

AXA IM Sustainable Equity Fund

ARSN 130 872 749

Annual report

For the year ended 30 June 2024

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This annual report covers AXA IM Sustainable Equity Fund as an individual entity.

The Responsible Entity of AXA IM Sustainable Equity Fund is Equity Trustees Limited (ABN 46 004 031 298) (AFSL 240975).

The Responsible Entity's registered office is:

Level 1, 575 Bourke Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000.

Directors' report

The directors of Equity Trustees Limited, the Responsible Entity of AXA IM Sustainable Equity Fund (the "Fund"), present their report together with the financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Principal activities

The Fund invests in equity securities, exchange traded funds, American and global depository receipts in accordance with the Product Disclosure Statement and the provisions of the Fund's Constitution. The AUD Hedged Class of the Fund uses forward currency contracts for hedging purposes.

The Fund did not have any employees during the year.

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

The various service providers for the Fund are detailed below:

Service	Provider
Responsible Entity	Equity Trustees Limited
Investment Manager	AXA Investment Managers Australia Ltd
Custodian and Administrator	State Street Australia Limited
Statutory Auditor	PricewaterhouseCoopers

Directors

The following persons held office as directors of Equity Trustees Limited during or since the end of the year and up to the date of this report:

Philip D Gentry	Chairman (resigned 6 June 2024)
Michael J O'Brien	Chairman (appointed 6 June 2024)
Russell W Beasley	
Mary A O'Connor	
David B Warren	
Andrew P Godfrey	(appointed 1 May 2024)

Review and results of operations

During the year, the Fund continued to invest its funds in accordance with the Product Disclosure Statement and the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The Fund's performance for Unhedged Class was 15.69% and 15.96% for Hedged Class (net of fees) for the year ended 30 June 2024. The Fund's benchmark, MSCI ACWI ex-Australia Index Net Dividend Withholding Tax returned 19.08% for Unhedged Class and MSCI ACWI ex-Australia Index Net Dividend Withholding Tax AUD Hedged returned 19.52% for Hedged Class for the same period.

The Fund's performance is calculated based on the percentage change in the redemption price in the Fund over the period (With any distributions paid during the period reinvested). Returns are disclosed after fees and expenses but before taxes.

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 2024	30 June 2023
Profit/(loss) before finance costs attributable to unit holders for the year (\$'000)	103,399	111,788
Distributions - Unhedged Class		
Distributions paid and payable (\$'000)	61,814	35,294
Distributions (cents per unit)	16.13	5.13
Distributions - Hedged Class		
Distributions paid and payable (\$'000)	199	1
Distributions (cents per unit)	10.24	3.34

Significant changes in the state of affairs

Andrew P Godfrey was appointed as a director of Equity Trustees Limited on 1 May 2024.

Philip D Gentry resigned as a director of Equity Trustees Limited on 6 June 2024.

In the opinion of the directors, there were no other 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 2024 that has significantly affected, or may have a significant effect on:

- (i) the operations of the Fund in future financial years; or
- (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 Product Disclosure Statement and 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.

Indemnification and insurance of officers

No insurance premiums are paid for out of the assets of the Fund in regard to insurance cover provided to the officers of Equity Trustees Limited. So long as the officers of Equity Trustees Limited 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.

Indemnification of auditor

The auditor of the Fund is in no way indemnified out of the assets of the Fund.

Directors' report (continued)

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

Fees paid to the Responsible Entity and its associates out of Fund property during the year are disclosed in Note 16 to 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 16 to the financial statements.

Interests in the Fund

The movement in units on issue in the Fund during the year is disclosed in Note 9 to the financial statements.

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

Environmental regulation

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

Rounding of amounts to the nearest thousand dollars

Amounts in the Directors' report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars in accordance with *ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191*, 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 of Equity Trustees Limited through a delegated authority given by the Equity Trustees Limited's Board.



Andrew P Godfrey
Director

Melbourne
19 September 2024



Auditor's Independence Declaration

As lead auditor for the audit of AXA IM Sustainable Equity Fund for the year ended 30 June 2024, 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, appearing to read 'CJ Cummins', written over a horizontal line.

