

# **AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund)**

ARSN 099 739 447

## **Annual Report**

**For the year ended 30 June 2022**

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## Annual Report

### For the year ended 30 June 2022

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This annual report covers AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund) as an individual entity.

The Responsible Entity of AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund) is AllianceBernstein Investment Management Australia Limited (ABN 58 007 212 606). The Responsible Entity's registered office is:

Level 32 Aurora Place, 88 Phillip Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

## **Directors' report**

The directors of AllianceBernstein Investment Management Australia Limited ("ABIMAL") (ABN 58 007 212 606), the Responsible Entity of AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund) (the "Fund"), present their report together with the financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 30 June 2022.

### **Principal activities**

The Fund is a multi-class Attribution Managed Investment Trust ("AMIT") with two unit classes on issue, MVE class and MVE Green Class.

The MVE Class and the MVE Green Class both implement a managed volatility equities strategy that invests in Australian and global listed equities and derivatives. The MVE Green class also seeks to reduce the net greenhouse gas emissions associated with its portfolio holdings by facilitating the cancellation or retirement of carbon credits. Refer note 7 and 12.

The Fund is structured to allow MVE Class units to be invested in and disposed of either by trading on a Securities Exchange or as is in previous years by direct applications and redemptions. This requires the MVE Class units to be on 2 different sub-unit registers, the broker-sponsored and issuer-sponsored unit registers. The activities and performance of units held on either sub-unit register are not disclosed separately and disclosed together under the MVE Class in this financial report. The MVE Class units are fungible regardless of the register on which they are recorded.

The Fund did not have any employees in the year.

There were no other significant changes in the nature of the Fund's activities during the year.

### **Directors**

The following persons held office as directors of ABIMAL during the year and up to the date of this report:

Stuart Campbell Rae  
Steven Michael Eisenberg  
Ajai Mohan Kaul  
Jennifer Agnes Driscoll  
Emma Catherine Quinn

### **Review and results of operations**

Whilst diminishing, there are still some uncertainties in the economy related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The longer-term adverse effect on world economies and markets, is difficult to predict, and while economies are reopening the situation is still evolving due to the emergence of new COVID-19 variants, the differing approaches of different countries to COVID-19 suppression, inflation and increasing interest rates. In addition, the war in Ukraine and the potential for its escalation has added more economic uncertainty. As a result, the Fund may still be adversely impacted by the on-going effects of the COVID-19, action taken to combat the pandemic and the continuing war in Ukraine.

During the year, the Fund invested its assets in accordance with target asset allocations as set out in the governing documents of the Fund and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

## Directors' report (continued)

### Review and results of operations (continued)

The performance of the Fund, as represented by the results of its operations, was as follows:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	\$	\$
Operating profit/(loss) before finance costs attributable to unitholders	<u>(40,060,820)</u>	<u>155,458,620</u>
<b>Distributions - MVE Class</b>		
Distributions paid and payable	<u>38,386,763</u>	<u>50,614,374</u>
Distributions (cents per unit)	<u>4.25</u>	<u>6.06</u>
<b>Distributions - MVE Green Class</b>		
Distributions paid and payable	<u>2,982,821</u>	<u>2,176,780</u>
Distributions (cents per unit)	<u>11.14</u>	<u>9.61</u>

### Unit redemption prices

Unit redemption prices (quoted ex-distribution) are shown as follows:

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
At 30 June	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
MVE Class	1.6519	1.7322	1.5983	1.6334	1.4942
MVE Green Class	1.5600	1.7128	1.6034	1.6598	-

### Significant changes in state of affairs

In the opinion of the directors, there were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Fund that occurred during the financial year.

### Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2022 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:

- (i) the operations of the Fund in future financial years,
- (ii) the results of those operations in future financial years, or
- (iii) the state of affairs of the Fund in future financial years.

### Likely developments and expected results of operations

The Fund will continue to be managed in accordance with the investment objectives and guidelines as set out in the governing documents of the Fund and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The results of the Fund's operations will be affected by a number of factors, including the performance of investment markets in which the Fund invests. Investment performance is not guaranteed and future returns may differ from past returns. As investment conditions change over time, past returns should not be used to predict future returns.

Further information on likely developments in the operations of the Fund and the expected results of those operations have not been included in this report because the Responsible Entity believes it would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Fund.

## Directors' report (continued)

### Indemnity and insurance of officers

No insurance premiums are paid for out of the assets of the Fund in regards to insurance cover provided to the officers of ABIMAL or the auditors of the Fund. So long as the officers of ABIMAL act in accordance with the Fund's Constitution and the Law, the officers remain indemnified out of the assets of the Fund against losses incurred while acting on behalf of the Fund.

### Indemnity of auditors

The auditors of the Fund are in no way indemnified out of the assets of the Fund.

### Fees paid to and interests held in the Fund by the Responsible Entity or its associates

Fees paid to the Responsible Entity and its associates out of Fund property during the year are disclosed in note 19 of the financial statements.

No fees were paid out of Fund property to the directors of the Responsible Entity during the year.

The number of interests in the Fund held by the Responsible Entity or its associates as at the end of the financial year are disclosed in note 19 of the financial statements.

### Interests in the Fund

The movement in units on issue in the Fund during the year is disclosed in note 12 of the financial statements.

The value of the Fund's assets and liabilities is disclosed on the statement of financial position and derived using the basis set out in note 2 of the financial statements.

### Environmental regulation

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

### Rounding of amounts to the nearest dollar

The Fund is an entity of a kind referred to in ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191 issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) relating to the "rounding off" of amounts in the Directors' report. Amounts in the Directors' report have been rounded to the nearest dollar in accordance with that ASIC Corporations Instrument, unless otherwise indicated.

### Auditor's independence declaration

A copy of the Auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 5.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



Jennifer Agnes Driscoll  
Director

Sydney  
9 September 2022



## Auditor's Independence Declaration

As lead auditor for the audit of AB Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund) for the year ended 30 June 2022, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- (b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joe Sheeran'.

Joe Sheeran  
Partner  
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Sydney  
9 September 2022

## Statement of comprehensive income

		Year ended	
		30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	Notes	\$	\$
<b>Investment income</b>			
Dividend income		51,767,633	38,944,761
Interest income		-	1,192
Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	6	(80,521,253)	126,044,141
Other operating income		<u>292,899</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total net investment income/(loss)</b>		<u>(28,460,721)</u>	<u>164,990,094</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Manager's fees	19	8,800,467	7,133,793
Dividend withholding tax expenses		1,463,577	1,014,724
Transaction costs		1,255,256	861,920
Other operating expenses		<u>80,799</u>	<u>521,037</u>
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<u>11,600,099</u>	<u>9,531,474</u>
<b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>		<u>(40,060,820)</u>	<u>155,458,620</u>
<b>Finance costs attributable to unitholders</b>			
Distributions to unitholders		(41,369,584)	(52,791,154)
(Increase)/decrease in net assets attributable to unitholders	12	81,430,404	(102,667,466)
Other comprehensive income for the year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

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

## Statement of financial position

		As at	
		30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	Notes	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	14	36,073,366	41,226,199
Due from brokers - receivable for securities sold		8,145,698	1,595,221
Receivables	17	6,759,559	3,754,565
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	8	<u>1,548,410,246</u>	<u>1,519,692,476</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b><u>1,599,388,869</u></b>	<b><u>1,566,268,461</u></b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Payables	18	6,668,291	5,245,434
Due to brokers - payable for securities purchased		-	2,947,369
Distributions payable	13	28,388,062	43,165,479
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	9, 10	<u>10,827,972</u>	<u>2,975,248</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b><u>45,884,325</u></b>	<b><u>54,333,530</u></b>
<b>Net assets attributable to unitholders - liability</b>	12	<b><u>1,553,504,544</u></b>	<b><u>1,511,934,931</u></b>

*The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**Statement of changes in equity**

	Year ended	
	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	\$	\$
<b>Total equity at the beginning of the financial year</b>	-	-
Profit/(loss) for the year	-	-
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	-	-
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	-	-
<b>Total equity at the end of the financial year</b>	-	-

Under Australian Accounting Standards, net assets attributable to unitholders are classified as a liability rather than equity. As a result there was no equity at the start or end of the year.

