

February 2025 performance review and sector update

Conviction ideas: Our preferences within each sector are based on numerous quantitative and qualitative factors. Table 1 on page 2 provides a sector update, with our estimated current net tangible assets (NTAs) derived from our model portfolios.

Traditional LICs

After starting the year strongly, the ASX 200 Accum. Index retreated 3.8% in February. Traditional LICs outperformed during the volatility of February, falling just 0.4% on average on a total shareholder return (TSR) basis. From a pre-tax net tangible asset (NTA) perspective, traditional LICs fell 3.0% on average.

Preferred LIC **Australian United Investment Company (AUI)** outperformed the broader market during the month, declining 2.5% on an NTA basis. AUI remains our pick for those seeking a traditional LIC trading at a discount. The fund currently trades at an estimated 15.2% discount, below its 1- and 3-year average discounts of 12.4% and 9.2%. The gross yield sits at 6.5% on a trailing basis.

Our second preference remains **BKI Investment Company (BKI)** given its yield and discount to NTA. BKI is currently trading at an estimated 4.0% discount and offers a trailing gross yield of 6.8%.

Large Capitalisation

Our top pick in the large cap category is **AMCIL (AMH)**. It is trading at an estimated 14.3% discount, significantly below its 3- and 5-year average discounts of 7.6% and 6.3%. Furthermore, AMH is one of the top category performers across the key 3- and 5-year time horizons.

Small Capitalisation & Specialist

Small cap equities were also under pressure in February, with the Small Ords Accum. Index sliding 2.8%. Our preference among the small cap LIC's is **WAM Research (WAX)**. Despite being at a modest premium, WAX is currently trading well below the excessive premiums seen in recent years, which we believe provides an attractive entry point to a strategy that has consistently outperformed.

Our specialist preference remains **Regal Investment Fund (RF1)** given the stellar NTA performance over 1-, 3- and 5-year periods. The vehicle provides exposure to various strategies managed by the award-winning Regal Funds Management since being established in 2004.

International

Overseas markets, as measured by the MSCI World Index on a total return AUD adjusted basis, was flat in February, keeping its calendar year to date return at 2.3%.

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Disclosure: Ord Minnett acted as Joint Lead Manager in a capital raising PM Capital Global Opportunities Fund Limited (PGF) in July 2024 and Regal Investment Fund (RF1) in November 2024 and received fees for acting in these capacities. Ord Minnett acted as a Joint Lead Arranger and Joint Lead Manager in the IPO of Whitefield Income Limited (WHI) in November 2024. Ord Minnett is acting as a Joint Lead Manager in the IPO of WAM Income Maximiser (WMX) in March 2025. Ord Minnett may do business with and receive commission and/or fees from companies that are the subject of this report. Hugh Glasson holds units in LSF.

MFF Capital Investments (MFF) remains our preferred international LIC. MFF's performance has been stellar, returning 27.4%, 20.9% and 11.9% on a pre-tax NTA basis over 1-,3- and 5-year time horizons, and is currently trading at an estimated 12.3% discount.

Our second pick in the international category is **PM Capital Global Opportunities Fund** (PGF). While the long-term performance remains strong and among the best in class, given its premium to NTA, we currently believe MFF Capital Investments provides a better opportunity.

Around The Grounds: LIC News

PGF bids for Platinum LICs – PMC and PAI

- PM Capital Global Opportunities Fund (PGF) has confirmed it has made proposals to acquire 100% of Platinum Capital (PMC) and Platinum Asia Investments (PAI).
- Under the proposal, shareholders of the Platinum LICs can exchange their PMC or PAI shares for PGF shares, with an exchange ratio set with reference to the pre-tax NTA of PGF and a 1.5% premium to the respective pre-tax NTA of PMC/PAI. The proposal also provides flexibility for shareholders to receive cash consideration at the post-tax NTA per share of PMC/PAI or a combination of scrip and cash.
- For shareholders of the Platinum LICs, we view the offer as attractive as it presents an opportunity to exit their PMC/PAI holdings at a premium to NTA, when both strategies have performed poorly and traded at consistent discounts. Platinum has previously announced intentions to transition both of these LIC's into the listed ETF versions of these strategies (PIXX/PAXX), however given the best in class long term performance of PGF, and the implied proposal price, we view this offer as a superior alternative.
- From a PGF shareholder perspective, the proposal will not be dilutive to the NTA of PGF as the premium payable as well as any transaction costs will be funded by PM Capital (as investment manager of PGF), rather than from the fund itself.
- As it stands, we have yet to see a response from Platinum in relation to the proposal. No action is required at this stage from any PGF/PMC/PAI shareholders.

IPO: WAM Income Maximiser (WMX)

- Wilson Asset Management have announced the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of WAM Income Maximiser (WMX) to raise ~\$510 million.
- As an overview of the strategy, WMX will be an actively managed portfolio composed of 60–70% equity and 30–40% debt holdings, with the aim of providing monthly franked dividends to shareholders. The minimum target income return is the RBA Cash Rate (RBA) + 2.5% per annum, including franking credits. Based on current market conditions, WMX's objective is to deliver an income return of over 6.0%p.a., including franking credits, throughout the cycle. Note, the minimum income target does not include any capital appreciation.
- The equity component of the portfolio will provide exposure to companies predominantly within the S&P/ASX 300 Index. On the debt side, WMX will primarily invest in investment grade corporate notes and bonds, hybrids and short-term money market instruments.
- Shares of WMX are expected to commence trading on Wednesday, 30 April 2025, with the initial dividend to be paid around August 2025.

Ord Minnett is acting as a Joint Lead Manager in the IPO of WAM Income Maximiser (WMX) in March 2025 and will receive fees for acting in this capacity.

Spheria Emerging Companies (SEC)

- In previous notes, we have highlighted Spheria's conditional proposal which aimed to reduce the discount of the share price to its NTA. Over the proposal period, being the December 2024 quarter, the average discount to NTA was less than the 5% threshold proposed. Given the impact the proposal had on narrowing the discount, the board has reinstated the conditional proposal for the twelve months from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, such that if the average daily discount of the share price to pre-tax NTA per share exceeds 5%, a shareholder vote will be held to determine the future structure of the fund.

Table 1: Sector snapshot

Listed Investment Companies coverage by sector

Listed Investment Companies coverage by sector																
Traditional LICs																
	Code	Share Price	Market Cap. (\$m)	Trailing Dividend (cents)	Trailing Dividend Yield	Trailing Grossed Up Yield	TSR since 1 Mar 25	Current Est. NTA	Current Estimated Disc/Prem	Feb NTA	Feb Disc/Prem	1 Yr Ave Disc/Prem	3 Yr Ave Disc/Prem	Feb Post-tax Disc/Prem	MER	
Australian Foundat.	AFI	7.10	8931.2	26.5	3.7%	5.3%	-3.8%	7.76	-8.5%	8.04	-8.1%	-9.3%	-0.4%	9.8%	0.16%	
Argo Investments	ARG	8.61	6571.6	35.0	4.1%	5.8%	-4.8%	9.62	-10.5%	9.94	-9.2%	-10.2%	-3.4%	6.2%	0.16%	
Australian United Invest.	AUI	9.96	1236.0	45.0	4.5%	6.5%	-5.1%	11.75	-15.2%	12.13	-13.4%	-12.4%	-9.2%	5.1%	0.10%	
BKI Investment Ltd	BKI	1.66	1339.8	7.9	4.8%	6.8%	-0.9%	1.75*	-4.0%	1.83	-8.5%	-8.2%	-3.7%	-0.6%	0.17%	
Djerriwarrh	DJW	2.98	787.4	15.3	5.1%	7.3%	-2.9%	3.25	-8.3%	3.29	-6.7%	-8.6%	-7.9%	-5.5%	0.45%	
Diversified United	DUI	5.00	1076.3	16.0	3.2%	4.6%	-2.7%	5.95	-16.0%	6.17	-16.2%	-14.0%	-10.3%	3.0%	0.12%	
Large Capitalisation																
	Code	Share Price	Market Cap. (\$m)	Trailing Dividend (cents)	Trailing Dividend Yield	Trailing Grossed Up Yield	TSR since 1 Mar 25	Current Est. NTA	Current Estimated Disc/Prem	Feb NTA	Feb Disc/Prem	1 Yr Ave Disc/Prem	3 Yr Ave Disc/Prem	Feb Post-tax Disc/Prem	MER	
AMCIL Limited	AMH	1.08	341.1	4.0	3.7%	5.3%	-7.7%	1.25	-14.3%	1.26	-7.5%	-12.1%	-7.6%	3.5%	0.56%	
Clime Capital	CAM	0.75	112.9	5.4	7.2%	10.3%	-2.6%	0.75*	0.3%	0.76	0.9%	0.3%	-0.7%	-4.1%	1.00%	
Cadence Capital	CDM	0.65	194.3	6.0	9.2%	13.2%	-4.4%	n.a	n.a	0.78	-12.4%	-13.0%	-9.7%	-29.6%	1.00%	
Carlton Investments	CIN	31.05	820.5	108.0	3.5%	5.0%	-3.0%	n.a	n.a	44.22	-27.6%	-25.4%	-23.6%	-12.0%	0.10%	
Future Gen Ltd	FGX	1.20	490.9	6.9	5.7%	8.2%	-5.1%	n.a	n.a	1.37	-7.6%	-11.5%	-11.2%	-4.9%	0.00%	
L1 Long Short Fnd Ltd	LSF	2.76	1726.3	12.3	4.4%	6.3%	6.1%	2.95*	-7.5%	2.92	-8.9%	-3.6%	-4.9%	-8.0%	1.44%	
Perpetual Equity Ltd	PIC	1.16	441.1	8.0	6.9%	9.9%	-2.0%	1.20*	-4.3%	1.29	-5.4%	-7.5%	-5.8%	-3.0%	1.00%	
Plato Income Max.	PL8	1.28	958.3	6.6	5.2%	7.4%	0.8%	1.09*	16.2%	1.11	14.8%	10.4%	13.5%	15.2%	0.80%	
WAM Leaders Limited	WLE	1.26	1725.9	9.2	7.3%	10.4%	-0.4%	n.a	n.a	1.29	-2.4%	-3.6%	1.5%	na	1.00%	
Whitefield Ltd	WHF	5.27	633.0	20.8	3.9%	5.6%	-2.6%	6.03	-12.6%	6.31	-14.3%	-11.0%	-4.2%	-3.2%	0.25%	
Small Capitalisation																
	Code	Share Price	Market Cap. (\$m)	Trailing Dividend (cents)	Trailing Dividend Yield	Trailing Grossed Up Yield	TSR since 1 Mar 25	Current Est. NTA	Current Estimated Disc/Prem	Feb NTA	Feb Disc/Prem	1 Yr Ave Disc/Prem	3 Yr Ave Disc/Prem	Feb Post-tax Disc/Prem	MER	
Acorn Cap Inv Fund	ACQ	0.76	67.9	5.5	7.2%	9.6%	-3.2%	n.a	n.a	1.05	-25.3%	-21.8%	-11.2%	-25.9%	0.95%	
ECP Emerging Growth	ECP	1.32	24.2	5.5	4.2%	6.0%	5.6%	1.66	-20.2%	1.74	-28.1%	-23.1%	-21.6%	-26.0%	1.00%	
Naos Small Cap Opp	NSC	0.29	38.4	5.0	17.5%	25.1%	-7.2%	n.a	n.a	0.36	-11.1%	-16.9%	-16.4%	-25.6%	1.15%	
Glennon SML Co Ltd	GC1	0.47	22.4	3.0	6.5%	7.4%	-8.8%	n.a	n.a	0.81	-35.8%	-35.4%	-26.7%	-32.5%	1.00%	
Mirrabooka Invest.	MIR	3.19	621.1	13.5	4.2%	6.0%	-7.8%	3.23	-1.3%	3.34	3.6%	1.0%	2.5%	0.0%	0.50%	
Naos Emerg Opp	NCC	0.37	26.9	5.8	15.8%	20.3%	0.0%	n.a	n.a	0.46	-20.7%	-14.8%	-13.3%	-28.8%	1.25%	
NGE Capital	NGE	1.05	36.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0%	-1.4%	n.a	n.a	1.27	-16.7%	-15.9%	-19.0%	-22.4%	1.90%	
Ophir High Conviction	OPH	2.86	636.6	7.5	2.6%	2.6%	-11.2%	3.21*	-10.8%	3.36	-4.5%	-11.1%	-7.4%	na	1.23%	
Ryder Capital	RYD	1.17	95.3	9.5	8.1%	11.6%	-9.7%	n.a	n.a	1.51	-14.4%	-16.7%	-14.3%	-12.5%	1.25%	
Salter Brothers Emerging	SB2	0.76	64.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0%	-9.6%	n.a	n.a	1.13	-25.8%	-32.9%	-31.5%	-25.7%	1.25%	
Spheria Emerging Co	SEC	2.29	137.0	13.4	5.9%	8.4%	-0.9%	2.42*	-4.9%	2.48	-6.7%	-5.4%	-9.3%	-3.5%	1.00%	
WAM Capital Limited	WAM	1.64	1830.9	15.5	9.5%	11.9%	-0.9%	n.a	n.a	1.62	1.8%	-0.9%	9.6%	na	1.00%	
WAM Research Ltd	WAX	1.22	250.8	10.0	8.2%	10.3%	0.0%	n.a	n.a	1.16	5.4%	5.1%	21.4%	na	1.00%	
WAM Microcap Ltd	WMI	1.46	405.9	10.5	7.2%	10.3%	-4.3%	n.a	n.a	1.45	5.5%	3.4%	12.3%	na	1.00%	

Source: Company releases, Bloomberg, IRESS, OML estimates

Figures as at: 19 March 2025

*NTA is last reported NTA, adjusted for any dividends past ex-date. Current premium and discount is based on the discount at date of last disclosed NTA date.