CJ Cummins
Partner
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Sydney
19 September 2024

Statement of comprehensive income

	Note	Year ended	
		30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Income			
Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost		44	27
Dividend and distribution income		16,020	18,210
Net foreign exchange gain/(loss)		(115)	285
Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		92,248	98,579
Other income		6	1
Total income/(loss)		<u>108,203</u>	<u>117,102</u>
Expenses			
Management fees and costs		2,463	2,404
Withholding taxes		2,180	2,390
Transaction costs		133	234
Other expenses		28	286
Total expenses		<u>4,804</u>	<u>5,314</u>
Profit/(loss) before finance costs attributable to unit holders for the year		<u>103,399</u>	<u>111,788</u>
Finance costs attributable to unit holders			
Distributions to unit holders	10	(62,013)	(35,295)
(Increase)/decrease in net assets attributable to unit holders	9	<u>(41,386)</u>	<u>(76,493)</u>
Profit/(loss) for the year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Other comprehensive income		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

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

Statement of financial position

	Note	As at	
		30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	11	10,841	7,812
Receivables	13	1,877	1,898
Due from brokers - receivable for securities sold		-	16
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	6	<u>699,920</u>	<u>695,893</u>
Total assets		<u>712,638</u>	<u>705,619</u>
Liabilities			
Distributions payable	10	62,013	21,867
Payables	14	3,080	3,395
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	7	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Total liabilities		<u>65,093</u>	<u>25,263</u>
Net assets attributable to unit holders - liability	9	<u>647,545</u>	<u>680,356</u>

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

Statement of changes in equity

	Year ended	
	30 June	30 June
	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Total equity at the beginning of the financial year	-	-
Profit/(loss) for the year	-	-
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income	-	-
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	-	-
Total equity at the end of the financial year*	-	-

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

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes with reference to Notes 2(c) and 9.

Statement of cash flows

	Note	Year ended	
		30 June 2024	30 June 2023
		\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		308,484	74,641
Payments for purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		(220,135)	-
Interest received from financial assets at amortised cost		43	25
Dividends and distributions received		13,742	15,341
Other income received		-	60
Management fees and costs paid		(2,948)	(1,912)
Other expenses paid		(316)	(500)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	12(a)	<u>98,870</u>	<u>87,655</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from applications by unit holders		119,227	162,428
Payments for redemptions by unit holders		(194,148)	(213,640)
Distributions paid to unit holders		(20,913)	(39,340)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities		<u>(95,834)</u>	<u>(90,552)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		3,036	(2,897)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		7,812	10,674
Effect of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents		(7)	285
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	11	<u>10,841</u>	<u>7,812</u>
Non-cash operating and financing activities	12(b)	1,175	870

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

Notes to the financial statements

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1 General information

These financial statements cover AXA IM Sustainable Equity Fund (the “Fund”) as an individual entity. The Fund is an Australian registered managed investment scheme which was constituted on 30 April 2008 and will terminate in accordance with the provisions of the Fund’s Constitution or by Law.

The Responsible Entity of the Fund is Equity Trustees Limited (ABN 46 004 031 298) (AFSL 240975) (the “Responsible Entity”). The Responsible Entity’s registered office is Level 1, 575 Bourke Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000. The financial statements are presented in the Australian currency unless otherwise noted.

The Fund invests in equity securities, exchange traded funds, American and global depository receipts in accordance with the Product Disclosure Statement and the provisions of the Fund’s Constitution. The AUD Hedged Class of the Fund uses forward currency contracts for hedging purposes.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors on the date the Directors’ declaration was signed. The directors of the Responsible Entity have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

2 Summary of material 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 Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Corporations Act 2001* in Australia. The Fund is a for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The 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 do not distinguish between current and non-current. All balances are expected to be recovered or settled within 12 months, except for investments in financial assets and liabilities and net assets attributable to unit holders.

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 unit holders’, the units are redeemable on demand at the unit holder’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 (IFRS)

The financial statements of the Fund also comply with IFRS as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

(ii) New and amended standards adopted by the Fund

The Fund has applied the following standards and amendments for the first time for its financial year beginning 1 July 2023:

- AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates [AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 108, AASB 134 & AASB Practice Statement 2].

The amendments have had an impact on the Fund’s disclosures of accounting policies, including the requirement to disclose ‘material’ rather than ‘significant’ accounting policies, but not on the measurement, recognition or presentation of any items in the Fund’s financial statements.