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

## Statement of cash flows

	Notes	Year ended	
		30 June 2022	30 June 2021
		\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		846,135,264	383,278,229
Purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		(956,822,558)	(785,542,176)
Dividends received		48,895,978	34,692,307
Interest received		-	1,192
Other income received		259,837	-
Manager's fees paid		(8,570,134)	(6,409,546)
Payment of other operating expenses		(1,309,340)	(1,487,454)
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b>	15(a)	<u>(71,410,953)</u>	<u>(375,467,448)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from applications by unitholders		405,548,948	556,019,621
Payments for redemptions by unitholders		(287,929,735)	(194,068,072)
Distributions paid		(51,347,541)	(10,939,891)
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities</b>		<u>66,271,672</u>	<u>351,011,658</u>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(5,139,281)</b>	<b>(24,455,790)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		41,226,199	65,642,768
Effects of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents		(13,552)	39,221
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		<u>36,073,366</u>	<u>41,226,199</u>
Non-cash financing activities	15(b)		

*The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

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## 1 General Information

These financial statements cover AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund) (the "Fund") as an individual entity. The Fund was constituted on 22 February 2002, registered by ASIC as a managed investment scheme on 13 March 2002 and commenced operations on 26 May 2005. The Fund will terminate on 26 May 2085 unless terminated earlier in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The Responsible Entity of the Fund is AllianceBernstein Investment Management Australia Limited ("ABIMAL") (ABN 58 007 212 606) (the "Responsible Entity"). The Responsible Entity's registered office is Level 32 Aurora Place, 88 Phillip Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. The financial statements are presented in Australian currency.

The Fund is a multi-class AMIT with two unit classes on issue, MVE class and MVE Green Class.

The MVE Class and the MVE Green Class both implement a managed volatility equities strategy that invests in Australian and global listed equities and derivatives. The MVE Green class also seeks to reduce the net greenhouse gas emissions associated with its portfolio holdings by facilitating the cancellation or retirement of carbon credits. Refer note 7 and 12.

The MVE Class has traded under the Securities Exchange Operating Rules on the Securities Exchange operated by Cboe, since 6 April 2021. MVE Class units trade on Cboe with Ticker AMVE.

The Fund is structured to allow MVE Class units to be invested in and disposed of either by trading on a Securities Exchange or by direct applications and redemptions. This requires the MVE Class units to be on 2 different sub-unit registers, the broker-sponsored and issuer-sponsored unit registers. The activities and performance of units held on either sub-unit register are not disclosed separately and disclosed together under the MVE Class in this financial report. The MVE Class units are fungible regardless of the register on which they are recorded.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors on 9 September 2022. The directors of the Responsible Entity have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies

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

### (a) Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Accounting Standards Board and the *Corporations Act 2001* in Australia. The Fund is a for profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

These financial statements are prepared on the basis of fair value measurement of assets and liabilities except where otherwise stated.

The statement of financial position is presented on a liquidity basis. Assets and liabilities are presented in decreasing order of liquidity and are not distinguished between current and non-current. All balances are expected to be recovered or settled within twelve months, except for investments in financial assets and net assets attributable to unitholders.

The Fund manages financial assets at fair value through profit or loss based on the economic circumstances at any given point in time, as well as to meet any liquidity requirements. As such, it is expected that a portion of the portfolio will be realised within 12 months, however, an estimate of that amount cannot be determined as at reporting date.

In the case of net assets attributable to unitholders, the units are redeemable on demand at the unitholder's option. However, holders of these instruments typically retain them for the medium to long term. As such, the amount expected to be settled within 12 months cannot be reliably determined.

#### (i) Compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards

The financial statements of the Fund also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (a) Basis of preparation (continued)

#### (ii) *New and amended standards adopted by the Fund*

There are no standards, interpretations or amendments to existing standards that are effective for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 July 2021 that have a material impact on the Fund.

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

#### (i) *Classification*

##### *Assets*

The Fund classify their investments based on their business models for managing those financial assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets. The Fund portfolios of financial assets are managed and their performance are evaluated on a fair value basis in accordance with the Fund documented investment strategies. The Fund uses fair value information to assess performance of the portfolios and to make decisions to rebalance the portfolio or to realise fair value gains or minimise losses through sales or other trading strategies. The Fund policies are for the Responsible Entity to evaluate the information about these financial assets on a fair value basis together with other related financial information.

Equity securities and derivatives are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

##### *Liabilities*

Derivative contracts that have a negative fair value are presented as liabilities at fair value through profit or loss.

For financial liabilities that are not classified and measured at fair value are classified as financial liabilities at amortised cost (distributions payable, due to brokers, management fees payable and other payable).

#### (ii) *Recognition/derecognition*

The Fund recognises financial assets and financial liabilities on the date it becomes party to the contractual agreement (trade date) and recognises changes in fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities from this date.

Investments are derecognised when the right to receive cash flows from the investments have expired or the Fund has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

#### (iii) *Measurement*

At initial recognition, the Fund measures a financial asset at its fair value. Transaction costs of financial assets carried at fair value through profit or loss are expensed in the statement of comprehensive income.

Subsequent to initial recognition, all financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss' category are presented in the statement of comprehensive income within net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss in the period in which they arise.

For further details on how the fair values of financial instruments are determined please see Note 5 to the financial statements.

#### (iv) *Offsetting financial instruments*

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the statement of financial position when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Refer to note 4 to the financial statements for further information.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (c) Net assets attributable to unitholders

Units are redeemable at the unitholders' option, however, applications and redemptions may be suspended by the Responsible Entity if it is in the best interests of the unitholders.

The units can be put back to the Fund at any time for cash based on the redemption price, which is equal to a proportionate share of the Fund's net asset value attributable to the unitholders.

The units are carried at the redemption amount that is payable at balance sheet date if the holder exercises the right to put the unit back to the Fund. This amount represents the expected cash flows on redemption of these units.

Under AASB 132 *Financial instruments: Presentation*, puttable financial instruments are classified as equity where certain strict criteria are met. The Fund classifies the net assets attributable to unit holders as equity when they satisfy the following criteria:

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

The Fund's units are classified as financial liabilities as the Fund's two unit classes do not have identical features and therefore, the Fund does not meet all the above criteria under AASB 132.

### (d) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of presentation in the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Payments and receipts relating to the purchase and sale of investment securities are classified as cash flows from operating activities, as movements in the fair value of these securities represent the Fund's main income generating activity.

### (e) Investment income

Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost is recognised on a time-proportionate basis using the effective interest method and includes interest from cash and cash equivalents.

Interest from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is determined based on the contractual coupon interest rate and includes interest from debt securities.

Dividend and distribution income from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is recognized in the statement of comprehensive income within dividend income and distribution income when the Fund's right to receive payments is established.

Other changes in fair value for such instruments are recorded in accordance with the policies described in Note 2(b) to the financial statements.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (f) Expenses

All expenses, including Responsible Entity's fees, manager's fees and custodian's fees, are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income on an accruals basis.

### (g) Income tax

Under current legislation, the Fund is not subject to income tax as unitholders are presently entitled to the income of the Fund.

The benefit of imputation credits and foreign tax paid are passed on to unitholders.

### (h) Distributions

In accordance with the Fund's Constitution, the Fund distributes its distributable income adjusted for amounts determined by the Responsible Entity, to unitholders by cash or reinvestment. The distributions are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as finance costs attributable to unitholders.

