

Cooper Investors Asian Equities Fund

ARSN 639 516 055

Annual report

For the year ended 30 June 2023

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Independent auditor's report to the unit holders of Cooper Investors Asian Equities Fund

This annual report covers Cooper Investors Asian Equities Fund as an individual entity.

The Responsible Entity of Cooper Investors Asian Equities 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 Cooper Investors Asian Equities Fund (the "Fund"), present their report together with the financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Principal activities

During the year the Fund closed its existing retail and wholesale investor unit classes. The Fund also established a new class (Class N) of units managed by a new portfolio manager, who is looking to build up a track record of performance so it may reopen the Fund back to external investors in the future.

Once reopened, the objective of the Fund will be to generate long term returns by investing in a range of listed Asian securities, incorporating small cap, mid cap and large cap stocks. In addition, the Fund will have the flexibility to invest in securities listed outside of Asia where those securities have a significant proportion of their sales, assets or profits from the Asian region. The Fund is domiciled in and operated from Australia.

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	Cooper Investors Pty Limited
Custodian and Administrator	National Australia Bank 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
Russell W Beasley	
Michael J O'Brien	
Mary A O'Connor	
David B Warren	(appointed 6 March 2023)

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.

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 2023	30 June 2022
Profit/(loss) before finance costs attributable to unit holders for the year (\$'000)	-	(66,329)
Distributions - Wholesale		
Distributions paid and payable (\$'000)	12,872	906
Distributions (cents per unit)	17.9460	1.1196
Distributions - Retail		
Distributions paid and payable (\$'000)	1,766	100
Distributions (cents per unit)	8.3590	0.4808
Distributions - Class N		
Distributions paid and payable (\$'000)	314	-
Distributions (cents per unit)	1.2308	-

Significant changes in the state of affairs

In February 2023 both the retail and wholesale investor unit classes of the Fund were closed with special distributions and final redemptions being paid effective 28 February 2023. Effective 1 March 2023 both of these classes were closed. A new class (N class) was established on 2 March 2023 and the Fund remains a going concern.

David B Warren was appointed as a director of Equity Trustees Limited on 6 March 2023.

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 2023 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.

Directors' report (continued)

Indemnification and insurance of officers

No insurance premiums are paid for out of the assets of the Fund in regards to insurance cover provided to the officers of 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.

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 13 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 and its associates as at the end of the financial year are disclosed in Note 13 to the financial statements.

Interests in the Fund

The movement in units on issue in the Fund during the year is disclosed in Note 6 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.

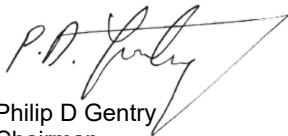
Rounding of amounts to the nearest thousand dollars

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 Equity Trustees Limited's Board.



Philip D Gentry
Chairman

Melbourne
21 September 2023



Auditor's Independence Declaration

As lead auditor for the audit of Cooper Investors Asian Equities Fund for the year ended 30 June 2023, 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", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CJ Cummins
Partner
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Sydney
21 September 2023

Statement of comprehensive income

		Year ended	
		30 June	30 June
		2023	2022
	Note	\$'000	\$'000
Investment income			
Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost		765	12
Dividend and distribution income		1,507	3,370
Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		8,868	(66,067)
Net foreign exchange gain/(loss)		-	15
Total investment income/(loss)		11,140	(62,670)
Expenses			
Management fees and costs		1,014	2,412
Performance fees		-	35
Interest expense	12	46	-
Withholding taxes on foreign dividends		166	288
Transaction costs		449	897
Other expenses		38	27
Total expenses		1,713	3,659
Profit/(loss) for the period 2 March 2023 - 30 June 2023		309	-
Profit/(loss) before finance costs attributable to unit holders for the period 1 July 2022 - 1 March 2023		9,118	-
Profit/(loss) before finance costs attributable to unit holders for the year		-	(66,329)
Finance costs attributable to unit holders			
Distributions to unit holders*	7	(14,638)	(1,006)
(Increase)/decrease in net assets attributable to unit holders*	6	5,520	67,335
Profit/(loss) for the year		309	-
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		309	-

*Net assets attributable to unit holders were reclassified from liability to equity from 2 March 2023. As a result, from 2 March 2023 onwards the Fund's distributions are no longer classified as finance costs in the statement of comprehensive income, but rather as distributions paid and payable in the statement of changes in equity. Refer to Note 1 and Note 6 for further detail.