Table 1: Sector snapshot (cont.)

Listed Investment Companies coverage by sector

Listed Investment Companies coverage by sector																
		Share	Market	Trailing	Trailing	Trailing	TSR since	Current	Current		Feb	1 Yr Ave	3 Yr Ave	Feb		
International	Code	Price	Cap. (\$m)	Dividend (cents)	Dividend Yield	Grossed Up Yield	1 Mar 25	Est. NTA	Estimated Disc/Prem	Feb NTA	Disc/Prem	Disc/Prem	Disc/Prem	Post-tax Disc/Prem	MER	
Argo Global Ltd	ALI	2.28	405.3	9.0	3.9%	5.6%	1.3%	2.64*	-15.5%	2.67	-14.2%	-13.3%	-7.6%	-11.2%	1.25%	
Future Glb Invest Co	FGG	1.44	572.5	7.3	5.1%	7.3%	-3.4%	n.a	n.a	1.70	-12.6%	-14.9%	-15.3%	-5.6%	0.00%	
Global Value Fnd Ltd	GVF	1.38	241.3	7.6	5.5%	7.9%	0.0%	n.a	n.a	1.37	0.5%	-4.8%	-4.8%	7.2%	1.50%	
Hearts and Minds	HM1	2.91	666.3	15.5	5.3%	7.6%	-5.5%	3.48*	-14.7%	3.70	-16.8%	-16.2%	-16.4%	-10.2%	0.00%	
Pengana International	PIA	1.16	298.2	5.4	4.7%	6.7%	-3.7%	1.37*	-14.4%	1.42	-15.1%	-15.1%	-15.2%	-11.6%	1.23%	
MFF Capital Invest.	MFF	4.23	2464.0	13.0	3.1%	4.4%	0.0%	4.78*	-12.3%	5.21	-18.6%	-13.4%	-15.4%	-0.6%	0.55%	
Platinum Asia Ltd	PAI	1.08	399.7	1.5	1.4%	2.0%	0.9%	1.16*	-7.2%	1.15	-6.4%	-8.8%	-12.5%	-3.1%	1.10%	
PM Capital Fund	PGF	2.38	1139.9	16.0	6.7%	9.6%	1.9%	2.31*	1.7%	2.35	2.4%	3.3%	1.4%	15.8%	1.00%	
Platinum Capital Ltd	PMC	1.43	421.9	6.0	4.2%	6.0%	-1.7%	1.52*	-7.4%	1.58	-6.1%	-8.6%	-12.7%	-3.4%	1.10%	
Regal Asian Investments	RG8	2.00	303.4	11.0	5.5%	7.9%	-6.5%	2.28*	-13.6%	2.39	-10.5%	-12.5%	-14.1%	0.0%	1.50%	
WAM Global	WGB	2.32	826.4	12.0	5.2%	7.4%	-4.5%	n.a	n.a	2.69	-9.9%	-11.1%	-12.6%	na	1.25%	
WCM Global Growth	WQG	1.58	356.9	7.3	4.6%	6.6%	-8.1%	1.86	-14.1%	1.98	-12.3%	-12.5%	-14.3%	-1.9%	1.35%	
VGI Partners Global	VG1	1.82	460.8	11.0	6.0%	8.6%	1.1%	1.99*	-11.8%	2.08	-13.5%	-11.3%	-14.8%	na	1.50%	
Specialist	Code	Share Price	Market Cap. (\$m)	Trailing Dividend (cents)	Trailing Dividend Yield	Trailing Grossed Up Yield	TSR since 1 Mar 25	Current Est. NTA	Current Estimated Disc/Prem	Feb NTA	Feb Disc/Prem	1 Yr Ave Disc/Prem	3 Yr Ave Disc/Prem	Feb Post-tax Disc/Prem	MER	
Bailador Tech Inv	BTI	1.16	172.3	7.1	6.1%	8.7%	-2.1%	n.a	n.a	1.73	-31.5%	-31.5%	-28.8%	-26.1%	1.75%	
Lowell Resource Fund	LRT	1.14	47.2	15.2	13.3%	13.4%	-0.9%	1.43*	-26.4%	1.41	-18.3%	-13.1%	-13.9%	na	2.16%	
Lion Selection Grp	LSX	0.60	84.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	n.a	n.a	0.77	-25.3%	-28.0%	-29.0%	-23.0%	1.50%	
NAOS ex-50 Opport.	NAC	0.39	18.6	6.0	15.6%	22.3%	-4.6%	n.a	n.a	0.50	-16.0%	-2.8%	-6.7%	-30.0%	1.75%	
Regal Investment Fund	RF1	3.03	657.2	25.1	8.3%	8.3%	-7.6%	3.23*	-9.9%	3.36	-2.4%	-2.6%	-2.8%	na	1.50%	
Sandon Capital Ltd	SNC	0.76	110.0	6.9	9.1%	13.0%	-2.6%	n.a	n.a	0.90	-13.3%	-14.6%	-13.5%	-11.4%	1.25%	
Tribeca Glb Resources	TGF	1.43	112.3	0.0	0.0%	0.0%	-3.7%	1.88*	-23.4%	1.87	-20.9%	-20.9%	-18.1%	-25.8%	1.50%	
Thorney Technologies Ltd	TEK	0.12	45.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0%	-11.1%	n.a	n.a	0.25	-45.1%	-44.6%	-36.6%	-49.5%	1.00%	
Thorney Opp Ltd	TOP	0.58	102.6	2.6	4.5%	6.5%	-6.3%	n.a	n.a	0.91	-31.3%	-30.7%	-30.2%	-24.6%	0.75%	
WAM Active Ltd	WAA	0.87	66.4	6.0	6.9%	9.9%	-1.1%	n.a	n.a	0.83	6.3%	2.3%	2.7%	na	1.00%	
WAM Strategic Value Ltd	WAR	1.11	199.9	6.3	5.6%	8.0%	-3.1%	n.a	n.a	1.29	-11.1%	-11.3%	-12.0%	na	1.00%	
WAM Alternative Assets	WMA	0.96	187.3	5.2	5.4%	7.8%	-3.5%	n.a	n.a	1.19	-17.0%	-16.4%	-14.4%	na	1.20%	

Source: Company releases, Bloomberg, IRESS, OML estimates

Figures as at: 19 March 2025

*NTA is last reported NTA, adjusted for any dividends past ex-date. Current premium and discount is based on the discount at date of last disclosed NTA date.

NTA performance calculation methodology

- Unless stated otherwise, NTA performance in this report is calculated on pre-tax NTA basis, which refers to net tangible assets after tax paid but before tax on unrealised gains as well as cash dividends paid during the relevant period. TSR performance figures from Bloomberg and calculated with re-invested dividends. Active return refers to the TSR relative to that of the comparative index.
- LIC performance measurements reflect performance after all operating expenses and taxation. Using index benchmarks often understates performance as the indices used are before all operating expenses and tax. Total shareholder returns are often negatively impacted by capital events such as options, DRPs, share purchase plans and placements. Dividend yields contained within are historical and are not an indication of future dividend payments.

Fig. 1: LIC Performance Table (February 2025)

Traditional LICs	Code	1 Year			3 Year (annualised)			5 Year (annualised)		
		NTA performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc	NTA performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc	NTA performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc
Australian Foundat.	AFI	6.9%	3.4%	-9.3%	8.1%	1.0%	-0.4%	8.5%	6.5%	3.1%
Argo Investments	ARG	9.3%	6.0%	-10.2%	7.9%	1.2%	-3.4%	8.1%	5.8%	-0.7%
Australian United In	AUI	9.5%	10.7%	-12.4%	10.4%	8.0%	-9.2%	8.6%	6.8%	-7.2%
BKI Investment Ltd	BKI	4.9%	1.7%	-8.2%	7.7%	5.8%	-3.7%	7.6%	6.7%	-3.8%
Djerriwarrh	DJW	3.3%	9.9%	-8.6%	5.9%	4.7%	-7.9%	5.9%	4.4%	-6.4%
Diversified United	DUI	10.4%	9.0%	-14.0%	9.6%	5.1%	-10.3%	7.9%	5.0%	-7.6%
Average		7.4%	6.8%	-10.5%	8.3%	4.3%	-5.8%	7.8%	5.8%	-3.7%

Large Capitalisation	Code	1 Year			3 Year (annualised)			5 Year (annualised)		
		NTA Performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc	NTA Performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc	NTA Performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc
AMCIL Limited	AMH	3.9%	13.3%	-12.1%	6.8%	2.4%	-7.6%	8.4%	8.8%	-6.3%
Clime Capital	CAM	-1.1%	2.8%	0.3%	2.6%	3.1%	-0.7%	2.6%	2.8%	-1.3%
Cadence Capital	CDM	-0.8%	-3.1%	-13.0%	-3.5%	-4.6%	-9.7%	5.5%	9.1%	-10.6%
Carlton Investments	CIN	15.7%	11.5%	-25.4%	6.3%	4.6%	-23.6%	8.2%	5.7%	-21.9%
Future Gen Ltd	FGX	5.1%	19.4%	-11.5%	4.2%	4.3%	-11.2%	7.0%	8.7%	-10.3%
L1 Long Short Fund	LSF	0.3%	-1.1%	-3.6%	0.0%	1.9%	-4.9%	15.7%	18.7%	-9.4%
Perpetual Equity Ltd	PIC	6.8%	10.0%	-7.5%	3.7%	2.5%	-5.8%	9.9%	11.0%	-6.5%
Plato Inc Max Ltd.	PL8	8.4%	12.5%	10.4%	7.3%	8.6%	13.5%	7.2%	8.7%	12.0%
WAM Leaders Limited	WLE	0.1%	-4.2%	-3.6%	1.8%	-0.2%	1.5%	7.3%	8.9%	1.6%
Whitefield Ltd	WHF	14.8%	7.2%	-11.0%	10.5%	3.1%	-4.2%	7.9%	5.3%	-1.7%
Whitefield Income Limited	WHI	na	na	4.9%	na	na	na	na	na	na
Average		5.3%	6.8%	-6.6%	4.0%	2.6%	-5.3%	8.0%	8.8%	-5.4%

Small Capitalisation	Code	1 Year			3 Year (annualised)			5 Year (annualised)		
		NTA Performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc	NTA Performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc	NTA Performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc
Acorn Cap Inv Fund	ACQ	11.1%	-3.1%	-21.8%	-4.2%	-11.5%	-11.2%	5.1%	1.0%	-9.3%
ECP Emerging Co	ECP	1.4%	2.7%	-23.1%	10.2%	3.9%	-21.6%	9.8%	9.4%	-19.6%
Naos Smlcap Com Ltd	NSC	-47.0%	-43.7%	-16.9%	-23.7%	-21.7%	-16.4%	-9.2%	-5.2%	-17.9%
Glennon SML Co Ltd	GC1	18.8%	3.5%	-35.4%	0.1%	-6.9%	-26.7%	1.4%	-3.6%	-24.6%
Mirraboopa Invest.	MIR	10.0%	15.3%	1.0%	7.0%	4.0%	2.5%	11.5%	12.6%	3.1%
Naos Emerg Opp	NCC	-26.3%	-37.3%	-14.8%	-19.5%	-22.4%	-13.3%	-9.5%	-10.8%	-11.5%
NGE Capital Limited	NGE	6.0%	9.8%	-15.9%	8.2%	11.0%	-19.0%	11.5%	14.9%	-21.3%
Ophir High Cf	OPH	21.6%	35.8%	-11.1%	11.3%	7.3%	-7.4%	9.0%	10.9%	-2.8%
Ryder Capital Ltd	RYD	30.2%	38.1%	-16.7%	3.3%	2.1%	-14.3%	3.8%	4.6%	-13.2%
Salter Brothers	SB2	13.7%	29.4%	-32.9%	na	3.4%	-31.5%	na	na	na
Spheria Emerging Co	SEC	12.7%	8.4%	-5.4%	4.4%	5.3%	-9.3%	10.6%	13.9%	-11.1%
WAM Capital Limited	WAM	16.1%	14.9%	-0.9%	9.3%	0.0%	9.6%	8.5%	3.6%	14.4%
WAM Research Ltd	WAX	21.7%	16.9%	5.1%	12.0%	-1.8%	21.4%	10.5%	4.7%	28.0%
WAM Microcap Limited	WMI	13.9%	12.5%	3.4%	3.6%	0.5%	12.3%	9.3%	9.6%	10.9%
Average		7.4%	7.4%	-13.2%	1.8%	-1.9%	-8.9%	5.6%	5.0%	-5.7%