### (i) Increase/decrease in net assets attributable to unitholders

Income not distributed is included in net assets attributable to unitholders. Where the Fund's units are classified as financial liabilities, movements in net assets attributable to unitholders are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as finance costs.

### (j) Foreign currency translation

#### (i) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the Fund's financial statements are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates (the "functional currency"). This is the Australian Dollar, which reflects the currency of the economy in which the Fund competes for funds and is regulated. The Australian Dollar is also the Fund's presentation currency.

#### (ii) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translations at year end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income in other operating income or expense.

Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value in foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when fair value was determined. Translation differences on assets and liabilities carried at fair values are reported in the statement of comprehensive income on a net basis within net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss.

### (k) Due from/to brokers

Amounts due from/to brokers represent receivables for securities sold and payables for securities purchased that have been contracted for but not yet delivered by the end of the year. The due from brokers balance is held for collection and consequently measured at amortised cost.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (k) Due from/to brokers (continued)

These amounts are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. At each reporting date, the Fund shall measure the loss allowance on amounts due from broker at an amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses if the credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition. If, at the reporting date, the credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition, the Fund shall measure the loss allowance at an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses. Significant financial difficulties of the broker, probability that the broker will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default in payments are all considered indicators that a loss allowance may be required. If the credit risk increases to the point that it is considered to be credit impaired, interest income will be calculated based on the gross carrying amount adjusted for the loss allowance. A significant increase in credit risk is defined by management as any contractual payment which is more than 30 days past due. Any contractual payment which is more than 90 days past due is considered credit impaired.

### (l) Deposits held with brokers for margin

Deposits held with brokers for margin comprise cash held as collateral for derivative transactions. The cash is held by the broker and is only available to meet margin calls.

### (m) Receivables

Receivables may include amounts for dividends and interest. Dividends are accrued when the right to receive payment is established. Interest is accrued at the end of each reporting period from the time of last payment in accordance with the policy set out in note 2(e). Amounts are generally received within 30 days of being recorded as receivables.

These amounts are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. At each reporting date, the Fund shall measure the loss allowance on receivables at an amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses if the credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition. If, at the reporting date, the credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition, the Fund shall measure the loss allowance at an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses. Significant financial difficulties of the counterparty, probability that the counterparty will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default in payments are all considered indicators that a loss allowance may be required. If the credit risk increases to the point that it is considered to be credit impaired, interest income will be calculated based on the gross carrying amount adjusted for the loss allowance. A significant increase in credit risk is defined by management as any contractual payment which is more than 30 days past due. Any contractual payment which is more than 90 days past due is considered credit impaired.

### (n) Payables

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

### (o) Applications and redemptions

Applications received for units in the Fund are recorded net of any entry fees payable prior to the issue of units in the Fund. Redemptions from the Fund are recorded gross of any exit fees payable after the cancellation of units redeemed.

Unit prices are determined by reference to the net assets of the Fund divided by the number of units on issue at or immediately prior to the close of business each day. Issues and redemptions of units are processed simultaneously.

### (p) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The GST incurred on the costs of various services provided to the Fund by third parties such as custodial services and investment management fees have been passed onto the Fund. The Fund qualifies for Reduced Input Tax Credits (RITC) at a rate of 55% or 75%, hence investment management fees, custodial fees and other expenses have been recognised in the statement of comprehensive income net of the amount of GST recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Accounts payable are inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from the ATO is included in receivables in the statement of financial position. Cash flows relating to GST are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (q) Use of estimates

The directors of the Responsible Entity make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. Estimates are continually evaluated and based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

For the majority of the Fund's financial instruments, quoted market prices are readily available. However, certain financial instruments, for example, over-the-counter derivatives or unquoted securities are fair valued using valuation techniques. Where valuation techniques (for example, pricing models) are used to determine fair values, they are validated and periodically reviewed by experienced personnel of the Responsible Entity, independent of the area that created them.

Models use observable data, to the extent practicable. However, areas such as credit risk (both own and counterparty), volatilities and correlations require management to make estimates. Changes in assumptions about these factors could affect the reported fair value of financial instruments.

For certain other financial instruments, including receivables, accounts payable and accrued expenses, the carrying amounts approximate fair value due to the short-term nature of these financial instruments.

### (r) Rounding of amounts

The Fund is an entity of a kind referred to in ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191 issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) relating to the "rounding off" of amounts in the financial statements. Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar in accordance with that ASIC Corporations Instrument, unless otherwise indicated.

### (s) Operating Segments

Operating segments are reported in a manner consistent with the internal reporting used by the Fund for allocating resources and assessing performance of the operating segments. The strategic asset selection and allocation decisions are based on the two classes of investments, the MVE class and MVE Green class. As these two segments are based on an integrated investment strategy, which results in similar portfolios and investment performance, they have been aggregated into one reportable segment.

### (t) Comparative revisions

Comparative information has been revised where appropriate to enhance comparability. Where necessary, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation in the current year.

## 3 Financial risk management

The Fund's investment activities expose it to a number of risks primarily market risk (including price risk, foreign exchange risk and interest rate risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The Fund's Investment Manager manages these risks by researching markets and securities, selecting securities and constructing a portfolio consistent with the Fund's Investment Strategy set out in its Product Disclosure Statement. The Fund's Investment Strategy sets out the Fund's financial risk management policies and investment restrictions. The Investment Manager monitors compliance with the Fund's Investment Strategy daily and reports monthly to the Responsible Entity.

The Fund uses different methods to measure different types of risk to which it is exposed. These methods include sensitivity analysis in the case of price risk of the investments of the Fund.

### 3 Financial risk management (continued)

#### (a) Market risk

##### (i) Price Risk

The Fund's equity investments expose it to risks associated with fluctuations in security prices. Price risk is measured and managed against exposure limits set out in the Fund's Investment Strategy. Where non-monetary financial instruments are denominated in currencies other than Australian Dollar, the price in the future will also fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. Paragraph (ii) below sets out how this component of price risk is managed and measured.

The Fund's overall risk management programme focuses on ensuring compliance with the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement and seeks to maximise the returns derived for the level of risks to which the Fund is exposed. The Fund's overall risk management program focuses on implementing its managed volatility equities strategy that aims to reduce volatility by identifying, and investing in, high quality listed equity securities that have reasonable valuations, high quality cash flows and relatively stable share prices. The Fund has limited its investment in global equities to 20% of its assets and has the ability to hold up to 20% in cash. The Fund may use derivative financial instruments to alter certain risk exposures.

The table on page 20 summarises sensitivity analysis to price risk.

##### (ii) Foreign exchange risk

Foreign exchange risk arises as the value of assets and liabilities denominated in other currencies will fluctuate due to changes in exchange rates.

Listed international equity securities are held and an exposure to foreign exchange risk arises as these offshore securities are valued in foreign currency.

The investment manager has the discretion to use foreign currency contracts to increase, reduce or remove foreign currency exposure in order to assist in lowering the volatility of the Fund. During the year the Investment Manager significantly reduced the Fund's foreign exchange exposure, as a result of hedging arrangements using foreign currency contracts.

Foreign currency contracts designed to either hedge some or all of this exposure, or alternatively increase exposure to preferred foreign currencies have been entered into. Derivatives are accounted for as held for trading Instruments because the Fund does not apply hedge accounting.

Exceptions to compliance with the foreign exchange policy are reported to management on a regular basis.

### 3 Financial risk management (continued)

#### (a) Market risk (continued)

##### (ii) Foreign exchange risk (continued)

The table below summarises the Fund's assets and liabilities that are denominated in a currency other than the Australian Dollar.