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

Statement of financial position

		As at	
		30 June	30 June
		2023	2022
	Note	\$'000	\$'000
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	8	25,187	13,466
Receivables	10	1	236
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	5	616	139,930
Total assets		<u>25,804</u>	<u>153,632</u>
Liabilities			
Distributions payable	7	314	790
Payables	11	17	583
Total liabilities (excluding net assets attributable to unit holders)		<u>331</u>	<u>1,373</u>
Net assets attributable to unitholders - equity*	6	25,473	-
Net assets attributable to unitholders - liability*	6	<u>-</u>	<u>152,259</u>

*Net assets attributable to unit holders are classified as equity at 30 June 2023 and as liability at 30 June 2022. Refer to Note 1 and Note 6 for further detail.

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

Statement of changes in equity

	Note	Year ended	
		30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
Total equity at the beginning of the financial year*	6	-	-
Comprehensive income for the year			
Profit/(loss) for the year		309	-
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income		<u>309</u>	<u>-</u>
Transactions with unit holders			
Applications	6	25,478	-
Distributions paid and payable	6	<u>(314)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total transactions with unit holders		<u>25,164</u>	<u>-</u>
Total equity at the end of the financial year*		<u>25,473</u>	<u>-</u>

*Effective from 2 March 2023, the Fund's units have been reclassified from financial liability to equity. Refer to Note 1 and Note 6 for further details.

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

Statement of cash flows

		Year ended	
		30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	Note	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		181,690	165,787
Payments for purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		(33,508)	(140,066)
Interest income received from financial assets at amortised cost		765	12
Dividends and distributions received		1,524	3,081
Management fees and costs paid		(1,217)	(2,664)
Performance fees paid		-	(88)
Interest expense paid		(46)	-
Transaction costs paid		(449)	(897)
Other expenses paid		(38)	(27)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	9(a)	<u>148,721</u>	<u>25,138</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from applications by unit holders		26,800	30,666
Payments for redemptions by unit holders		(151,137)	(55,222)
Distributions paid to unit holders		<u>(12,663)</u>	<u>(3,710)</u>
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities		<u>(137,000)</u>	<u>(28,266)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		11,721	(3,128)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		13,466	16,579
Effects of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents		<u>-</u>	<u>15</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	8	<u>25,187</u>	<u>13,466</u>
Non-cash operating and financing activities	9(b)	2,765	1,963

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 Cooper Investors Asian Equities Fund ("the Fund") as an individual entity. The Fund is an Australian registered managed investment scheme which was constituted as CI Asian Tiger Fund on 31 May 2007. The Fund's name was changed to Cooper Investors Asian Equities Fund by Supplemental Deed on 1 August 2019. The Fund 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.

During the year the Fund closed its existing retail and wholesale investor unit classes. The Fund also established a new class (Class N) of units managed by a new portfolio manager, who is looking to build up a track record of performance so it may reopen the Fund back to external investors in the future.

Once reopened, the objective of the Fund will be to generate long term returns by investing in a range of listed Asian securities, incorporating small cap, mid cap and large cap stocks. In addition, the Fund will have the flexibility to invest in securities listed outside of Asia where those securities have a significant proportion of their sales, assets or profits from the Asian region. The Fund is domiciled in and operated from Australia.

With the closure of both the retail and wholesale investor unit classes on 28 February 2023 and the establishment of a new unit class on 2 March 2023, the Fund's units now satisfy the criteria under AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation* for them to be classified as equity.

The financial statements are presented in the Australian currency unless otherwise noted.

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 significant accounting policies

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

(a) Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the 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 are not distinguished 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 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 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

There are no standards, interpretations or amendments to existing standards that are effective for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 July 2022 that have a material impact on the amounts recognised in the prior periods or will affect the current or future periods.

2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(a) Basis of preparation (continued)

iii. New standards, amendments and interpretations not yet adopted

A number of new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 July 2023 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 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 equity securities, 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 and receivables, 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

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, redemptions payable, Responsible Entity fees payable, management fees payable, performance fees payable, custody and administration fees payable and auditor's remuneration payable).

