

**Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund**  
ARSN 166 048 184

**Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2020**

# **Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund**

## **Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2020**

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## Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund

### Directors' Report

#### For the year ended 30 June 2020

The directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited, the "Responsible Entity" of the Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund (the "Scheme") present the directors' report together with the financial report of the Scheme for the year ended 30 June 2020 and the accompanying independent auditor's report.

#### Responsible Entity

Australian Ethical Investment Limited (ABN 47 003 188 930) serves as the Responsible Entity for the Scheme. The registered office and principal place of business for the Responsible Entity is:

Registered office:

Boardroom Pty Limited  
Grosvenor Place  
Level 12, 225 George Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Principal place of business is:

Level 8, 124 - 130 Pitt St  
Sydney, NSW 2000

The following persons were directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited (AEIL) during the period under review and up to the date of this report unless otherwise indicated:

John McMurdo (appointed 10 February 2020)  
Kate Greenhill  
Stephen Gibbs  
Mara Bun  
Michael Monaghan  
Julie Orr  
Phil Vernon (resigned 31 August 2019)

#### Principal activities and state of affairs

The principal activity of the Scheme is to pool investors' savings to invest in a diversified portfolio of interest-bearing investments generating income, in accordance with the investment objectives and guidelines and within the provisions of the Scheme's constitution. The constitution of the Scheme authorises investments in a range of assets, which may include cash and capital stable interest bearing securities. Investments are sought to pursue the goal of a just and sustainable society and the protection of the natural environment as well as providing unitholders (the Scheme investors) with a competitive financial return.

There were no other significant changes in the nature of the Scheme's principal activities during the year and there were no significant changes in the Scheme's state of affairs, except those highlighted in the Review of operations.

#### Review of operations

There is no doubt that FY20 was an unprecedented year for the world. In Australia we experienced record temperatures, drought, bushfires, floods, the global COVID-19 pandemic and waves of demand for social change. We saw the increasing severity, scope and societal consequences of natural disasters beginning to reshape Australians' attitudes towards climate change. The COVID-19 health crisis has had a devastating impact on the global population and economy. Measures taken to contain COVID-19 have affected economic activity. Despite economic damage faced by COVID-19, there was good recovery in the last quarter of the financial year.

#### Overview

The investments of the Scheme are consistent with those set out in the Scheme's Product Disclosure Statement dated 2 October 2018.

**Directors' Report**

**For the year ended 30 June 2020**

**Review of operations - continued**

Results

Total return is the percentage change of a unitholder's financial interest in the Scheme assuming all distributions are reinvested in the Scheme. These returns are calculated in accordance with FSC Standard 6 Product Performance Calculation of Return. The Scheme achieved the following total returns for the year:

- Retail class 3.24% (2019: 8.28%); and
- Wholesale class 3.82% (2019: 9.01%).

Distributions paid and/or payable

Distributions paid and/or payable by the Scheme during the year are shown in the accompanying Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

As per note 10 the Scheme paid interim distributions to the classes as follows:

- Retail class of 0.96 (December 2018: 0.91) cents per unit;
- Wholesale class of 1.07 (December 2018: 1.28) cents per unit; and
- Zero class of 1.26 (December 2018: 1.48) cents per unit.

The year end distributions payable are as follows:

- Retail class of nil (June 2019: 1.22) cents per unit;
- Wholesale class of nil (June 2019: 1.57) cents per unit; and
- Zero class of nil (June 2019: 1.84) cents per unit.

An interim distribution of \$5,994,339 was paid in January 2020. There was no final distribution paid in July 2020.

The prior year final distribution of \$7,678,779 was paid during the period.

Net Assets

The value of the Scheme's net assets attributable to unitholders as at 30 June 2020 was \$585,428,815 (30 June 2019: \$462,036,033).

Fees

Responsible Entity fees per annum charged for the year were as follows:

- 1.00% for the retail class (2019: 1.50% reduced to 1.00% effective 2 October 2018);
- 0.45% for the wholesale class (June 2019: 0.45%); and
- Nil for the zero class (2019: Nil).

Response to COVID-19

The response to COVID-19 saw regular stress testing of the Risk & Compliance framework. Our initial response in March 2020 was rapid and efficient. The responsible entity's team, including the contact centre, was transitioned seamlessly to remote-working arrangements within a week with minimal disruption to business-as-usual operations. Regular stress testing included modelling of different levels of increased investor redemptions, market volatility and other economic shocks. To date, impacts have been in line with the forecasts.

As the COVID-19 situation is still unfolding, we are conducting regular reviews to respond effectively to any further government measures and any further COVID-19-related disruptions. Our response includes ongoing proactive communication with investors about the potential impact of the pandemic on them and their investment objectives. Australian Ethical is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation and is following a robust crisis management plan that focuses on protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of all employees; ensuring the uninterrupted operation of the business and meeting the varying needs of investors.

## Directors' Report

For the year ended 30 June 2020

### Review of operations - continued

#### Response to COVID-19 - continued

The Scheme's liquid assets are valued daily at fair value based on a market price where the security is traded on a properly regulated market. The listed and liquid asset classes (e.g. fixed interest and cash) are the primary source of liquidity to meet the redemption, distribution and expense obligations of the Scheme. At all times during the year, requests for redemptions have been met through available cash or via the sale of liquid investments at fair value.