	US Dollar \$	Japanese Yen \$	Danish Krone \$	Swiss Franc \$	Other Currencies \$
<b>As at 30 June 2022</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	374,785	159,810	99,620	158,597	329,270
Receivables	173,454	97,572	76,823	558,414	4,302
Due from brokers - receivable for securities sold	-	-	-	-	2,194,101
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	173,784,010	39,374,869	15,097,066	84,206,848	17,098,316
Payables	-	(50)	(93)	(2,665)	(2,085,143)
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	(4,541,458)	(49,276)	(50,318)	(4,334,782)	(1,852,138)
Net increase/(decrease) in exposure from foreign currency contract (notional principle)	<u>(104,403,907)</u>	<u>(39,355,331)</u>	<u>(13,661,523)</u>	<u>(79,061,677)</u>	<u>(16,249,294)*</u>
<b>Net Exposure</b>	<u>65,386,884</u>	<u>227,594</u>	<u>1,561,575</u>	<u>1,524,735</u>	<u>(560,586)</u>

\*Other currencies include net exposure of (13,396,151) in Canadian Dollar and (2,853,143) in Euro.

	US Dollar \$	Japanese Yen \$	Danish Krone \$	British Pound \$	Other Currencies \$
<b>As at 30 June 2021</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	85,911	506,778	210,921	182,990	948,773
Receivables	38,909	783,210	68,615	-	315,716
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	112,174,941	31,671,078	10,733,231	35,882,025	106,075,290
Payables	-	(2,208)	(237)	-	(395)
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	(475,294)	(156,930)	(140,173)	(380,494)	(1,822,357)
Net increase/(decrease) in exposure from foreign currency contract (notional principle)	<u>(51,136,197)</u>	<u>(31,334,846)</u>	<u>(9,935,024)</u>	<u>(35,667,637)</u>	<u>(100,479,189)*</u>
<b>Net Exposure</b>	<u>60,688,270</u>	<u>1,467,082</u>	<u>937,333</u>	<u>16,884</u>	<u>5,037,838</u>

\*Other currencies include net exposure of (30,427,178) in Canadian Dollar, (29,511,433) in Swiss Franc, (16,401,882) in Euro, (13,326,456) in Singapore Dollar and (10,812,240) in Norwegian Krone.

The Fund has significantly reduced its foreign exchange exposure, as a result of hedging arrangements using foreign currency contracts.

### 3 Financial risk management (continued)

#### (a) Market risk (continued)

##### (iii) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Fund's exposure to interest rate risk is limited to cash at bank and deposits held with broker for margin.

The following table summarises the Fund's exposure to interest rate risk. It includes the Fund's assets and liabilities at fair value, categorised by the earlier of contractual repricing or maturity date.

	Floating interest rate \$	Fixed interest rate \$	Non-interest bearing \$	Total \$
<b>30 June 2022</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	36,073,366	-	-	36,073,366
Due from brokers - receivable for securities sold	-	-	8,145,698	8,145,698
Receivables	-	-	6,759,559	6,759,559
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	1,548,410,246	1,548,410,246
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Payables	-	-	6,668,291	6,668,291
Distributions payable	-	-	28,388,062	28,388,062
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	10,827,972	10,827,972
Net exposure	<u>36,073,366</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,517,431,178</u>	<u>1,553,504,544</u>
	Floating interest rate \$	Fixed interest rate \$	Non-interest bearing \$	Total \$
<b>30 June 2021</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	41,226,199	-	-	41,226,199
Due from brokers - receivable for securities sold	-	-	1,595,221	1,595,221
Receivables	-	-	3,754,565	3,754,565
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	1,519,692,476	1,519,692,476
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Payables	-	-	5,245,434	5,245,434
Due to brokers - payable for securities purchased	-	-	2,947,369	2,947,369
Distributions payable	-	-	43,165,479	43,165,479
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	2,975,248	2,975,248
Net exposure	<u>41,226,199</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,470,708,732</u>	<u>1,511,934,931</u>

An analysis of financial liabilities by maturities is provided in Note 3 (d).

### 3 Financial risk management (continued)

#### (b) Summarised sensitivity analysis

The following table summarises the sensitivity of the Fund's operating profit and net assets attributable to unitholders to price risk. The Fund does not have a significant exposure to interest rate risk. The reasonably possible movements in the risk variables have been determined based on management's best estimate, having regard to a number of factors, including historical correlation of the Fund's investments with the relevant benchmark and market volatility. However, actual movements in the risk variables may be greater or less than anticipated due to a number of factors, including unusually large market shocks resulting from changes in the performance of the economies, markets and securities in which the Fund invests. As a result, historic variations in risk variables are not a definitive indicator of future variations in the risk variables.

	Price risk	
	Impact on operating profit/Net assets attributable to unitholders	
	-20%	+20%
	\$	\$
<b>30 June 2022</b>	<b>(307,516,455)</b>	<b>307,516,455</b>
30 June 2021	(303,343,446)	303,343,446

	Foreign exchange risk							
	Impact on operating profit/Net assets attributable to unitholders							
	-10%	+10%	-10%	+10%	-10%	+10%	-10%	+10%
	USD	USD	JPY	JPY	DKK	DKK	CHF	CHF
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
<b>30 June 2022</b>	<b>(6,538,688)</b>	<b>6,538,688</b>	<b>(22,759)</b>	<b>22,759</b>	<b>(156,158)</b>	<b>156,158</b>	<b>(152,474)</b>	<b>152,474</b>
30 June 2021	(6,068,827)	6,068,827	(146,708)	146,708	(93,733)	93,733	-	-

The sensitivity factors for 30 June 2021 were +/-20% for price risk and +/-10% for foreign exchange risk.

In determining the impact of an increase/decrease in net assets attributable to unitholders arising from market risk, the Responsible Entity has considered prior period and expected future movements of the portfolio based on market information in order to determine a reasonably possible shift in assumptions.

#### (c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty will be unable to pay amounts in full when they fall due.

The Fund's exposure to credit risk is limited to cash and cash equivalents held with financial institutions and amounts due from brokers. The fund is also exposed to counterparty credit risk on derivative financial instruments. None of these assets are impaired nor past due.

The clearing and depository operations of the Fund's security transactions are mainly concentrated with one counterparty namely State Street Australia Limited. At 30 June 2022, State Street Australia Limited had a credit rating of AA (2021: AA). As at 30 June 2022, substantially all cash and investments are held in custody by State Street Australia Limited.

#### (d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund may not be able to generate sufficient cash resources to settle its obligations in full as they fall due or can only do so on terms that are materially disadvantageous.

The Fund is exposed to daily cash redemptions of redeemable units. The Fund holds marketable securities and derivatives that can be readily sold to fund redemption requirements.

### 3 Financial risk management (continued)

#### (d) Liquidity risk (continued)

The Fund may, from time to time, invest in derivative contracts traded over the counter, which are not traded in an organised market and may be illiquid. As a result, the Fund may not be able to liquidate quickly its investments in these instruments at an amount close to their fair value to meet its liquidity requirements or to respond to specific events such as a deterioration in the creditworthiness of any particular issuer or counterparty. No such investments were held at year end.

Under the terms of the Fund's Constitution, the Responsible Entity has the discretion to defer, adjust or suspend a redemption of units if the exercise of such discretion is in the best interests of unitholders.

The table below analyses the Fund's non-derivative financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at balance sheet date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows. Units are redeemed on demand at the unitholder's option. However, the Board of Directors does not envisage that the contractual maturity disclosed in the table below will be representative of the actual cash outflows, as holders of these instruments typically retain them for the medium to long term.

	Less than 1 month	1-6 months	6-12 months	Over 12 months	No stated maturity
<b>As at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Payables	6,668,291	-	-	-	-
Distributions payable	<u>28,388,062</u>	-	-	-	-
<b>Contractual cash flows (excluding derivatives)</b>	<u><b>35,056,353</b></u>	-	-	-	-

	Less than 1 month	1-6 months	6-12 months	Over 12 months	No stated maturity
As at 30 June 2021	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Payables	5,245,434	-	-	-	-
Due to brokers - payable for securities purchased	2,947,369	-	-	-	-
Distributions payable	<u>43,165,479</u>	-	-	-	-
Contractual cash flows (excluding derivatives)	<u>51,358,282</u>	-	-	-	-

#### (i) Maturities of net settled derivative financial instruments

The table below analyses the Fund's net settled derivative financial instruments based on their contractual maturity. The Fund may, at its discretion, settle financial instruments prior to their original contractual settlement date, in accordance with its investment strategy, where permitted by the terms and conditions of the relevant instruments.