2 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(a) Basis of preparation (continued)

(ii) New and amended standards adopted by the Fund (continued)

None of the other standards, interpretations or amendments to existing standards that are effective for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 July 2023 have a material impact on the amounts recognised in the prior periods or will affect the current or future periods.

(iii) New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

A number of new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 July 2024 and have not been early adopted in preparing these financial statements.

None of these are expected to have a material effect on the financial statements of the Fund.

(b) Financial instruments

(i) Classification

- Financial assets

The Fund classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

- those to be measured at fair value through profit or loss; and
- those to be measured at amortised cost.

The Fund classifies its financial assets based on its business model for managing those financial assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets.

The Fund's portfolio of financial assets is managed and its performance is evaluated on a fair value basis in accordance with the Fund's documented investment strategy. The Fund's policy is for the Investment Manager to evaluate the information about these financial assets on a fair value basis together with other related financial information.

For unit trusts, the contractual cash flows of these instruments do not represent solely payments of principal and interest. Consequently, these investments are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

For equity securities and derivatives, the contractual cash flows of these instruments do not represent solely payments of principal and interest. Consequently, these investments are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

For cash and cash equivalents, receivables and due from brokers, these assets are held in order to collect the contractual cash flows. The contractual terms of these assets give rise, on specified dates, to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding. Consequently, these are measured at amortised cost.

- Financial 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 through profit or loss, these are classified as financial liabilities at amortised cost (distributions payable and payables).

(ii) Recognition and 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 the fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities from this date.

Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or the Fund has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership. Financial liabilities are derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires. When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as the derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

2 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(b) Financial instruments (continued)

(iii) Measurement

- Financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss

At initial recognition, the Fund measures a financial asset and a financial liability at its fair value. Transaction costs of financial assets and liabilities 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 'financial assets or 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.

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

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

- Financial instruments at amortised cost

For financial assets and financial liabilities at amortised cost, they are initially measured at fair value including directly attributable costs and are subsequently measured according to their classification using the effective interest rate method less any allowance for expected credit losses.

Cash and cash equivalents, receivables, due from brokers, distributions payable and payables are carried at amortised cost.

(iv) Impairment

At each reporting date, the Fund shall estimate a loss allowance on each of the financial assets carried at amortised cost (cash and cash equivalents, receivables and due from brokers) 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 the asset is credit impaired. If the credit risk increases to the point that it is considered to be credit impaired, interest income will be calculated based on the net 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.

The expected credit loss (ECL) approach is based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due in accordance with the contract and all the cash flows that the Fund expects to receive. The shortfall is then discounted at an approximation to the asset's original effective interest rate.

The amount of the impairment loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income within other expenses. When a trade receivable for which an impairment allowance had been recognised becomes uncollectible in a subsequent period, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in the statement of comprehensive income.

(v) Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the statement of financial position when the Fund has 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.

Financial assets and liabilities that have been offset are disclosed in Note 4.

2 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(c) Net assets attributable to unit holders

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

The units are classified as a liability as they do not meet the definition of a financial instrument to be classified as equity. The Fund may distribute its distributable income, in accordance with the Fund's Constitution.

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 unit holders.

The units are carried at the redemption amount that is payable at the reporting date if the holder exercises the right to put the units back to the Fund.

(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 and other short term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less 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 trading of these securities represents the Fund's main income generating activity.

(e) Income

(i) Interest income

Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost is recognised using the effective interest method and includes interest from cash and cash equivalents.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts throughout the expected life of the financial instrument, or a shorter period where appropriate, to the net carrying amount of the financial asset. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Fund estimates cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instruments (for example, prepayment options) but does not consider future credit losses. The calculation includes all fees paid or received between the parties to the contract that are an integral part of the effective interest rate, including transaction costs and all other premiums or discounts.

(ii) Dividends and distributions

Dividend income is recognised on the ex-dividend date with any related foreign withholding tax recorded as an expense. The Fund currently incurs withholding tax imposed by certain countries on investment income. Such income is recorded gross of withholding tax in the statement of comprehensive income.

Fund distributions are recognised on an entitlement basis.

(f) Expenses

All expenses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income on an accruals basis.

Management fees and costs covers certain ordinary expenses such as management fees, Responsible Entity fees, custodian fees, audit fees, cost of unit holder meetings, special valuation of assets and other operating expenses.

