

Sestante ESG Focus Dynamic Assertive Portfolio Monthly Investment Report



As of 29/02/2024

Latest Performance*

	1-mth	3-mths	1-yr	3-yr	Inception
ESG Focus Assertive	2.21	8.13	13.70	—	13.87
RBA Cash Rate +4.5%p.a.	0.70	2.22	8.92	6.62	8.22

Market Review

Despite a dip in the US GDP (3.2% YoY as opposed to the estimated 3.3% YoY) and a rise in inflation, the US economy has shown impressive resilience. Recent economic data offers convincing proof of sustained growth and a robust job market. The addition of 275,000 Nonfarm Payrolls last month once again exceeded expectations of 198,000, while the unemployment rate saw a slight increase from 3.7% to 3.9%, attributed to a higher labour participation rate. On the other side of the coin, the disinflationary trend faced hurdles after January's CPI rose more than expected at 3.1% YoY, compared to the anticipated 2.9% and the previous month's 3.4%, with core inflation also on the rise.

On the first day of the semi-annual monetary policy testimony, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell emphasised that the Fed is not rushing to reduce policy rates and is expected to implement cuts later this year. His comments underscored the importance of gaining greater confidence in inflation's sustainable trajectory toward 2% before contemplating rate reductions. The comment dampened the hope of an earlier rate cut, while the market is weighing a higher probability of rate cut in June this year.

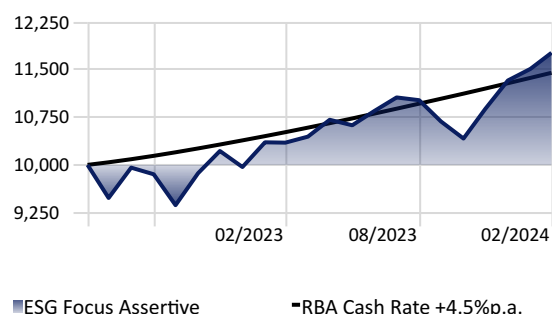
The macroeconomic backdrop prompted a repricing of the yield curve particularly on the front end, contributing to the negative performance of International Fixed Income (-0.8%). In contrast, International Equity (+5.8%) experienced significant propulsion, particularly from the Information Technology (IT) sector (+7.8%), buoyed by robust results in the fourth quarter reporting season. Nvidia's positive report further solidified momentum in artificial intelligence, fostering optimism in the technology sector. The influential AI theme also bolstered the Australian IT sector (+19%), benefiting data centre provider NextDC amid heightened demand for cloud storage. Among the tech sector, notable performers during the 1H24 Australian reporting season included Life360 and Wisetech. Overall, the Australian stock market recorded a gain of 0.79% in February. Energy (-6%) and materials (-5%) emerged as notable detractors, attributed to weakened gas prices and cost pressures affecting some miners. Australian Fixed Interest recorded a loss of 0.3% in February as the yield curve exhibited a gradual upward movement, albeit milder than its international counterpart. This development followed the February Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) rate statement, calling the probability for a rate hike has not been ruled out, given the elevated inflation levels despite easing.

Regarding real assets, global listed infrastructure demonstrated positive returns of 0.6%, while global property experienced a modest decline of 0.32%. New York Community Bancorp's (NYCB) subpar results in the fourth quarter of 2023 and a larger-than-anticipated allowance for loan losses, attributed to substantial exposure in Commercial Real Estate (CRE), particularly in office. Notwithstanding signs of stabilisation in capital values for the US CRE market, the office sector continues to underperform. Anticipated CRE debt maturities in 2024 present challenges for refinancing, particularly in the office sector, potentially leading to increased loan delinquencies and charge-offs.

For a detailed market review and outlook, please refer to the Monthly Market Commentary document available on www.azsestante.com/investment-options



\$10,000 invested over time



Portfolio information

- **Investment objective:**
To deliver outperformance of RBA cash +4.5% per annum after fees over a rolling 7-year period.
- **Suggested minimum timeframe:**
7 years
- 85% Growth / 15% Defensive
- **Portfolio inception date:**
1 June 2022