	Less than 1 month	1-6 months	6-12 months	Over 12 months	Not stated maturity
<b>At 30 June 2022</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Foreign currency forward contracts	(8,580,781)	(50,318)	-	-	-

### 3 Financial risk management (continued)

#### (d) Liquidity risk (continued)

	Less than 1 month	1-6 months	6-12 months	Over 12 months	Not stated maturity
At 30 June 2021	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Foreign currency forward contracts	(2,955,264)	-	-	-	-

#### (e) Other risks

Since 2020 the financial impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has been included in the current and prior period results and asset valuations. Economies are re-opening and seem to be normalising and therefore uncertainties in the economy related to the COVID-19 pandemic seem to be diminishing. However, the situation is still evolving due to the emergence of new COVID-19 variants, the differing approaches of different countries to COVID-19 suppression, inflation and increasing interest rates. In addition, the war in Ukraine and the potential for its escalation has added more economic uncertainty. There could still be some further significant market volatility, exchange trading suspensions and closures, declines in global financial markets, higher default rates, and a substantial economic downturn or recession. Therefore, the foregoing could still impair the Fund's ability to maintain operational standards (such as with respect to satisfying redemption requests), disrupt the operations of the Fund's service providers, adversely affect the value and liquidity of the Fund's investments, and negatively impact the Fund's performance and your investment in the Fund. COVID-19 risk and the war in Ukraine have arisen relatively recently and is therefore specifically noted above.

### 4 Offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities

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. The gross and net positions of financial assets and liabilities that have been offset in the statement of financial position are disclosed in the first three columns of the tables below.

Financial assets	Effects of offsetting on the statement of financial position			Related amounts not offset		
	Gross amounts of financial assets \$	Gross amounts set off in the statement of financial position \$	Net amount of financial assets presented in the statement of financial position \$	Amounts subject to master netting arrangements \$	Collateral received \$	Net amount \$
<b>2022</b>						
Derivative financial instruments (i)	<u>2,196.873</u>	-	<u>2,196.873</u>	<u>(1,639.324)</u>	-	<u>557.549</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,196.873</u>	-	<u>2,196.873</u>	<u>(1,639.324)</u>	-	<u>557.549</u>
<b>2021</b>						
Derivative financial instruments (i)	<u>19.984</u>	-	<u>19.984</u>	<u>(19.984)</u>	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>19.984</u>	-	<u>19.984</u>	<u>(19.984)</u>	-	-

#### 4 Offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities (continued)

Financial liabilities	Effects of offsetting on the statement of financial position			Related amounts not offset		
	Gross amounts of financial liabilities	Gross amounts set off in the statement of financial position	Net amount of financial liabilities presented in the statement of financial position	Amounts subject to master netting arrangements	Collateral pledged	Net amount
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2022</b>						
Derivative financial instruments (i)	<u>10,827,972</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,827,972</u>	<u>(1,639,324)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,188,648</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>10,827,972</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,827,972</u>	<u>(1,639,324)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,188,648</u>
<b>2021</b>						
Derivative financial instruments (i)	<u>2,975,248</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,975,248</u>	<u>(19,984)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,955,264</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,975,248</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,975,248</u>	<u>(19,984)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,955,264</u>

(i) Master netting arrangement – not currently enforceable

Agreements with derivative counterparties are based on the ISDA Master Agreement. Under the terms of these arrangements, only where certain credit events occur (such as default), the net position owing/ receivable to a single counterparty in the same currency will be taken as owing and all the relevant arrangements terminated. As the Fund does not presently have a legally enforceable right of set-off, these amounts have not been offset in the balance sheet, but have been presented separately in the above table.

#### 5 Fair value measurement

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

- Financial assets / liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL) (see note 8 and 9)
- Derivative financial instruments (see note 10)

The Fund has no assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis in the current reporting period.

AASB 13 requires disclosure of fair value measurements by level of the following fair value hierarchy;

- (a) quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1);
- (b) inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly (level 2); and
- (c) inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs) (level 3).

## 5 Fair value measurement (continued)

### *(i) Fair value in an active market (level 1)*

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets is based on their last traded prices at the end of the reporting period without any deduction for estimated future selling costs.

The Fund values its investments in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 2 to the financial statements. For the majority of its investments, the Fund relies on information provided by independent pricing services of the valuation of its investments.

A financial instrument is regarded as quoted in an active market if quoted prices are readily and regularly available from an exchange, dealer, broker, industry group, pricing service, or regulatory agency, and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

### *(ii) Fair value in an inactive or unquoted market (level 2 and level 3)*

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market is determined using valuation techniques. These include the use of recent arm's length market transactions, reference to the current fair value of a substantially similar other instrument, discounted cash flow techniques, option pricing models or any other valuation technique that provides a reliable estimate of prices obtained in actual market transactions.

Where discounted cash flow techniques are used, estimated future cash flows are based on management's best estimates and the discount rate used is a market rate at the end of the reporting period applicable for an instrument with similar terms and conditions.

For other pricing models, inputs are based on market data at the end of the reporting period. Fair values for unquoted equity investments are estimated, if possible, using applicable price/earnings ratios for similar listed companies adjusted to reflect the specific circumstances of the issuer.

The fair value of derivatives that are not exchange traded is estimated at the amount that the Fund would receive or pay to terminate the contract at the end of the reporting period taking into account current market conditions (volatility and appropriate yield curve) and the current creditworthiness of the counterparties. The fair value of a forward contract is determined as a net present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at appropriate market rates as at the valuation date. The fair value of an option contract is determined by applying the Black Scholes option valuation model.

Investments in other unlisted unit trusts are recorded at the redemption value per unit as reported by the investment managers of such funds. The Fund may make adjustments to the value based on considerations such as: liquidity of the Investee Fund or its underlying investments, the value date of the net asset value provided, or any restrictions on redemptions and the basis of accounting.

Some of the inputs to these models may not be market observable and are therefore estimated based on assumptions.

The output of a model is always an estimate or approximation of a value that cannot be determined with certainty, and valuation techniques employed may not fully reflect all factors relevant to the positions the Fund holds. Valuations are therefore adjusted, where appropriate, to allow for additional factors including liquidity risk and counterparty risk.

## 5 Fair value measurement (continued)

### Recognised fair value measurements

The following table presents the Fund's assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value as at 30 June 2022.

As at 30 June 2022	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Derivatives	-	2,196,873	-	2,196,873
Equity securities	1,536,271,376	-	-	1,536,271,376
Unit trusts	9,941,997	-	-	9,941,997
Total	<u>1,546,213,373</u>	<u>2,196,873</u>	-	<u>1,548,410,246</u>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>				
Derivatives	-	10,827,972	-	10,827,972
Total	-	<u>10,827,972</u>	-	<u>10,827,972</u>
As at 30 June 2021	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Derivatives	-	19,984	-	19,984
Equity securities	1,499,698,023	-	-	1,499,698,023
Unit trusts	19,974,469	-	-	19,974,469
Total	<u>1,519,672,492</u>	<u>19,984</u>	-	<u>1,519,692,476</u>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>				
Derivatives	-	2,975,248	-	2,975,248
Total	-	<u>2,975,248</u>	-	<u>2,975,248</u>

The Fund's policy is to recognise transfers into and transfers out of fair value hierarchy levels as at the end of the reporting period.

*(i) Transfer between levels*

There were no transfers between levels during the year.