2 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(g) Income tax

Under current legislation, the Fund is not subject to income tax provided it attributes the entirety of its taxable income to its unit holders on present entitlement basis.

The Fund currently incurs withholding taxes imposed by certain countries on investment income and capital gains. Such income or gains are recorded gross of withholding taxes in the statement of comprehensive income. Withholding taxes are included in the statement of comprehensive income as an expense.

(h) Distributions

The Fund may distribute its distributable income, in accordance with the Fund's Constitution, to unit holders by cash or reinvestment. The distributions are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as finance costs attributable to unit holders.

(i) Increase/decrease in net assets attributable to unit holders

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

(j) Foreign currency translation

(i) Functional and presentation currency

Balances 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.

Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when fair value was determined.

The Fund does not isolate that portion of unrealised gains or losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss which is due to changes in foreign exchange rates. Such fluctuations are included in the 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 year end. The due from brokers balance is held for collection and is recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

(l) Receivables

Receivables may include amounts for interest, dividends and trust distributions. Dividends and trust distributions are accrued when the right to receive payment is established. Where applicable, interest is accrued on a daily basis. Amounts are generally received within 30 days of being recorded as receivables.

2 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(m) Payables

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

A separate distribution payable is recognised in the statement of financial position.

Distributions declared effective 30 June in relation to unit holders who have previously elected to reinvest distributions are recognised as reinvested effective 1 July of the following financial year.

(n) 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.

(o) Goods and services tax (GST)

The GST incurred on the costs of various services provided to the Fund by third parties such as management, administration and custodian services where applicable, have been passed on to the Fund. The Fund qualifies for Reduced Input Tax Credits (RITC) at a rate of at least 55%. Hence, fees for these services and any other expenses have been recognised in the statement of comprehensive income net of the amount of GST recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Amounts 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.

(p) Use of estimates and judgements

The Fund makes estimates, assumptions and judgements that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the current and next financial year. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future periods effected.

The Fund estimates that the resultant expected credit loss (ECL) derived from using impairment model has not materially impacted the Fund. Please see Note 3(c) for more information on credit risk.

(q) Rounding of amounts

The Fund is an entity of a kind referred to in *ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191* relating to the "rounding off" of amounts in the financial statements. Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, unless otherwise indicated.

(r) 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 activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including market risk (which incorporates price risk, foreign exchange risk and cash flow and fair value interest rate risk), credit risk and liquidity risk.

The Fund's overall risk management programme focuses on ensuring compliance with the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement and the investment guidelines of the Fund. It also seeks to maximise the returns derived for the level of risk to which the Fund is exposed and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Fund's financial performance. The Fund's policy allows it to use derivative financial instruments in managing its financial risks.

All investments present a risk of loss of capital. The maximum loss of capital on long equity securities is limited to the fair value of those positions.

The Investment Manager of the Fund is AXA Investment Managers Australia Ltd, as appointed by the Responsible Entity under an Investment Management Agreement. The Investment Manager may utilize sub-investment managers who are direct or indirect subsidiaries of AXA Investment Managers SA, in providing its investment management services to the Fund in a manner that is consistent with the investment strategy and guidelines of the Fund stated in the Product Disclosure Statement.

The Fund uses different methods to measure different types of risk to which it is exposed. These methods are explained below.

(a) Market risk

(i) Price risk

The Fund is exposed to price risk on equity securities listed or quoted on recognised securities exchanges. Price risk arises from investments held by the Fund for which prices in the future are uncertain. The portfolio management and risk teams systematically review, on an ongoing basis, the Fund risk exposures and performance. Where non-monetary financial instruments are denominated in currencies other than the Australian dollar, the price in the future will also fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates which are considered a component of price risk.

The Investment Manager invests primarily in publicly-quoted equity securities in global equity markets. As such, the availability and transparency of quoted asset prices from these markets is very high. The Investment Manager's Global Valuation Policy sets forth the principles, standards and guidelines for the valuation of securities and instruments held in client accounts and funds.

The table at Note 3(b) summarises the sensitivities of the Fund's assets and liabilities to price risk. The analysis is based on the reasonably possible shift that the investment portfolio in which the Fund invests moves by +/-10% (2023: +/-11%).

