# **Bendigo Managed Wholesale Funds**

## Active Funds

## Quarterly fund update - December 2024

## Investment approach

Each Fund invests via a selection of expert asset managers that specialise in managing specific asset classes. A Fund's investment exposure may be obtained through direct investments, or indirectly through pooled funds, managed by the selected asset managers. Betashares will invest the Fund's assets across a variety of asset classes. Together through selection of managers and the asset allocation, Betashares will seek to meet or exceed the investment return objective of each Fund. Each Fund aims to provide a total return after fees in excess of a stated percentage above inflation over a 10 year period.

Fund performance <sup>1</sup>	Morningstar Rating <sup>™</sup>	Morningstar Category Rank	Distribution					
as at December 2024	Overall <sup>2</sup>	5 Year <sup>2</sup>	(per unit)	3 months %	1 year %	3 years %p.a. 5 years %p.a. Fund size \$m		
Bendigo Defensive Wholesale Fund	****	4/11	\$0.0164	1.08	7.39	1.96	3.10	\$19.85
Peer Comparison				0.85	6.87	2.24	2.73	
Bendigo Conservative Wholesale Fund	****	5 / 93	\$0.0145	1.69	10.20	2.20	4.32	\$95.11
Peer Comparison				1.32	8.44	2.35	3.19	
Bendigo Balanced Wholesale Fund	***	3 / 94	\$0.0126	2.27	12.42	1.60	4.81	\$120.11
Peer Comparison				1.29	9.89	3.66	4.69	

## An example of how your investment grows

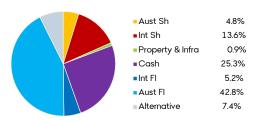
Growth of \$10,000 over 5 years<sup>1</sup> (Based on historic Fund performance over 5 years)



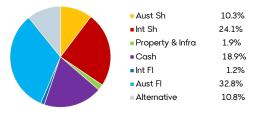
Fund Facts	APIR Code	Fund inception date	Distribution frequency	Return objective	Recommended investment timeframe	Risk level	Management fees & costs <sup>3</sup>	Buy / Sell spread <sup>3</sup>
Bendigo Defensive Wholesale Fund	STL0029AU	30 Sept 2011	Half yearly	CPI + 1%	2 years +	Low to medium	0.63% p.a.	+0.10%/-0.12%
Bendigo Conservative Wholesale Fund	STL0012AU	6 June 2002	Half yearly	CPI + 2%	3 years +	Medium	0.74% p.a.	+0.14%/-0.15%
Bendigo Balanced Wholesale Fund	STL0013AU	6 June 2002	Half yearly	CPI + 3%	4 years +	Medium to high	0.85% p.a.	+0.17%/-0.17%

## Asset allocation

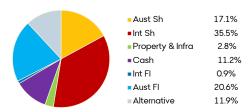
#### Bendigo Defensive Wholesale Fund



#### **Bendigo Conservative Wholesale Fund**



## **Bendigo Balanced Wholesale Fund**



Unit prices	Application price	Withdrawal
as at December 2024	price	price
Bendigo Defensive Wholesale Fund	\$1.08300	\$1.08062
Bendigo Conservative Wholesale Fund	\$1.07429	\$1.07118
Bendigo Balanced Wholesale Fund	\$1.02706	\$1.02358

## Quarterly commentary

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## Performance

Over the quarter returns were positive across all risk profiles, with the Funds modestly outperforming the Morningstar peer group over the period. With the end of the quarter marking the end of the calendar year, investors for the year have been rewarded with solid returns across all Funds, with the Funds all enjoying top quartile returns relative to their peer group. Contributing to relative returns were the tactical overweights to US shares, and the Funds gold exposure. Detracting from performance was the Funds exposure to inflation linked bonds, in which real yields (bond yields minus expected inflation) rose over the period resulting in capital losses within these exposures.

## **Economic**

The December quarter was strongly influenced by the US elections. Leading into the election, opinion polls were evenly split on either a Harris or Trump victory. Post election the Trump victory has seen a strong outperformance of US equities, a higher US dollar and higher bond yields. This is reflective of the market's expectations for stronger economic growth under a Trump presidency. Trump 2.0 brings a focus on productivity, which includes reducing public spending, lower taxes and lower regulation.

Over the quarter the AUD fell more than 10% versus the USD. The Aussie dollar was not alone, with similar falls experienced in other major currencies against the USD, including the Euro, Pound, Japanese Yen and the Canadian dollar. Currency movements were primarily a function of USD strength, however continued weakness in China, coupled with the threat of additional tariffs, saw currencies with trade ties with China experience sharper falls. A falling AUD has several implications on the Australian economy and domestic markets, being a positive impact on exporting companies given an uplift in the price that companies receive for their goods and services sold offshore. Additionally, inflation rises in the tradables component, as imports cost more the flow on effect is that this can benefit domestic manufacturers, which can become more competitive relative to global peers.

Domestically the RBA continues to remain on hold, with inflation data from September 2024 bringing hope to the markets that rate cuts are coming early in 2025. Recent economic data displays a robust employment market, while large public spending by the Australian Government providing a growth backstop.