#### Impact of COVID-19

Net assets attributable to unitholders for the full year increased by 26.7% to \$585.4m, up from \$462m reported for the previous year. Net assets grew strongly in the first half of FY20, rising 13.7% to \$525.4m at 31 December 2019, following strong net inflows and positive investment performance. From 20 February 2020, COVID-19's impact has had little impact on the net assets attributable to unitholders falling by 0.28% to \$585.4m as at 30 June 2020, with small net outflows offset with positive investment performance.

#### Change to Operating Model

From 1 May 2020, Investment Administration of the Scheme is conducted by National Australia Bank Limited Asset Servicing (NAS). Prior to NAS, Investment Administration of the Scheme was conducted by Australian Ethical Investment Limited. The outsourcing of Investment Administration services to NAS was to improve the fund accounting control environment, enable the decommissioning of a legacy system, enhance operational efficiency and improve tax recording. The outsourcing also provides adequate resources and expertise to ensure the Fund's investment management accounting records are maintained as investments change over time.

### Likely developments

The Responsible Entity continually reviews the Scheme and depending on that review may, during the course of the financial year, make decisions to change the offerings of products to investors. The Responsible Entity plans to continue to invest in line with the strategy set out in the Product Disclosure Statement.

### Events occurring after the reporting date

As the investments in the Scheme are measured at their 30 June 2020 fair values in the financial report, any volatility in values subsequent to the balance date is not reflected in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income or the Statement of Financial Position. However the current value of investments is reflected in the current unit price.

During the period between the end of the financial year and the date of this report, there were no items, transactions or events of a material and unusual nature likely in the opinion of the Responsible Entity, to affect significantly the operations of the Scheme, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Scheme in future financial years.

### Indemnities and insurance premiums for the Responsible Entity and auditor

No insurance premiums are paid for out of the assets of the Scheme for insurance cover provided to the Responsible Entity, its officers or auditor of the Scheme. Where the Responsible Entity acts in accordance with the Scheme's Constitution and the law, it is generally entitled to an indemnity out of the assets of the Scheme against losses incurred while acting on behalf of the Scheme. The auditor of the Scheme is not indemnified out of the assets of the Scheme.

### Rounding of amounts

The Scheme is of a kind referred to in ASIC Corporations Instrument 2016/191, issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, relating to 'rounding-off'. Amounts in this report have been rounded off in accordance with that Corporations Instrument to the nearest thousand dollars, or in certain cases, the nearest dollar.

### Related party disclosures

Fees paid to the Responsible Entity and its associates out of Scheme assets is shown in note 13 of the attached financial statements.

**Directors' Report**

**For the year ended 30 June 2020**

**Environmental regulation**

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

**Auditor's declaration**

The auditor's independence declaration is included on page 5 of the annual report and forms part of the Directors' report for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited.



John McMurdo  
Managing Director  
Australian Ethical Investment Limited  
22 September 2020



# Lead Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To the Directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited, the Responsible Entity  
for the Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund:

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit of Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund for the financial year ended 30 June 2020 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

KPMG

Andrew Reeves  
*Partner*

Sydney  
22 September 2020

**Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund**

**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2020**

	Note	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
<b>Investment income</b>			
Interest	2	17,331	14,725
Net change in fair value of financial assets	3	4,533	22,833
<b>Net investment income</b>		<b>21,864</b>	<b>37,558</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
Management fees	13	115	75
<b>Operating expenses before finance costs</b>		<b>115</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Profit from operating activities</b>		<b>21,749</b>	<b>37,483</b>
<b>Finance costs</b>			
Distributions paid and payable to unitholders of the Scheme	10	(5,994)	(13,082)
<b>Change in net assets attributable to unitholders (total comprehensive income)</b>	5	<b>15,755</b>	<b>24,401</b>



**Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund**

**Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2020**

	Note	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	4,586	5,505
Receivables	7	3,927	3,957
Financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss	8	577,666	460,254
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>586,179</b>	<b>469,716</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Payables	9	750	1
Distribution payable	10	-	7,679
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>750</b>	<b>7,680</b>
<b>Net assets attributable to unitholders</b>	5	<b>585,429</b>	<b>462,036</b>
Represented by:			
Net assets attributable to unitholders at net asset unit price		585,792	469,970
Distribution payable to unitholders of the Scheme		-	(7,679)
Adjustments arising from different unit pricing and accounting valuation		(363)	(255)
<b>Total net assets attributable to unitholders</b>	5	<b>585,429</b>	<b>462,036</b>

## Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund

### Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2020

The Scheme's net assets attributable to unitholders are classified as a liability under AASB 132 '*Financial Instruments: Presentation*'. As such the Scheme has no equity and no items of changes in equity at the start and end of the year.

**Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund**

**Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2020**

	Note	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Interest received		16,991	14,187
Management fees paid		(115)	(75)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	12	<u>16,876</u>	<u>14,112</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Proceeds from sale of investments		112,480	38,368
Purchase of investments		(224,610)	(114,667)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<u>(112,130)</u>	<u>(76,299)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from issue of units		171,179	75,239
Payments for redemption of units		(76,571)	(10,217)
Distributions paid to unitholders		(273)	(232)
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>		<u>94,335</u>	<u>64,790</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(919)	2,603
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July		<u>5,505</u>	<u>2,902</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June</b>	6	<u><u>4,586</u></u>	<u><u>5,505</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

**Note 1 - Significant accounting policies**

**Reporting entity**

The Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund ("the Scheme"), a for-profit entity, is a registered managed investment scheme under the Corporations Act 2001. The Scheme was constituted on 25 May 2012 and will terminate on 24 May 2092 unless terminated earlier in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme constitution. The Scheme is domiciled in Australia. The financial statements of the Scheme are for the year ended 30 June 2020.

