

# Insync Global Capital Aware Fund

This report has been prepared for financial advisers only



Superior

January 2020

## INTRODUCTION

#### **Key Principles**

The underlying principles of the assessment process are to:

- identify the long term commercial potential of the Responsible Entity/Investment Manager;
- evaluate management's capabilities, previous performance in the specific industry and the stability of the organisation:
- evaluate identified markets (domestic and international existence, stability and growth potential);
- benchmark key performance assumptions and variables against industry peers; weigh up the relevant risks of the Responsible Entity/
- Investment Manager;
- assess structure and ownership;
- determine if the Responsible Entity/Investment Manager is structured in such a way as to protect investor's interests; and
- allow an opinion to be formed regarding the investment quality of the Responsible Entity/Investment Manager.

#### Assessment

SQM Research conducts a detailed site inspection of the projects/ properties within the Responsible Entity's/Investment Manager's managed funds.

The site assessment considers the following areas:

- sustainability of the site for the purpose intended;
- management skills, qualifications, capabilities and experience; and
- associated property risks and their management.

#### **Star Rating\***

Investment products are awarded a star rating out of a possible five stars and placed on the following websites: www. sqmresearch.com.au

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SQM Research has received a fee from the fund manager for this report and ratina.

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This advice will not take into account you, or your clients, objectives, financial situation or needs and will not be provided in respect of any other financial products. Accordingly, it is up to you and your clients to consider whether specific financial products are suitable for your objectives, financial situations or

Report Date: 30 January 2020

Star Rating *	Description	Definition	Investment Grading
4½ stars and above	Outstanding	Highly suitable for inclusion on APLs  SQM Research believes the Fund has considerable potential to outperform over the medium-to-long term. Past returns have typically been quite strong. Product disclosure statement (PDS) compliance processes are of a high-calibre. There are no corporate governance concerns. Management is extremely experienced, highly skilled and has access to significant resources.	arade
41/4 stars	Superior	Suitable for inclusion on most APLs  SQM Research considers the Fund has substantial potential to outperform over the medium-to-long term.  Past returns have tended to be strong. PDS compliance processes are high-quality. There are no material corporate governance concerns. Management is of a very high calibre.	
4 stars	Superior	Suitable for inclusion on most APLs  In SQM Research's view, the Fund has an appreciable potential to outperform over the medium-to-long term. Historical performance has tended to be meaningful. PDS compliance processes are strong. There are very little to no corporate governance concerns. Management is of a high calibre.	
3% stars	Favourable	Consider for APL inclusion  SQM Research concludes the Fund has a moderate potential to outperform over the medium-to-long term. Past performance has tended to be reasonable. Management is experienced and displays investment-grade quality. There are no corporate governance concerns, or they are of a minor nature.	
3½ stars	Acceptable	Consider for APL inclusion  In SQM Research's view, the potential for future outperformance in the medium-to-long term is somewhat uncertain. Historical performance has tended to be modest or patchy. Management is generally experienced and capable. SQM Research has identified weaknesses which need addressing in order to improve confidence in the Manager.	, Low Investment
3¼ stars	Caution Required	Not suitable for most APLs  In SQM Research's opinion, the potential for future outperformance in the medium-to-long term is very uncertain. Historical returns have tended to be disappointing or materially below expectations. PDS compliance processes are potential substandard. There are possible corporate governance concerns. Management quality is not of investment-grade standard.	Unapproved
3 stars	Strong Caution Required	Not suitable for most APLs  In SQM Research's opinion, the potential for future outperformance in the medium-to-long term is unlikely, Historical performance has tended to be unacceptable. There may be some material corporate governance concerns. SQM Research has a number of concerns regarding management.	
Below 3 stars	Avoid or redeem	Not suitable for most APL inclusion	Unapproved
Event-driven Ro	ating	Definition	
Hold		Rating is suspended until SQM Research receives further information. A rating is typically put on hold for a to four weeks.	period of two days
Withdrawn		Rating no longer applies. Significant issues have arisen since the last report date, Investors should conside redeeming units in the fund.	r avoiding or

The definitions in the table above are not all encompassing and not all individual items mentioned will necessarily be relevant to the rated Fund. Users should read the current rating report for a comprehensive assessment

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## Superior. Suitable for inclusion on most APLs.

Fund Description	
Fund Name	Insync Global Capital Aware Fund
APIR code	SLT0041AU
Asset Class	Global Equities
Management and Service Providers	
Fund Manager	Insync Funds Management Pty Ltd
Responsible Entity	EQT Responsible Entity Services Limited
Custodian	BNP Paribas
Fund Information	
Fund Inception Date	9-Oct-09
Fund Size	\$32.5m
Return Objective (as per PDS)	Outperform the MSCI All Country World ex-Australia Net Total Return Index in Australian Dollars over a full market cycle before the cost of protection
Internal Return Objective	Deliver global equity-like returns over rolling 5 year periods, while providing downside protection for severe market falls
Risk Level (per PDS)	Insync applies the "standard risk measure" for this Fund at a "medium to high risk" rating. This means the <b>estimated</b> number of negative annual returns over any 20-year period is 3 to less than 4. On a scale of 1 to 7 where 7 is riskiest in this respect, the Fund is in category 5
Internal Risk Objective	n/a
Benchmark	MSCI All Country World ex-Australia Net Total Return Index in Australian Dollars
Number of stocks/positions	20-40
Fund Leverage	n/a
Turnover	24.6%
Top 10 Holdings Weight	47.9%
Investor Information	
Minimum Application	\$10,000
Redemption Policy	Daily
Distribution Frequency	Annually
Investment Horizon (per PDS)	Five years or longer
Currency Hedging Policy	Active (but usually unhedged)
Management Fee	1.30%
	1.30%
ICR – latest	1.30%
ICR – latest Buy Spread	0.20%



## **Fund Summary**

#### **Description**

The Insync Global Capital Aware Fund implements a conservative stock selection strategy from a select pool of exceptional global companies, enhanced by actively managing market risk and currency risk. Insync (the Fund Manager) believes that investing with a strong focus on capital preservation will lead to superior returns over time. The portfolio will typically hold one or two leading stocks within each "Megatrend" identified by Insync's research. These stocks must meet strict qualitative and quantitative criteria. The Fund's objective is to deliver global equity-like returns while providing downside defensiveness for severe market falls, resulting in a beneficial result to investors over the full cycle. It expects to outperform the MSCI All Country World ex-Australia Net Total Return Index over rolling 5-year periods.

The Fund is structured as an open-ended unlisted registered managed investment scheme.

## **Fund Rating**

The Fund has achieved the following rating:

Star Rating	Description	Definition	Investment Grading
4.00 stars	Superior	Suitable for inclusion on most APLs	High Investment Grade

## **SQM Research's Review & Key Observations**

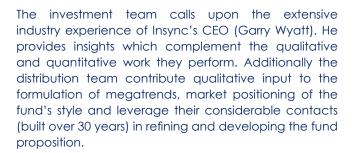
## 1. People and Resources

## **About the Manager**

Insync Funds Management Pty Ltd (Insync) is the Investment and Fund Manager. Established in July 2009, Insync is a global equity specialist based in Sydney, Australia. Controlling shareholders are Monik Kotecha and Garry Wyatt who are active directors of the Company.

Insync has been growing since 2009, with a modest team that aims to provide a differentiated offer to clients and grow funds under management.

Insync have an experienced national sales manager working alongside a business development manager for the institutional market, bolstering the firm's resources. This marketing team enables the investment personnel to concentrate on managing the portfolios and have dedicated experienced distributors to focus on generating consistent fund flows.



#### **Investment Team**

Mr Monik Kotecha and Mr John Lobb are the designated Portfolio Managers. Mr Kotecha is the final decision-maker. He extensively consults with the team on the investment merits and risk assessment of each stock, position size and impact on the overall risk of the portfolio. Mr Kotecha is Insync's Chief Investment Officer, and has over 28 years of funds management experience in international and Australian equity markets, having worked in London, New York and Sydney. Mr Lobb's efforts focus on idea generation, analysis and the portfolio construction cycle.