International	Code	1 Year			3 Year (annualised)			5 Year (annualised)		
		NTA Performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc	NTA Performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc	NTA Performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc
Argo Global Ltd	ALI	14.1%	9.9%	-13.3%	4.1%	3.6%	-7.6%	0.9%	4.3%	-6.7%
Future Glb Invest Co	FGG	12.1%	27.5%	-14.9%	8.1%	9.0%	-15.3%	6.0%	9.2%	-14.6%
Global Value Fnd Ltd	GVF	14.6%	26.6%	-4.8%	9.5%	12.1%	-4.8%	10.7%	13.3%	-4.7%
Hearts and Minds	HM1	24.3%	30.0%	-16.2%	9.9%	8.5%	-16.4%	7.5%	5.7%	-9.3%
Pengana Int Equ Ltd	PIA	5.7%	10.1%	-15.1%	7.7%	4.8%	-15.2%	6.6%	8.5%	-13.1%
MFF Capital Inv Ltd	MFF	27.4%	25.4%	-13.4%	20.9%	20.4%	-15.4%	11.9%	10.2%	-13.2%
Platinum Asia Ltd	PAI	17.6%	30.0%	-8.8%	4.4%	5.8%	-12.5%	5.0%	7.3%	-11.1%
Pm Capital Fund	PGF	29.2%	27.1%	3.3%	16.5%	19.7%	1.4%	17.9%	23.9%	-4.5%
Platinum Capital Ltd	PMC	5.6%	16.3%	-8.6%	3.2%	4.3%	-12.7%	4.5%	7.1%	-11.6%
Regal Asian Investments	RG8	6.5%	13.9%	-12.5%	5.7%	8.4%	-14.1%	2.2%	4.1%	-15.5%
WAM Global	WGB	9.6%	19.2%	-11.1%	8.3%	8.3%	-12.6%	7.5%	8.7%	-11.0%
WCM Global Growth	WQG	19.3%	21.3%	-12.5%	11.9%	12.0%	-14.3%	12.1%	13.8%	-12.8%
VGI Partners Global	VG1	6.9%	10.7%	-11.3%	6.6%	7.6%	-14.8%	0.7%	1.0%	-14.6%
Average		14.8%	20.6%	-10.7%	9.0%	9.6%	-11.9%	7.2%	9.0%	-11.0%

Specialist	Code	1 Year			3 Year (annualised)			5 Year (annualised)		
		NTA Performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc	NTA Performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc	NTA Performance	TSR Performance	Avg. Prem/Disc
Bailador Tech Inv	BTI	1.8%	-4.8%	-31.5%	4.2%	6.2%	-28.8%	9.9%	9.2%	-25.0%
Lowell Res Fund	LRT	2.9%	1.1%	-13.1%	-3.0%	-8.6%	-13.9%	26.3%	27.9%	-13.8%
Lion Selection Grp	LSX	24.8%	36.8%	-28.0%	10.1%	15.2%	-29.0%	13.8%	11.5%	-28.0%
Naos Ex-50	NAC	-28.3%	-40.3%	-2.8%	-19.8%	-19.5%	-6.7%	-8.0%	-8.0%	-12.8%
Regal Invest Fund	RF1	17.2%*	30.5%*	-2.6%	7.1%	6.9%	-2.8%	19.4%	20.5%	-1.2%
Sandon Capital Ltd	SNC	14.5%	13.5%	-14.6%	3.4%	2.7%	-13.5%	7.0%	8.2%	-14.6%
Tribecca Glb Resources	TGF	3.1%	4.2%	-20.9%	-14.4%	-14.5%	-18.1%	0.6%	2.9%	-18.7%
Thorney Technologies Ltd	TEK	0.4%	-15.6%	-44.6%	-17.8%	-25.7%	-36.6%	-3.9%	-10.8%	-28.8%
Thorney Opp Ltd	TOP	13.4%	18.4%	-30.7%	9.0%	10.5%	-30.2%	7.9%	6.0%	-27.1%
WAM Active Ltd	WAA	7.1%	19.4%	2.3%	4.8%	1.0%	2.7%	3.9%	3.6%	4.2%
WAM Strategic Value Ltd	WAR	8.6%	12.5%	-11.3%	4.8%	4.9%	-12.0%	na	na	na
WAM Alternative Assets	WMA	3.0%	5.8%	-16.4%	2.1%	1.6%	-14.4%	4.9%	8.3%	-15.6%
Average		5.7%	6.8%	-17.9%	-0.8%	-1.6%	-16.9%	7.4%	7.2%	-16.5%

Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML

Australian United Investment Company (AUI)

www.aui.com.au

- AUI was founded in 1953 by the late Sir Ian Potter and The Ian Potter Foundation.
- AUI utilises a “traditional” investment philosophy, focusing on risk reduction by investing in a range of large and mid-cap companies on the ASX.
- Investments are chosen on their individual merits, with no pre-determined policy that any particular proportion of the capital will be invested in particular investment sectors.
- The total shareholder return for the year ending 28 February 2025 was 10.7%, with pre-tax NTA increasing 9.5%. The active return (TSR) was 0.2%.

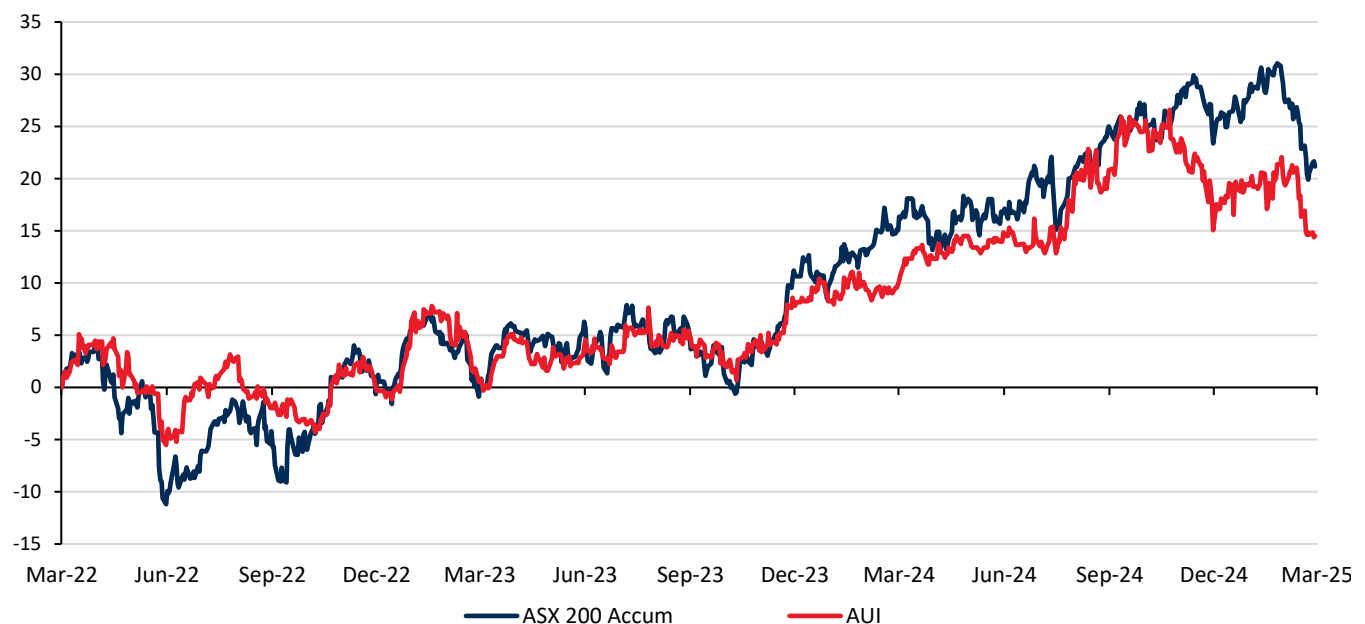
Fig.2: AUI Snapshot

AUI Snapshot				Top Holdings			
Price (28 February 2025)			\$10.50	Commonwealth Bank.			11.3%
Share price range (12 months)			\$9.95- \$11.20	BHP Group Limited			6.6%
Shares on issue (Mn)			124.1	CSL Limited			6.5%
Market capitalisation (\$Mn)			\$1,303	Wesfarmers Limited			6.1%
Pre-tax asset backing*			\$12.13	RIO Tinto Limited			5.3%
Post-tax asset backing*			\$9.99	Diversified United			4.7%
Premium/(Discount) to pre-tax NTA			-13.4%	Woodside Energy			4.7%
Premium/(Discount) to post-tax NTA			5.1%	Transurban Group			4.5%
Dividend yield			4.5%	ANZ Banking Grp Ltd			4.5%
Dividend per share (cents)			45.0	Aristocrat Leisure			4.1%
Franking			100%				
Management expense ratio			0.10%				

Total Shareholder Return	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	NTA Performance	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
AUI	10.7%	8.0%	6.8%	NTA growth	9.5%	10.4%	8.6%
Active return	0.2%	-1.2%	-2.1%	Active return	-1.0%	1.2%	-0.2%

Source: IRESS, Bloomberg, OML, Company reports. Figures as at 28 February 2025. Active returns refers to the TSR and NTA growth relative to that of the comparative index (see chart below).

Fig.3: AUI TSR vs ASX 200 Accum. Index



Source: Bloomberg, OML

BKI Investment Company (BKI)

www.bkilimited.com.au

- BKI was listed on the ASX in December 2003 with an objective to provide investors with sound dividend yields and long-term capital growth.
- BKI invests in a diversified portfolio of Australian shares, trusts and interest-bearing securities, focusing on securities that are paying an increasing dividend stream.
- The total shareholder return for the year ending 28 February 2025 was 1.7%, with pre-tax NTA increasing 4.9%. The active return (TSR) was -8.5%.

Fig.4: BKI Snapshot

BKI Snapshot				Top Holdings			
Price (28 February 2025)	\$1.68			Commonwealth Bank.	9.2%		
Share price range (12 months)	\$1.65-\$1.78			BHP Group Limited	7.6%		
Shares on issue (Mn)	807.1			National Aust. Bank	7.1%		
Market capitalisation (\$Mn)	\$1,356			Macquarie Group Ltd	4.9%		
Pre-tax asset backing*	\$1.83			APA Group	4.8%		
Post-tax asset backing*	\$1.69			Wesfarmers Limited	4.8%		
Premium/(Discount) to pre-tax NTA	-8.2%			Telstra Corporation.	4.2%		
Premium/(Discount) to post-tax NTA	-0.6%			Transurban Group	3.8%		
Dividend yield	4.8%			Woodside Energy	3.7%		
Dividend per share (cents)	7.9			Harvey Norman	3.6%		
Franking	100%			New Hope Corporation	3.5%		
Management expense ratio	0.17%			Amcor PLC	2.6%		

Total Shareholder Return	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	NTA Performance			
BKI	1.7%	5.8%	6.7%	NTA growth	4.9%	7.7%	7.6%
Active return	-8.5%	-3.0%	-2.1%	Active return	-5.3%	-1.2%	-1.2%

Source: IRESS, Bloomberg, OML, Company reports. Figures as at 28 February 2025. Active returns refers to the TSR and NTA growth relative to that of the comparative index (see chart below).

Fig.5: BKI TSR vs ASX 300 Accum. Index



Source: Bloomberg, OML

AMCIL (AMH)

www.amcil.com.au

- AMCIL manages a concentrated investment portfolio comprising 30 to 40 stocks covering large and small companies in the Australian and New Zealand equity markets. Its investment approach is to construct a focused portfolio in which large and small companies can have an equally important impact on investment returns.
- By utilising an active, fundamental and bottom-up approach, the fund aims to provide shareholders with returns that exceed returns from the market (S&P/ASX 200 Index) over the medium to long term.
- The total shareholder return for the year ending 28 February 2025 was 13.3%, with pre-tax NTA increasing 3.9%. The active return (TSR) was 2.8%.