*Statement of compliance*

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (AASBs) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the Corporations Act 2001. The financial statements of the Scheme complies with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and interpretations adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors of the Australian Ethical Investment Limited on 22 September 2020.

**Basis of preparation**

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars which is the functional currency and are prepared on a fair value basis with financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss or derivatives measured at fair value, with the exception of receivables and payables which are measured at cost.

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

The Statement of Financial Position is prepared on a liquidity basis. All balances including investments are readily converted to cash.

**Estimates and judgements**

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of accounting estimates which, by definition, will seldom equal the actual results. Management also needs to exercise judgement in applying the Scheme's accounting policies.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Scheme and are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Refer to note 14(g) Financial risk management and financial instruments - fair values, which contains information about estimation of fair values of financial instruments.

Management have considered the impact from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the financial statements. The areas considered as being potentially affected were the assumptions within our market risk disclosures and the valuation of financial assets. Despite the volatility in markets during the year and initial reduction in FUM from 20 February 2020, there has been growth with net inflows and positive investment performance.

**Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise deposits with banks and highly liquid financial assets with maturities of twelve months or less from the date of acquisition that are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in their fair value and are used by the Scheme in the management of short-term commitments.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 1 - Significant accounting policies - continued

**Fair value measurement principles**

Financial instruments comprise financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss, receivables, cash and cash equivalents, payables and distributions payable.

The Scheme can invest into cash, and fixed and floating rate interest securities. Generally, valuation information is obtained from third party industry standard service providers to ensure that the most recent security prices are obtained. The prices used to value investments include, but are not limited to:

- independent prices obtained for each security;
- quoted 'bid' prices on securities; and
- redemption prices published by the relevant Responsible Entity, for investments into unlisted unit trusts.

For certain investments, prices cannot be obtained from the above sources. In these instances, valuations obtained from service providers are estimated through the use of valuation models which are consistent with accepted industry practice and incorporate the best available information regarding assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the assets or liabilities. Irrespective of the method used by third party industry standard service providers to obtain valuations, prices achieved in actual transactions may be different.

*Classification*

On initial recognition a financial asset is classified as measured at amortised cost, fair value through profit or loss, or fair value through other comprehensive income. Financial liabilities are classified as measured at amortised cost or fair value through profit or loss.

*Recognition and initial measurement*

A financial instrument is recognised when the Scheme becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Purchases and sales of financial assets are accounted for at trade date (i.e. the date the Scheme commits itself to purchase or sell the asset).

*Measurement*

Subsequent to initial recognition, all instruments classified at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value with changes in their fair value recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income. All other financial instruments are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less any recognised impairment.

Financial liabilities arising from redeemable units issued by the Scheme are carried at the redemption amount representing the unitholders' rights to the residual interest in the Scheme's assets, effectively the fair value at the reporting date.

*Derecognition*

The Scheme derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows in a transaction in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred or in which the Scheme neither transfers nor retains substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership and does not retain control of the financial asset.

On derecognition of a financial asset, the difference between the carrying amount of the asset (or the carrying amount allocated to the portion of the asset that is derecognised) and the consideration received (including any new asset obtained less any new liability assumed) is recognised in profit or loss. Any interest in such transferred financial assets that is created or retained by the Scheme is recognised as a separate asset or liability.

The Scheme derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged or cancelled, or expire.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

**Note 1 - Significant accounting policies - continued**

**Fair value measurement principles - continued**

*Derecognition - continued*

AASB 9 replaces the 'incurred loss' model in AASB 139 with an 'expected credit loss' model. The new 'expected credit loss' model applies to financial assets measured at amortised cost, contract assets and debt instruments, but not equity instruments held at fair value through profit or loss. Under AASB 9 credit losses are recognised earlier than under AASB 139.

The financial assets at amortised cost consists of trade receivables and cash and cash equivalents.

*Offsetting*

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.

*Derivative financial instruments*

In accordance with the Investment Mandate, the Scheme may invest in derivative financial instruments to gain or hedge exposure to equities, interest rates or foreign currencies. Derivative financial instruments are recognised initially at cost. Subsequent to initial recognition, derivative financial instruments are stated at fair value. The gain or loss on remeasurement to fair value is recognised immediately in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

**Receivables**

Receivables are carried at amortised cost and may include accrued income and other receivables such as Reduced Input Tax Credits (RITC).

**Payables**

Payables are carried at amortised cost and may include amounts for unsettled purchases, accrued expenses and other payables such as GST and redemption monies owing by the Scheme. Unsettled purchases are amounts due to brokers for securities purchased that have not been paid at reporting date. Trades are recorded on trade date and normally settle within three business days. Accrued expenses include management fees payable.

**Distributions paid and payable**

In accordance with the Constitution, the Scheme fully distributes its net income to unitholders. The distributions are determined by reference to the net taxable income of the Scheme. Unrealised gains and losses are transferred to net assets attributable to unitholders and are not assessable or distributable until realised. Distributions paid and payable to unitholders are recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income as 'Finance costs'.