Recently joining the team as a Senior Investment Analyst is Mr. Mark Haet, a seasoned analyst and portfolio manager with over 32 years' experience in the financial markets.

In conjunction with regular daily, weekly and monthly team meetings, there are ongoing ad hoc discussions to share information and debate strategies. A collaborative process is implemented to ensure the flow of communication. Key person risk is **material but manageable**, with low staff turnover.

## 2. Investment Process and Philosophy

## **Investable Universe**

The fund's investable universe is initially derived from the identification of 10-15 megatrend ideas. The team screens for these megatrend ideas from the starting position of the MSCI ACWI Index, which is comprised of 2,500 stocks. Through the application of screening factors such as Market Capitalisation, Return on Invested Capital (ROIC), and strong balance sheet, the universe is reduced to approximately 150-250 stocks. The screening emphasis on high quality and exposure to megatrends tends to bias the universe towards long-established, large capitalisation stocks.

## Process / Philosophy / Style

The concept of "megatrends" is at the core of the investment process as a key source of stock selection ideas. The Fund pays close attention to the portfoliolevel allocation and overlap of stocks across each megatrend.



Insync defines a megatrend as follows:

"Global megatrends are seismic shifts in demand which are powerful in magnitude and enduring in duration. They result from a convergence of different underlying trends including technology, innovation, demographics, social attitudes and lifestyles. In a rapidly changing global environment, megatrend analysis is critical for companies seeking to drive sustainable growth and remain relevant as competition increases and new ideas disrupt entire industries. Correctly identifying global megatrends provides important tailwinds to individual stocks and sectors. It provides a runway of assured growth for companies benefitting from them."

Idea generation is a critical part of Insync's investment process due to the highly-concentrated, low-turnover nature of the Fund. The aim is to invest in a small number of new companies each year so prioritizing research is an important first step in the process. Before committing to researching a new idea, certain key criteria need to be met:

- High and sustainable ROIC
- At least one megatrend that provides a runway of growth for the company
- Valuations that are reasonable
- A clear initial "variant hypothesis" that suggests the investment is potentially mispriced by the market on a longer-term basis

Insync's greater focus is on absolute valuation rather than relative valuation. This assists the Fund manage downside risk. The Fund employs three key tools to assess the valuation of a business: Proprietary ROIC Derived Evaluation, Free cash flow (FCF) yield and an implied growth model. ROIC Derived EValuation is the more dominant valuation method. Relative valuation is observed to understand how the market has priced the business over time.

## **Risk Management**

The philosophy and process of this Fund aims to provide downside protection in the shorter term. Risk management permeates the entire investment process, from stock selection through to portfolio construction.

The team investigates the relationship between the stocks in the portfolio using correlation/co-variance analysis and exposure to different macroeconomic factors. The team additionally aims to gain diversification across different megatrends. This is plotted and tabled as a 'heat map' on a stock by stock basis across a set of characteristics.

The Fund has an ongoing program of partial hedging of market risk through purchases of Index puts (\$&P500) using a systematic process. This provides ongoing downside mitigation against sharp market falls

The process aims to protect capital against severe market falls (in the vicinity of -15% or greater).

The Fund systematically purchases Index put options (\$&P500) to:

- 1. Protect the fund's investments in the event of a significant fall in the share market
- Optimise the cost such that it has a relatively small impact on performance of the fund
- 3. Manage the overall risk in the fund

#### 3. Portfolio Characteristics

## **Portfolio Turnover**

The fund employs a low turnover portfolio with a concentrated number of stocks, and consequently does not trade frequently. Turnover of the portfolio is expected to stay around the 25% per annum observed in previous years. On average, the fund expects to completely exit six stocks and enter six stocks each year.

#### Liquidity

Liquidity is not an issue at this FUM size, particularly since the Fund's natural focus tends to be on liquid large-cap stocks.

## Leverage

The Fund does **not** employ direct leverage (through borrowing by the Fund) **or** economic leverage (through the use of derivatives). The put option hedging strategy does not create economic leverage.

## 4. Performance & Risk

#### **Return Objective & Performance**

The return objective stated in the PDS is that the Fund aims to "delivery global equity-like returns over rolling 5 year periods, while providing downside protection for severe market falls, so as to deliver a highly beneficial result to investors over the full cycle". Additionally the fund aims to "outperform the MSCI All Country World ex-Australia Net Total Return Index in Australian Dollars over a full market cycle **before the cost of protection**".

The Fund's formal benchmark is the MSCI ACWI ex-Australia Net Return Index.



Over the 12 months to Nov-2019, the Fund returned 32.60% (after fees) compared to 22.64% for the benchmark. This is an outperformance of 9.96%.

#### Fund Excess Returns %: Half-yearly (net of fees)



#### **Length of Track Record**

The Fund has a history of 10.1 years (or 121 months).

Observations and analysis of returns will have material statistical meaning as a result of the sample size of observations.

#### **Risk Objective**

The Fund's PDS states that the risk level of the Fund is considered to be "medium to high risk". The PDS further states that "The Investment Manager considers that the "standard risk measure" for this Fund is a medium to high risk rating, which means that the estimated number of negative annual returns over any 20 year period is 3 to less than 4. On a scale of 1 to 7 where 7 is riskiest in this respect, the Fund is in category 5."

The Fund's **volatility** (standard deviation of monthly returns) over the **year to Nov-2019** was 11.14% compared to a peer average of 11.71% and 11.35% for the benchmark.

## **Drawdown Experience**

Drawdown Size (peak-to-trough)					
Fund Bench Peers					
Average	-2.61%	-3.77%	-4.03%		
Number	20	17	17		

Drawdowns have **on average** been materially better than the benchmark and the peer average.

**Definition:** A drawdown tracks the path of the Fund's accumulated NAV (with dividends reinvested). It is measured over the period of a peak-to-trough decline and the subsequent recovery back to that previous peak level. The total return over that entire period is, of course, zero. The metric of interest, the drawdown itself, is quoted as the percentage change between the peak and the trough over that period. Funds typically have multiple drawdowns of varying size and length over their lifetime. The table above shows how many drawdowns have occurred and their average peak-to-trough size.

#### 5. Other Features

Fees and Costs	Fund	Peer Avg
Management Fee (% p.a.)	1.30%	1.06%
Expense Recovery (% p.a.)	Nil	-
Performance Fee (%)	Nil	15.00%
Buy Spread (%)	0.20%	0.17%
Sell Spread (%)	0.20%	0.17%

## **Management Fee**

- Expressed as a percentage rate per annum of the Fund's Net Asset Value ("NAV")
- Calculated daily and paid to the Manager monthly.
- Including GST and impact of RITC (Reduced Input Tax Credit)

#### **Performance Fee:**

The Fund does not charge a performance fee.

## Governance

The Board of Directors of the Responsible Entity, Equity Trustees (EQT) consists of **six independent directors** (including the Chairman) from a total of **seven** members. SQM Research prefers the inclusion of independent members on the Board of Directors – it is a meaningful way to enhance governance oversight. EQT's Compliance Committee Charter requires that the Committee shall comprise at least three members all of whom (including the Chairman) are independent non-executive directors of EQT, with a quorum of two members required to attend a meeting. SQM Research views independence in a RE oversight body such as the Compliance Committee as a strong and favourable factor in Fund governance.



#### FUM (Funds under Management) / Capacity

The Fund is approximately \$32.5 million in size at Nov-2019.

The Manager believes that the capacity for this strategy is in the order of \$14.7 billion.