(ii) Foreign exchange risk

The Fund operates internationally and holds both monetary and non-monetary assets denominated in currencies other than the Australian dollar. Foreign exchange risk arises as the value of monetary securities denominated in other currencies fluctuate due to changes in exchange rates. The foreign exchange risk relating to non-monetary assets and liabilities is a component of price risk and not foreign exchange risk. However, the Investment Manager monitors the exposure of all foreign currency denominated assets and liabilities.

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(a) Market risk (continued)

(ii) Foreign exchange risk (continued)

The table below summarises the fair value of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities, monetary and non-monetary, which are denominated in a currency other than the Australian dollar.

As at 30 June 2024	US Dollars A\$'000	Euro A\$'000	Japanese Yen A\$'000	Canadian Dollars A\$'000	Taiwan Dollars A\$'000	All other foreign currencies A\$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	303	44	195	34	82	62
Receivables	442	361	29	54	92	769
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	481,162	48,646	28,636	32,775	30,125	78,576
Payables	(61)	(1)	(3)	(8)	(17)	(22)
Net exposure	481,846	49,050	28,857	32,855	30,282	79,385
Net increase/(decrease) in exposure from forward currency contracts (notional principal)	(1,639)	(213)	(93)	(120)	-	(81)
Net exposure including forward currency contracts	480,207	48,837	28,764	32,735	30,282	79,304
As at 30 June 2023	US Dollars A\$'000	Euro A\$'000	Japanese Yen A\$'000	Canadian Dollars A\$'000	Taiwan Dollars A\$'000	All other foreign currencies A\$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	252	66	283	42	104	332
Receivables	388	265	80	58	286	791
Due from brokers - receivable for securities sold	-	-	-	-	16	-
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	451,113	51,310	29,422	40,175	25,166	98,707
Payables	(60)	-	(9)	(9)	(60)	(34)
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	(1)	-	-	-	-	-
Net exposure	451,692	51,641	29,776	40,266	25,512	99,796

The table at Note 3(b) summarises the sensitivities of the Fund's monetary assets and liabilities to foreign exchange risk. The analysis is based on the reasonably possible shift that the Australian dollar weakened and strengthened by 10% (2023: +/-10%) against the material foreign currencies to which the Fund is exposed.

(iii) Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk

The Fund is exposed to cash flow interest rate risk on financial instruments with variable interest rates. Financial instruments with fixed rates expose the Fund to fair value interest rate risk.

Interest rate risk management is undertaken by maintaining as close to a fully invested position as possible, thus limiting the exposure of the Fund to interest rate risk.

The impact of interest rate risk on profit and net assets attributable to unit holders is considered immaterial to the Fund.

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(d) Liquidity risk (continued)

(i) Maturities of non-derivative financial liabilities

All non-derivative financial liabilities of the Fund in the current period have maturities of less than 1 month.

(ii) 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 \$'000	1-6 months \$'000	6-12 months \$'000	Over 12 months \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 30 June 2024					
Net settled derivatives					
Forward currency contracts	15	-	-	-	15
Total net settled derivatives	15	-	-	-	15
	Less than 1 month \$'000	1-6 months \$'000	6-12 months \$'000	Over 12 months \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 30 June 2023					
Net settled derivatives					
Forward currency contracts	-	(1)	-	-	(1)
Total net settled derivatives	-	(1)	-	-	(1)

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.

	Effects of offsetting on the statement of financial position			Related amounts not offset		
	Gross amounts of financial instruments	Gross amounts set off in the statement of financial position	Net amount of financial instruments presented in the statement of financial position	Amounts subject to master netting arrangements	Collateral received/pledged	Net amount
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 30 June 2024						
Financial assets						
Derivative financial instruments	15	-	15	-	-	15
Total	15	-	15	-	-	15
Financial liabilities						
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2023						
Financial assets						
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities						
Derivative financial instruments	1	-	1	-	-	1
Total	1	-	1	-	-	1

(a) Master netting arrangement – not currently enforceable

Agreements with derivative counterparties are based on the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) Master Agreement. Under the terms of these arrangements, only when 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 statement of financial position but have been presented separately in the above table.

5 Fair value measurement

The Fund measures and recognises financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss on a recurring basis.