From 1 July 2017 the Scheme elected into the new tax regime for managed investment trusts (MITs). Responsible Entity's of eligible MITs who elect into the new attribution managed investment trust (AMIT) regime are required to calculate the income entitlements of unitholders on an 'attribution' basis, which will be reflected in the AMIT member annual (AMMA) statement. The AMMA statement (previously the tax statement) is provided to each person or entity who received a distribution from the Scheme during the income year. This event has no impact on the classification of net assets attributable to unitholders as liabilities in the financial statements.

**Change in net assets attributable to unitholders**

Change in net assets attributable to unitholders may consist of realised net capital losses and unrealised increments and decrements arising from fluctuations in the value of investments. They are included in the determination of distributable income when assessable for taxation purposes.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

**Note 1 - Significant accounting policies - continued**

**Revenue**

*Interest income*

Interest income is recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income as it accrues. Interest income is recognised on a gross basis, including withholding tax, if any. Interest is measured using the effective interest rate method.

**Income tax**

Under current income tax legislation the Scheme is not liable to pay income tax as the net income of the Scheme is assessable in the hands of the beneficiaries (the unitholders). The income of the Scheme is to be attributed to unitholders in accordance with the Scheme Constitution which requires the distribution of the net accounting income for the year.

Deferred taxes have not been recognised in the financial statements in relation to differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases, including taxes on capital gains which could arise in the event of a sale of investments for the amount at which they are stated in the financial statements. In the event that taxable gains are realised by the Scheme, these gains would be included in the taxable income that is assessable in the hands of the unitholders as noted above.

Realised capital losses are not distributed to unitholders but are retained within the Scheme to be offset against any realised capital gains. The benefit of any carried forward capital losses are also not recognised in the financial statements. If in any period realised capital gains exceed realised capital losses, including those carried forward from earlier periods and eligible for offset, the excess is included in taxable income that is assessable in the hands of unitholders in that period and is distributed to unitholders in accordance with the requirements of the Scheme's Constitution.

**Net assets attributable to unitholders**

In accordance with AASB 132, unitholders' funds are classified as a financial liability and disclosed as such in the Statement of Financial Position, being referred to as 'Net assets attributable to unitholders'. The units can be put back to the Scheme at any time for cash equal to the proportionate share of the Scheme's net asset values. The value of redeemable units is measured at the redemption amount that is payable (based on the redemption unit price) at the Statement of Financial Position date if unitholders exercised their right to put the units back to the Scheme. Changes in the value of this financial liability are recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

**Expenses**

All expenses, including management fees, are recognised in the profit or loss on an accruals basis.

**Standards and interpretations on issue not yet adopted**

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2020 reporting period and have not been early adopted by the Scheme.

**Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020**

<b>Note 2 - Interest income</b>	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
Interest income from securities designated at fair value through profit or loss	17,300	14,673
Bank interest	31	52
	<b>17,331</b>	<b>14,725</b>

**Note 3 - Net change in fair value of financial assets**

Unrealised gain arising on financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss	7,899	24,471
Realised loss arising on the disposal of financial assets	(3,366)	(1,638)
Net change in fair value of financial assets	<b>4,533</b>	<b>22,833</b>

**Note 4 - Issued units**

Each unit represents a right to an individual share in the Scheme per the Constitution. Zero class units are issued to other schemes managed by the Responsible Entity and the Australian Ethical Retail Superannuation Fund, and are not charged a Responsible Entity fee. All other rights attached to zero class units are the same as those of the other classes.

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>Units</b>	Units
<i>Retail class</i>		
On issue at beginning of period	491,393	453,672
Issued	1,177,240	353,796
Transferred to other classes	(708,768)	(233,834)
Redeemed	(136,414)	(82,241)
On issue at period end	<b>823,451</b>	<b>491,393</b>

<i>Wholesale class</i>		
On issue at beginning of period	16,273,150	13,545,856
Issued	14,102,268	4,847,290
Transferred from other classes	711,187	234,677
Redeemed	(5,215,140)	(2,354,673)
On issue at period end	<b>25,871,465</b>	<b>16,273,150</b>

<i>Zero class</i>		
On issue at beginning of period	403,063,240	333,451,334
Issued	149,604,916	76,623,839
Redeemed	(63,263,570)	(7,011,933)
On issue at period end	<b>489,404,586</b>	<b>403,063,240</b>



## Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

#### Note 5 - Net assets attributable to unitholders

The Scheme manages its net assets attributable to unitholders as capital, notwithstanding net assets attributable to unitholders are classified as a liability. The amount of net assets attributable to unitholders can change significantly on a daily basis as the Scheme is subject to daily applications and redemptions at the discretion of unitholders. Daily applications and redemptions are reviewed relative to the liquidity of the Scheme's underlying assets on a daily basis by the Responsible Entity. Under the terms of the Scheme's Constitution, the responsible entity has the discretion to reject an application for units and to defer a redemption of units if the exercise of such discretion is in the best interest of the unitholders.

The objective of the Scheme is to provide unitholders with returns in accordance with the Product Disclosure Statement. The Scheme aims to deliver income and capital appreciation through investing in fixed interest securities. The Scheme is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements.