*(ii) Movement in level 3 instruments*

The Fund did not hold any financial instruments with fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs as at 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2021.

*(iii) Fair value of financial instruments not carried at fair value*

Due to their short-term nature, the carrying amounts of receivables and payables are assumed to approximate fair value.

## 6 Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss

Net gains/(losses) recognised in relation to financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	\$	\$
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Net gain/(loss) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(72,421,436)	130,644,942
<b>Financial liabilities</b>		
Net gain/(loss) on financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	<u>(8,099,817)</u>	<u>(4,600,801)</u>
Total net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	<u>(80,521,253)</u>	<u>126,044,141</u>

## 7 Class level balance sheet

	MVE Class		MVE Green Class	
	As at		As at	
	30 June 2022	30 June 2021	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	34,781,448	40,312,646	1,291,918	913,553
Due from brokers - receivable for securities sold	7,905,112	1,552,193	240,586	43,028
Receivables	6,628,892	3,668,140	130,667	86,425
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	<u>1,504,760,453</u>	<u>1,479,893,019</u>	<u>43,649,793</u>	<u>39,799,457</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u>1,554,075,905</u>	<u>1,525,425,998</u>	<u>45,312,964</u>	<u>40,842,463</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Payables	6,615,792	5,181,362	52,499	64,072
Due to brokers - payable for securities purchased	-	2,893,153	-	54,216
Distributions payable	25,803,307	41,395,331	2,584,755	1,770,148
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	<u>10,540,689</u>	<u>2,898,002</u>	<u>287,283</u>	<u>77,246</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u>42,959,788</u>	<u>52,367,848</u>	<u>2,924,537</u>	<u>1,965,682</u>
<b>Net assets attributable to unitholders - liability</b>	<u>1,511,116,117</u>	<u>1,473,058,150</u>	<u>42,388,427</u>	<u>38,876,781</u>

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

	As at	
	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	\$	\$
<b>Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</b>		
Derivatives	2,196,873	19,984
Equity securities	1,536,271,376	1,499,698,023
Unit trusts	<u>9,941,997</u>	<u>19,974,469</u>
<b>Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b><u>1,548,410,246</u></b>	<b><u>1,519,692,476</u></b>
<b>Comprising:</b>		
<b>Derivatives</b>		
Foreign currency forward contracts	<u>2,196,873</u>	<u>19,984</u>
Total derivatives	<u>2,196,873</u>	<u>19,984</u>
<b>Equity securities</b>		
Australian equity securities	1,208,907,140	1,203,181,442
International equity securities	<u>327,364,236</u>	<u>296,516,581</u>
Total Equity securities	<u>1,536,271,376</u>	<u>1,499,698,023</u>
<b>Unit trusts</b>		
Real estate unit trusts	<u>9,941,997</u>	<u>19,974,469</u>
Total Unit trusts	<u>9,941,997</u>	<u>19,974,469</u>
<b>Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b><u>1,548,410,246</u></b>	<b><u>1,519,692,476</u></b>

An overview of the risk exposures relating to financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is included in note 3.

### Material investments

There were no investments that represented 5% or more by value of the net assets of the Fund for the year ended 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2021.

## 9 Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

	As at	
	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	\$	\$
<b>Financial Liabilities at fair value through profit or loss</b>		
Derivatives	<b>10,827,972</b>	2,975,248
<b>Total financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>10,827,972</b>	2,975,248
<b>Comprising:</b>		
<b>Derivatives</b>		
Foreign currency forward contracts	<b>10,827,972</b>	2,975,248
Total Derivatives	<b>10,827,972</b>	2,975,248
<b>Total financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>10,827,972</b>	2,975,248

An overview of the risk exposures relating to financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss is included in note 3.

## 10 Derivative financial instruments

In the normal course of business the Fund enters into transactions in various derivative financial instruments with certain risks. A derivative is a financial instrument or other contract which is settled at a future date and whose value changes in response to the change in a specified interest rate, financial instrument price, commodity price, foreign exchange rate, index of prices or rates, credit rating or credit index or other variable.

Derivative financial instruments require no initial net investment or an initial net investment that is smaller than would be required for other types of contracts that would be expected to have a similar response to changes in market factors.

Derivative transactions include many different instruments such as futures. Derivatives are considered to be part of the investment process and the use of derivatives is an essential part of the Fund's portfolio management. Derivatives are not managed in isolation. Consequently, the use of derivatives is multifaceted and includes:

- hedging to protect an asset or liability of the Fund against a fluctuation in market values or to reduce volatility;
- a substitution for trading of physical securities; and
- adjusting asset exposures within the parameters set in the investment strategy.

While derivatives are used for trading purposes, they are not used to gear (leverage) a portfolio. Gearing a portfolio would occur if the level of exposure to the markets exceeds the underlying value of the Fund.

The Fund holds the following derivative instruments:

### (a) Foreign currency contracts

Foreign currency contracts are primarily used by the Fund to hedge against foreign currency exchange rate risks on its non-Australian Dollar denominated trading securities. The Fund agrees to receive or deliver a fixed quantity of foreign currency for an agreed upon price on an agreed future date. Foreign currency contracts are valued at the prevailing bid price at the reporting date. The Fund recognises a gain or loss equal to the change in fair value at the reporting date.

## 10 Derivative financial instruments (continued)

	Long Contract/ notional \$	Short Contract/ notional \$	Fair Values	
			Assets \$	Liabilities \$
<b>30 June 2022</b>				
Foreign currency forward contracts	<u>74,749,589</u>	<u>325,399,526</u>	<u>2,196,873</u>	<u>10,827,972</u>
Total Derivatives	<u>74,749,589</u>	<u>325,399,526</u>	<u>2,196,873</u>	<u>10,827,972</u>

	Long Contract/ notional \$	Short Contract/ notional \$	Fair Values	
			Assets \$	Liabilities \$
<b>30 June 2021</b>				
Foreign currency forward contracts	<u>1,163,632</u>	<u>229,395,230</u>	<u>19,984</u>	<u>2,975,248</u>
Total Derivatives	<u>1,163,632</u>	<u>229,395,230</u>	<u>19,984</u>	<u>2,975,248</u>

As at the reporting date, the Fund hedged transactions or positions by holding foreign currency contracts with a gross notional value of \$400,149,115 (2021: \$230,558,862) comprising of buy \$74,749,589 (2021: \$1,163,632) and sale \$325,399,526 (2021: \$229,395,230) resulting in net exposure of \$250,649,937 (2021: \$228,231,598).

### Risk exposures and fair value measurements

Information about the Fund's exposure to credit risk, foreign exchange, interest rate risk and about the methods and assumptions used in determining fair values is provided in note 3 to the financial statements. The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period is the carrying amount of each class of derivative financial instruments disclosed above.

## 11 Structured entities

A structured entity is an entity that has been designed so that voting or similar rights are not the dominant factor in deciding who controls the entity, and the relevant activities are directed by means of contractual arrangements.

The Fund considers all investments in managed investment schemes (funds) to be structured entities. The Fund invests in managed funds for the purpose of capital appreciation and or earning investment income.

The exposure to investments in unrelated funds at fair value, and any related gains/losses recognised in the statement of comprehensive income is disclosed at Note 8 and Note 6 to the financial statements.