Fund Performance to 30 November 2019 (% p.a.)							
Total Return	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	Inception
Fund 1	4.54	1.31	14.52	32.60	18.72	11.93	11.67
Benchmark <sup>2</sup>	4.37	7.08	14.96	22.64	15.35	12.41	12.28
Peer Average	4.71	6.41	13.82	22.87	15.20	12.10	11.62
Alpha	0.16	-5.78	-0.44	9.96	3.37	-0.49	-0.61

<sup>1.</sup> Assumes dividend reinvestment. Returns 1 year and longer are annualised. Return history starts Nov-2009

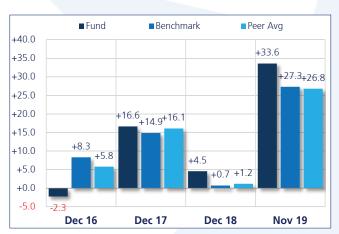
#### Growth of \$10,000



#### Strengths of the Fund

- The investment team have considerable experience in funds management and equity investing which have been bolstered by the addition of Mr. Mark Haet.
- The strategy incorporates systematic hedging of downside risk. The Fund has displayed strong defensive characteristics in the face of equity market distress.
- Analysis of fund returns stripped of fees, costs, hedging and cash drag indicate that the Manager's pure stock selection skills add value.
- The Fund displays a low correlation with other funds in its sector category, suggesting it would blend well and bring diversification benefits when incorporated with other such funds.

#### **Annual Returns**



### Weaknesses of the Fund

- The hedging of downside risk creates a drag on upside performance capture.
- The Fund's performance, net of fees and option protection, has not met long-term expectations. The Fund performed strongly in 2018 significantly outperforming the benchmark, particularly in the month of December, where markets were weak. The Fund has underperformed its benchmark over five years and since inception on an after-cost after-fee basis. An element of this underperformance relates to the systematic put-option hedging strategy. The above-average life of the bull market has meant that the Fund's strong defensive positioning (high cash, a program of put-protection) has been a significant on-going performance drag without the offsetting "pay-off" that would occur in a major market correction. History would suggest that a correction will occur. However, the timing and size are of course uncertain. SQM Research notes that



<sup>2.</sup> Benchmark: MSCI ACWI Ex Australia NR AUD

the trend in annual alpha has improved substantially in recent years, from significant underperformance in 2016, to outperforming the benchmark by +1.74% in 2017, +3.84% in 2018 and +6.29% in the eleven months to November 2019.

• The Fund's management fee and ICR are higher than the peer group.

## **Other Considerations**

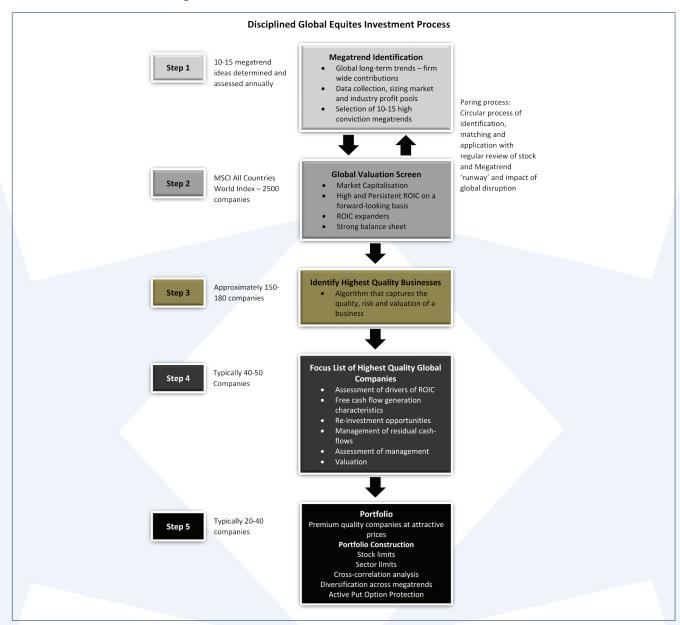
- The Fund is not designed to provide regular, consistent income – the focus is on total riskadjusted returns.
- Insync actively manages currency exposures, with the flexibility to hedge 0-100% of the fund's overseas exposure back into Australian dollars using a meanreversion approach.

## Key Changes since the Last Review

No changes to investment process since the previous review.



## **Investment Process Diagram**



## **Process Description**

## Universe

Investable Universe The fund's investable universe is initially derived from the identification of 10-15 mega trend ideas. The team screens for these mega trend ideas from the starting position of the MSCI ACWI Index, which is comprised of 2,500 stocks. Through the application of screening factors such as Market Capitalisation, Return on Invested Capital (ROIC), and strong balance sheet, the universe is reduced to approximately 150-250 stocks.

#### **Investment Process**

Top-down or bottom-up

The investment process is predominantly individual bottom-up stock selection.



#### **Investment Process**

Research and Portfolio Construction Process

#### **dea Generation**

Idea generation is a critical part of Insync's investment process due to the highly-concentrated, low-turnover nature of the Fund. The aim is to invest in a small number of new companies each year so prioritising research is an important first step in the process. Before committing to researching a new idea, certain key criteria need to be met:

- High and sustainable ROIC
- At least one megatrend that provides a runway of growth for the company
- Valuations that are reasonable
- A clear initial "variant hypothesis" that suggests the investment is potentially mispriced by the market on a longer-term basis

The Fund differentiates between the commonly understood definition of thematics and Insync's concept of megatrends. A megatrend runs for much longer time periods and include substantive industry and economic support. The primary characteristics are: persistency, disruption, and being long-term in nature – usually a decade plus.

The concept of megatrends is at the core of the investment process and is a key source of stock selection ideas. The Fund pays close attention to the portfolio-level allocation and overlap of stocks across each megatrend.

#### **Initial Screen**

The universe of circa 200 investable companies is monitored with an internally developed screen which draws data from Bloomberg. The Fund is particularly interested in assessing free cash flow yield, EV to EBITDA, ROIC, accruals, gross margins, EBITDA margins, net margins, asset turnover, leverage and buybacks. The screen calculates the delta (rate of change) of comparable half-yearly sales, EBIT margin, ROA and earnings revisions to alert the team to the possibility of underlying problems. The screen provides a comparison between the portfolio and the universe of investible securities across all these metrics. The purpose of this process is to question the names and position sizes within the portfolio regularly and to highlight candidates for portfolio inclusion. The screen is reviewed bi-weekly.

#### Security Selection (Research & Screening Process)

Insync's greater focus is on **absolute valuation** rather than relative valuation. This helps the Fund manage downside risk. The Fund employs three main tools to assess the valuation of a business: proprietary ROIC derived Evaluation, free cash flow (FCF) yield and an implied growth model. ROIC derived Evaluation is the more dominant valuation method. Relative valuation is observed to understand how the market has priced the business over time.

- 1. **ROIC derived EValuation:** As high returns on capital tend to be more stable than revenue and operating profits, Insync utilise a DCF model that employs ROIC as the core input in assessing the valuation of the business.
- 2. Free Cash Flow Yield: Companies that generate free cash flow are in a strong position to grow their business and dividends without requiring external funding. Insync invests in companies that are trading on a higher free cash flow yield than the local government bond. A higher free cash flow yield compared to government bonds (the "risk-free rate") can be a signal the company is trading at an attractive valuation. Investing in a high-quality company with growing cash flows is more attractive than the steady cash flows received from a bond. Free cash flow yield allows a meaningful comparison against both other stocks and fixed income assets. The critical element to using this metric effectively is to adjust properly for the difference in risk between a stock and the relevant bond.



Research and Portfolio Construction Process

...continued

- 3. **Implied Growth Model:** Insync uses proprietary implied growth models to calculate the extent to which future earnings, cash flow and dividend **growth** is captured in stock's current share price. An educated value judgement is then made about how achievable or otherwise the implied growth rates look, given the strength and expected duration (sustainability) of the company's business franchise.
- 4. **Relative Valuation:** The **relative** valuation of the company to its peer group and the market in general is evaluated and considered. It assists in understanding the market's current view on a company and identifies any <u>variant perception</u> there might be between the market and the Insync view.

#### **Portfolio Construction**

The portfolio construction process involves a **balance between high conviction and diversification**. The size of the position is determined by the level of conviction held for each stock.

The companies with the most predictable earnings and/or higher ROIC are awarded the highest quality rank. This is then combined with an assessment of valuation.

This is shown in the matrix below. Companies with the most predictable earnings, and less risk of a significant fall in earnings, can have a position size of 5-10%, provided there is a high degree of undervaluation. Companies that have a lower quality ranking can only have a maximum weight of 3-5%, provided there is a sufficient degree of undervaluation.