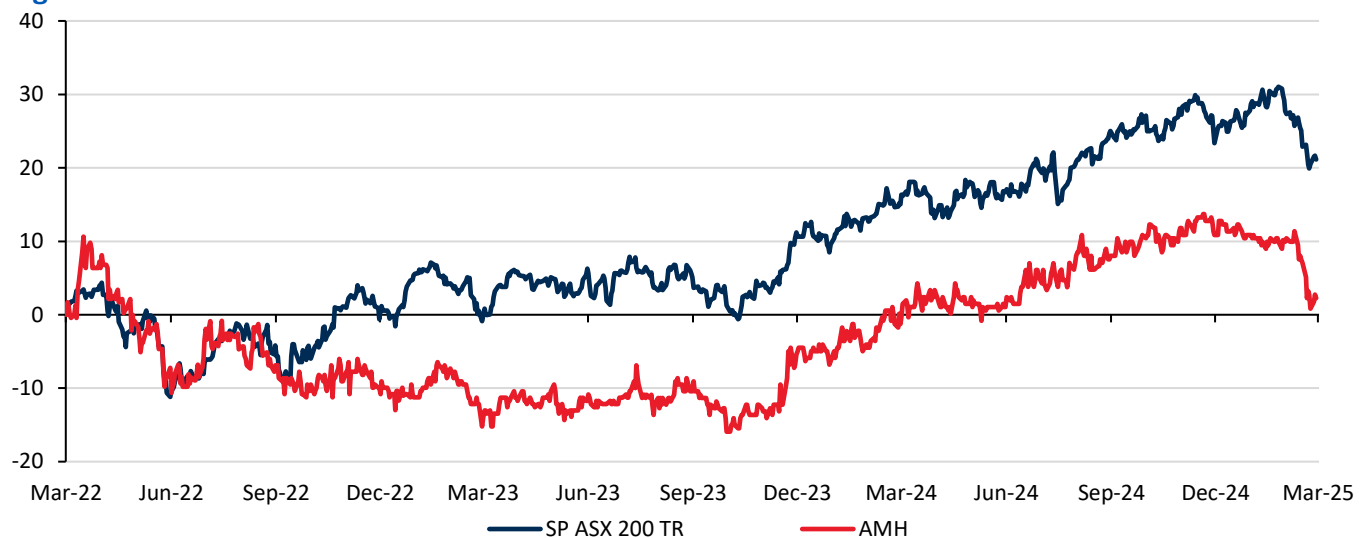
Fig.6: AMH Snapshot

AMH Snapshot		Top Holdings		%
Price (28 February 2025)	\$1.17	CSL Limited		8.1%
Share price range (12 months)	\$1.06- \$1.20	Macquarie Group Ltd		6.0%
Shares on issue (Mn)	317.3	Wesfarmers Limited		4.6%
Market capitalisation (\$Mn)	\$371	BHP Group Limited		4.5%
Pre-tax asset backing*	\$1.26	Goodman Group		4.4%
Post-tax asset backing*	\$1.13	Transurban Group		4.1%
Premium/(Discount) to pre-tax NTA	-7.1%	Mainfreight		4.0%
Premium/(Discount) to post-tax NTA	3.5%	Carsales.Com Ltd.		3.9%
Dividend yield	3.7%	Macquarie Telecom Gp		3.5%
Dividend per share (cents)	4.0	ARB Corporation.		3.4%
Franking	100%			
Management expense ratio	0.56%			

Total Shareholder Return	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	NTA Performance	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
AMH	13.3%	2.4%	8.8%	NTA growth	3.9%	6.8%	8.4%
Active return	2.8%	-6.9%	-0.1%	Active return	-6.5%	-2.4%	-0.5%

Source: IRESS, Bloomberg, OML, Company reports. Figures as at 28 February 2025. Active returns refers to the TSR and NTA growth relative to that of the comparative index (see chart below).

Fig.7: AMH TSR vs ASX200 Accum. Index



Source: Bloomberg, OML

WAM Research (WAX)

www.wilsonassetmanagement.com.au

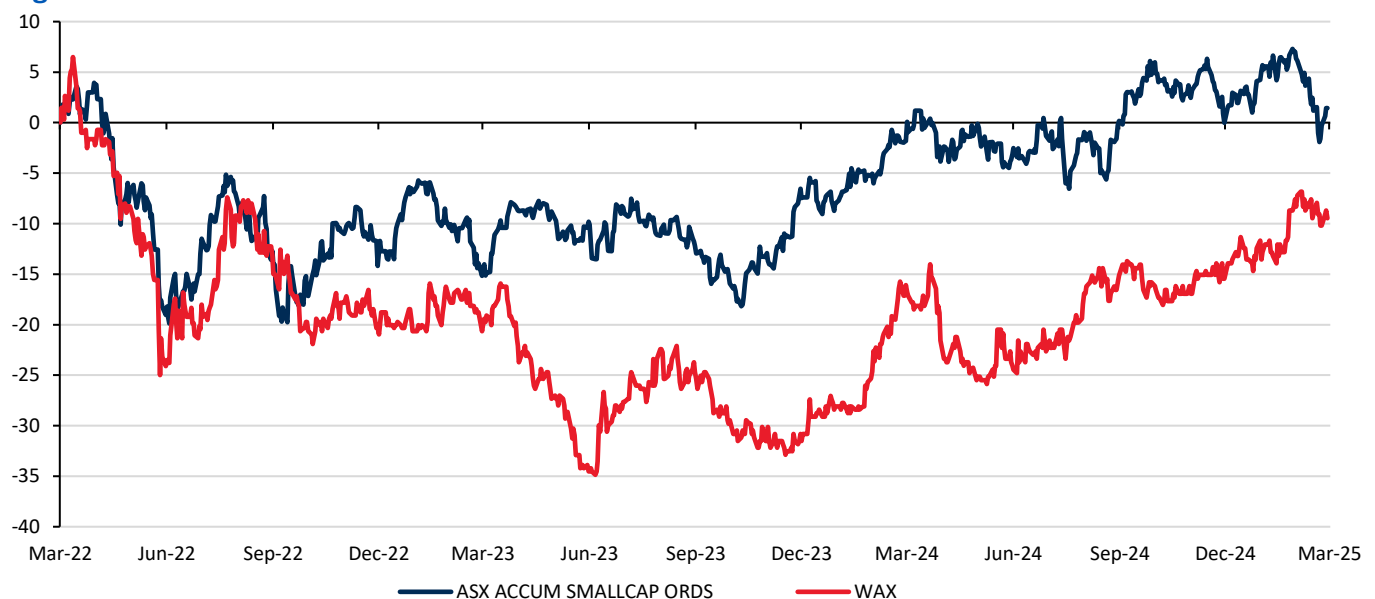
- Listed since 2003, WAM Research provides investors with exposure to a diversified portfolio of undervalued growth companies, which are generally small-to-medium sized industrial companies listed on the ASX.
- WAM Research's investment objectives are to provide a stream of fully franked dividends and achieve a high real rate of return, comprising both income and capital growth.
- The total shareholder return for the year ending 28 February 2025 was 16.9%, with pre-tax NTA increasing 21.7%. The active return (TSR) was 8.4%.

Fig.8: WAX Snapshot

WAX Snapshot				Top Holdings			
Price (28 February 2025)			\$1.22	Australian Clinical Labs			Integral Diagnostics
Share price range (12 months)			\$1.04- \$1.26	Bega Cheese Ltd			Judo Capital Holdings
Shares on issue (Mn)			205.6	Beacon Lighting Grp			Maas Group Holdings
Market capitalisation (\$Mn)			\$251	Bravura Solution Ltd			Myer Holdings Ltd
Pre-tax asset backing*			\$1.16	Corp Travel Limited			Paragon Care Limited
Post-tax asset backing*			n.a	Event Hospitality and Entertainmen			Regis Healthcare Ltd
Premium/(Discount) to pre-tax NTA			5.4%	Generation Dev Group			Ridley Corporation
Premium/(Discount) to post-tax NTA			n.a	G8 Education Limited			Service Stream
Dividend yield			8.2%	Gentrack Group			Summerset Group Holdings
Dividend per share (cents)			10.0	HMC Capital			Tuas Limited
Franking			60%				
Management expense ratio			1.00%				
				listed in alphabetical order			
Total Shareholder Return				NTA Performance			
	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year		1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
WAX	16.9%	-1.8%	4.7%	NTA growth	21.7%	12.0%	10.5%
Active return	8.4%	-3.9%	-0.9%	Active return	13.2%	9.9%	5.0%

Source: IRESS, Bloomberg, OML, Company reports. Figures as at 28 February 2025. Active returns refers to the TSR and NTA growth relative to that of the comparative index (see chart below).

Fig.9: WAX TSR vs Small Ords Accum. Index



Source: Bloomberg, OML

Regal Investment Fund (RF1)

www.regalfm.com

- The manager, established in 2004, is a specialist alternative investment manager, with a primary focus on long short investment strategies. RF1 was listed in Jun-19, following a \$282m raising.
- RF1 is constructed by the Manager through the selection and allocation of funds to a number of Regal strategies.
- The total shareholder return for the year ending 28 February 2025 was 30.5%, with pre-tax NTA increasing 17.2%.

Fig.10: RF1 Snapshot

RF1 Snapshot		Top Holdings		%
Price (28 February 2025)	\$3.28	Exposure by Strategy		
Share price range (12 months)	\$2.91- \$3.70	Emerging Companies		23%
Shares on issue (Mn)	216.9	Resources Royalties		16%
Market capitalisation (\$Mn)	\$711	Small Companies		12%
Pre-tax asset backing*	\$3.36	Private Credit		15%
Post-tax asset backing*	n.a	Market Neutral		8%
Premium/(Discount) to pre-tax NTA	-2.4%	Global Alpha		8%
Premium/(Discount) to post-tax NTA	n.a	Global Long Short		8%
Dividend yield	8.3%	Water		10%
Dividend per share (cents)	25.1			
Franking	0%			
Management expense ratio	1.50%			

Total Shareholder Return	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	NTA Performance	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
RF1	30.5%	6.9%	20.5%	NTA growth	17.2%	7.1%	19.4%
Active return	20.3%	-2.0%	11.8%	Active return	7.0%	-1.8%	10.6%

Source: IRESS, Bloomberg, OML, Company reports. Figures as at 28 February 2025. Active returns refers to the TSR and NTA growth relative to that of the comparative index (see chart below).

Fig.11: RF1 TSR vs ASX300 Accum. Index



Source: Bloomberg, OML

MFF Capital Investments Limited (MFF)

<https://www.mffcapital.com.au/>

- MFF Capital Investments offers investors the opportunity to invest portfolio of a minimum of 20 stock exchange listed international and Australian companies. MFF aims for a portfolio focussed upon companies with attractive business characteristics (quality) at discounts to their intrinsic values (value). The portfolio is managed by led by Chris Mackay, co-founder of Magellan.
- In October 2024, MFF announced that it is expanding and strengthening its research team, focus and capabilities with the intended acquisition of Montaka Global Investments.
- The total shareholder return for the year ending 28 February 2025 was 25.4%, with pre-tax NTA increasing 27.4%. The active return (TSR) was 3.4%.

Fig. 12: MFF Snapshot

MFF Snapshot				Top Holdings			
Price (28 February 2025)	\$4.24			Amazon	11.2%		
Share price range (12 months)	\$3.41- \$4.83			MasterCard	10.0%		
Shares on issue (Mn)	582.5			Visa	9.3%		
Market capitalisation (\$Mn)	\$2,470			Bank of America	7.8%		
Pre-tax asset backing*	\$5.21			American Express	7.8%		
Post-tax asset backing*	\$4.26			Meta Platforms	6.7%		
Premium/(Discount) to pre-tax NTA	-18.6%			Alphabet (A)	6.3%		
Premium/(Discount) to post-tax NTA	-0.6%			Home Depot	6.2%		
Dividend yield	3.1%			Microsoft	5.8%		
Dividend per share (cents)	13.0			Alphabet (C)	5.3%		
Franking	100%			Flutter Entertainment	2.8%		
Management expense ratio	0.55%			Lloyds Banking Grou	2.2%		

Total Shareholder Return				NTA Performance			
	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year		1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
MFF	25.4%	20.4%	10.2%	NTA growth	27.4%	20.9%	11.9%
Active return	3.4%	3.8%	-5.3%	Active return	5.4%	4.3%	-3.6%

Source: IRESS, Bloomberg, OML, Company reports. Figures as at 28 February 2025. Active returns refers to the TSR and NTA growth relative to that of the comparative index (see chart below).

Fig. 13: MFF TSR vs MSCI World Index (AUD adj.)



Source: Bloomberg, OML

PM Capital Global Opportunities Fund (PGF)

www.pmcapital.com.au

- Managed by PM Capital, PGF began trading on the ASX on 11 December 2013. PGF provides exposure to international equities with a portfolio size of generally 25-45 holdings.
- Investment exposures as at 28 February 2025 include Global Domestic Banking (Europe & USA, 40%), Energy (7%), Industrial Metals (18%), Industrials (19%), Leisure & Entertainment (10%), Healthcare (5%), and Consumer Staples (6%).
- The total shareholder return for the year ending 28 February 2025 was 27.1%, with pre-tax NTA increasing 29.2%. The active return (TSR) was 5.1%.