## 12 Net assets attributable to unitholders

Movements in number of units and net assets attributable to unitholders during the year were as follows:

	30 June 2022 No.	30 June 2021 No.	30 June 2022 \$	30 June 2021 \$
<b>MVE Class</b>				
Opening balance	848,247,393	631,640,311	1,473,058,150	1,012,147,815
Applications	223,629,746	333,592,328	396,498,273	555,197,766
Redemptions	(162,219,722)	(117,934,431)	(286,009,921)	(196,032,975)
Units issued upon reinvestment of distributions	2,703,663	949,185	4,736,629	1,553,197
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders	-	-	(77,167,014)	100,192,347
Closing balance	<u>912,361,080</u>	<u>848,247,393</u>	<u>1,511,116,117</u>	<u>1,473,058,150</u>
<b>MVE Green Class</b>				
Opening balance	22,641,210	22,212,160	38,876,781	35,704,719
Applications	5,169,594	505,824	9,050,675	821,855
Redemptions	(748,659)	(86,886)	(1,338,470)	(141,500)
Units issued upon reinvestment of distributions	36,337	10,112	62,831	16,588
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders	-	-	(4,263,390)	2,475,119
Closing balance	<u>27,098,482</u>	<u>22,641,210</u>	<u>42,388,427</u>	<u>38,876,781</u>

As at 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2021, MVE Class units includes 965,686 (\$1,599,437) and 209,749 (\$364,248) units respectively sold to unitholders on the Securities Exchange and held on the broker sponsored sub-register.

As stipulated within the Fund's Constitution, each unit represents a right to an individual share in the Fund and does not extend to a right to the underlying assets of the Fund.

### Capital risk management

The Fund considers 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 Fund is subject to daily applications and redemptions at the discretion of unitholders.

Daily applications and redemptions are reviewed relative to the liquidity of the Fund's underlying assets on a daily basis by the Responsible Entity. Under the terms of the Fund's Constitution, the Responsible Entity has the discretion to reject an application for units and to defer or adjust a redemption of units if the exercise of such discretion is in the best interests of unitholders.

### 13 Distributions to unitholders

The distributions for the year were as follows:

	Year ended			
	30 June 2022 \$	30 June 2022 CPU	30 June 2021 \$	30 June 2021 CPU
<b>MVE Class</b>				
Distributions paid	12,583,458	1.42	9,219,045	1.18
Distributions payable	<u>25,803,305</u>	<u>2.83</u>	<u>41,395,329</u>	<u>4.88</u>
Total distributions	<u>38,386,763</u>	<u>4.25</u>	<u>50,614,374</u>	<u>6.06</u>
<b>MVE Green Class</b>				
Distributions paid	398,064	1.60	406,630	1.79
Distributions payable	<u>2,584,757</u>	<u>9.54</u>	<u>1,770,150</u>	<u>7.82</u>
Total distributions	<u>2,982,821</u>	<u>11.14</u>	<u>2,176,780</u>	<u>9.61</u>

As at 30 June 2022, distributions payable in MVE Class includes \$27,311 (2021: \$10,236) related to listed units in Securities Exchange.

### 14 Cash and cash equivalents

	As at	
	30 June 2022 \$	30 June 2021 \$
Cash at bank	<u>36,073,366</u>	<u>41,226,199</u>
	<u>36,073,366</u>	<u>41,226,199</u>

Interest rate applicable as at 30 June 2022 is from -1.35% to 0.24% (30 June 2021: -1.75% to 0.10%).

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

	Year ended	
	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	\$	\$
<b>(a) Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b>		
Profit/(loss) for the year	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders	<b>(81,430,404)</b>	102,667,466
Distributions to unitholders	<b>41,369,584</b>	52,791,154
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	<b>846,135,264</b>	383,278,229
Purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	<b>(956,822,558)</b>	(785,542,176)
Net (gains)/losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	<b>80,521,253</b>	(126,044,141)
Dividend Income reinvested	<b>(196,851)</b>	(1,743,190)
Net foreign exchange gains/(losses)	<b>13,552</b>	(39,221)
Net change in receivables	<b>(1,244,493)</b>	(1,555,398)
Net change in payables	<b>243,700</b>	719,829
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	<b>(71,410,953)</b>	<b>(375,467,448)</b>
<b>(b) Non-cash financing activities</b>		
During the year, the following distribution payments were satisfied by the issue of units under the distributions reinvestment plan	<b>4,799,460</b>	1,569,785

As described in note 2(i), income not distributed is included in net assets attributable to unitholders. The change in this amount each year (as reported in (a) above) represents a non-cash financing cost as it is not settled in cash until such time as it becomes distributable (i.e. taxable).

## 16 Remuneration of auditors

During the year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia (PwC) as the auditor of the Fund and by PwC's related network firms:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	\$	\$
<b>Auditors of the Fund - PwC Australian firm and related network firms</b>		
<i>Audit and other assurance services</i>		
Audit and review of financial reports	31,350	29,260
Review of financial report - mid year	28,738	-
Other assurance services		
Audit of compliance plan	9,405	9,405
Other non-audit services		
Tax compliance services	16,511	14,512
Other services	-	7,315
Total other non-audit services	<u>16,511</u>	<u>21,827</u>
<b>Total services provided by PwC</b>	<u><b>86,004</b></u>	<u><b>60,492</b></u>

In 2022 and 2021, the remuneration of auditors is borne by the Responsible Entity. No audit fee is paid directly by the Fund.

## 17 Receivables

	As at	
	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	\$	\$
Interest receivable	204	-
Dividends receivable	4,499,257	3,288,030
Spot Contracts receivable	2,081,795	321,295
RITC receivable	<u>178,303</u>	<u>145,240</u>
	<u><b>6,759,559</b></u>	<u><b>3,754,565</b></u>

## 18 Payables

	As at	
	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	\$	\$
Interest payable	2,912	519
Manager's fees payable	2,245,306	2,014,973
Carbon cost payable	9,922	6,294
Redemption payable	2,315,371	2,896,715
Withholding tax payable	-	2,321
Spot Contracts payable	2,085,038	320,318
Other payables	<u>9,742</u>	<u>4,294</u>
	<u>6,668,291</u>	<u>5,245,434</u>

\*Carbon cost payable includes expenses for carbon cost which only relates to MVE Green class. During the year the MVE Green class carbon cost expense for the year ended 30 June 2022 was \$29,905.

## 19 Related party transactions

### Responsible Entity and Investment Manager

The Responsible Entity of the Fund is AllianceBernstein Investment Management Australia Limited (ABN 58 007 212 606). The ultimate holding company of the Responsible Entity is AllianceBernstein L.P. (incorporated in the United States).

The Investment Manager of the assets of the Fund is AllianceBernstein Australia Limited. The ultimate holding company of the Investment Manager is AllianceBernstein L.P. (incorporated in the United States).

### Key management personnel

#### (a) Directors

Key management personnel includes persons who were directors of the Responsible Entity at any time during the financial year as follows:

Stuart Campbell Rae  
Steven Michael Eisenberg  
Ajai Mohan Kaul  
Jennifer Agnes Driscoll  
Emma Catherine Quinn

#### (b) Other key management personnel

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

### Key management personnel unitholdings

At 30 June 2022 no key management personnel held units in the Fund (2021: Nil).

### Key management personnel compensation

Key management personnel are paid by related companies of ABIMAL. Payments made from the Fund to ABIMAL do not include any amounts directly attributable to the compensation of key management personnel.

## 19 Related party transactions (continued)

### Key management personnel loan disclosures

The Fund has not made, guaranteed or secured, directly or indirectly, any loans to the key management personnel or their personally related entities at any time during the reporting period.

### Other transactions within the Fund

Apart from those details disclosed in this note, no key management personnel have entered into a material contract with the Fund since the end of the previous financial year and there were no material contracts involving directors' interests existing at year end.

### Responsible Entity's/manager's fees and other transactions

The Fund's fees and ordinary expenses were bundled so that the Fund's maximum fees and ordinary expenses accrued would be up to 0.55% (2021: 0.55%) per annum of the average daily net assets of the Fund. All the Fund's fees and ordinary expenses such as investment management, custody, administration, external auditors and tax advisors are paid out of the fee.

All related party transactions are conducted on normal commercial terms and conditions. The transactions during the year and amounts payable at year end between the Fund and the Responsible Entity were as follows:

	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
	\$	\$
Investment Manager's fees for the year incurred by the Fund	8,800,467	7,133,793
Aggregate amounts payable to the Investment Manager at the end of the reporting period	2,245,306	2,014,973

### Related party unitholdings

Related parties to the Fund and other schemes managed by ABIMAL, held no units in the Fund as at 30 June 2022 (2021: Nil).