Ranking	Degree of Undervaluation	Predictability in Earnings	Maximum Stock Weight
1	>20%	High	5-10%
2	>20%	Medium	3-5%
Initial Position	Fair value	High/Medium	1-2%

Portfolios are continuously monitored by the investment team at regular meetings. Ad hoc meetings are also held, particularly around significant event risks.

Buy and sell targets are reviewed on a weekly basis as are stop loss limits. Weekly team meetings concentrate on short-term individual stock developments. The team reviews the multi-factor screening models to assess any significant movements in the universe which require a reassessment of an individual stock holding or the possibility of researching a new idea.

The team has monthly investment strategy meetings which cover macroeconomics, portfolio structure, sector trends, political and market developments. As a complement, the team uses numerous tools to assess portfolio structure and risks including Bloomberg risk management models, a cross-correlation matrix and a macro risk management factor matrix.

## **Sell Discipline**

Sell levels are established following an assessment of the quality of the business model, the sustainability of ROIC, the company's ability to grow free cash flow and the stock's level of valuation. As Insync portfolios are concentrated, transactions must be carefully considered and are undertaken only when the addition or deletion of a stock improves the portfolio's overall quality and valuation. Buy/Sell decisions are based on the same principle. Positions are trimmed or sold when:

- A stock's free cash flow yield is too low
- The quality of the company declines due to deteriorating ROIC or poor allocation of capital



Research and Portfolio Construction Process ...continued Stop loss limits are employed and monitored. The rationale is to ensure that the Fund does not fall into a 'value trap'. A soft limit and a hard limit are used in the process.

The **soft limit** is either a 15% fall from the 12-month high, or purchase price if bought in the past 12 months, prompts a review of the investment thesis.

The **hard limit** is a 25% fall from the 12-month high, or purchase price if bought in the past 12 months, leads to an automatic sell. Once sold the stock is reviewed to consider whether it still meets the quality investment universe. If not then it is removed from the universe. If it remains in the universe it has the potential to re-enter the portfolio.

#### Risk Management

On the question of risk, the philosophy and process aim to provide downside protection in the shorter term. The risk controls that aim to ensure sufficient diversification of the portfolio and protect against absolute loss of capital include:

Portfolio Risk Control	Limits in Portfolio	
Individual stock weight	0-10%	
Individual GICS Industry weight	0-+30%	
Emerging markets	0-30%	
Cash	0-5%	
Stop/Loss Limit – Soft (relative)	15% from 12-month peak	
Stop/Loss Limit – Hard (relative)	25% from 12-month peak	

Risk management permeates the entire investment process, from stock selection through to portfolio construction.

The team investigates the relationship between the stocks in the portfolio using correlation/co-variance analysis and exposure to different macroeconomic factors. The team aims to gain diversification across different megatrends. This is plotted and tabled as a 'heat map' on a stock by stock basis across a set of characteristics.

This process aims to defend capital in the face of severe market falls (in the vicinity of -15% or greater).

The Fund systematically purchases Index put options (S&P500) to:

- 1. Protect the fund's investments in the event of a significant fall in the share market
- 2. Optimise the cost such that it has a relatively small impact on performance of the fund
- 3. Manage the overall risk in the fund

The level of protection chosen will depend on many factors, including:

- <u>High Valuations/Expensive Markets</u> When the market is trading at extreme valuations (traditional valuation metrics like P/E ratios are in the higher trading range), the Fund will employ the greatest level of protection.
- <u>Low Valuations/Cheap Markets</u> Where markets have corrected and/or valuations look reasonable, the Fund is unlikely to employ put protection as stock prices have already discounted a negative scenario.
- Exogenous Factors Factors unrelated to the general health of the market, but may have a direct impact on asset prices. For example, the US Budget crisis in 2011 when the government could not agree on raising the official debt ceiling.
- <u>Irrational Exuberance</u> When the market exhibits exuberance or 'bubble' characteristics the Fund would look to increase put protection.



## Research and Portfolio Construction Process

...continued

The Fund will usually have 30% of the portfolio protected. Through the cycle it can vary from 0% to 100% depending on risk tolerance and factors such as:

- Overall equity market exposure
- Underlying factor risks of the portfolio
- Whether investors could benefit from any asymmetric risk opportunities
- Where the Fund could employ greater protection than equity exposure

Before the market experiences a major correction, often implied volatility (a component of the cost of option protection) is at or near historic lows which in turn means the cost of protection is low. Complacency enters the market and the need to use downside protection strategies is unappreciated. This provides opportunities for the Fund to employ protection strategies that can cost a relatively small amount with large upside potential.

Typically, the Fund accepts that paying between 2%-3% p.a. for protection is a reasonable proposition.

**Implied Volatility (IV)** – The Fund buys protection when IV is low. As IV increases the price of options increases and vice versa. Generally, when markets are increasing, volatility decreases as investors perceive the risks to be lower

**Strike Price** – The Fund targets 10%-15% out of the money (OTM). The Fund takes a measured approached when exiting the position;

- IV at 30% The team assesses the background of the market fall. If the fall seems related to a fundamental change in the economic climate, one would expect IV to increase and the Fund would continue to hold the option position. If it is not, the Fund would look to reduce a portion of the protection ranging from 10%-20%.
- IV at 40% As IV approaches 40% the Fund would look to realise a greater portion of profits from the protection strategy probably another 20-40%.
- IV at 50% or above the Fund would likely exit the entire position as the team believes valuations have hit record or historic lows and it could be a time to use the proceeds to purchase stocks.

#### **Trading/Implementation**

#### **Trade Execution**

Trades are placed by the Portfolio Manager, typically with instructions to buy at the Volume Weighted Average Price (VWAP). Brokerage is allocated based on good execution, access to company management and conferences.

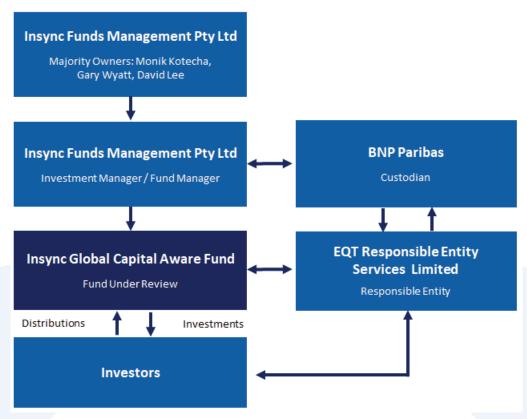
Insync maintains a best execution policy for all trading activity. Market conditions along with factors that are transaction-specific and broker-specific determine how a trade is executed and the appropriate counterparty for a given trade.

# Hedging and Derivatives

Derivatives (put options) are utilised only in the instance of hedging the equity portfolio.



## **Key Counterparties**



## **Parent Company**

There is no parent company. Controlling shareholders are Monik Kotecha and Garry Wyatt who are active directors of the Company – Insync Funds Management Pty Ltd.

## **Investment Manager / Fund Manager**

Insync Funds Management Pty Ltd is the Investment and Fund Manager. Established in July 2009, Insync is a global equity specialist based in Sydney, Australia.

## **Responsible Entity**

Equity Trustees (EQT) is a financial services company headquartered in Melbourne. Established in 1888 and listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) in 1985, EQT provides a range of products and services to a diverse client base including fund managers, managed funds, superannuation funds, and financial planning. Equity Trustees acts as Responsible Entity or Trustee for over 80 major Australian and international investment managers.

The Board of Directors of the Responsible Entity (RE) consists of **seven** directors, **six** of whom are independent, including the Chairman.

The Board's principal responsibility regarding EQT's Responsible Entity activities is to ensure the company has adequate systems of internal controls and appropriate monitoring of compliance activities.

The Equity Trustees Board Charter (May-2018) mandates that the Board adhere to the following principles:

- The Board will comprise an appropriate number of directors of whom a majority are independent non-executive directors and ordinarily reside in Australia.
- The Board will be led by an independent chair who is not the same person as the Managing Director.
- Directors, collectively, are to have the appropriate balance of skills, knowledge, experience, independence and diversity to enable it to discharge its duties and responsibilities effectively.
- The Board assesses at least annually whether its Directors are independent
- Board meetings are to take place at least quarterly.
- Two members of the Board form a quorum.



