## Sestante ESG Focus Dynamic Assertive Portfolio

### Monthly Investment Report



As of 31/08/2024

#### **Latest Performance\***

	1-mth	3-mths	1-yr	3-yr	Inception
ESG Focus Assertive	0.79	5.07	13.28	_	13.56
RBA Cash Rate +4.5%p.a.	0.75	2.25	9.18	7.40	8.47

#### **Market Review**

The Japanese equity market benchmark, the Nikkei 225, tumbled by 20.7% during the first three trading days of August, triggering a ripple effect across global markets, including the United States. On 5th August, the CBOE Volatility Index (VIX), known as the "fear gauge," spiked dramatically from 23 to 66, reflecting heightened investor anxiety. This market turmoil was driven by two key factors: the unwinding of the Japanese Yen carry trade following the Bank of Japan's shift in monetary policy and weaker-than-expected US Nonfarm payroll data, fuelling recession fears. Amid this volatility, there were some positive economic indicators. The second revision of US GDP confirmed 3% growth in Q2, up from the initial estimate of 2.8%, and US inflation data for July continued to cool as expected. Overall, global equity markets lost 1.34% in August, though on an AUD-hedged basis, global equities gained 1.6% as the AUD appreciated by 3.5% against the US dollar.

In response to recession concerns and a dovish speech by Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, the US 10-year yield fell by 13 basis points, while the 2-year yield dropped by 34 basis points, contributing to a 1% gain in global fixed income. In Australia, a softer-than-expected Q2 inflation print spurred a bond market rally, with the 10-year yield declining by 8 basis points and the 2-year yield by 20 basis points, leading to a 1.2% return for Australian bonds in August.

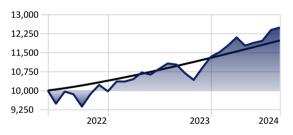
The Australian equity market saw mixed results during its reporting season, with corporate earnings down 4.5% for FY24, largely due to weaker commodity prices in the resource sector. However, consumer recovery was evident, with retailers like Super Retail and JB Hi-Fi reporting sales growth in early FY25. Growth stocks, as measured by the price/earnings (P/E) ratio, remained strong, with forward P/Es elevated above the 20-year average, according to Goldman Sachs. Brambles and WiseTech were standout performers, both reporting strong earnings and margin improvements. The Australian equity market ended August with a modest 0.44% gain.

Bond-sensitive sectors outperformed, with global property gaining 5.65%, driven by growth in the North American healthcare sector, particularly in senior housing. Infrastructure returned 3.04%, supported by the continued strength of US regulated utilities.

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



■ESG Focus Assertive

RBA Cash Rate +4.5%p.a.

#### 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 19.6 e 0 Low Risk Severe Risk Sovereign S 9.1 inability Score 0 Low Risk Severe Risk

ESG Focus Assertive

#### **ESG Pillar Score**



4.5 Environmental



8.2 Social



5.1 Governance



Unallocated

#### **Major Index Returns**

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years
S&P/ASX 200 TR AUD	0.47	5.74	6.97	14.90	6.73
MSCI World Ex Australia GR AUD	-1.21	4.53	6.45	19.38	10.15
Bloomberg AusBond Composite 0+Y TR AUD	1.21	3.50	2.99	5.15	-1.79
Bloomberg Global Aggregate TR Hdg AUD	0.99	3.69	3.55	5.97	-2.15
S&P Global Infrastructure NR AUD	0.62	3.69	12.00	13.63	9.47
RBA Cash Rate Target	0.38	1.12	2.25	4.47	2.77
MSCI ACWI Ex USA NR USD	2.85	5.13	9.56	18.21	2.11

#### Important information

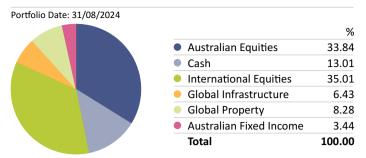
\*Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Performance is calculated before taxes, model management and platform fees and after underlying investment management fees. For full details of fees please refer to the relevant platform offer documents. Performance is notional in 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	35.01	_
Mirova Global Sustainable Equity No. 2 I	8.71	00000
Stewart Investors Worldwide Leaders Sust	8.53	000
BetaShares Global Sstnbty Ldrs ETF Ccy H	5.49	00000
AXA IM Sustainable Equity	4.67	000
AXA IM Sustainable Equity A (H) AUD	4.67	0000
Robeco Emerging Conservative Equity AUD	2.93	000
Australian Equities	33.84	_
VanEck MSCI AUS Sust Eq ETF	11.20	00000
Schroder Australian Equity Fund - PC	9.99	
Alphinity Sustainable Share	6.94	0000
Australian Ethical Australian Shr WS	5.71	0000
Cash	13.01	_
BetaShares Aus High Interest Cash ETF	7.92	_
iShares Core Cash ETF	5.09	_
Global Property	8.28	_
Martin Currie Real Income A	4.53	00000
First Sentier Global Property Securities	3.75	<b>600000</b>
Global Infrastructure	6.43	_
4D Global Infrastructure AUD Hedged	6.43	00000
Australian Fixed Income	3.44	_
Pendal Sustainable Aust Fixed Interest	3.44	000
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**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

We halved our exposure to the AXA IM Sustainable Equity Fund and placed the proceeds into the AXA IM Sustainable Equity Fund Hedged.

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

As of 31/08/2024