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 significant 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 their fair value. Transaction costs of financial assets carried at fair value through profit or loss are expensed in the statement of comprehensive income.

Subsequent to initial recognition, all financial assets and 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.

For further details on how the fair value of financial instruments is determined please see Note 4 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 using the effective interest rate method less any allowance for expected credit losses.

Cash and cash equivalents and receivables are carried at amortised cost.

iv. Impairment

At each reporting date, the Investment Manager shall estimate a loss allowance on each of the financial assets carried at amortised cost (cash and cash equivalents and receivables) at an amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses if the credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition. If, at the reporting date, the credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition, the Fund shall measure the loss allowance at an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses. Significant financial difficulties of the counter party, probability that the counter party 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.

As at the end of the reporting period, there are no financial assets or liabilities offset or with the right to offset in the statement of financial position.

2 Summary of significant 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 financial liabilities.

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.

- The Fund's units are classified as equity as they satisfy the following criteria under AASB 132 Financial instruments: Presentation:
- the puttable financial instrument entitles the holder to a pro-rata share of net assets in the event of the Fund's liquidation;
- the puttable financial instrument is in the class of instruments that is subordinate to all other classes of instruments and class features are identical;
- any contractual obligations to deliver cash or another financial asset, or to exchange financial instruments with another entity under potentially unfavourable conditions to the Fund, and it is not a contract settled in the Fund's own equity instruments; and
- the total expected cash flows attributable to the puttable financial instrument over the life are based substantially on the profit or loss

As at 30 June 2022, net assets attributable to unit holders were classified as a financial liability. Effective from 2 March 2023, the Fund's units have been reclassified from liabilities to equities as they satisfied all the above criteria.

(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) Investment 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 or liability and of allocating the interest income or expense 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 or liability. 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.

Trust distributions are recognised on an entitlement basis.

2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(f) Expenses

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

(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 the end of the year. 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 significant 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.

For the majority of the Fund's financial instruments, quoted market prices are readily available. However, certain financial instruments, for example over-the-counter derivatives, are fair valued using valuation techniques. Where valuation techniques (for example, pricing models) are used to determine fair values, they are validated and periodically reviewed by experienced personnel of the Investment Manager.

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

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

For more information on how fair value is calculated refer to Note 4 to the financial statements.

(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 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 is limited to the fair value of those positions.

The investments of the Fund, and associated risks, are managed by a specialist Investment Manager, Cooper Investors Pty Limited under an Investment Management Agreement (IMA) approved by the Responsible Entity, and containing the investment strategy and guidelines of the Fund, consistent with those 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. 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.

Price risk is managed by Cooper Investors Pty Limited, the Fund's Investment Manager. The Investment Manager mitigates this price risk through diversification and a careful selection of securities and other financial instruments in accordance with the investment mandate of the Fund.

The Fund's overall market positions are monitored on a regular basis by the Investment Manager. This information and the compliance with the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement are reported to the Investment Manager's compliance manager and other key management personnel.

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% (2022: +/- 5%).

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 fluctuates 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.

As part of the Fund's risk management strategies, the Fund may use derivatives and other investments, including forward currency contracts, to manage exposure resulting from changes in foreign exchange rates. On this basis, the Fund's overall exposure to foreign exchange risk is considered minimal.

The Fund held no derivative financial instruments as at 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2022.

In accordance with the Fund's policies, the Investment Manager monitors the Fund's currency position on a regular basis. This information and the compliance with the Fund's policies are reported to the relevant parties on a regular basis as deemed appropriate such as the compliance manager, other key management personnel, compliance committees and ultimately the Board.

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, monetary and non-monetary, which are denominated in a currency other than the Australian dollar.