## **Management Risk**

Funds management businesses rely on the operational capabilities of key counterparties. A critical element is the ability of the Responsible Entity to monitor operational performance and to meet the regulatory and statutory responsibilities required. For any investment fund, there is a risk that a weak financial position or management performance deterioration of key counterparties could temporarily or permanently compromise their performance and competency. This can adversely affect financial or regulatory outcomes for the Fund or associated entities.

Based on the materials reviewed, SQM Research believes that Insync and associated key counterparties are highly qualified to carry out their assigned responsibilities. Management risk is rated as low.

## Funds under Management (FUM)

The Fund is approximately \$32.5 million in size at **Nov-2019**.

Date	FUM	Net Flows \$m*
Mar-18	\$29.0	\$0.50
Jun-18	\$31.1	-\$2.10
Sep-18	\$32.4	\$2.65
Dec-18	\$31.2	\$1.93
Mar-19	\$28.3	-\$6.03
Jun-19	\$31.0	-\$2.29
Sep-19	\$31.2	\$0.65
Nov-19	\$32.5	\$0.30

\* estimated

#### **FUM for Fund Under Review (\$million)**



#### **Quarterly Net Flows (\$milion)**



## **Distributions**

The Fund has discretion in choosing the frequency of distributions. Distributions occur on an annual basis, subject to the availability of distributable income. In a scenario where the Fund's realised losses and expenses exceed income in a distribution period, the Fund may elect not to make a distribution during that time.

Distribution Date	Distribution CPU	Unit Price \$	Distribution %
Jun-11	0.59	\$1.000	0.59
May-12	3.03	\$1.176	2.58
Jun-12	4.14	\$1.111	3.73
Jun-13	1.89	\$1.292	1.46
Jun-14	4.13	\$1.390	2.97
Jun-15	5.00	\$1.672	2.99
Jun-17	4.06	\$1.796	2.26
Jun-18	15.93	\$2.017	7.90
Jun-19	11.93	\$2.123	5.62

## A General Note on Distributions for Managed Funds

The Responsible Entity of a Managed Fund will provide for a regular schedule of distributions, such as monthly/ quarterly/semi-annual or annual. This is subject to the Fund having sufficient distributable income. The official total distributable income available to pay to investors is determined or the period of that Fund's financial year. By distributing the net taxable income of the Fund to investors each year, a Fund itself should not be liable for tax on its net earnings.

If a Fund makes distributions more frequently than once over the financial year, those distributions will be based on estimates of the distributable income for that distribution period. The final total amount of distributable income available for passing on to investors can only be calculated



after the close of the financial year, based on the Funds taxable income for that year.

If the total distributions a Fund pays out exceeds total taxableincome for that particular financial year, the excess amount may be treated as a return of capital rather than income. This will possibly have tax implications for the investor.

Due to the considerations outlined above, there may be periods in which no distributions are made or a Fund may make additional distributions

A Fund's ability to distribute income is determined by the performance of the Fund and general market conditions. Accordingly, there is no guarantee a Fund will make a distribution in any distribution period.



Name	Responsibility/Position	Location	Years at Firm	Years in Industry
Monik Kotecha	Chief Investment Officer	Sydney	9.9	28.0
John Lobb	Portfolio Manager	Sydney	2.7	30.0
Mark Haet	Senior Investment Analyst	Sydney	1.0	32.0
Peter Wong	Investment Analyst	Sydney	9.9	12.0
Garry Wyatt	Chief Executive Officer	Melbourne	9.9	21.0

### **Investment Team**

Mr Monik Kotecha and Mr John Lobb are the designated Portfolio Managers. Mr Kotecha is the final decision-maker. He extensively consults with the team on the investment merits and risk assessment of each stock, position size and impact on the overall risk of the portfolio. Mr Kotecha is Insync's Chief Investment Officer, and has over 28 years of funds management experience in international and Australian equity markets, having worked in London, New York and Sydney. Mr Lobb's efforts focus on idea generation, analysis and the portfolio construction cycle. He assists with the risk management function and drives the research in collecting and analysing industry data in conjunction with the rest of the team.

Recently joining the team as a Senior Investment Analyst is Mr. Mark Haet, a seasoned analyst and portfolio manager with over 32 years' experience in the financial markets. He brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the Insync team.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr Garry Wyatt, has held senior financial positions with several major companies including United Distillers Group, David Brown Gear Industries, Tooheys (Victoria) and WMC before joining David W. Lee & Associates P/L in 2009.

In conjunction with regular daily, weekly and monthly team meetings, there are ongoing ad hoc discussions to share information and debate strategies. A collaborative process is implemented to ensure the flow of communication. Key person risk is **material but manageable**, with low staff turnover.

## **Meeting Schedule**

The table below shows regular meetings that form an important part of the overall process.

Meeting	Purpose	Frequency	Participants
Daily Meeting	Discuss significant stock specific news, industry news, significant stock price action and company results.	Daily	Chief Investment Officer, PM, Analysts
Weekly Team Meetings	Short-term individual stock developments, buy/sell targets are reviewed as are stop loss limits. Multi-factor screening models are reviewed to assess any significant movements in the universe which require reassessment of an individual portfolio holding or an opportunity to research a new idea.	Weekly	Chief Investment Officer, PM, Analysts
Monthly Investment Strategy Meetings	Cover macroeconomics, portfolio structure, megatrends, sector trends, political and market developments. Multiple tools are used to assess the portfolio structure and risks including Bloomberg risk management models, cross correlation matrix and a macro risk management factor matrix.	Monthly	Chief Investment Officer, PM, Investment Counsel, Analysts
Ad Hoc Meetings	Organised in response to any significant event risks	Ad Hoc	Chief Investment Officer, PM, Analysts

SQM Research believes the practice of constant communication and the broad-based inclusion of team members in decision-making is a vital ingredient to the success of the process. Interactive peer review and collaboration across a tightly knit group of experienced investors will likely make the best use of their combined intellectual property and shared history.



## **Staffing Changes**

Departures			
Date	Name	Responsibility	Reason for Departure
31-Oct-16	Nitesh Patel	Investment Analyst	Pursue new opportunity
30-Apr-17	Yu Ming Cawthorn	Business Development Manager	Pursue new opportunity

Additions / Hires						
Date	Name	Responsibility	Reason for Departure			
01-Jan-17	John Lobb	Investment Analyst	Portfolio Manager - Orion Asset Management			
01-Jul-16	Tony Breen	Institutional Sales	Director - Sorrento Capital			
09-May-18	Damen Purcell	National Manager Distribution	Head of Retail Clients - RF Capital			
01-Dec-18	Mark Haet	Senior Investment Analyst	Portfolio Manager - Ellerston Capital			

SQM Research observes that the levels of investment experience and company tenure are strong across the investment team. The size and nature of staff turnover are not an issue of concern, in SQM's view.

## **Key Investment Staff**

## Monik Kotecha – Chief Investment Officer/Portfolio Manager

Insync's Chief Investment Officer, Mr Kotecha, has over 28 years of funds management experience in international and Australian equity markets and has worked in London, New York and Sydney. This included over 7 years as a Senior Portfolio Manager at Investors Mutual Limited, 5 years with BT Funds Management Limited and 3 years with the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

Mr Kotecha was a Senior Portfolio Manager of the Australian Share Fund at Investors Mutual Limited and a key member of the Investment Team which was awarded Fund Manager of the Year Australian Equities in 2002 & 2003 by Money Management. Before this, he was the lead portfolio manager for over 5 years at BT Funds Management Limited on various international equity funds and spent some time as a member of the asset allocation team. He spent the first few years in funds management as a Pan European Equity analyst at the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority in London.

# Garry Wyatt – Chief Executive Officer/Investment Counsel

Insync's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Wyatt, has held senior financial positions with several major companies including United Distillers Group, David Brown Gear Industries, Tooheys (Victoria) and WMC before joining David W. Lee & Associates P/L in 2009. He has a Bachelor of Economics degree and is an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia.

