longer

PORTFOLIO SECTORS



TOP 10 STOCK HOLDINGS

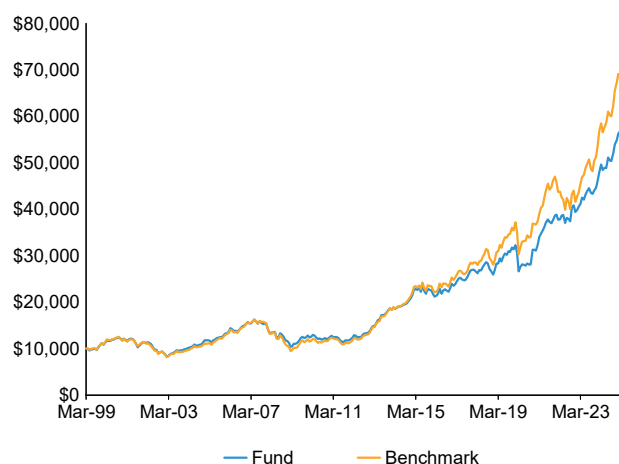
	% of Portfolio
Microsoft Corporation	1.3%
Sanofi SA	1.0%
Bank of Nova Scotia	1.0%
Merck & Co., Inc.	1.0%
Chevron Corporation	1.0%
Exxon Mobil Corporation	0.8%
Standard Chartered PLC	0.8%
Newmont Corporation	0.8%
Apple Inc.	0.8%
Rheinmetall AG	0.8%

PERFORMANCE- periods ending 31 July 2025

	Fund	Historical ¹ Performance	Benchmark	Excess
1 month	1.82	-	3.12	-1.30
3 months	6.66	-	11.29	-4.63
1 year	12.42	-	17.49	-5.06
2 year p.a.	14.36	-	19.85	-5.49
3 year p.a.	-	14.65	19.14	-4.49
4 year p.a.	-	11.53	12.89	-1.36
5 year p.a.	-	15.62	16.65	-1.03
7 year p.a.	-	10.78	13.08	-2.31
10 year p.a.	-	9.42	11.47	-2.06

¹Effective 1 October 2022 the Fund Investment strategy has changed; including the investment objective, investment approach and benchmark of the Fund. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Returns may differ due to different tax treatments.

GROWTH OF \$10,000 SINCE INCEPTION



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

MARKET COMMENTARY

Markets edged higher in July as investors parsed easing trade tensions, solid corporate earnings, and a cautious yet steady approach from global central banks. Softer macroeconomic data towards the end of the month tested the rally but the profit taking was not overly large.

- US equities (+2.2%) reached new all-time highs, rallying on easing trade concerns and supportive earnings results. Growth sectors and securities, led by large cap technology substantially outperformed value. This was led by the technology sector, which strengthened on positive second quarter earnings results and easing of trade restrictions around exporting chips to China.
- Australian Shares (+2.4%) were supported by moderating inflation print and improving US China trade negotiations.
- UK shares (+4.2%) performed strongly led by large cap stocks including pharmaceutical, energy and consumer staple names as investors overlooked a higher-than-expected June CPI print (core inflation rose to 3.7%Y) which could trigger concerns on the amount of easing the BoE could undertake in 2025.
- Emerging markets (+3.1%) performed well, led by China (+4.6%) despite headwinds from a strengthening US dollar. Chinese stocks benefitted from ongoing progress in trade negotiations and concessions around AI chips.
- Japanese equities (+1.4%) moved into positive year-to-date returns as exporters benefited from a favourable trade deal with the US while the House of Councillors election result was supportive also.
- European shares (+0.3%) rose despite trailing the broader developed market. The EU's trade deal with the US did not ease concerns around growth and sparked declines in equities and bond yields.

US trade policy remained a key consideration throughout July with the US announcing new deals with several major partners including Japan, the EU and South Korea. While the progress was well received by markets – notably among cyclical sectors including resources – the deal announcements are vague and key negotiations with China remain outstanding. While markets continue to react well to temporary measures such as tariff pauses, we remain concerned about impact on US corporates and/or US consumers which is likely to leave growth quiet anaemic in H2'25. While we are yet to see the full inflation impact, real consumer spending growth has already slowed, and could soften further as the erosion of real spending power intensify as tariff increases are passed onto end-consumers.

Despite the uncertain conditions for international commerce, second quarter company profit results were robust. With over two-thirds of S&P 500 constituents having reported by month end, 81% exceeded consensus expectations. Firms are also managing their cost base well with high margins despite 4 years of rising real wages growth which provides some additional ballast to the outlook. The combination of strong balance sheets, high margins and slightly better than normal profit growth, gives firms a better foundation to handle near term shocks from the impact of tariffs.

The US Federal Reserve (The Fed) kept interest rates unchanged, alongside the Bank of Canada, European Central Bank, Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), and Reserve Bank of New Zealand. The Fed was on hold despite two dissenting opinions advocating for an easing. There are a number of key data expected prior to the Fed's September meeting including two payrolls and CPI reports. Core inflation rose 0.2% month-on-month, pushing the annual rate to +2.9%Y, while headline inflation climbed 0.3% for the month and 2.7% over the year—both figures still above the Fed's 2% target.