Sustainability Score

Corporate Sustainability Score



Sovereign Sustainability Score



● ESG Focus Assertive

ESG Pillar Score



4.8

Environmental



8.1

Social



6.2

Governance



0.9

Unallocated

Major Index Returns

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years
S&P/ASX 200 TR AUD	0.79	9.39	7.42	10.64	9.32
MSCI World Ex Australia GR AUD	5.96	12.85	12.14	30.46	15.75
Bloomberg AusBond Composite 0+Y TR AUD	-0.30	2.59	2.11	3.51	-1.40
Bloomberg Global Aggregate TR Hdg AUD	-0.80	1.87	2.33	3.86	-2.78
S&P Global Infrastructure NR AUD	1.45	2.60	1.45	4.52	10.73
RBA Cash Rate Target	0.35	1.11	2.18	4.22	2.03
MSCI ACWI Ex USA NR USD	2.53	6.61	7.90	12.51	1.32

Important information

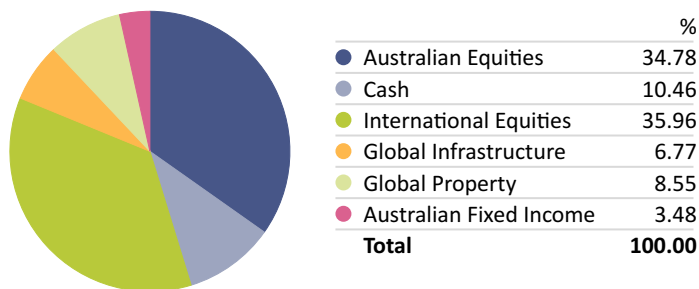
*Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Performance is calculated before taxes, model management and platform fees and after underlying investment management fees. For full details of fees please refer to the relevant platform offer documents. Performance is notional in nature and an individual investor's actual performance may differ to the that of the model portfolio. Investment performance is shown from 1/6/2022 and represents modelled performance only and assumes income received is reinvested.

The Morningstar Historical Corporate Sustainability Score is a weighted average of the trailing 12 months of Morningstar Portfolio Corporate Sustainability Scores. Historical portfolio scores are not equal-weighted; rather, more-recent portfolios are weighted more heavily than older portfolios. Combining the trailing 12 months of portfolio scores adds consistency while still reflecting portfolio managers' current decisions by weighting the most recent portfolio scores more heavily.

ESG pillar scores are displayed as a number between 0 and 100 with most scores range between 0 and 25. It is the asset-weighted average of the company environmental, social, governance risk scores for the covered corporate holdings in a portfolio. The scores measure the degree to which a company's economic value may be at risk driven by environmental, social, and governance factors. The risk represents the unmanaged risk exposure after taking into account a company's management of such risks.

The Portfolio Unallocated ESG Risk Score represents the unmanaged ESG risk exposure to companies assigned an ESG Risk Rating, but whose risk is not decomposed into environmental, social and governance components. Calculated as the asset-weighted average of the company ESG Risk scores for the covered holdings in a portfolio that do not have E/S/G risk scores, unallocated ESG risk is displayed as a number between 0 and 100, where lower is better. Together, the four portfolio pillar score data points- Environmental Risk Score, Social Risk Score, Governance Risk Score, and Unallocated ESG Risk Score- will add up to a portfolio's Sustainability Score.

Current Asset Allocation



Where your funds are invested

International Equities	35.96	
AXA IM Sustainable Equity	10.07	●●●●●
VanEck MSCI Intl Sust Eq ETF	9.02	●●●●●
Stewart Investors Worldwide Leaders Sust	8.36	●●●●●
BetaShares Global Sstnbty Ldrs ETF Ccy H	5.63	●●●●●
Janus Henderson Global Natural Resources	2.88	●●●
Australian Equities	34.78	
VanEck MSCI AUS Sust Eq ETF	11.59	●●●●●
Schroder Australian Equity Fund - PC	10.41	●●●●●
Alphinity Sustainable Share	7.01	●●●●●
Australian Ethical Australian Shr WS	5.77	●●●●●
Cash	10.46	
BetaShares Aus High Interest Cash ETF	8.25	—
iShares Core Cash ETF	2.20	—
Global Property	8.55	
Martin Currie Real Income A	4.83	●●●●●
First Sentier Global Property Securities	3.72	●●●●●
Global Infrastructure	6.77	
4D Global Infrastructure Fund (Unhedged)	6.77	●●●●●
Australian Fixed Income	3.48	
Pendal Sustainable Aust Fixed Interest	3.48	●●●●●
Total	100.00	

Morningstar's Globe Ratings are just one tool that can help investors work out a fund's ESG credentials. A 5 Globe Rating indicates a fund is at the top end of its peer group in terms of sustainability, while a 1 Globe Rating shows it is underperforming on sustainability issues.

Portfolio changes

There are no portfolio changes this month.

Active Asset Allocation: AZ Sestante Model Portfolio vs Investment Policy Target

As of 29/02/2024