Mr Wyatt brings a wealth of corporate experience across a range of important business functions including financial and process control disciplines, project and operational management, business and strategic planning and internal audit. As most of the operational activities at Insync are outsourced, he uses his extensive commercial experience to provide valuable input and insight to the investment team.

#### John Lobb – Portfolio Manager

Mr Lobb started his career in 1989 as assistant portfolio manager for Bankers Trust Australia based in Sydney. In 1994 he joined Citigroup Global Asset Management where, as a small cap specialist, he advanced to portfolio manager of industrial equities and joint manager of the balanced fund. Mr Lobb moved to Credit Suisse Global Asset Management in 1997 researching and analysing industrial equities culminating in the development, marketing and management of the Australian equity small cap fund.

In January 2003 he moved to Orion Asset Management at its inception. Contributing to the management of the ASX300 Fund, Mr Lobb served as Lead portfolio manager of the small cap Australian Equities fund. From 2011, he was also a portfolio manager on the global, long-short equities fund focused on Asia. He remained at Orion until February 2014.

Mr Lobb has a BA Economics majoring in Accountancy and Finance from Macquarie University and a Diploma from the Securities Institute of Australia.



#### Mark Haet - Senior Investment Analyst

Mr. Haet has over 32 years of fund management experience in international equity markets. This includes experience as a portfolio manager at Ellerston Capital, QBE Insurance, Kingdon Capital and BT Funds Management.

Mr. Haet began his career at Prudential Assurance in 1986 as an Australian equities analyst. In 1994, he moved to BT Funds Management, managing a Latin American equity portfolio for 4 years, before working for Kingdon Capital, a \$3bn+ hedge fund from 1998-2002 in New York. Here he managed their Latin American and EEM portfolios.

Mr. Haet then moved to QBE Insurance, managing their UK equity portfolios for 2 years, before joining Ellerston Gems long short fund where he spent 13 years as a portfolio manager. His primary focus was on US equities.

Mr. Haet has Bachelor of Arts in Economics, magna cum laude, from Duke University. He is also a CFA and an Associate of the Securities Institute of Australia.

## Peter Wong – Investment Analyst

Mr Wong graduated from Macquarie University with a Commerce degree in 2007. He worked for a boutique financial advisory firm in Sydney as a research assistant and was involved in many aspects of the investment process. These included reviewing clients' Managed Discretionary Account (MDA) share portfolios, analysing companies and producing research reports for the senior investment team.

### Remuneration and Incentives

Insync has an overall compensation philosophy that aligns individual awards with client success.

Total compensation for investment staff includes base salary and incentive compensation as follows:

**Base salary or Base salary/Discretionary Bonus** - is based on an individual's experience and responsibilities.

Incentive compensation or Long-term incentives - Insync's policy remunerates investment team members through a combination of salary and a performance-based bonus providing the potential to earn more than what a large institutional based fund manager would pay over time. The bonus is aligned to the performance of the clients and over time will represent a sizeable portion of total compensation.

Insync encourages equity take-up by all key staff including the investment team. Insync is in the process of finalising a formal equity participation scheme for long-term staff retention for key investment team members.

Salaries are reviewed annually in conjunction with a review of key tasks, objectives and deliverables (performance review) and to industry norms and the size of equity position held.

SQM Research believes remuneration in the form of firm equity and client-focused performance bonuses act as strong incentives for optimising staff engagement, retention and productivity. The intention (and SQM believes, the effect) is to align staff performance with client and shareholder objectives. It focuses on the customers' needs and medium to long-term results.



#### **Fees**

Fees and Costs	Fund	Peer Avg
Management Fee (% p.a.)	1.30%	1.06%
Expense Recovery (% p.a.)	Nil	-
Performance Fee (%)	Nil	15.00%
Indirect Cost Ratio ICR (% p.a.)	1.30%	1.08%
ICR Date: 30-Jun-18		
Buy Spread (%)	0.20%	0.17%
Sell Spread (%)	0.20%	0.17%

Other Features	Fund	Peer Avg
Redemptions	Daily	-
Distributions	Annually	-
Minimum Investment	\$10,000	\$116,667
1-Year Investment: round Trip Cost	1.70%	1.40%

## **Buy/Sell Spread**

This spread represents the difference between the application price and the withdrawal price of the Fund, a reflection of transaction costs relating to the underlying assets.

## **Ongoing Fees**

The management fee includes GST and is net of any applicable Reduced Input Tax Credits (RITC).

The management fee is calculated daily and paid to the Manager monthly.

## **Performance Fees**

The Fund does not charge a performance fee.

## **Overall Fees**

## 1-year Investment: Round Trip Cost.

If held and redeemed within 12 months, total costs would amount to **1.70%** of investment in the Fund.

This figure includes the management fee, expense recovery (when disclosed) and the buy/sell spread. It does **not** consider rebates or negotiations or any potential **performance fee**.

SQM Research observes that the Fund management fee is 1.30% p.a., which is 24 basis points higher than the peer group average of 1.06% p.a.



0.70

Total Return	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	Inception
Fund <sup>1</sup>	4.54	1.31	14.52	32.60	18.72	11.93	11.67
Benchmark <sup>2</sup>	4.37	7.08	14.96	22.64	15.35	12.41	12.28
Peer Average	4.71	6.41	13.82	22.87	15.20	12.10	11.62
Alpha	0.16	-5.78	-0.44	9.96	3.37	-0.49	-0.61
Metrics				1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	Inception
Tracking Error (% p.a.) - Fund				7.43	5.99	6.07	7.28
Tracking Error (% p.a.)	- Peer Average	<del></del>		5.50	4.91	4.98	4.53
Information Ratio - Fund				1.34	0.56	-0.08	-0.08
Information Ratio - Peer Average				0.13	0.06	-0.03	-0.01
Sharpe Ratio - Fund				2.79	1.62	0.95	0.92
Sharpe Ratio - Peer A	verage			1.95	1.31	0.93	0.85
Volatility - Fund (% p.c	a.)			11.14	10.46	10.50	9.52
Volatility - Peer Average (% p.a.)			11.71	10.33	10.93	10.32	
Volatility - Benchmark	(% p.a.)			11.35	9.58	10.11	9.70

0.77

0.90

- 1. Assumes dividend reinvestment, Returns 1 year and longer are annualised, Return history starts Nov-2009
- 2. Benchmark: MSCI ACWI Ex Australia NR AUD

Beta based on stated Benchmark

## Analysis of Return History for the Insync Global Capital Aware Fund

The standard approach SQM Research undertakes for quantitative return assessment is to review returns after all fees and costs. Those comments, charts and tables will be found below from the heading "Quantitative Insight" onwards. That analysis reflects the realised experience of investors and the returns physically delivered to them that impacts their wealth and savings.

In this section, SQM Research reviews an important "component" of the net return that is useful to understand in assessing the future return potential of the Fund, namely the put protection program.

This is ongoing hedging strategy is designed to provide protection benefits that have yet to be fully realised due to the long-lived nature of the current bull market. The ongoing cost of that program has reduced historical returns without an offsetting benefit that will likely come at some point in the future if history serves as a guide

**Put-Option program:** The table below shows Fund returns including **and** excluding the impact of the put-option hedging program. It can be seen that the Fund's alpha has been consistently reduced by approximately 2.00% or more per annum. This is a

significant on-going performance drag which has persisted for longer than expected due to the well above-average life of the current bull market. The put program's cost has not yet seen the benefit of the offsetting "pay-off" that would occur in a major market correction. History would suggest that a correction will occur, however the timing and size is of course uncertain. Again, investors should **not** consider that these historical hedging costs will necessarily be recovered in full (or at all) in a major correction. The size of the "pay-off" and its impact on an investors ongoing returns depends on:

0.86

- The length of time between investing in the Fund and a market correction the shorter the better. The put program is a regular cost being occurred and the pay-off is irregular, uncertain in timing and uncertain in size.
- The severity of the market correction the bigger the better, all other things being equal. This of course is specifically related to the put option impact, separate to the wider ramifications of a major market correction on an investor's overall portfolio and other holdings
- The returns being generated by the Fund's physical stock holdings over the period of the correction.