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
Opening balance	<b>462,036</b>	360,042
Issued	<b>170,809</b>	75,610
Distributions reinvested	<b>13,400</b>	12,071
Redeemed	<b>(76,571)</b>	(10,088)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders	<b>15,755</b>	24,401
Total net assets attributable to unitholders	<b>585,429</b>	462,036

#### Note 6 - Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank	<b>4,586</b>	5,505
	<b>4,586</b>	5,505

Cash at bank earns interest at floating rates based on daily bank deposit rates. Cash includes cash at bank and cash on deposit.

#### Note 7 - Receivables

Interest	<b>3,924</b>	3,584
Application	-	371
GST	<b>3</b>	2
	<b>3,927</b>	3,957

#### Note 8 - Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Designated at fair value through profit or loss	Note		
Interest bearing securities			
Government securities		<b>526,578</b>	410,205
Notes/debt instruments unsecured		<b>51,088</b>	50,049
	14	<b>577,666</b>	460,254

The Scheme's accounting policy on fair value measurements is disclosed in note 1.

#### Note 9 - Payables

Investment purchases	<b>748</b>	-
Management fees	<b>2</b>	1
	<b>750</b>	1

**Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020**

**Note 10 - Distributions paid and payable**

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
Distributions paid during the year	5,994	5,403
Distributions payable	-	7,679
	<b>5,994</b>	<b>13,082</b>
	<b>5,994</b>	<b>13,082</b>

The Scheme paid interim distributions to the classes as follows:

- Retail class of 0.96 (December 2018: 0.91) cents per unit;
- Wholesale class of 1.07 (December 2018: 1.28) cents per unit; and
- Zero class of 1.26 (December 2018: 1.48) cents per unit.

The year end distributions payable are as follows:

- Retail class of nil (June 2019: 1.22) cents per unit;
- Wholesale class of nil (June 2019: 1.57) cents per unit; and
- Zero class of nil (June 2019: 1.84) cents per unit.

The prior year final distribution of \$7,678,779 was paid during the period.

**Note 11 - Auditor's remuneration**

Audit and tax fees in relation to the Scheme are paid directly by the Responsible Entity. During the year the following fees were paid or payable by the Responsible Entity for services in relation to the audit of the Scheme.

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>\$</b>	\$
Financial statements audit fees	12,455	12,300
Compliance plan audit	4,627	4,569
Tax compliance service	6,727	4,724
	<b>23,808</b>	<b>21,593</b>
	<b>23,808</b>	<b>21,593</b>

**Note 12 - Reconciliation of profit for the period to net cash provided by operating activities**

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
Net profit from operating activities	21,749	37,483
Adjustments for:		
Net realised loss on disposal of investments	3,366	1,638
Net unrealised gain on revaluation of investments	(7,899)	(24,471)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Increase in receivables	(341)	(539)
Increase in payables	1	1
Net cash provided by operating activities	<b>16,876</b>	<b>14,112</b>
	<b>16,876</b>	<b>14,112</b>

*Non-cash financing and investing activities*

During the year income distributions totalling \$13,400,144 (2019: \$12,071,409) were reinvested by unitholders for additional units in the Scheme.

## Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

#### Note 13 - Related party disclosures

Australian Ethical Investment Limited (AEIL), as Responsible Entity of each Scheme, provides investment services for the Scheme in accordance with each Scheme's Constitution. Transactions with the Responsible Entity are undertaken on commercial terms and conditions.

The Scheme does not employ personnel in its own right. However it is required to have an incorporated Responsible Entity to manage the activities of the Scheme and this is considered the key management personnel.

The following persons were directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report unless otherwise indicated:

John McMurdo (appointed 10 February 2020)  
Kate Greenhill  
Stephen Gibbs  
Mara Bun  
Michael Monaghan  
Julie Orr  
Phil Vernon (resigned 31 August 2019)

Some of the directors may indirectly hold units in the Scheme through a Superannuation Fund.

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

The Responsible Entity earns fees for the management and administration of the Scheme. Responsible Entity fees charged for the year were as follows:

- 1.00% for the retail class (2019: 1.50% reduced to 1.00% effective 2 October 2018);
- 0.45% for the wholesale class (June 2019: 0.45%); and
- Nil for the zero class (2019: Nil).

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
Management fees	<b>115</b>	75
	<b>115</b>	75

Fees payable to the Responsible Entity at 30 June 2020 were \$2,050 (2019: \$1,265) and are included in payables.

Australian Ethical Superannuation Pty Ltd (ABN 43 079 259 733), a subsidiary of AEIL, is the Trustee of the Australian Ethical Retail Superannuation Fund (AERSF). Transactions with the AERSF are undertaken on commercial terms and conditions.

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020**

**Note 13 - Related party disclosures - continued**

Parties related to the Scheme held units in the Scheme (Zero class) as follows:

<b>30 June 2020</b>	<b>Units held opening</b>	<b>Units held closing</b>	<b>Interest held</b>	<b>Units acquired</b>	<b>Distributions paid by the Scheme</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Australian Ethical Retail Super Fund</b>	<b>103,541,757</b>	<b>122,337,128</b>	<b>20.88%</b>	<b>15,271,971</b>	<b>1,306,921</b>
<b>Australian Ethical Balanced Fund</b>	<b>340,140,420</b>	<b>433,396,951</b>	<b>73.98%</b>	<b>81,318,918</b>	<b>4,455,325</b>
<b>30 June 2019</b>	<b>Units held opening</b>	<b>Units held closing</b>	<b>Interest held</b>	<b>Units acquired</b>	<b>Distributions paid by the Scheme</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Australian Ethical Retail Super Fund	83,264,429	103,541,757	22.41%	14,571,754	3,002,124
Australian Ethical Balanced Fund	262,342,891	340,140,420	73.62%	60,053,887	9,632,018

Distributions paid/payable to related parties represent those distributions that accrued during the current financial year.