For further information contact us on 1800 634 969 or visit our website: betashares.com.au/bendigo-funds

## Asset positioning commentary

Overall positioning is neutral on growth assets. Supporting growth assets is the anticipation of continued global economic growth under a Trump administration, while conversely positioning across the market appears stretched.

#### **Australian Shares**

Over the quarter the Funds held a slight underweight position to Australian equities, with a bias to global equities. The Australian sharemarket is dominated by mining companies and banks. Relative to global peers, Australian banks appear extremely overpriced using metrics like price to earnings ratios and offer little yield over cash investments.



The outlook for Australian miners is difficult to ascertain, given the high dependence on fiscal policy in China. The supportive announcements from the Chinese government could aid Australian commodity producers, however the problem of an overbuild in Chinese property is difficult to rectify and hence a construction led recovery seems limited.

#### International Shares

The Funds continue to hold a slight overweight position to global shares. Corporate earnings within the US continue to outpace that of other global equity markets, while proposed Trump policies could provide tailwinds to corporate earnings for the foreseeable future. Additionally, global shares have higher exposures to technological change with faster adoption of AI relative to the Australian



The Funds has a greater exposure to offshore currencies, in particular the USD, as capital flows chase higher growth and corporate earnings. The Funds currently hold a hedge ratio on international stocks of 45%.

#### **Property & Infrastructure**

A favourable aspect of the Funds relative to peers is the absence of unlisted property. Unlisted property faces several headwinds with high valuations, e-commerce, work from home and hence we expect these exposures to be a drag in portfolios that hold these positions. The Funds hold no exposure to listed property and currently hold a neutral exposure to listed infrastructure. We believe listed infrastructure does not face the same supply and demand issues to that of property and should provide better inflation linked cash flows.



#### **Fixed Income**

The Funds hold a neutral weight position to fixed income. Recently bond yields have risen with the expectation that the Trump administration will deliver stronger growth, with the possibility of higher inflation linked to China tariffs and onshoring manufacturing. This has led to capital losses in bond portfolios. Additionally, market concerns regarding the sustainability of large debt issuance, given unbalanced budgets, is leading to volatility in bonds with longer maturity time frames. This has resulted in a steepening of the yield curve, meaning longer dated market interest rates have moved higher than shorter dated interest rates, despite the view that central banks globally will cut interest rates over the upcoming year. In summary, this equates to greater value in investing in longer maturity bonds relative to shorter maturity bonds.



## **Alternatives**

The Funds alternatives exposure include gold, agriculture and distressed credit. The exposures are designed to offer returns that do not correlate to both equities and bonds, and hence these exposures will vary little through time, in proportion to the broader portfolio.



## Cash

Cash is used as a balancing item based on views of other asset classes.



## Footnotes

- 1. Fund performance figures are calculated before tax and after fees and costs; using withdrawal prices and assumes distributions are reinvested. Past performance is not an indication of future performance
- 2. Momingstar rates mutual funds from one to five stars based on how well they've performed (after adjusting for risk) in comparison to similar funds. Within each Morningstar Category, the top 10% of funds receive five stars, the next 22.5% from stars, the middle 35% three stars, the next 22.5% two stars, and the bottom 10% receive one star. Funds are rated for up to three time periods—three-, five-, and 10 years—and these ratings are combined to produce an overall rating. Funds with less than three years of history are not rated. Ratings are objective, based entirely on a mathematical evaluation of past performance. They're a useful tool for identifying funds worthy of further research, but shouldn't be considered buy or sell recommendations.

Bendigo Defensive Wholesale Fund received a 4-Star Overall Morningstar Rating<sup>TM</sup> out of 14 Multisector Conservative funds as of 31 December 2024. The Bendigo Defensive Wholesale Fund returns were ranked 4 out of 11 Morningstar Multisector Conservative funds for 5 years to 31 December 2024. Source: www.morningstar.com.au/Funds/FundReport/19293

Bendigo Conservative Wholesale Fund received a 5-Star Overall Morningstar Rating<sup>TM</sup> out of 96 Multisector Moderate funds as of 31 December 2024. The Bendigo Conservative Wholesale Fund returns were ranked 5 out of 93 Momingstar Multisector Moderate funds for 5 years to 31 December 2024. Source: www.momingstar.com.au/Funds/FundReport/13196

Bendigo Balanced Wholesale Fund received a 3-Star Overall Morningstar Rating™out of 98 Multisector Balanced funds as of 31 December 2024. The Bendigo Balanced Wholesale Fund returns were ranked 3 out of 94 Morningstar Multisector Balanced funds for 5 years to 31 December 2024. Source: www.morningstar.com.au/Funds/FundReport/13195

'Peer Comparison' performance refers to the performance of the relevant 'Morringstar Category' for the stated period. Investments are placed into Morningstar Categories based on their compositions and portfolio statistics so that investors can make meaningful comparisons. 'Momingstar Category Rank' is the Fund's performance rank relative to all funds in the same Morningstar Category.

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The Morningstar Rating is an assessment of a fund's past performance—based on both return and risk—which shows how similar investments compare with their competitors. A high rating alone is insufficient basis for an investment decision.

3. Management fees & costs are based on fees and costs incurred by the Fund in the past financial year and may be different in the current and future financial years. Other fees and costs may apply. See the Product Disclosure Statement for full details.

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