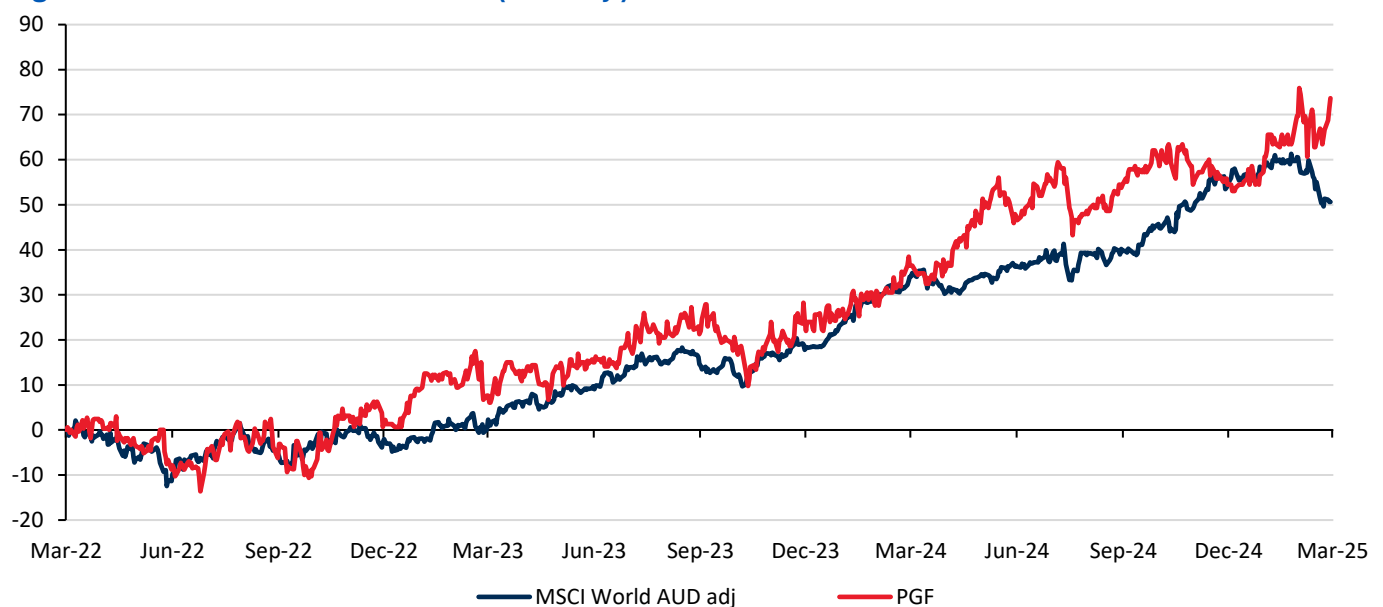
Fig. 14: PGF Snapshot

PGF Snapshot				Top Holdings			
Price (28 February 2025)			\$2.41	Allied Irish Bank			
Share price range (12 months)			\$1.96-\$2.54	Apollo Global Management			
Shares on issue (Mn)			478.9	Bank of America			
Market capitalisation (\$Mn)			\$1,154	Caixa Bank			
Pre-tax asset backing*			\$2.35	ING Groep			
Post-tax asset backing*			\$2.08	Lloyds Banking Group			
Premium/(Discount) to pre-tax NTA			2.4%	Shell			
Premium/(Discount) to post-tax NTA			15.8%	Newmont Mining			
Dividend yield			6.7%	Teck Resources			
Dividend per share (cents)			16.0	Wynn Resorts			
Franking			100%				
Management expense ratio			1.00%				

Total Shareholder Return	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	NTA Performance	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
PGF	27.1%	19.7%	23.9%	NTA growth	29.2%	16.5%	17.9%
Active return	5.1%	3.0%	8.4%	Active return	7.2%	-0.1%	2.5%

Source: IRESS, Bloomberg, OML, Company reports. Figures as at 28 February 2025. Active returns refers to the TSR and NTA growth relative to that of the comparative index (see chart below).

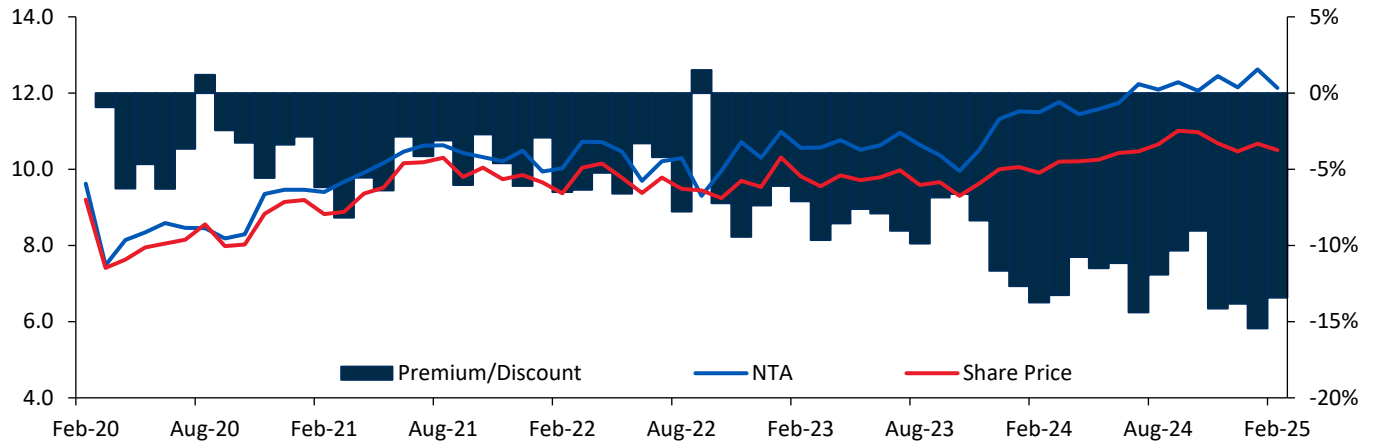
Fig. 15: PGF TSR vs MSCI World Index (AUD adj.)



Source: Bloomberg, OML

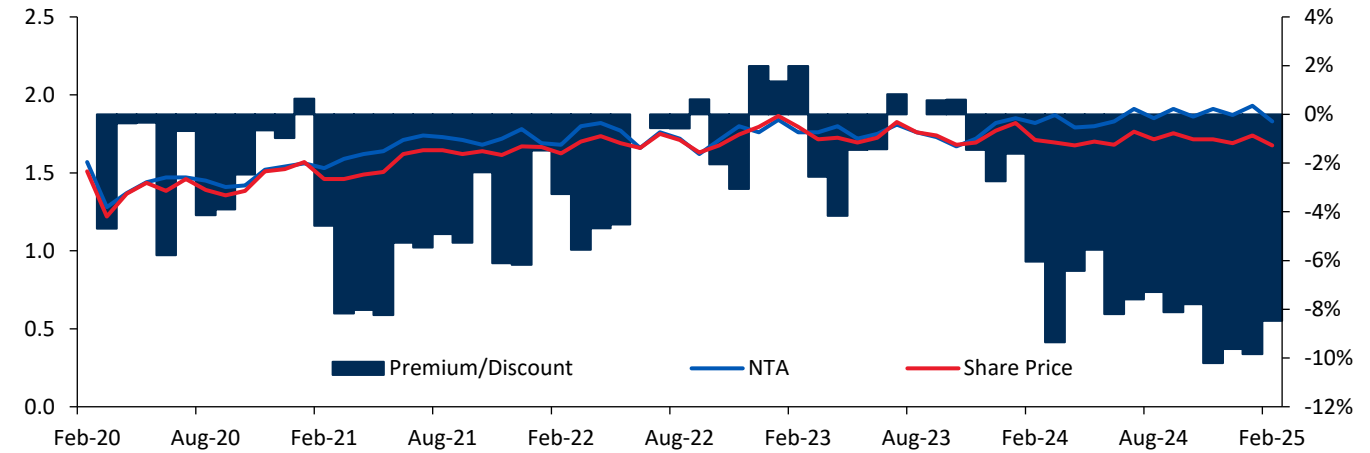
Appendix – Historical Premium/Discounts for Preferred LICs

Fig.16: Australian United Investment Company (AUI)



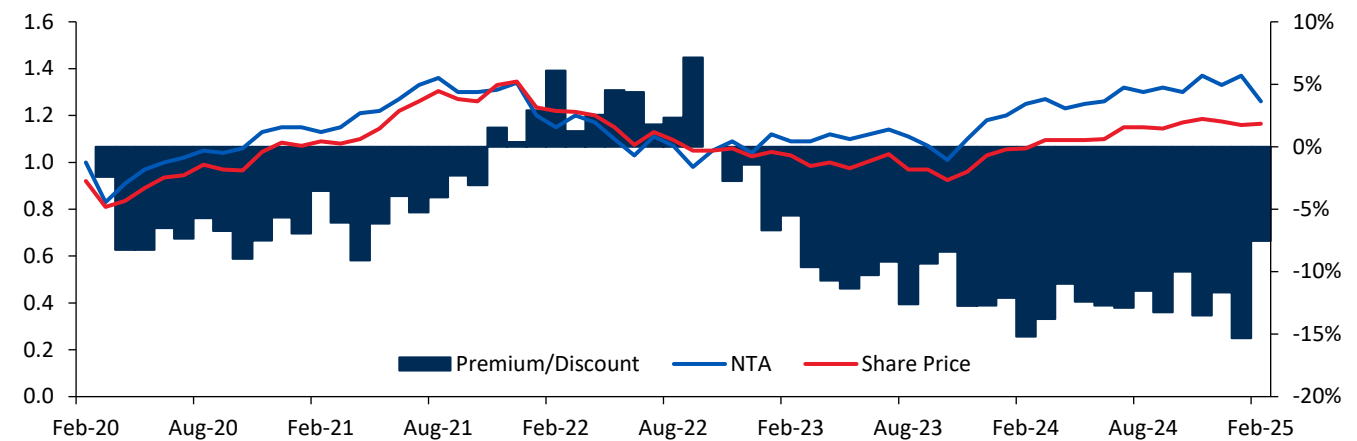
Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML.

Fig.17: BKI Investment Company (BKI)



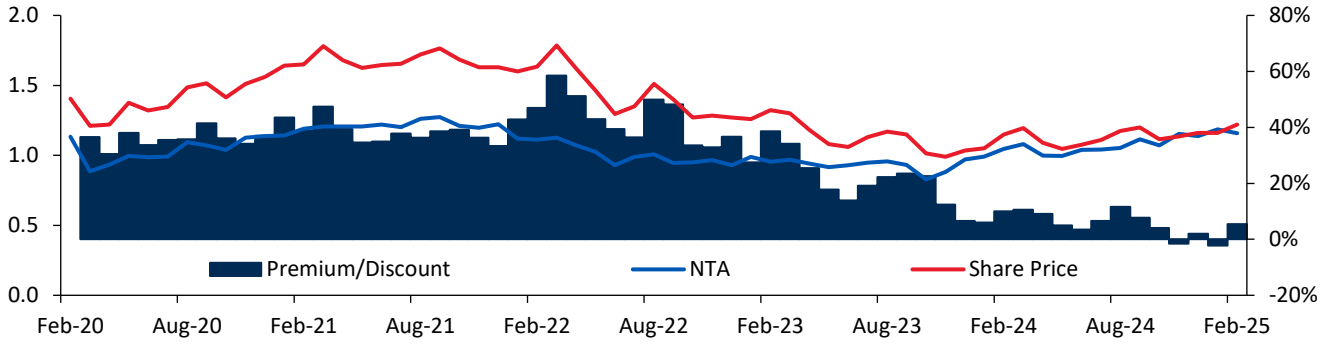
Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML.

Fig.18: AMCIL (AMH)



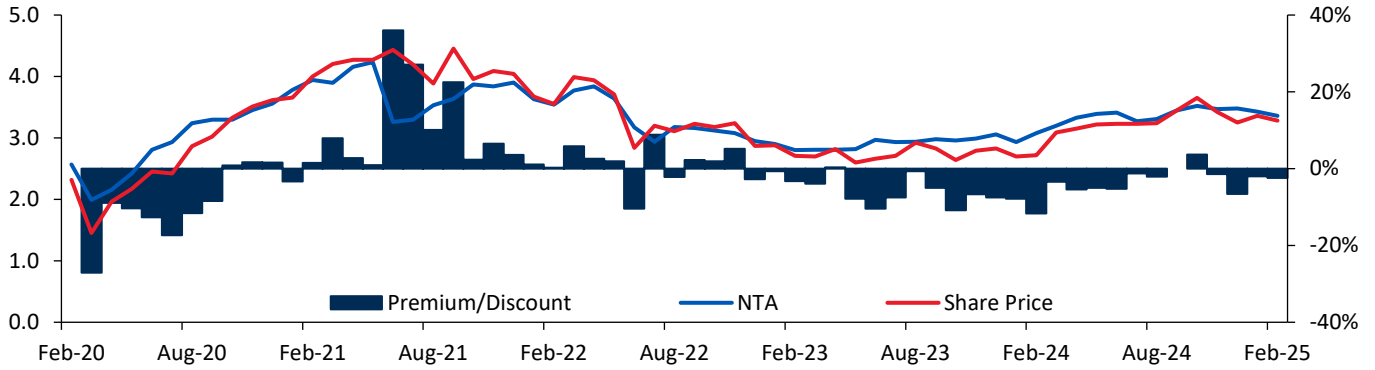
Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML.