- Financial assets/liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (see Note 6 and Note 7)
- Derivative financial instruments (see Note 8)

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

AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* requires disclosure of fair value measurements by level of the following fair value measurement hierarchy:

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

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 for the valuation of its investments.

(a) Valuation using level 1 inputs

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets (such as publicly traded derivatives, listed equity securities and unit trusts) are based on last traded price at the close of trading at the end of the reporting period without any deduction for estimated future selling costs.

When the Fund holds derivatives with offsetting market risks, it uses mid-market prices as a basis for establishing fair values for the offsetting risk positions and applies this bid or asking price to the net open position, as appropriate.

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.

An active market is a market in which transactions for the asset or liability take place with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.

(b) Valuation using level 2 inputs

The fair value of financial instruments that are not traded in an active market is determined using valuation techniques that maximise the use of observable market data and rely as little as possible on entity-specific estimates. If all material inputs required to fair value an instrument are observable, the instrument is included in level 2.

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.

Specific valuation techniques using observable inputs used to value financial instruments include:

- Foreign currency forwards are valued at the present value of future cash flows based on the forward exchange rates at the balance sheet date.

(c) Recognised fair value measurements

The table below presents the Fund's financial assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value as at 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023.

5 Fair value measurement (continued)

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 30 June 2024				
Financial assets				
Forward currency contracts	-	15	-	15
Equity securities	687,361	-	-	687,361
Listed unit trusts	12,544	-	-	12,544
Total financial assets	699,905	15	-	699,920
	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 30 June 2023				
Financial assets				
Equity securities	681,674	-	-	681,674
Listed unit trusts	14,219	-	-	14,219
Total financial assets	695,893	-	-	695,893
Financial liabilities				
Forward currency contracts	-	1	-	1
Total financial liabilities	-	1	-	1

(d) Financial instruments not carried at fair value

The financial instruments not measured at fair value through profit or loss include:

- Cash and cash equivalents, balances due from/to brokers and receivables/payables under sale and repurchase agreements. These are short-term financial assets and financial liabilities whose carrying values approximate fair value, because of their short-term nature and the high credit quality of counterparties; and
- Net assets attributable to unit holders, as the Fund routinely redeems and issues units at an amount equal to the proportionate share of the Fund's net assets at the time of redemption, calculated on a basis consistent with that used in these financial statements. Accordingly, the carrying value of net assets attributable to unit holders approximates their fair value. Any difference is not material in the current year or prior year.

6 Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

	As at	
	30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Derivatives	15	-
Equity securities	687,361	681,674
Listed unit trusts	12,544	14,219
Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	699,920	695,893

An overview of the risk exposures and fair value measurements relating to financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is included in Note 3 and Note 5 to the financial statements.

7 Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

	As at	
	30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Derivatives	-	1
Total financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	-	1

An overview of the risk exposures and fair value measurements relating to financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss is included in Note 3 and Note 5 to the financial statements.

8 Derivative financial instruments

In the normal course of business, the Fund enters into transactions in various derivative financial instruments which have 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 forwards, futures and options. 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, foreign exchange risk or to reduce volatility;
- a substitution for trading of physical securities; and
- adjusting asset exposures within the parameters set in the investment strategy and adjusting the duration of fixed interest portfolios or the weighted average maturity of cash portfolios.

Certain transactions may give rise to a form of leverage. Such transactions may include, among others, reverse repurchase agreements, loans of portfolio securities, and the use of when-issued, delayed-delivery or forward commitment transactions. Leverage may be incurred when it is believed that is advantageous to increase the investment capacity of a Fund or to facilitate the clearance of transactions. Leverage creates opportunity for greater total returns for the Fund, but it also may magnify losses. The use of derivatives may also create leverage risk.

The Fund holds the following derivatives:

(a) Forward currency contracts

Forward currency contracts held by AUD Hedged Class are primarily used by the Fund to economically hedge against foreign currency exchange rate risks on related 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. Forward currency contracts are valued at the prevailing bid price at the end of each reporting period. The Fund recognises a gain or loss equal to the change in fair value at the end of each reporting period.