### Investments

The Fund did not hold any investments in ABIMAL or its related parties during the year (2021: Nil).

## 20 Events occurring after the reporting period

No significant events have occurred since the end of the reporting period which would impact on the financial position of the Fund disclosed in the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the year ended on that date.

## 21 Contingent assets and liabilities and commitments

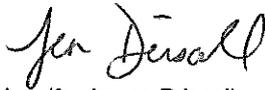
There are no outstanding contingent assets and liabilities or commitments as at 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2021.

## Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the directors of the Responsible Entity:

- (a) the financial statements and notes set out on pages 6 to 35 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - (i) complying with Accounting Standards, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
  - (ii) giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance, for the financial year ended on that date.
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Fund will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable, and
- (c) Note 2(a) confirms that the financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



Jennifer Agnes Driscoll  
Director

Sydney  
9 September 2022



## Independent auditor's report

To the unitholders of AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund)

### Report on the audit of the financial report

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#### Our opinion

In our opinion:

The accompanying financial report of AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund) ("the Fund") is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

#### What we have audited

The financial report comprises:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022
- the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- the notes to the financial statements, which include significant accounting policies and other explanatory information
- the Directors' declaration.

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#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Independence

We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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## Our audit approach

An audit is designed to provide reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement. Misstatements may arise due to fraud or error. They are considered material if individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

We tailored the scope of our audit to ensure that we performed enough work to be able to give an opinion on the financial report as a whole, taking into account the geographic and management structure of the Fund, its accounting processes and controls and the industry in which it operates.



Materiality	Audit scope	Key audit matters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the purpose of our audit we used overall materiality of \$15.54 million, which represents approximately 1% of the Fund's net assets.</li> <li>We applied this threshold, together with qualitative considerations, to determine the scope of our audit and the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and to evaluate the effect of misstatements on the financial report as a whole.</li> <li>We chose net assets because, in our view, it is the metric against which the performance of the Fund is most commonly measured and is the generally accepted benchmark in the industry.</li> <li>We utilised a 1% threshold based on our professional judgement, noting it is within the range of commonly acceptable thresholds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our audit focused on where the Fund made subjective judgements; for example, significant accounting estimates involving assumptions and inherently uncertain future events.</li> <li>Our audit approach reflected the nature of the investments held by the Fund and the consideration of the work undertaken by third party service providers. The Fund outsources certain functions including fund administration, custody and unit registry.</li> <li>The Fund's third party service providers engaged an external auditor to provide assurance reports over the design and operating effectiveness of the third party service providers' key internal controls.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amongst other relevant topics, we communicated the following key audit matters to the Board of the Responsible Entity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valuation and existence of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss.</li> </ul> </li> <li>These are further described in the <i>Key audit matters</i> section of our report.</li> </ul>



## Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the financial report for the current period. The key audit matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. Further, any commentary on the outcomes of a particular audit procedure is made in that context.

Key audit matter	How our audit addressed the key audit matter
<p><i>Valuation and existence of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</i></p> <p><i>Refer to note 2 (Summary of significant accounting policies) and note 5 (Fair value measurement) and note 8 (Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss)</i></p> <p>At 30 June 2022, investments in financial assets at fair value through profit or loss of \$1,548 million were comprised primarily of investments in listed equity securities and unit trusts. The existence and valuation of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss was a key audit matter because financial assets represent the principal element of the statement of financial position in the financial statements. A discrepancy in the valuation or existence of investments could cause net assets to be materially misstated, which could also affect the Fund's performance, as the valuation of financial assets is the main driver of the profit or loss of the Fund.</p>	<p>Our audit procedures included the following, amongst others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- We obtained the most recent System and Organization Controls ("SOC 1") Reports issued by the fund administrator and custodian, setting out the controls in place at that service organisation, which included an independent audit opinion over the design and operating effectiveness of those controls.</li><li>- We assessed the service organisation's auditor's objectivity, experience, competency and the results of their procedures.</li><li>- We assessed the reports by developing an understanding of the relevant control objectives and associated control activities, evaluated the tests undertaken by the auditor and the results of these tests and the auditor's conclusions on the design and operating effectiveness of the controls to the extent relevant to our audit of the Fund.</li><li>- For the Fund's investments held in custody by the custodian, we obtained a confirmation from the custodian and compared the investment holdings per the custodian confirmation with the holdings per the accounting records.</li><li>- For non-custody investments held by the Fund, we independently confirmed all material positions with appropriate third parties and compared the confirmed balances to the accounting records of the Fund.</li><li>- Together with our PwC valuation experts, for a sample of quoted market securities held by the Fund, we independently obtained price data from third party price vendors and compared it to the prices used by the fund administrator to value the investments at year end.</li></ul>



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### Other information

The Directors of AllianceBernstein Investment Management Australia Limited, as responsible entity of the Fund, are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

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

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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### Responsibilities of the Directors for the financial report

The Directors of AllianceBernstein Investment Management Australia Limited, as responsible entity of the Fund are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the ability of the Fund to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



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## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [https://www.auasb.gov.au/admin/file/content102/c3/ar2\\_2020.pdf](https://www.auasb.gov.au/admin/file/content102/c3/ar2_2020.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'PricewaterhouseCoopers'.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Joe Sheeran'.

Joe Sheeran  
Partner

Sydney  
9 September 2022



9 September 2022

Dear Directors

## Auditor's Independence

We have been engaged to audit the financial statements of AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund) for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Auditing Standard ASA 260 *Communication with Those Charged with Governance* requires us to communicate with you about:

- our compliance with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence
- all relationships and other matters between ourselves and AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund) that, in our professional judgement, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence as auditors. This includes total fees charged for audit and non-audit services provided and also any related safeguards that have been applied to the relationships and other matters.

### **Statement of compliance**

We confirm that for the audit of the financial statements of AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund) for the year ended 30 June 2022, we have complied with the following relevant ethical requirements regarding independence:

- the applicable provisions of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code)
- the applicable provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

### **Relationships and other matters**

A list of audit and non-audit services we have provided to AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund) during the year ended 30 June 2022, including total fees charged for those services, is included as Appendix A.

Some of the safeguards we applied in relation to the provision of the non-audit services to eliminate identified threats to independence, or reduce them to an acceptable level, included ensuring that:

- the services did not involve partners or staff acting in a managerial or decision-making capacity, or being involved in the processing or originating of transactions

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- the services were only provided where we were satisfied that the related function or process would not have a material impact on our planned audit procedures and would not involve us auditing our own work
- the services did not place us in a position of being an advocate for AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund)
- the services did not create a mutual or conflicting interest between ourselves and AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund)
- the partners and staff involved in the provision of non-audit services did not participate in AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund)'s associated approval or authorisation processes.

As a result of the above safeguards, we are satisfied that, in our professional judgement, we have not carried out any engagements for AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund) or its controlled entities which may have impaired our independence.

We are not aware of any other relationships or other matters between PwC and AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund) that, in our professional judgement, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence as at the date of this letter.

This letter is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors of the Responsible Entity and should not be used for any other purpose or by any other party.

We look forward to discussing the matters addressed in this letter, as well as other matters that may be of interest to you, at the forthcoming Board meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joe Sheeran'.

Joe Sheeran  
Partner



## Appendix A

### **Fees charged for engagements undertaken during the period**

During the year PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia and its network firms charged the fees stated below for performing the following engagements for AllianceBernstein Managed Volatility Equities Fund (Managed Fund):

#### **PricewaterhouseCoopers Australia**

##### **Audit and review of the financial report**

Audit and review of the financial statements	31,350
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##### **Tax compliance services**

Tax compliance services	16,511
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