<sup>1.</sup> Note: Sharpe and Information Ratios are not reliable comparison tools in periods where both the Fund and its peers/benchmark record a negative result



Insync Fund Returns - Co						
Total Return	1-year	3-year	5-Year	7-Year	10-Year	Comment
Gross Return Equites	17.43	20.05	17.22	18.91	15.43	Excludes impact of fees, derivatives and excess cash
MSCI ACWI Index	8.65	14.47	12.43	15.91	11.48	Benchmark returns
Stock Selection Alpha	8.78	5.57	4.79	3.00	3.95	Alpha from pure stock selection
Contribution from Put Options	0.26	-1.64	-2.16	-2.11	-1.37	Impact of ongoing put option hedging
Cash Drag	-0.34	-0.30	-0.41	-0.63	-0.41	Impact of prior policy for holding high cash levels
Total Fees	-1.31	-1.67	-2.02	-2.47	-2.12	Impact of MER and prior performance fees
Net Fund Alpha	6.85	1.33	-0.21	-2.56	-0.44	Total Alpha after fees and factors listed above

Source: Insync

There are elements of "cost" (i.e. negative impact) to historical returns that have changed in the past couple of years due to Fund policy changes. These will likely have a materially different impact on future returns than has been the case in the past (namely cash drag and performance fees)

Cash Drag: As part of the Fund's overall conservative stance and focus on capital preservation, it had tended to hold relatively high levels of cash (up to 20% or more). This has provided some downside buffer and lowered the Fund's beta, but has come at a meaningful cost to returns due to cash earning significantly less than global equity returns. The Manager came to the view that this approach is an unnecessary dilution of stock selection alpha since there is already downside protection in place via the put-option program. This creates a doubling-up effect on conservatism. In late 2017 the Manager changed its portfolio construction parameters to reflect a largely fully invested position (cash at 2-3% or less, with a range of 0-5%) in order to maximise stock selection impact, with downside protection being maintained via the put option program.

This should, in theory, have some positive impact on returns and alpha in the future but investors should take into consideration the following:

Cash drag has been a cost of upwards of 0.40 to 0.60% historically. The fact that cash holdings will be lower does not imply that this historical level of cost will be "clawed back" in the future. The "cost" of cash is a function of the amount of cash held combined with the performance difference between cash and portfolio investments. Since the Fund's inception the cash holding has on average

been high and equity returns have also been historically high so the cost to returns has been high. Going forward the cash levels will be low, and if equity returns are also low the positive impact of lower cash drag will be reduced compared to history.

 The Fund Managers stock selection alpha has been a partial offset to cash drag but the past level of alpha is not a guarantee of the future level of alpha, which may be higher or lower (or even negative). The consistency of the Managers' previous positive value-add from stock selection is worthy of consideration.

Performance Fee: The Line Item "Total Fees" in the table above includes the impact of the Fund's historical performance fee – which was eliminated in late 2017. The performance fee cost has been reasonably meaningful over the years. Investors should be aware that this historical cost does not mean that future returns will be higher by that same amount. Performance fees are lumpy, irregular and can vary wildly depending on particular circumstances, including

- The length of time the Fund has been outperforming
- Overall size of the outperformance
- Stability i.e. large, lumpy outperformance versus smaller, more regular outperformance
- Whether the Fund is over or under its high water mark
- The timing of outperformance with the measurement period, e.g. early in the year compared to late in the year



## Quantitative Insight<sup>1</sup>

Note: Unless otherwise stated, all return and risk data reported in this section are net <u>after-fees and costs</u> and for periods **ending Nov-2019**.

#### **Returns**



Excess Returns (Alpha)



The Fund has displayed strong performance out to three years when compared with benchmark and peers. Results for longer periods are mixed.

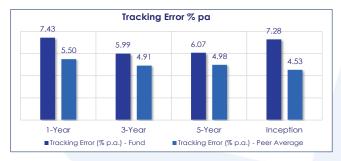
The **return outcomes** as described above are reasonable relative to the PDS objective, and are in line with SQM's expectations for the Fund relative to its fee level and volatility when considering:

- 1. The last three years of net alpha
- 2. The longer term record of pure stock selection alpha generated by the investment process.

#### Risk



The Fund's **volatility** (standard deviation of monthly returns) has tended to be around, or slightly lower than benchmark and peers.



The Fund's **tracking error** (standard deviation of monthly **excess** returns) has tended to be higher than peers.

The **risk outcomes** as describe above regarding volatility and tracking error are in line with the PDS statements about risk and are are consistent with SQM's expectations for this Fund when considering its concentrated stock weights and the impact of put option hedging.

#### **Drawdowns**

Drawdown	Summary					
	Drawdown Size (peak-to-trough)					
	Fund	Bench	Peers			
Average	-2.61%	-3.77%	-4.03%			
Number	20	17	17			
Best	-0.04%	-3.81%	-4.08%			
Worst	-10.23%	-13.30%	-12.13%			

Length of Drawdown (in months)					
Fund Bench Peers					
Average 4.7 5.4 5.6					

Length of Drawdown = time from peak to trough and back to previous peak level

Drawdowns have **on average** been significantly better than the benchmark and the peer average – an outcome assisted by the use of put option hedging.

#### **Snail Trail**

The snail trail chart and tables below show the combination of the Fund's rolling 3-year excess returns and rolling 3-year excess volatility.

There are **86** observations in total.



The two tables below display the distribution of these observations and their overall frequency across the risk/return quadrants.

Snail Trail Distribution						
Frequency	Lo-Vol	Hi-Vol	Total			
Hi-Return	14	14	28			
Lo-Return	43	15	58			
Total	57	29	86			
% of Total	Lo-Vol	Hi-Vol	Total			
Hi-Return	16.3%	16.3%	32.6%			
Lo-Return	50.0%	17.4%	67.4%			
Total	66.3%	33.7%	100.0%			

## 86 rolling 3-year observations

In assessing a snail trail it is important to note the following:

**Q1 upper left-hand quadrant** - higher return than the Fund's market index with lower volatility (less risk). This is the optimal position.

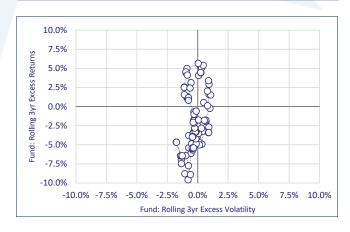
**Q2 upper right-hand quadrant** - higher return than the Fund's market index with higher volatility (more risk). This can often be a desirable position depending on the attractiveness of the Sharpe ratios produced in this zone. It is important to note that in the case of inflation or cash-style benchmarks, the Q1 top left-hand quadrant is unachievable as it is not possible to deliver lower volatility than what is virtually zero for the benchmark. In such cases, the Q2 zone is the optimal position.

**Q3 lower left-hand quadrant** - lower return than the Fund's market index with lower volatility (less risk). Less than ideal, and Sharpe ratios can assist is assessing the risk/return trade-off in this zone.

**Q4 lower right-hand quadrant** - lower return than the Fund's market index with higher volatility (more risk). The least desirable outcome

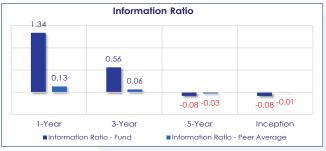
## **Consistency**

The more "bunched together" the cluster of dots, the more consistent is the performance. A second indicator of consistency is the trail's nomadic nature. Trails that roam across multiple quadrants over time are indicating **low consistency** in the Fund's risk return profile. The quadrant that **contains the bulk** of the Fund's snail trail is likely to be more representative of the Fund's risk/return characteristics and identity.