**Note 14 - Financial risk management and financial instruments**

The Responsible Entity recognises that risk is part of doing business and that the ongoing management of risk is critical to its success. The approach to managing risk is articulated in the Risk Management Strategy and the Risk Appetite Statement. The Chief Risk Officer is responsible for the design and maintenance of the risk and compliance framework, establishing and maintaining group wide risk management policies, and providing regular risk reporting to the Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee (ARC). The Board regularly monitors the overall risk profile of the Responsible Entity and sets the risk appetite, usually in conjunction with the annual planning process.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that management has appropriate processes in place for managing all types of risk. To assist in providing ongoing assurance and comfort to the Board, responsibility for risk management oversight has been delegated to the ARC. The main functions of the ARC are to identify emerging risks, determine treatment and monitor current and emerging risks. In addition, the ARC is responsible for seeking assurances from management that:

- the systems and policies in place to assist the Responsible Entity to meet and monitor its risk management responsibilities contain appropriate, up-to-date content and are being maintained;
- the Responsible Entity is complying with its Licences, and the regulatory requirements relevant to its roles as fund manager; and
- there is a structure, methodology and timetable in place for monitoring material service providers.

The Scheme is exposed to a variety of financial risks from investments in financial instruments, including operational risk, market risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. This note presents information about the Scheme's exposure to each of the above risks, the Scheme's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risks and the management of unitholder funds.

<b>(a) Categories of financial instruments</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<i>Financial assets</i>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	<b>4,586</b>	5,505
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	<b>577,666</b>	460,254
Receivables	<b>3,927</b>	3,957
	<b>586,179</b>	469,716

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020**

**Note 14 - Financial risk management and financial instruments - continued**

**(a) Categories of financial instruments - continued**

*Financial liabilities*

Other financial liabilities

Payables	750	1
Distribution payable	-	7,679
Net assets attributable to unitholders	<b>585,429</b>	<b>462,036</b>
	<b>586,179</b>	<b>469,716</b>

**(b) Operational risk**

Operational risk is the risk of direct or indirect loss arising from a wide variety of causes associated with the processes, technology and infrastructure supporting the Scheme's activities with financial instruments, either internally within the Scheme or externally at the Scheme's service providers.

The Scheme's objective is to manage operational risk so as to balance the limiting of financial losses and damage to its reputation with achieving its investment objective of generating returns to investors.

This responsibility is supported by the development of overall standards for the management of operational risk, which encompasses the controls and processes at the service providers and the establishment of service levels with the service providers, in the following areas:

- requirements for:
  - appropriate segregation of duties between various functions, roles and responsibilities;
  - reconciliation and monitoring of transactions; and
  - periodic assessment of operational risk faced;
- documentation of controls and procedures;
- the adequacy of controls and procedures to address the risks identified;
- compliance with regulatory and other legal requirements;
- development of contingency plans;
- training and professional development;
- ethical and business standards; and
- risk mitigation, including insurance.

Assessment of the adequacy of the controls and processes in place at the service providers with respect to operational risk is carried out via regular discussions, monthly/quarterly KPI's, incident reporting, monitoring visits and a review of the service providers' Controls Reports (GS007) on internal controls.

From 1 May 2020, Investment Administration of the Scheme is conducted by National Australia Bank Limited Asset Servicing (NAS). Prior to NAS, Investment Administration of the Scheme was conducted by Australian Ethical Investment Limited.

All of the assets of the Scheme are held by external custodian, NAS. The Fund Accounting team monitors the credit ratings and capital adequacy of its custodian on a quarterly basis.

**(c) Financial risk management objectives**

The Scheme is exposed to a number of risks due to the nature of its activities as further set out in its Product Disclosure Statement. These risks include market risk (including currency risk, interest rate risk and price risk), credit risk, and liquidity risk. The Scheme's objective in managing these risks is the protection and enhancement of unitholder value.

The Scheme's risk management policies are approved by the Responsible Entity and seek to minimise the potential adverse effects of these risks on the Scheme's financial performance. The risk management system is an ongoing process of identification, measurement, monitoring and controlling risk.

The Responsible Entity Board oversee the processes which govern the investment of money of the Scheme for which Australian Ethical Investment Limited is the responsible entity. The Board bears primary responsibility for the oversight of processes for the management of the above financial risks. It meets on a regular basis to analyse financial risk exposure and to evaluate management strategies in the context of the most recent economic conditions and forecasts.

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020**

**Note 14 - Financial risk management and financial instruments - continued**

**(d)(i) Market risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows or a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: foreign exchange (currency risk), market interest rates (interest rate risk) and market prices (price risk). The portfolio manager manages the financial risks relating to the operations of the Scheme in accordance with an investment mandate set out in accordance with the Scheme's Constitution and Product Disclosure Statement. The Scheme's investment mandate is to invest in a diversified portfolio of interest-bearing investments. There has been no change to the Scheme's exposure to market risks or the manner in which it manages and measures the risk.

**(d)(ii) Interest rate risk management**

Interest rate risk represents the risk that the Scheme's financial performance will be adversely affected by fluctuations in interest rates.

