### Trans-Tasman Bond Fund

## Portfolio Investment Entity

# Monthly Fact Sheet as at 31 July 2024



#### **Portfolio Managers**







Co-Portfolio Manager



Co-Portfolio Manager

The Fund returned 2.4% in July, compared with the benchmark's return of 1.9%. The outsized absolute returns this month were largely reflective of the move lower in market interest rates on both sides of the Tasman. This reflected several factors, including similar moves in offshore markets (especially the US), softer economic activity data (particularly in NZ), and weakerthan-expected inflation data in Australia. The Fund was able to take advantage of these moves via its interest rate positioning, which helped deliver its outperformance versus the benchmark.

The Fund maintains an overweight position to AU and NZ credit spreads (the extra yield of corporate bonds over government bonds) and was able to capitalise on the tightening in these spreads during the month. While spreads on NZ government-linked notes widened during July, spreads on corporate names generally trended tighter. During the month, we invested in the new AU dollar subordinated issuances from ANZ bank and Spanish bank Santander. We continue to have a positive view on AU and NZ credit spreads going forward, given the relatively constrained supply of corporate bonds visà-vis demand, and still attractive relative valuations compared to some offshore markets.

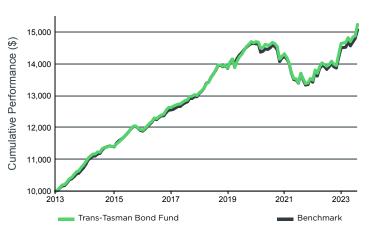
Turning to the outlook, while we are constructive on market interest rates in the medium term, reflecting our view that global central bank interest rate cuts are likely (including in NZ), the market has now moved quickly to price this expectation into interest rate curves. As such we are taking a close-to-neutral positioning in market interest rates for now. We will continue to evaluate the incoming flow of data and will be flexible with respect to our interest rate exposure. Nevertheless, we believe that the combination of moderating inflation, high all-in yields and the prospect of central bank interest rate cuts on the horizon, should underpin returns in the medium term.

To view Milford's July 2024 Market and Economic Review please see milfordasset.com/insights.

For previous fund reports see milfordasset.com/fundreports.

#### **Cumulative Fund Performance**

(after fees and before tax)



Assumes the growth of \$10,000 invested at the Fund's inception date, and assumes reinvestment of distribution.

#### **Key Fund Facts**

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Objective <sup>1</sup>	excee	To generate a positive, low volatility return that exceeds the relevant benchmark over the minimum recommended investment timeframe				
Description		Primarily invests in trans-Tasman fixed interest securities				
Minimum recommended investment timeframe		3 years +				
Target Allocation		100% Income Assets / 0% Growth Assets				
Neutral FX Expos	sure	0%				
Net Asset Value (	(NAV)	\$1,313.4 M				
Yield <sup>2</sup>		4.70%				
Average Credit R	ating	A+				
Duration		3.09 years				
Rating Categorie	s	Inv.Grade 89% / High Yield 4% / Unrated 3%				
Inception Date		2 December 2013				
Current Distribut	ion	0.95 cents per unit (Quarterly)				
Benchmark		50% x S&P/ASX Corporate Bond 0+ Total Return Index (100% NZD-hedged) + 50% x S&P/NZX Investment Grade Corporate Bond Total Return Index				
Base Fund Fee <sup>3</sup>		0.65%				
Performance Fee		Not applicable				
Total Fund Fees 4	ļ	0.65%				
		Lower risk Higher risk				
Risk Indicator		1 2 3 4 5 6 7  Potentially lower returns  Potentially higher returns				





Unit Price: \$1.1631

#### Investment Performance after fees as at 31 July 2024 5

	1 Month	3 Months	1 year	3 years (p.a.)	5 years (p.a.)	Since inception (p.a.)
Milford Trans-Tasman Bond Fund (Gross Of Tax)	2.41%	3.64%	9.01%	1.27%	1.98%	4.03%
After Tax 10.50%	2.18%	3.27%	8.06%	1.15%	1.78%	3.60%
After Tax 17.50%	2.03%	3.02%	7.43%	1.06%	1.65%	3.32%
After Tax 28.00%	1.80%	2.65%	6.50%	0.94%	1.45%	2.90%
Benchmark	1.85%	3.45%	8.32%	1.10%	1.78%	3.92%

## **Top Fixed Interest Holdings**

Holdings	% of Fund
NZLGFA 4.5% 2030	4.93%
NZGBI 2% 2025	4.04%
NZLGFA 1.5% 2026	2.91%
Westpac 5.1% 2029	2.87%
Housing NZ 3.42% 2028	2.79%
NZLGFA 1.5% 2029	2.68%
GTA Finance 2.2% 2027	2.44%
Origin Energy 2.65% 2027	2.34%
Auckland Airport 5.452% 2031	2.14%
NAB 4.85% 2029	2.12%
LB Baden-Württemberg 5.25% 2029	2.11%
NAB 5.181% 2034	2.11%
Toronto-Dominion Bank CP 202	29 2.10%
NZLGFA 4.5% 2027	1.94%
ANZ 6.124% 2039	1.84%
Suncorp 4.75% 2029	1.72%
NZLGFA 2.00% 2037	1.66%
Contact 6.398% 2030	1.52%
NZ Govt. 3.5% 2033	1.45%
Housing NZ 3.36% 2025	1.39%

Note: Fixed interest securities are reported in the following format: Issuer name, interest (coupon rate), maturity year.

### **Current Asset Allocation**

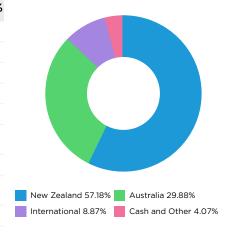
	Actual Investment Mix	Neutral Investment Mix
Effective Cash#	4.07%	3%
New Zealand Fixed Interest	53.33%	48.5%
International Fixed Interest	42.60%	48.5%
New Zealand Equities	0.00%	0.0%
Australian Equities	0.00%	0.0%
International Equities	0.00%	0.0%
Other	0.00%	0.0%

# The actual cash held by the Fund is 3.42%. Effective Cash reported above is adjusted to reflect the Fund's notional positions (e.g. derivatives used to increase or reduce market exposure).

#### **Sector Allocation**

Allocation	Weight %
Government	29.57%
Financials	26.80%
Utilities	13.19%
Real Estate	10.06%
Industrials	9.92%
Communication Services	2.81%
Energy	1.58%
Consumer Discretionary	1.23%
Other Sectors	0.77%
Cash and Other	4.07%

#### **Region Exposure**



<sup>1.</sup> After the Base Fund Fee but before tax. 2. The yield to maturity is not an indicator of future return, but reflects the current yield to maturity of the fund's underlying holdings (before tax and after the base fund fee). 4. The Total Fund Fees comprise the Base Fund Fee and any estimated Performance Fee. Please refer to the Product Disclosure Statement for more information as to how these are calculated. 5. Includes the reinvestment of distributions. Returns prior to 1 March 2018 are from when the Fund was previously offered to wholesale investors only and have been adjusted for the current Total Fund Fees. Please note past performance is not a guarantee of future returns.