Fig.19: WAM Research (WAX)



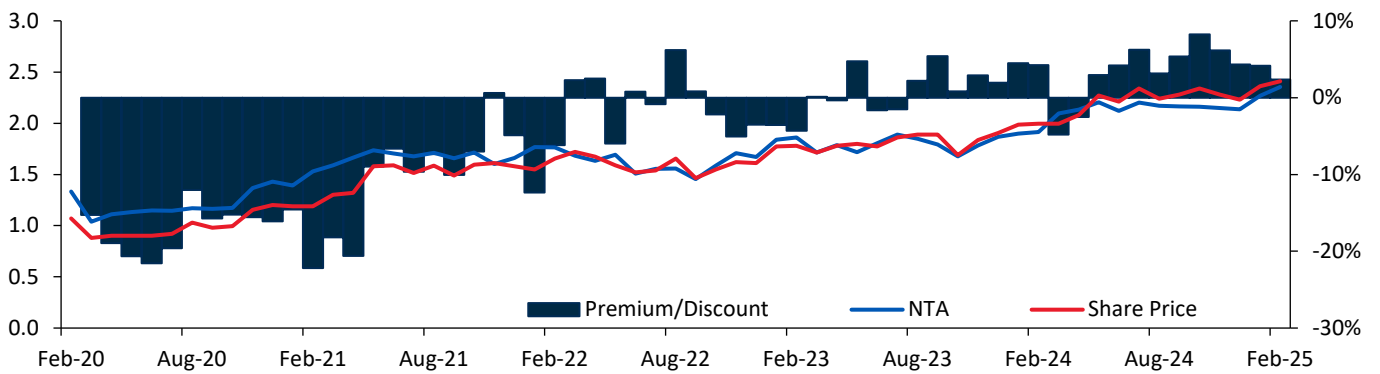
Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML.

Fig.20: Regal Investment Fund (RF1)



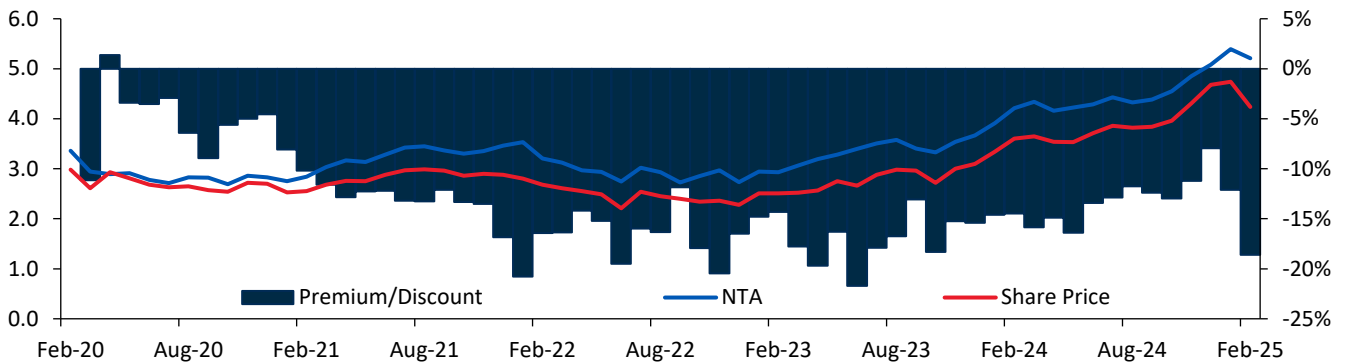
Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML.

Fig.21: PM Capital Global Fund (PGF)



Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML.

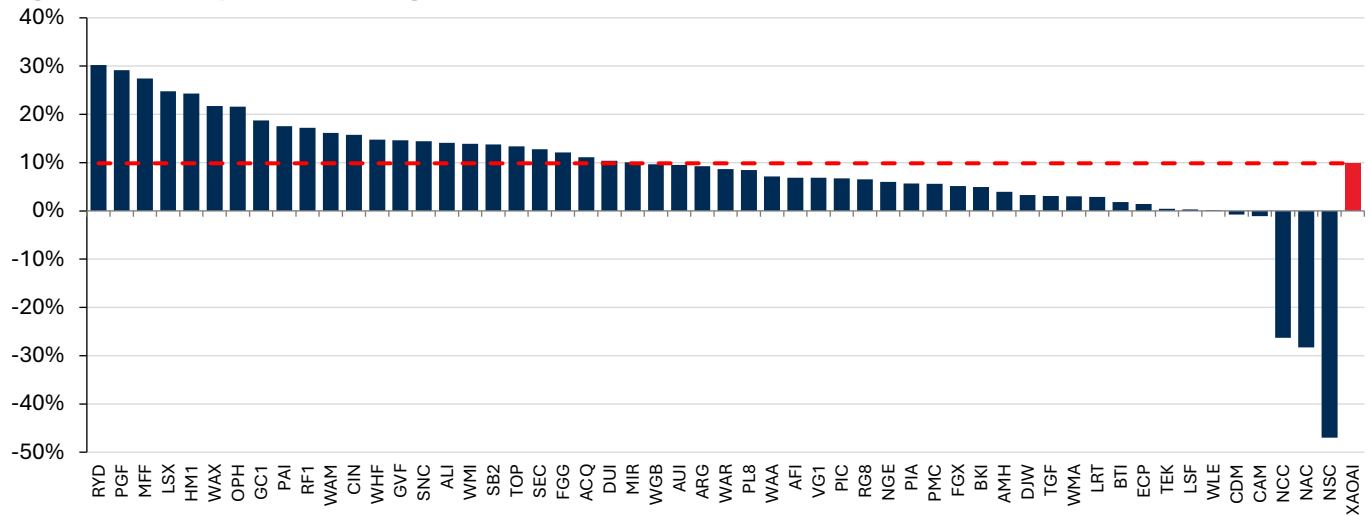
Fig.22: MFF Capital Investments (MFF)



Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML.

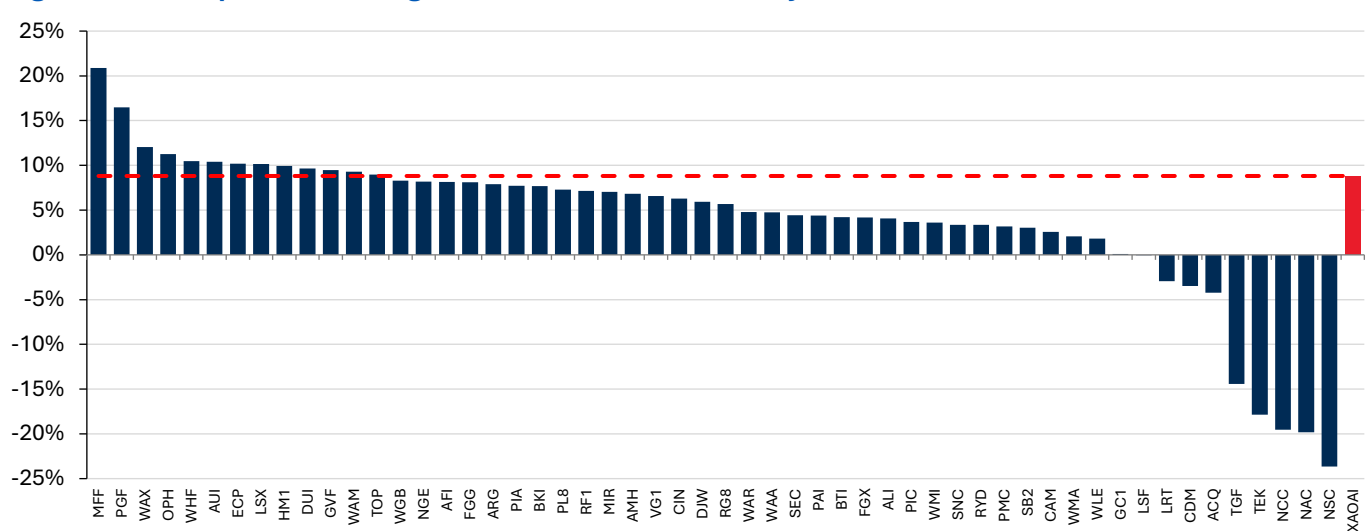
1, 3 and 5-year NTA & total shareholder return growth

Fig.23: NTA compound annual growth rate – % return over 12 months



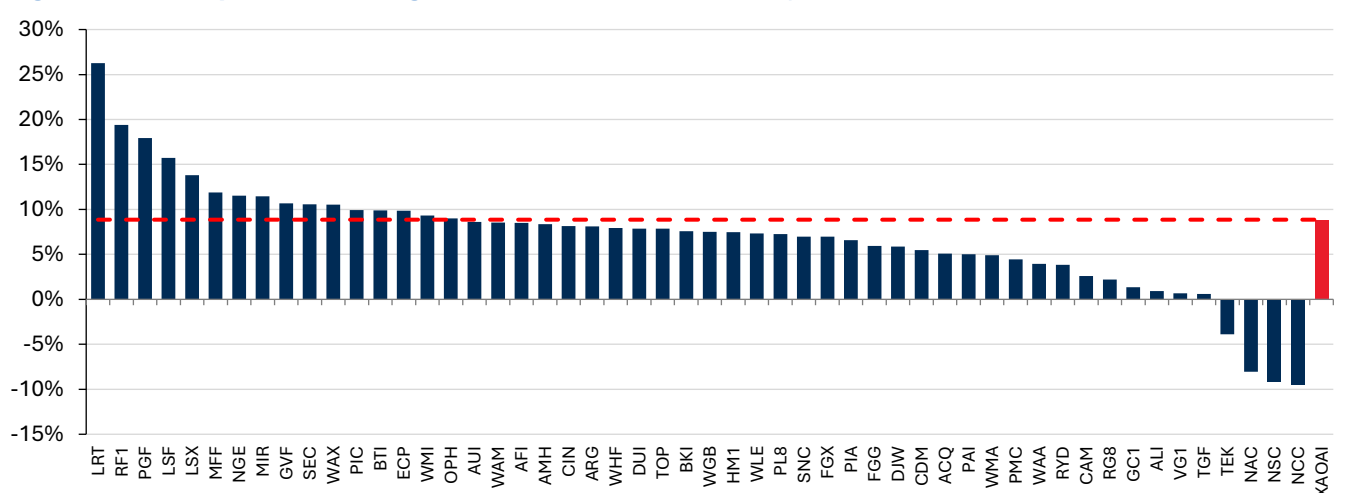
Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML. Figures as at 28 February 2025.

Fig.24: NTA compound annual growth rate – % return over 3 years



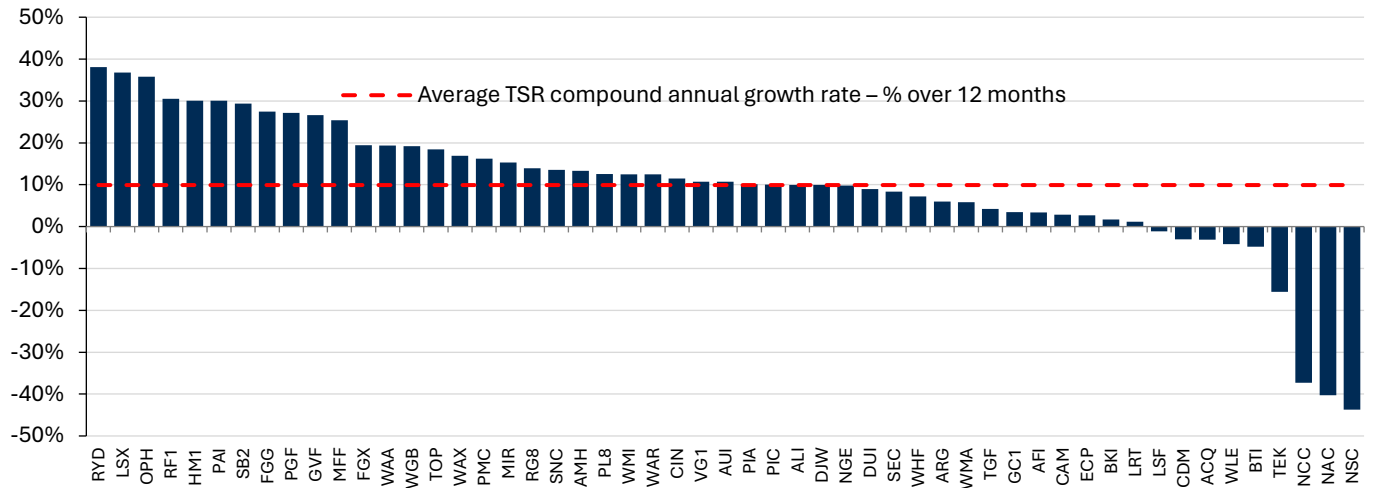
Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML. Figures as at 28 February 2025.

Fig.25: NTA compound annual growth rate – % return over 5 years



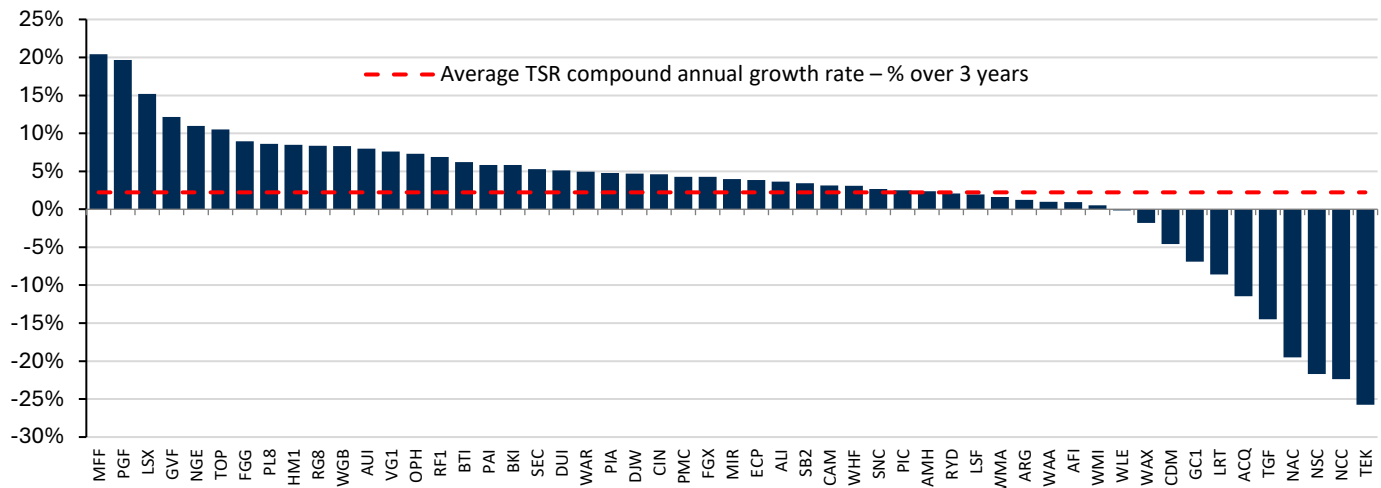
Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML. Figures as at 28 February 2025.