As at 30 June 2023	US Dollars A\$'000	New Taiwan Dollars A\$'000	Indian Rupees A\$'000	Singapore Dollars A\$'000	Euro A\$'000	All other foreign currencies A\$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	1	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables	-	-	-	-	-	-
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	616	-	-	-	-	-
Net exposure	617	-	-	-	-	-

As at 30 June 2022	Hong Kong Dollars A\$'000	New Taiwan Dollars A\$'000	Indian Rupees A\$'000	Singapore Dollars A\$'000	Euro A\$'000	All other foreign currencies A\$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	448	-	37	189	130	216
Receivables	-	91	69	-	-	23
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	42,658	19,946	19,587	15,949	15,747	26,043
Net exposure	43,106	20,037	19,693	16,138	15,877	26,282

At 30 June 2022, the Fund held assets denominated in: Chinese Yuan, Indonesian Rupiah, Japanese Yen, South Korean Won, Malaysian Ringgit and US Dollars that have been summed and included in the other currencies column shown above.

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 5% to 10% (2022: +/- 5% to 10%) against the material foreign currencies to which the Fund is exposed.

The Fund has no significant foreign exchange risk as at 30 June 2023.

iii. 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 Fund has no significant direct interest rate risk as at 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2022.

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(b) Summarised sensitivity analysis

The following table summarises the sensitivities of the Fund's operating profit and net assets attributable to unit holders to market risks. The reasonably possible movements in the risk variables have been determined based on management's best estimate, having regard to a number of factors, including historical levels of changes in foreign exchange rates and the historical correlation of the Fund's investments with the relevant benchmark and market volatility. However, actual movements in the risk variables may be greater or less than anticipated due to a number of factors, including unusually large market movements resulting from changes in the performance of and/or correlation between the performances of the economies, markets and securities in which the Fund invests. As a result, historic variations in risk variables should not be used to predict future variances in the risk variables.

Price risk	Impact on operating profit/net assets attributable to unit holders	
	+10%	-10%
	\$'000	\$'000
As at 30 June 2023	62	(62)
	+5%	-5%
	\$'000	\$'000
As at 30 June 2022	6,997	(6,997)

Foreign exchange risk

	Impact on operating profit/net assets attributable to unit holders									
	Hong Kong Dollars	Hong Kong Dollars	US Dollars	US Dollars	Singapore Dollars	Singapore Dollars	Euro	Euro	Indian Rupees	Indian Rupees
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	+5%	-5%	+5%	-5%	+5%	-5%	+5%	-5%	+5%	-5%
As at 30 June 2022	22	(22)	12	(12)	9	(9)	7	(7)	5	(5)

(c) Credit risk

The Fund is exposed to credit risk, which is the risk that a counterparty will be unable to pay its obligations in full when they fall due, causing a financial loss to the Fund.

The Fund does not have a significant concentration of credit risk that arises from an exposure to a single counterparty or group of counterparties having similar characteristics. The main concentration of credit risk, to which the Fund is exposed, arises from cash and cash equivalents and receivables. None of these assets are impaired nor past their due date. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the carrying of these balances as at the reporting date.

The Investment Manager determines credit risk and measures expected credit losses for financial assets measured at amortised cost using probability of default, exposure at default and loss given default. Management considers both historical analysis and forward looking information in determining any expected credit loss. At 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2022, all receivables and cash are held with counterparties with a credit rating of AA- or higher and are either callable on demand or due to be settled within 90 days. Management considers the probability of default to be close to zero as these instruments have a low risk of default and the counterparties have a strong capacity to meet their contractual obligations in the near term. As a result, no loss allowance has been recognised based on 12-month expected credit losses as any such impairment would be wholly insignificant to the Fund.

i. Settlement of securities transactions

All transactions in listed securities are settled/paid for upon delivery using approved brokers. The risk of default is considered low, as delivery of securities sold is only made once the broker has received payment. Payment is made once the securities purchased have been received by the broker. The trade will fail if either party fails to meet its obligations.

ii. Cash and cash equivalents

The exposure to credit risk for cash and cash equivalents is low as all counterparties have a rating of AA- (as determined by Standard & Poor's Rating Services) or higher.

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(c) Credit risk (continued)

iii. Other

The Fund is not materially exposed to credit risk on other financial assets.

iv. Maximum exposure to credit risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk before any credit enhancements at the end of each reporting period is the carrying amount of the financial assets. None of these assets are impaired nor past due but not impaired.

(d) Liquidity risk

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

Exposure to liquidity risk for the Fund may arise from the requirement to meet daily unit holder redemption requests or to fund foreign exchange related cash flow requirements.