#### **Risk-Adjusted Returns**





The Fund's risk-adjusted returns (as measured by Sharpe and Information ratios) have been are reasonable relative to the PDS objective, and are in line with SQM's expectations for the Fund relative to its fee level and volatility when considering:

- 1. The last three years of net alpha
- 2. The impact of using put option hedging

## Correlation

	Correlation	Min	Max	Avg
3 yr rolling	S&P/ASX 300	-44.59%	62.49%	9.55%
3 yr rolling	MSCI World	37.43%	93.67%	75.35%

#### 86 data points

There is a moderate correlation of the Fund's returns with the S&P ASX300 index and a strong correlation to global equities.

## Tail Risk

(The analysis in the following table looks at the tail risk performance relationship of the Fund to the ASX300, a practice that SQM has set as common across asset classes in Fund reviews. This approach recognises that for the large bulk of financial planner clients, their key traditional asset class risk regarding size and volatility is to Australian equities. Exploring that relationship is useful regardless of the asset class of the Fund itself, as it is helpful to understand how a Fund has acted in times of Australian equity market stress in terms softening or exaggerating the negative performance experienced at such times.)



The table below details the **ten largest negative monthly returns** for the ASX 300 <u>since the inception of the Fund.</u>
This is compared to the Fund's performance over the same ten months.

# Extreme Market Returns vs Fund Return Same Month Index: S&P/ASX 300 TR From: Nov-09 to Nov-19

Rank	Date	Market	Fund	Difference
1	Aug-15	-7.70%	-2.56%	5.14%
2	May-10	-7.54%	-0.48%	7.06%
3	May-12	-6.74%	6.53%	13.27%
4	Sep-11	-6.28%	4.47%	10.75%
5	Jan-10	-6.17%	-1.84%	4.33%
6	Oct-18	-6.16%	-5.83%	0.33%
7	Jan-16	-5.45%	0.23%	5.68%
8	Sep-14	-5.37%	3.81%	9.18%
9	Jun-15	-5.32%	-2.19%	3.13%
10	May-13	-4.54%	4.83%	9.37%
TOTALS		-61.25%	+6.99%	+68.24%

		nths

Correlation	+25.5%	Positive Return	5
Capture	-11.4%	Outperform	10

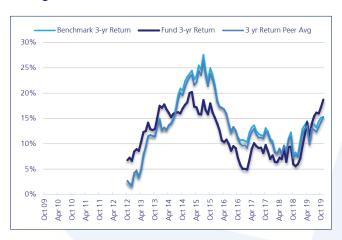
## **Tail Risk Observations:**

- The correlation of the Fund's returns to the ASX300 returns over the span of tail risk equity market extremes is 25.5%.
- The Fund posted 5 positive returns compared to the 10 negative returns of the Australian stock market.
- The sum of returns over those 10 months was -61.3% for the ASX 300 and 7.0% for the Fund, a difference of 68.2%

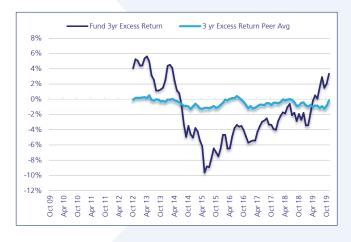
These figures point to **strong defensive characteristics** of the Fund in the face of extreme Australian equity tail risk.

## Return and Risk

#### **Rolling Returns**



## **Rolling Excess Returns**



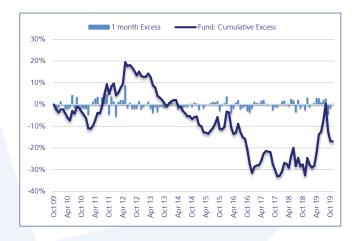
## **Rolling Correlation to Benchmark**



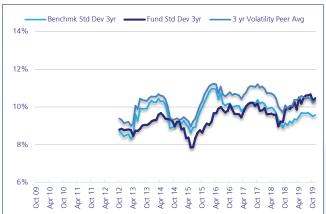


## **Return and Risk**

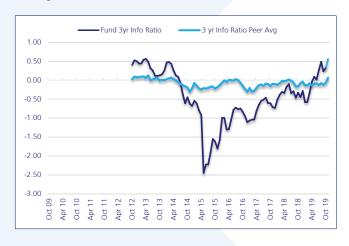
#### **Cumulative Excess Returns**



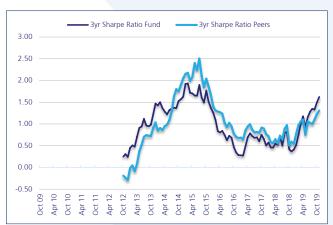
## **Rolling Volatility**



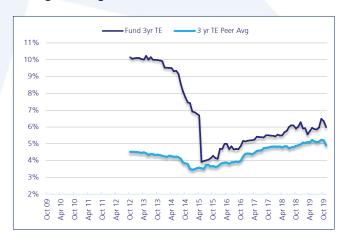
#### **Rolling Information Ratio**



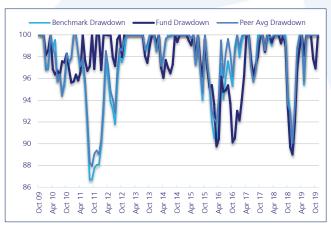
## **Rolling Sharpe Ratio**



## **Rolling Tracking Error**



## Drawdowns





The table below outline limits on the Fund's asset allocation and other risk parameters: -

Fund Constraints	Permitted Range or Limit
Individual stock weight	0-10
Individual GICS industry weight	0-+30
Emerging markets	0-30
Cash	0-5
Stop/Loss Limit - Soft	15%
Stop/Loss Limit - Hard	25%
Total Portfolio Risk	+2.5% versus index
Limit for Holdings Not in Benchmark	10.00%

The Fund's history of asset allocation, sector, country weights and other portfolio metrics are detailed below:

## **Fund Allocations**

Dec-2009 to Sep-2019

Equity Sector	Average Weight	Max Weight	Min Weight	as as Sep-19
Financials	5.9%	11.4%	0.0%	6.2%
Information Technology	21.1%	41.6%	2.3%	40.6%
Health Care	18.4%	34.4%	5.0%	13.1%
Consumer Discretionary	11.3%	20.2%	2.7%	13.5%
Consumer Staples	32.9%	73.3%	4.0%	9.9%
Energy	-	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Materials	2.4%	2.6%	2.1%	0.0%
Industrials	3.5%	8.1%	1.3%	2.0%
Communication Services	12.9%	24.2%	2.9%	14.7%
Utilities	-	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Real Estate	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%	0.0%

Currency	Average Weight	Max Weight	Min Weight	as as Sep-19
AUD	4.5%	5.2%	3.0%	5.2%
USD	61.5%	79.4%	37.0%	71.4%
EUR	9.8%	16.8%	3.0%	14.4%
GBP	19.9%	31.9%	4.8%	4.9%
CHF	10.4%	19.1%	3.3%	0.0%
SEK	2.0%	2.2%	1.8%	0.0%
HKD	4.6%	7.8%	2.7%	4.1%

Coographic	Average	Max	Min	as at
Geographic	Weight	Weight	Weight	Sep-19



Australia	4.5%	5.2%	3.0%	5.2%
USA	53.5%	69.0%	34.2%	63.8%
Japan	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
UK	20.1%	31.9%	4.8%	4.9%
France	8.0%	10.7%	3.4%	0.0%
Germany	4.6%	7.8%	1.6%	7.4%
Belgium	2.8%	5.4%	0.6%	0.0%
Sweden	2.0%	2.2%	1.8%	0.0%
China	3.8%	4.7%	2.7%	4.1%
Spain	3.4%	4.6%	1.8%	4.1%
Israel	2.5%	3.1%	1.7%	0.0%
Canada	3.0%	4.0%	2.1%	0.0%
Switzerland	9.9%	19.1%	2.0%	2.5%
Hong Kong	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	0.0%
Ireland	5.4%	10.5%	1.8%	5.1%
Netherlands	4.2%	7.1%	2.7%	2.9%



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## Address:

Level 16, 275 Alfred Street North Sydney, New South Wales, 2060

## Contacts:

Louis Christopher 02 9220 4666 Rob da Silva 02 9220 4606

## Analyst:

Rob da Silva

# Central Contacts:

Phone 1800 766 651

Email: info@sqmresearch.com.au Web: www.sqmresearch.com.au