The Scheme is exposed to interest rate risk on its cash and interest bearing investments. Risk management techniques are used in the selection of investments which include periodic stress testing for fixed interest securities. Securities/investments are only purchased that meet investment criteria.

The Scheme's interest rate risk is managed on a daily basis by the portfolio managers in accordance with the defined investment process and within the guidelines and restrictions outlined in the Scheme's investment mandate. The Scheme is monitored for mandate compliance. Where the interest rate risk exposure moves outside the Scheme's mandate restrictions or guidelines, the portfolio managers will rebalance the portfolios.

The Scheme's exposures to interest rates on financial assets and financial liabilities are detailed in liquidity risk management (see note 14(f)).

Management has performed a sensitivity analysis relating to the Scheme's exposure to interest rate risk at balance sheet date. This sensitivity analysis demonstrates the effect on the current year results and net assets attributable to unitholders which could result from a change in interest rates by 1% (2019: 1%). In the analysis it is assumed that the amount of financial assets exposed to fluctuations in interest rates as at balance sheet date is representative of balances held throughout the financial year. No other flow on effects of fluctuations in interest rates have been taken into account.

At balance date, the effect on profit and net assets attributable to unitholders, as a result of changes in the interest rate, with all other variables remaining constant would be as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
Increase in interest rate by 1%	<b>(32,766)</b>	(25,075)
Decrease in interest rate by 1%	<b>32,766</b>	25,075

**(d)(iii) Price risk**

Price risk is the risk that the total value of investments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices, whether caused by factors specific to an individual investment, its issuer or all factors affecting all instruments traded in the market. The investment manager manages the Scheme's market risk on a monthly basis in accordance with the Scheme's investment objectives and policies.

The Scheme's portfolio managers aim to manage the impact of market price risk through the use of consistent and carefully considered investment guidelines. Risk management techniques are used in the selection of investments. Investments (including derivatives) are only purchased when they meet investment criteria.

As the majority of the Scheme's financial instruments are carried at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, all changes in market conditions will directly affect investment income.

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020**

**Note 14 - Financial risk management and financial instruments - continued**

**(d)(iii) Price risk - continued**

Management has performed a sensitivity analysis relating to the Scheme's exposure to price risk at the balance sheet date. This sensitivity analysis demonstrates the effect on current year results and net assets attributable to unitholders which could result from a change in market prices of 10% (2019: 10%) driven by change in the underlying yield of the financial assets. In the analysis it is assumed that the amount of financial assets exposed to fluctuations in market prices as at the balance sheet date is representative of balances held throughout the financial year. No other flow on effects or fluctuations in fair value have been taken into account.

At balance date, the effect on net assets attributable to unitholders and the change in net assets attributable to unitholders as a result of changes in market prices with all other variables remaining constant would be as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
Increase in market prices by 10%	<b>57,767</b>	46,025
Decrease in market prices by 10%	<b>(57,767)</b>	(46,025)

**(e)(i) Management and exposure to credit risk**

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss from a counterparty failing to meet its contractual commitments. The Scheme is predominately exposed to credit risk through its interest bearing securities, deposits at banks and income and other receivables.

The Scheme's policy over credit risk is to minimise its exposure to counterparties, holding cash and cash equivalents at financial institutions with a credit rating of 'A' or higher and settling income and other receivables on a monthly basis.

In order to manage the exposure to risk, limitations are imposed on the level of unrated securities that can be held (no more than 2.5%), the total value of securities with a rating of less than BBB (no more than 20%), and no single investment is to exceed 10% of the value of the Fund.

At the balance sheet date, all cash was held with National Australia Bank, which carries a Standard & Poor's rating of AA- at 30 June 2020 (2019: AA-).

No financial assets carried at amortised cost were past due or impaired at 30 June 2020 (2019: nil).

The maximum credit risk exposure is represented by the respective carrying amounts of the relevant financial asset in the Statement of Financial Position.

The table below details the maximum exposure to credit risk for the assets held by the Scheme.

Cash and cash equivalents	<b>4,586</b>	5,505
Receivables	<b>3,927</b>	3,957
Interest bearing securities	<b>577,666</b>	460,254
	<b>586,179</b>	469,716

**(e)(ii) Investments in interest bearing securities**

At 30 June the Scheme was invested in interest bearing securities with the following credit quality ratings:

	<b>2020</b>	2019
<b>Rating</b>	<b>%</b>	%
AAA / AA	<b>95%</b>	94%
A	<b>3%</b>	4%
BBB	<b>2%</b>	2%
	<b>100%</b>	100%

**Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020**

**Note 14 - Financial risk management and financial instruments - continued**

**(f) Liquidity risk management**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Scheme will encounter difficulty in realising assets or otherwise raising funds to meet commitments associated with financial instruments.

The Scheme is exposed to daily cash redemptions of redeemable units. Therefore, the approach to managing liquidity is for the Scheme to invest a significant portion of their funds in financial instruments which under normal market conditions are readily convertible into cash (for example, the Scheme's fixed interest securities). As a result, there is a risk that the Scheme may not be able to liquidate all of these investments at their fair value in order to meet its liquidity requirements. In the event of significant redemptions, the Scheme has the ability to suspend redemptions until it can realise investments to meet the redemptions.

All payables of the Scheme are classed as normal operating obligations and are to be paid within one month of balance date.

The table below details the financial instrument composition and maturity analysis.