Liquidity risk is managed by the Investment Manager.

This risk is controlled through the Fund's investment in financial instruments, which under normal market conditions are readily convertible to cash. In addition, the Fund maintains sufficient cash and cash equivalents to meet normal operating requirements.

The Fund's investments may include listed securities that are considered readily realisable, as they are listed on recognised stock exchanges. The Fund's policies are to hold a significant proportion of their investments in liquid assets.

In accordance with the Fund's policies, the Investment Manager monitors the Fund liquidity position on a regular basis. This information and the compliance with the Fund's policy is reported to the relevant parties on a regular basis as deemed appropriate such as the compliance manager, other key management personnel, compliance committees and ultimately the Board.

In order to manage the Fund's overall liquidity, 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. The Fund did not reject or withhold any redemptions during 2023 and 2022.

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.

4 Fair value measurement

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

- Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (see Note 5)

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.

4 Fair value measurement (continued)

(a) Fair value in an active market (level 1)

The fair value of financial assets traded in active markets (such as listed equity securities) is based on quoted market prices at the close of trading at the end of the reporting period without any deduction for estimated future selling costs.

Financial assets have been valued at their last traded price which is allowable under accounting standards.

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) Recognised fair value measurements

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

As at 30 June 2023	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
Financial assets				
Listed equities	616	-	-	616
Total financial assets	616	-	-	616
As at 30 June 2022				
Financial assets				
Listed equities	134,686	-	-	134,686
Preference shares - redeemable	5,244	-	-	5,244
Total financial assets	139,930	-	-	139,930

(c) Transfer between levels

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

There were no transfers between levels in the fair value hierarchy at the end of the reporting period (30 June 2022: nil).

(d) Financial instruments not carried at fair value

The carrying values of receivables and payables approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature.

Net assets attributable to unit holders' carrying value differs from its fair value (deemed to be redemption price for individual units) due to differences in valuation inputs. This difference is not material in the current or prior year.

5 Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

	As at 30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
Listed equities	616	134,686
Preference shares - redeemable	-	5,244
Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	616	139,930

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 4 to the financial statements.

6 Net assets attributable to unit holders - equity

Under AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*, puttable financial instruments meet the definition of a financial liability to be classified as equity where certain strict criteria are met. The Fund shall classify a financial instrument as an equity instrument from the date when the instrument has all the features and meets the conditions set out in Note 2(c).

With the closure of both the retail and wholesale investor unit classes on 28 February 2023 and the establishment of a new unit class on 2 March 2023, the Fund's units now satisfy those criteria. Accordingly, the units in the Fund were reclassified from liability to equity on 2 March 2023. Prior to that, the Fund classified its net assets attributable to unit holders as liability in accordance with AASB 132.

As a result of the reclassification of net assets attributable to unit holders from liability to equity, from 2 March 2023 onwards the Fund's distributions are no longer classified as finance costs in the statement of comprehensive income, but rather as distributions paid and payable in the statements of changes in equity.

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

	Year ended			
	30 June 2023	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	Units '000	Units '000	\$'000	\$'000
Wholesale				
Opening balance	76,443	95,816	134,831	229,049
Applications	89	8,256	158	18,950
Redemptions	(78,091)	(28,439)	(132,770)	(53,810)
Reinvestment of distributions	1,559	810	2,662	1,933
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	-	-	(4,881)	(61,291)
Closing balance	<u>-</u>	<u>76,443</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>134,831</u>
Retail				
Opening balance	20,776	11,689	17,428	13,327
Applications	1,389	10,787	1,164	11,681
Redemptions	(22,291)	(1,727)	(18,056)	(1,566)
Reinvestment of distributions	126	27	103	30
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	-	-	(639)	(6,044)
Closing balance	<u>-</u>	<u>20,776</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,428</u>
Class N				
Opening balance	-	-	-	-
Applications	25,477	-	25,478	-
Distributions paid and payable	-	-	(314)	-
Profit/(loss) for the year	-	-	309	-
Closing balance	<u>25,477</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,473</u>	<u>-</u>
Total closing balance			<u>25,473</u>	<u>152,259</u>

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.

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.