The RBA was the only surprise, keeping the target cash rate unchanged despite futures markets pricing in a greater than 90% chance of a cut by month end. The rationale cited labour market tightness and trimmed mean inflation (2.9% YoY) only just re-entering the target band (2-3%). Australian employment softened late in the month, cementing expectations for an August cut with two subsequent cuts priced in over the remainder of 2025 at July month end. More policy support is needed as the Australian economy looks flat with households not spending tax cuts, businesses remaining cautious about any material rise in investment and per capita GDP growth in negative territory for 8 of the past 9 quarters (the economy has only remained in expansion thanks to population growth and fiscal expansion).

China's economy has thus far shown resilience to higher tariffs, with second quarter GDP (+5.2% YoY) beating consensus expectations reflecting growth in exports and manufacturing activity. The shape of Chinese exports has transformed with weaker US exports offset by stronger exports to the rest of the world as goods were diverted to other countries with more favourable trade regimes. The ongoing tariff negotiations between the US and China remain a focus with broad ramifications including for the Australian economy and resources sectors.

PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

Standard Chartered PLC contributed positively, delivering results ahead of expectations. The London-based bank, active across Asia, Africa and the Middle East, benefited from higher fees and lower credit provisions, which offset softer net interest income and elevated expenses. Despite debate over sustaining a 16% H1 2025 RoTCE, structural improvements and episodic trading gains lifted returns. Management upgraded 2025 revenue growth guidance, citing strong client momentum and a 9.3% YoY rise in first-half revenues. Shares remain attractive at 8.6x forward earnings with a 2.5% dividend yield.

Entergy Corporation also aided relative performance after a strong Q2 driven by industrial demand and an earnings beat. EPS of \$1.05 topped consensus as industrial utility sales rose 11% YoY—particularly in Arkansas and Mississippi—offsetting higher operating costs and supporting reaffirmed full-year guidance. Entergy settled a significant portion of equity forwards, securing funding needs through 2027 while maintaining issuance plans. It also lifted its capital investment plan by \$3bn to bolster resilience and infrastructure growth, which could support future earnings.

Sanofi SA detracted from relative performance during the month as it experienced a mix of setbacks and strategic developments during the period. A key pipeline candidate failed to meet expectations in one of two late-stage trials for a respiratory condition, leaving its future uncertain pending further data and regulatory discussions. In parallel, Sanofi is preparing for a major product launch in respiratory care and made a large \$9B acquisition of Blueprint Medicine to strengthen its immunology and rare disease portfolio. Given the elongated nature of pipeline opportunities and a large acquisition, we are closely monitoring the company.

B3 SA - Brasil, Bolsa, Balcão detracted from relative performance during the month as regulatory changes in Brazil weighed on sentiment. The government, facing fiscal pressures, introduced a tax hike on the CSLL (social contribution on net profit) for certain non-bank financial institutions, including exchanges and fintech companies such as B3, Nu, and Mercado Pago. This move followed a failed attempt to raise the IOF tax on foreign exchange transactions, which had caused a sharp intraday currency depreciation. B3 trades at 12.6x forward earnings.

OUTLOOK

We have observed a volatile start to the year reflecting disruption to international trade regimes and growth concerns. Valuations remain expensive relative to history in many regions, and elevated market concentration and the preponderance of passive investment continue to contribute to heightened sensitivity of equity markets. We remain concerned about the long-term return expectations for equities given these high starting valuations and the dominance of US equities in global benchmarks. The past decade of US exceptionalism - culminating in the extraordinary run of the Magnificent 7 tech stocks - has created very strong global equity returns. The stellar gains in US equities and their leading tech firms, represents a bring forward of investment returns, rather than a new steady state of ongoing out-performance. The Fund is close to benchmark weight in equities with a marginal underweight in Australian stocks. All equity exposures remain focused on stock selection alpha opportunities and exposure to equity beta remains carefully managed.

We continue to manage downside risks by maintaining little or no exposure to the most expensive parts of equity and credit markets and complementing this with option protection where it has been attractively priced to implement. These include put options on the S&P 500, call options on the GBP against the US dollar and USD calls versus the Hong Kong Dollar.

Cash levels have not been calculated on a look-through basis. The underlying investments of the fund will also have a proportion of their assets invested in liquid assets. The publication has been prepared and issued by Perpetual Investment Management Limited (PIML) ABN 18 000 866 535 AFSL No 234426, as promoter for the Perpetual WealthFocus Superannuation Fund. The information contained in this document is general information only and is not intended to provide you with financial advice or take into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. You should consider, with a financial adviser, whether the information is suitable for your circumstances. To the extent permitted by law, no liability is accepted for any loss or damage as a result of any reliance on this information. The information contained in this document is in addition to and does not form part of the product disclosure statement (PDS) for the Perpetual WealthFocus Superannuation Fund. The PDS for the Perpetual WealthFocus Superannuation Fund ABN 41 772 007 500, issued by Equity Trustees Superannuation Limited (ETSL) ABN 50 055 641 757, AFSL 229757, RSE L0001458, should be considered before deciding whether to acquire or hold units. The PDS and Target Market Determination can be obtained by calling 1800 011 022 or visiting www.perpetual.com.au. Neither PIML, ETSL nor any of their related parties guarantee the performance of any fund or the return of an investor's capital. Total returns shown for the Perpetual WealthFocus Superannuation Fund 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 taxation. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

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