	Weighted average interest rate %	2020				Total \$'000
		0-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1 to 5 years \$'000	5+ years \$'000	
Interest-bearing assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	0.56	4,586	-	-	-	4,586
Interest bearing securities	3.38	6,071	38,337	213,328	319,930	577,666
Other non-interest bearing						
Receivables	N/A	3,927	-	-	-	3,927
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>14,584</b>	<b>38,337</b>	<b>213,328</b>	<b>319,930</b>	<b>586,179</b>
Non-interest bearing						
Payables	N/A	750	-	-	-	750
Distribution payable	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Amounts payable to unitholders	N/A	585,429	-	-	-	585,429
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>586,179</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>586,179</b>
	Weighted average interest rate %	2019				Total \$'000
		0-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1 to 5 years \$'000	5+ years \$'000	
Interest-bearing assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	1.38	5,505	-	-	-	5,505
Interest bearing securities	3.77	1,509	34,876	173,581	250,288	460,254
Other non-interest bearing						
Receivables	N/A	3,957	-	-	-	3,957
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>10,971</b>	<b>34,876</b>	<b>173,581</b>	<b>250,288</b>	<b>469,716</b>
Non-interest bearing						
Payables	N/A	1	-	-	-	1
Distribution payable	N/A	7,679	-	-	-	7,679
Amounts payable to unitholders	N/A	462,036	-	-	-	462,036
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>469,716</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>469,716</b>



Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

Note 14 - Financial risk management and financial instruments - continued

(g) Fair values

The following table details the assets that are measured at fair value, grouped into Levels 1 to 3 based on the degree to which the fair value is observable, being:

Level 1: Using quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2: Derived from inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices); and

Level 3: Derived from valuation techniques that include inputs for the asset or liability that is not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs). This category includes instruments valued using quoted prices in active markets for similar instruments, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are considered less than active or other valuation techniques.

	2020			Total \$'000
	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	
<b>Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</b>				
Designated at fair value through profit or loss				
Interest bearing securities				
Government securities	526,578	-	-	526,578
Notes/debt instruments unsecured	-	51,088	-	51,088
<b>Total</b>	<b>526,578</b>	<b>51,088</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>577,666</b>

	2019			Total \$'000
	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss				
Designated at fair value through profit or loss				
Interest bearing securities				
Government securities	410,205	-	-	410,205
Notes/debt instruments unsecured	-	50,049	-	50,049
<b>Total</b>	<b>410,205</b>	<b>50,049</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>460,254</b>

The fund does not hold any Level 3 assets. During the year there was no transfers between levels.

*Carrying amounts versus fair value*

The fair values of financial assets and liabilities approximates their carrying amounts in the Statement of Financial Position.

Note 15 - Contingencies and commitments

There are no contingent assets or liabilities or commitments as at 30 June 2020 (2019: Nil).

Note 16 - Events subsequent to the reporting date

As the investments in the Scheme are measured at their 30 June 2020 fair values in the financial report, any volatility in values subsequent to the balance date is not reflected in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income or the Statement of Financial Position. However the current value of investments is reflected in the current unit price.

During the period between the end of the financial year and the date of this report, there were no items, transactions or events of a material and unusual nature likely in the opinion of the Responsible Entity, to affect significantly the operations of the Scheme, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Scheme in future financial years.

Management have considered the impact of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in Australia and assessed there are no changes required to the financial statements subsequent to the end of the financial year.

## Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund

### Directors' Declaration

In the opinion of the Directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited, the Responsible Entity of the Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund (the "Scheme):

(a) The annual financial statements and notes that are set out on pages 6 to 23 are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- i. Giving a true and fair view of the Scheme's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- ii. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Corporations Regulations 2001; and

(b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Scheme will be able to pay its debts when they become due and payable.

(c) The Scheme has operated during the year in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme's constitution.

The Directors draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements which contains a statement of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited.



John McMurdo  
Managing Director  
Australian Ethical Investment Limited  
22 September 2020



# Independent Auditor's Report

To the unitholders of Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund

## Opinion

We have audited the **Financial Report** of **Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund** (the Scheme)

In our opinion, the accompanying Financial Report of the Scheme is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Scheme's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with *Australian Accounting Standards* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

The **Financial Report** comprises

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020;
- Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, Statement of changes in equity, and Statement of cash flows for the year then ended;
- Notes including a summary of significant accounting policies; and
- Directors' Declaration.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards*. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Scheme in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the *Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the Financial Report in Australia. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

## Other Information

Other Information is financial and non-financial information in Australian Ethical Fixed Interest Fund's annual reporting which is provided in addition to the Financial Report and the Auditor's Report. The Directors are responsible for the Other Information.

The Other Information we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report was the Directors' Report.

Our opinion on the Financial Report does not cover the Other Information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.



In connection with our audit of the Financial Report, our responsibility is to read the Other Information. In doing so, we 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.

We are required to report if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information, and based on the work we have performed on the Other Information that we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report we have nothing to report.

### Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors are responsible for:

- preparing the Financial Report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards* and the *Corporations Act 2001*;
- implementing necessary internal control to enable the preparation of a Financial Report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- assessing the Scheme's ability to continue as a going concern and whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. This includes disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Scheme or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

Our objective is:

- 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 *Australian Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. They are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the Financial Report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report is located at the *Auditing and Assurance Standards Board* website at:

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

  
KPMG

  
Andrew Reeves  
Partner

Sydney  
22 September 2020