The Fund's derivative financial instruments measured at fair value at year end are detailed below:

As at 30 June 2024

	Contractual/ notional \$'000	Assets \$'000	Liabilities \$'000
Forward currency contracts	2,156	15	-
Total derivatives	2,156	15	-

8 Derivative financial instruments (continued)

As at 30 June 2023

	Contractual/ notional \$'000	Assets \$'000	Liabilities \$'000
Forward currency contracts	24	-	1
Total derivatives	24	-	1

Information about the Fund's exposure to credit risk, foreign exchange risk, interest rate risk and about the methods and assumptions used in determining fair values is provided in Note 3 and Note 5 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.

9 Net assets attributable to unit holders - liability

The Fund's units are classified as a liability as they do not meet the definition of a financial instrument to be classified as equity.

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

	Year ended			
	30 June 2024 Units '000	30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 Units '000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Unhedged Class				
Opening balance	426,368	680,331	469,633	655,415
Applications	69,796	117,160	108,852	162,403
Redemptions	(113,592)	(194,378)	(152,705)	(214,801)
Reinvestment of distributions	598	954	588	821
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	-	41,418	-	76,493
Closing balance	383,170	645,485	426,368	680,331
Hedged Class				
Opening balance	25	25	-	-
Applications	1,917	2,067	25	25
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	-	(32)	-	-
Closing balance	1,942	2,060	25	25
Closing balance		647,545		680,356

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 in the underlying assets of the Fund.

There are two separate classes of units. Each unit within the same class has the same rights as all other units within that class. Each unit class has a different management fee rate.

Units are redeemed on demand at the unit holders' option. However, holders of these instruments typically retain them for the medium to long term. As such, the amount expected to be settled within twelve months after the end of the reporting period cannot be reliably determined.

9 Net assets attributable to unit holders - liability (continued)

Capital risk management

The Fund considers its net assets attributable to unit holders as capital, notwithstanding that net assets attributable to unit holders are classified as a liability. The amount of net assets attributable to unit holders can change significantly on a daily basis as the Fund is subject to daily applications and redemptions at the discretion of unit holders.

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 redemption of units if the exercise of such discretion is in the best interests of unit holders.

10 Distributions to unit holders

The distributions declared during the year were as follows:

	30 June 2024 \$'000	Year ended		30 June 2023 CPU
		30 June 2024 CPU	30 June 2023 \$'000	
Distributions - Unhedged Class				
October	-	-	7,084	-
December	-	-	6,344	-
June (payable)	<u>61,814</u>	<u>16.13</u>	<u>21,866</u>	<u>5.13</u>
Total distributions	<u>61,814</u>	<u>16.13</u>	<u>35,294</u>	<u>5.13</u>
Distributions - Hedged Class				
June (payable)	<u>199</u>	<u>10.24</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3.34</u>
Total distributions	<u>199</u>	<u>10.24</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3.34</u>
Total distributions	<u>62,013</u>		<u>35,295</u>	

11 Cash and cash equivalents

	As at	
	30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Cash at bank	<u>10,841</u>	<u>7,812</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>10,841</u>	<u>7,812</u>

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

	Year ended	
	30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
(a) Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		
Profit/(loss) for the year	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	41,386	76,493
Distributions to unit holders	62,013	35,295
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	308,484	74,641
Payments for purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	(220,135)	-
Net (gains)/losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	(92,248)	(98,579)
Net foreign exchange (gain)/loss	115	(285)
Dividend and distribution income reinvested	(221)	(49)
Net change in receivables	21	(373)
Net change in payables	(545)	512
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	98,870	87,655
(b) Non-cash operating and financing activities		
The following distribution payments to unit holders were satisfied by the issue of units under the distribution reinvestment plan	954	821
The following purchases of investments were satisfied by the participation in dividend and distribution reinvestment plans	221	49
Total non-cash operating and financing activities	1,175	870

13 Receivables

	As at	
	30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Interest receivable	3	2
Dividends and distributions receivable	1,746	1,869
GST receivable	128	27
Total receivables	1,877	1,898

14 Payables

	As at	
	30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Management fees and costs payable	282	767
Redemptions payable	2,686	2,456
Withholding tax payable	112	172
Total payables	3,080	3,395

15 Remuneration of auditor

During the year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by the auditor of the Fund:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
PricewaterhouseCoopers		
<i>Audit and other assurance services</i>		
Audit of financial statements	16,860	15,900
Audit of compliance plan	2,400	2,346
Total auditor remuneration and other assurance services	19,260	18,246
<i>Taxation services</i>		
Tax compliance services	13,764	13,109
Total remuneration for taxation services	13,764	13,109
Total remuneration of PricewaterhouseCoopers	33,024	31,355

The auditor's remuneration is borne by the Fund. Fees are stated exclusive of GST.