Fig.26: TSR compound annual growth rate – % over 12 months



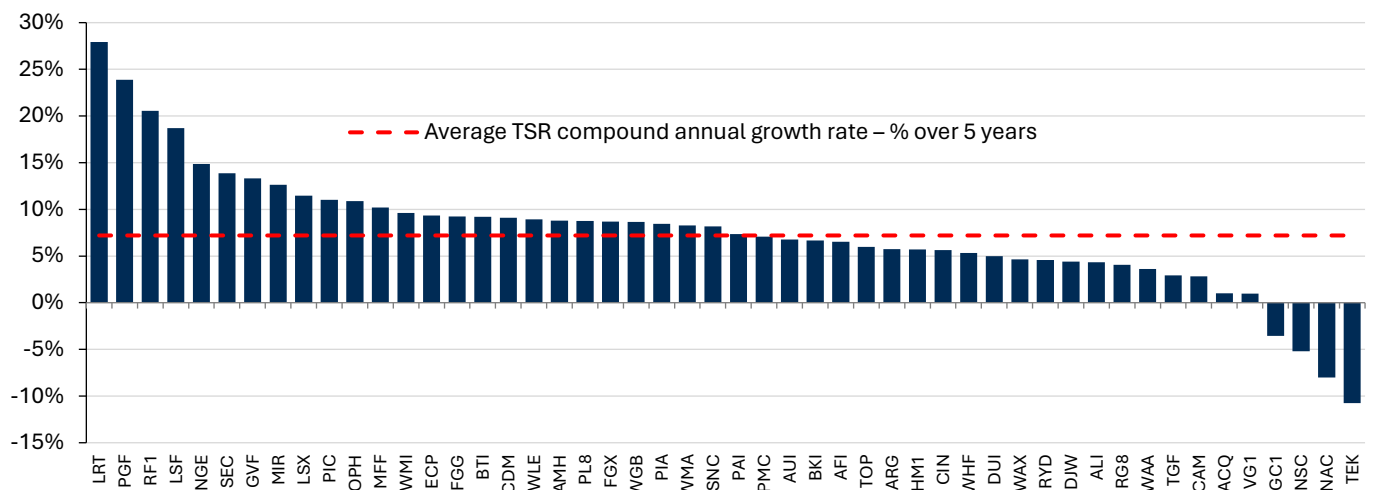
Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML. Figures as at 28 February 2025.

Fig.27: TSR compound annual growth rate – % over 3 years



Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML. Figures as at 28 February 2025.

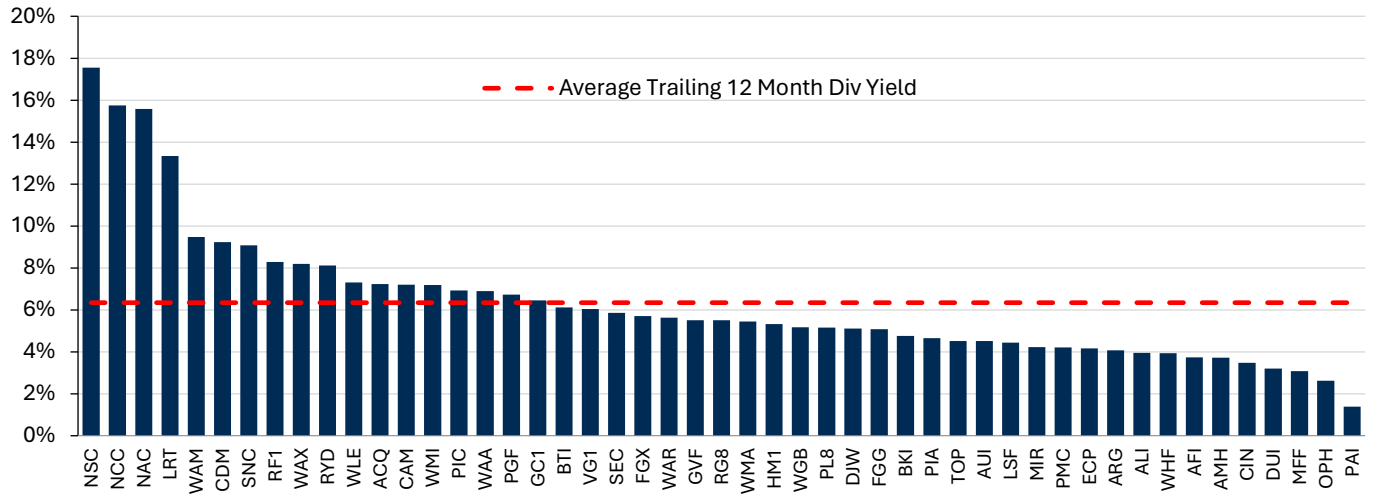
Fig.28: TSR compound annual growth rate – % over 5 years



Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML. Figures as at 28 February 2025.

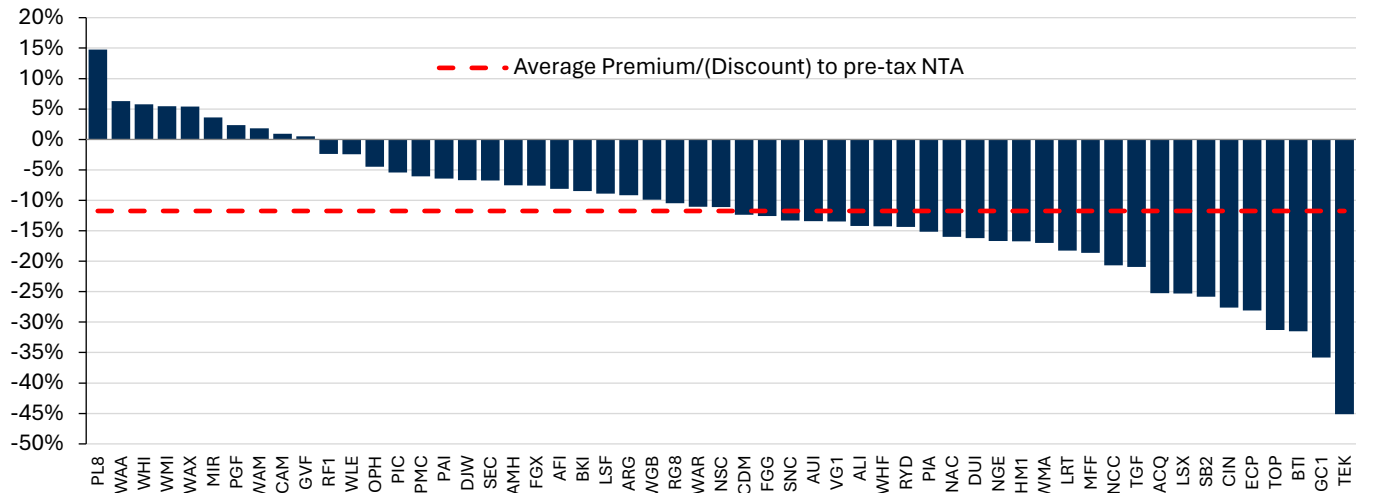
Dividend yield, pre & post tax discount/premium to NTA

Fig.29: Trailing 12-month dividend yield and average



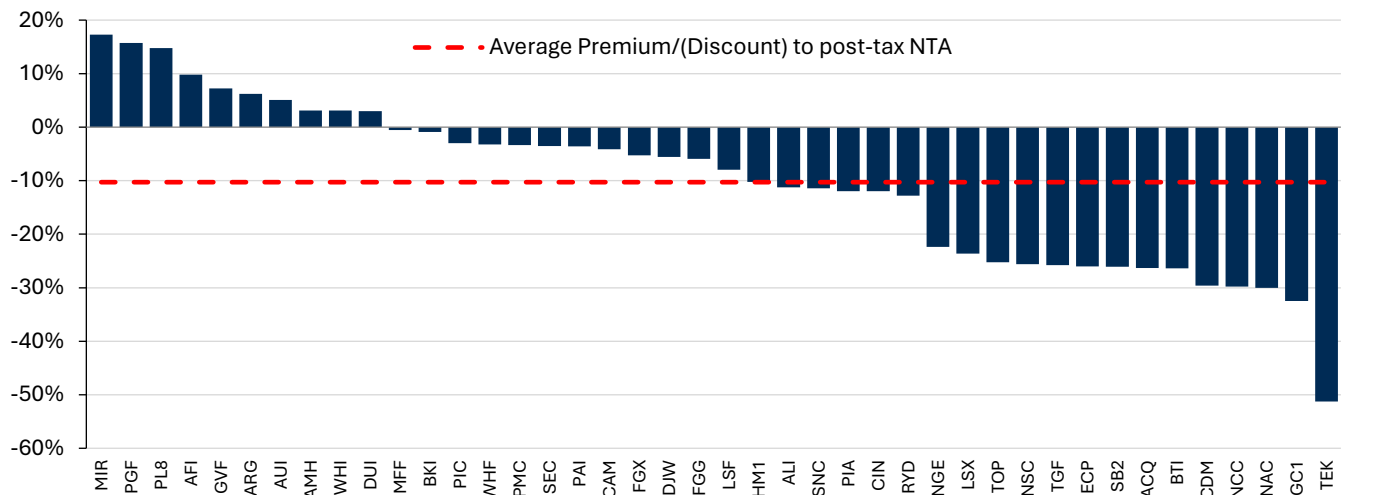
Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML. Figures as at 28 February 2025. LICs with no yield excluded.

Fig.30: Premium/(Discount) to pre-tax NTA



Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML. Figures as at 28 February 2025.

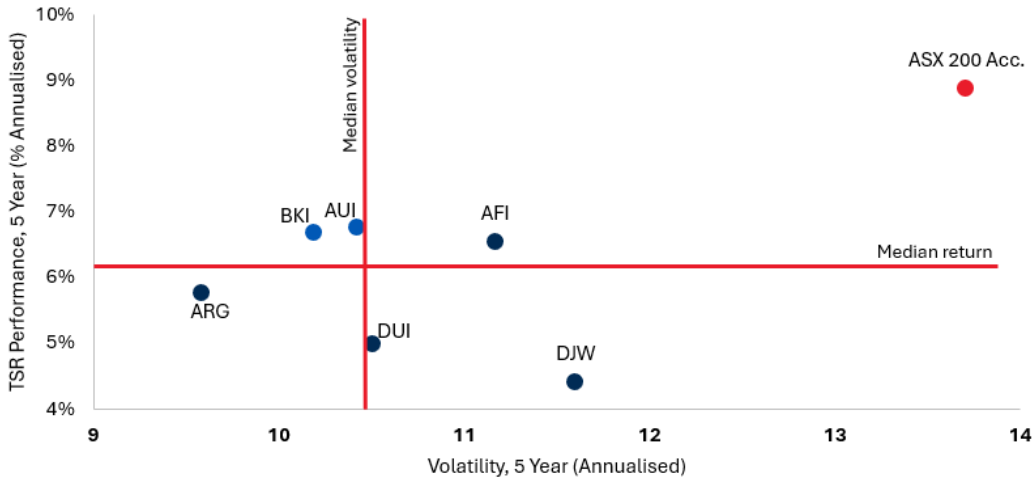
Fig.31: Premium/(Discount) to post-tax NTA



Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML. Figures as at 28 February 2025.