In February 2023 both the retail and wholesale investor unit classes of the Fund were closed with special distributions and final redemptions being paid effective 28 February 2023. Effective 1 March 2023 both of these classes were closed. A new unit class (N class) was established on 2 March 2023.

6 Net assets attributable to unit holders - equity (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.

7 Distributions to unit holders

The distributions declared during the year were as follows:

	Year ended			
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2023 CPU	30 June 2022 \$'000	30 June 2022 CPU
Distributions - Wholesale				
December	356	0.4952	216	0.2165
February	12,516	17.4508	-	-
June (payable)	-	-	690	0.9031
Total distributions	12,872	17.9460	906	1.1196
Distributions - Retail				
December	47	0.2215	-	-
February	1,719	8.1375	-	-
June (payable)	-	-	100	0.4808
Total distributions	1,766	8.3590	100	0.4808
Distributions - N Class				
June (payable)	314	1.2308	-	-
Total distributions	314	1.2308	-	-
Total distributions	14,952		1,006	

8 Cash and cash equivalents

	As at	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
Cash at bank	25,187	13,466
Total cash and cash equivalents	25,187	13,466

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

	Year ended	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
(a) Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		
Profit/(loss) for the year	309	-
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	(5,520)	(67,335)
Distributions to unit holders	14,638	1,006
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	181,690	165,787
Payments for purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	(33,508)	(140,066)
Net (gains)/losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	(8,868)	66,067
Net foreign exchange (gain)/loss	-	(15)
Net change in receivables	235	17
Net change in payables	(255)	(323)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	148,721	25,138
(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	2,765	1,963
Total non-cash operating and financing activities	2,765	1,963

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

10 Receivables

	As at	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
Dividends and distributions receivable	-	183
GST claimable	1	53
Total receivables	1	236

11 Payables

	As at	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
Redemptions payable	-	311
Management fees and costs payable	17	272
Total payables	17	583

12 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 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
PricewaterhouseCoopers Australian Firm		
<i>Audit and other assurance services</i>		
Audit and review of financial statements	20,800	23,800
Audit of compliance plan	2,346	2,346
Total remuneration for audit and other assurance services	23,146	26,146
<i>Taxation services</i>		
Tax compliance services	12,926	12,195
Other tax services	16,830	-
Total remuneration for taxation services	29,756	12,195
Total remuneration of PricewaterhouseCoopers Australian Firm	52,902	38,341

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

13 Related party transactions

The Responsible Entity of Cooper Investors Asian Equities 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 Cooper Investors Pty Limited, to act as Investment Manager for the Fund, and National Australia Bank 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
Russell W Beasley	
Michael J O'Brien	
Mary A O'Connor	
David B Warren	(appointed 6 March 2023)

ii. 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.

13 Related party transactions (continued)

(c) Key management personnel unit holdings

Key management personnel did not hold units in the Fund as at 30 June 2023 (30 June 2022: 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 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
Responsible Entity fees for the year	33,958	69,715
Management fees and costs for the year	860,303	2,102,855
Responsible Entity fees payable at year end	-	39,920
Management fees payable at year end	-	135,035

Under the terms of the Fund's Constitution and Product Disclosure Statement, management fees and costs include 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 the unrelated parties. Please refer to 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 2023 (30 June 2022: nil).

(i) Investments

The Fund did not hold any investments in Equity Trustees Limited or its related parties during the year (2022: nil).

14 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 2023 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the year ended on that date.

15 Contingent assets and liabilities and commitments

There were no outstanding contingent assets, liabilities or commitments as at 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2022.

Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the directors of the Responsible Entity:

- (a) The financial statements and notes set out on pages 6 to 27 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 2023 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.



Philip D Gentry
Chairman

Melbourne
21 September 2023



Independent auditor's report

To the unit holders of Cooper Investors Asian Equities Fund

Our opinion

In our opinion:

The accompanying financial report of Cooper Investors Asian Equities 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 2023 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 2023
- the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- the notes to the financial statements, which include significant accounting policies and other explanatory information
- the directors' declaration.

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 2023, 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 stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely representing the PricewaterhouseCoopers firm.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to CJ Cummins.

CJ Cummins
Partner

Sydney
21 September 2023