16 Related party transactions

The Responsible Entity of AXA IM Sustainable Equity Fund is Equity Trustees Limited (ABN 46 004 031 298) (AFSL 240975). Accordingly, transactions with entities related to Equity Trustees Limited are disclosed below.

The Responsible Entity has contracted services to AXA Investment Managers Australia Ltd to act as Investment Manager for the Fund and State Street Australia Limited to act as Custodian and Administrator for the Fund. The contracts are on normal commercial terms and conditions.

(a) Key management personnel

(i) Directors

Key management personnel include persons who were directors of Equity Trustees Limited at any time during or since the end of the financial year and up to the date of this report.

Philip D Gentry	Chairman (resigned 6 June 2024)
Michael J O'Brien	Chairman (appointed 6 June 2024)
Russell W Beasley	
Mary A O'Connor	
David B Warren	
Andrew P Godfrey	(appointed 1 May 2024)

(ii) Responsible Entity

Other than fees paid to the Responsible Entity, there were no other transactions.

(iii) Other key management personnel

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

(b) Transactions with key management personnel

There were no transactions with key management personnel during the reporting period.

16 Related party transactions (continued)

(c) Key management personnel unit holdings

Key management personnel did not hold units in the Fund as at 30 June 2024 (30 June 2023: nil).

(d) Key management personnel compensation

Key management personnel are paid by EQT Services Pty Ltd. Payments made from the Fund to Equity Trustees Limited do not include any amounts directly attributable to the compensation of key management personnel.

(e) Key management personnel loans

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

(f) 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 during the financial year and there were no material contracts involving management personnel's interests existing at year end.

(g) Responsible Entity fees, Investment Manager's fees and other transactions

The transactions during the year and amounts payable as at year end between the Fund, the Responsible Entity and the Investment Manager were as follows:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
Management fees for the year	1,263,576	1,288,459
Responsible Entity fees for the year	420,393	440,448
Management fees payable at year end	88,795	563,375
Responsible Entity fees payable at year end	111,204	79,882

Under the terms of the Fund's Constitution and Product Disclosure Statement, management fees and costs includes responsible entity fees paid to the Responsible Entity, management fees paid to the Investment Manager and other costs (such as custody fees, administration fees and audit fees) paid to other unrelated parties. Please refer to the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement for information on how management fees and costs are calculated.

(h) Related party unit holdings

Parties related to the Fund (including Equity Trustees Limited, its related parties and other schemes managed by Equity Trustees Limited and the Investment Manager) held no units in the Fund as at 30 June 2024 (30 June 2023: nil).

(i) Investments

The Fund did not hold any investments in Equity Trustees Limited or its related parties for the year (30 June 2023: nil).

17 Events occurring after the reporting period

No significant events have occurred since the end of the year which would impact on the financial position of the Fund as disclosed in the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the year ended on that date.

18 Contingent assets and liabilities and commitments

There were no outstanding contingent assets, liabilities or commitments as at 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023.

Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the directors of the Responsible Entity:

- (a) The financial statements and notes set out on pages 6 to 30 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - (i) complying with Australian 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 2024 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 also comply with the International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors of Equity Trustees Limited through a delegated authority given by Equity Trustees Limited's Board.



Andrew P Godfrey
Director

Melbourne
19 September 2024



Independent auditor's report

To the unit holders of AXA IM Sustainable Equity Fund

Our opinion

In our opinion:

The accompanying financial report of AXA IM Sustainable Equity 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 2024 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 2024
- 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, including material accounting policy information and other explanatory information
- the directors' declaration.

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.

Other information

The directors of Equity Trustees Limited (the Responsible Entity) are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

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

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.

Responsibilities of the directors of the Responsible Entity for the financial report

The directors of the Responsible Entity 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 of the Responsible Entity determines 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 of the Responsible Entity 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 of the Responsible Entity either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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: http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PricewaterhouseCoopers', written in a cursive style.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CJ Cummins', written in a cursive style.

CJ Cummins
Partner

Sydney
19 September 2024