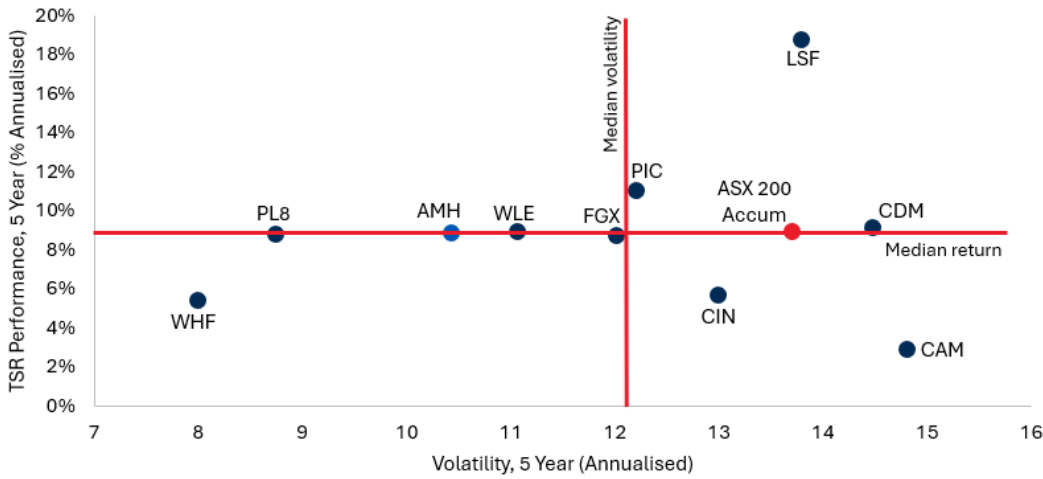
Return Volatility

Fig.32: Traditional LICs



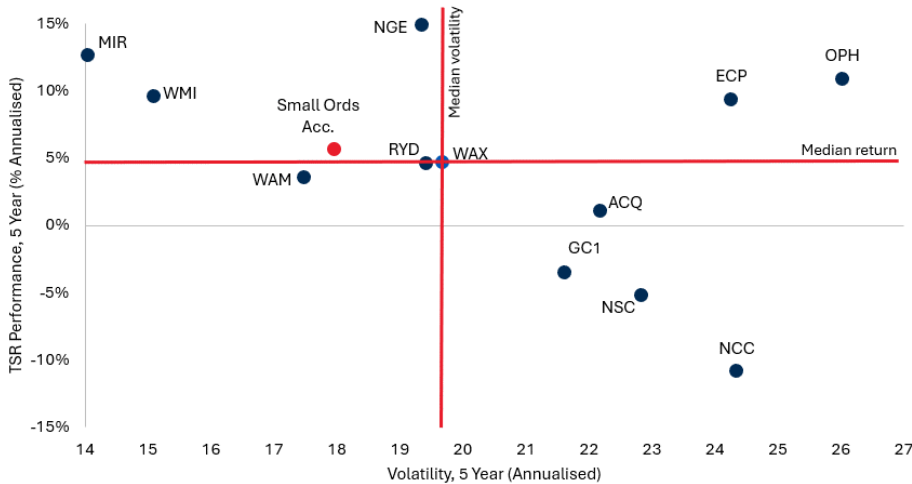
Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML.

Fig.33: Large Cap LICs



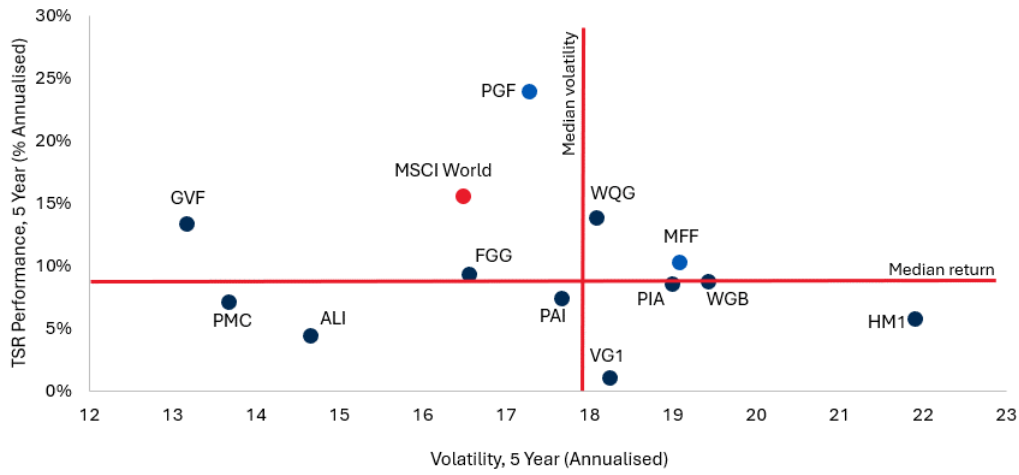
Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML.

Fig.34: Small Cap LICs



Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML.

Fig.35: International LICs



Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, OML.

LIC Basics

What is a LIC?

- A LIC has characteristics of managed funds and stock exchange-listed companies.
- A LIC is a company that invests in other companies, with the purpose of giving its shareholders exposure to a variety of shares via its investment portfolio.
- LICs may also invest in cash or fixed income instruments, although in many cases this forms only a relatively small proportion of their investment portfolio.
- Income from LICs usually takes the form of semi-annual dividend payments that are linked to the profitability of the portfolio. Capital gains (losses) can arise where the investor sells the shares in the LIC for more (less) than they originally bought them for.

Benefits of investing in LICs

Diversification

- Investment in just one LIC potentially gives an investor exposure to a number of companies in a range of industries.
- This diversification can reduce the volatility of returns across the portfolio.
- A LIC can be a cost-effective method of achieving diversification.

LICs are managed by investment professionals

- Each LIC is managed by full-time investment professionals whose goal it is to optimise returns on the investment portfolio for shareholders within strictly enforced risk parameters.
- In this respect, LICs are passive investments. Once the shares in the LIC have been purchased, the investor leaves investment decisions to the LIC manager.
- Some LICs have operated for more than 50 years while others, although only recently listed, are operated and managed by investment firms that have built strong reputations over many years.

Transparent investment philosophy

- LICs are typically transparent about their investment philosophy and process. Investors can choose the relevant LIC based on their own investment goals and risk preferences.
- Some LICs focus on specific geographic areas (such as Australia or overseas), may invest in a range of industries or focus on just one (such as resources), or are geared towards providing investors with annual income streams or longer-term capital gains (or a combination of both).
- In this document, we briefly describe each of the 64 selected LICs, their main investments and recent performance.

Ease of investment

- Investing in a LIC is done in the same manner as any other company on the ASX, by placing an order with your adviser to buy shares in it.
- Exiting the investment is just as straightforward: the investor sells the shares on-market during trading hours through their adviser.
- Most LICs are 'liquid', meaning there are enough willing buyers and sellers on the ASX, to allow the investor to enter or exit the investment at a time they choose.

Costs involved in investing in a LIC

Entry costs

- Investing in the ASX via a LIC can be cost-effective relative to other methods of investing in a 'portfolio' of investments.
- The initial cost comes in the form of brokerage paid to acquire the shares, which can deliver an efficient method of diversification.
- The entry costs to LIC investments are generally lower than retail managed funds, which utilise a "front-end load" charge at the date of purchase.

Ongoing costs

- LIC managers can charge two types of fees: management and performance fees.
- LICs use management fees to cover the costs incurred in running the portfolio. These fees are taken out of the profits of the LIC, which are a function of the performance of the underlying investment portfolio (including dividends paid and capital gains/losses on shares that are sold). Managers are paid regardless of the profitability of the investment portfolio.
- These fees typically range from 0.0%-2.0% of assets under management per year. This can be lower than the average fees charged for retail managed funds. The effect of this cost-saving on a longer-term investment, where returns compound over many years, can be material. One reason for this lower cost is that LICs do not incur back-office or distribution costs, reducing their cost of operation. The fees (calculated as a “management expense ratio” or MER) of our selected LICs are shown in Table 2.
- Unlike management fees, performance fees are paid only if the LIC’s investment portfolio outperforms a predetermined benchmark. The fee is charged on the size of this outperformance. Not all LICs charge performance fees.
- These fees provide an incentive for the LIC manager to optimise returns for shareholders. Note performance fees in some instances can still be paid when a portfolio incurs a loss over an investment period if it still outperforms its relevant benchmark.
- Performance fees for our selected LICs are shown in Table 2 on page 7. The benchmark index is the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index unless otherwise stated below.

Exit costs

- Brokerage is payable when selling shares in a LIC. Retail managed funds on the other hand, can generally be exited at no charge.
- Exiting a LIC investment can have tax consequences based on the capital gain or loss over the investment period.

What income do investors receive from a LIC?

- Annual investor income from a “buy-and-hold” investment strategy in a LIC takes the form of dividends, just like other share investments.
- However, because LICs utilise a company structure, payment of dividends is at the discretion of the LIC manager. In other words, just because the investment portfolio of the LIC has made a profit in a given year, it does not mean that all, or even any, of that profit will be paid to shareholders in that year. Where a LIC chooses not to pay a dividend, the income is retained and invested by the LIC and forms part of the LIC’s underlying asset backing. This is different to retail managed funds, which are required to pay out the income to unitholders in the particular tax year that it is earned. Generally, LICs will pay out a high proportion of earnings as dividends.
- A number of our selected LICs invest in blue chip stocks and pay out a high proportion of earnings as a dividend. Accordingly, they can have attractive dividend yields (as shown in Figure 1).

Taxation issues

- LIC returns are generally taxed at the company tax rate of 30%. Accordingly, when dividends are paid to shareholders of the LIC franking credits are attached. These can be a tax benefit for shareholders, as they receive a “credit” for the company tax already paid on the LIC income when the shareholder’s ordinary income is assessed.
- Capital gains are managed by the LIC manager. Where the dividend paid to a shareholder of a LIC contains capital gains, it will be treated as a capital gain, not ordinary income, in the hands of the shareholder.
- This tax treatment contrasts with that of unlisted retail managed funds, where investors incur an annual tax liability on interest and capital gains that the fund earns each year.

LIC Discounts and Premiums

- The price at which investors buy or sell LICs, as with stocks is ultimately determined by supply and demand in the market. As a result, the price of a listed investment company can trade above or below its net tangible asset (NTA) value. That is, trade at a premium or discount, respectively.
- LICs may trade at a discount if:
 - The underlying fund has a poor performance track record.
 - The LIC has yet to pay dividends, has recently reduced its dividend or the market anticipates it has limited ability to pay future dividends.
 - The LIC has a limited track record, rapport with investors or has limited marketing and/or distribution capability.
 - The LIC has issued options which could substantially dilute the NTA of other unit holders if exercised.
 - The LIC has less liquidity.
 - LICs may trade at a discount to pre-tax NTAs if the LIC has a significant tax liability.
- LICs may also trade at a premium if:
 - The underlying portfolio has a strong performance track record.
 - The fund has a history of maintaining or increasing dividends. Many LIC investors have historically preferred vehicles paying stable fully franked dividends.
 - If an LIC has a substantial franking credit balance or tax asset.
- Many LICs have exhibited a tendency for discounts and premiums to mean revert and trade around a certain level. This tendency has provided an opportunity for investors to profit from mean reversion for LICs trading at a discount. However, this reversion can take time and rely on certain catalysts. We also note that a discount can deepen before it narrows.
- Some listed investment companies which trade at a premium may continue to trade at premium for the foreseeable future, or trade at an even larger premium.

LICs versus managed funds

- LICs are listed on the stock exchange, so entry and exit costs are limited to brokerage. This means that diversification may be achieved at a relatively lower cost. LICs also offer a tax-effective structure, whereby dividends are typically fully franked and when LIC capital gains are paid out as dividends, investors may be entitled to an income tax reduction for the proportion of the dividend attributable to the capital gain. Investors in managed funds may incur a tax liability on interest and capital gains.
- The fee structures of LICs can be favourable in comparison with managed funds. Our selected traditional LICs have management expense ratios ranging from 0.0% to 2.5%, whereas managed funds often charge more than 1.0%.

LICs versus exchange traded funds (ETFs)

- LICs and ETFs have low management fees and efficient tax structures compared with managed funds. However, ETFs have an open-ended structure, where units on offer can increase or decrease based on supply and demand. This mechanism allows ETFs to trade at or close to their net asset value.
- ETFs are generally passive investment products and hence do not aim to outperform the market in the same way many of the LICs do. There are an increasing number of Exchange Traded Managed Funds though that offer active management and avoid variation from NTA.
- ETFs are required to distribute any surplus income to security holders, whereas LICs can conserve surplus income and take advantage of market opportunities as they see fit. This added flexibility is beneficial to the shareholder.

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Guide to Ord Minnett Recommendations

Our recommendations are based on the total return of a stock – nominal dividend yield plus capital appreciation – and have a 12-month time horizon.

SPECULATIVE BUY	We expect the stock's total return (nominal yield plus capital appreciation) to exceed 20% over 12 months. The investment may have a strong capital appreciation but also has high degree of risk and there is a significant risk of capital loss.
BUY	The stock's total return (nominal dividend yield plus capital appreciation) is expected to exceed 15% over the next 12 months.
ACCUMULATE	We expect a total return of between 5% and 15%. Investors should consider adding to holdings or taking a position in the stock on share price weakness.
HOLD	We expect the stock to return between 0% and 5%, and believe the stock is fairly priced.
LIGHTEN	We expect the stock's return to be between 0% and negative 15%. Investors should consider decreasing their holdings.
SELL	We expect the total return to lose 15% or more.
RISK ASSESSMENT	Classified as Lower, Medium or Higher, the risk assessment denotes the relative assessment of an individual stock's risk based on an appraisal of its disclosed financial information, historical volatility of its share price, nature of its operations and other relevant quantitative and qualitative criteria. Risk is assessed by comparison with other Australian stocks, not across other asset classes such as Cash or Fixed Interest.

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