

# Magellan Infrastructure Fund (Unhedged)

ARSN: 164 285 830

# **Key Facts**

Portfolio Manager	Gerald Stack
Structure	Global Listed Infrastructure Fund (Unhedged)
Inception Date	1 July 2013
Management & Administration Fee <sup>1</sup>	1.05%
Buy/Sell Spread <sup>1</sup>	0.15%/0.15%
Fund Size	AUD \$173.7 million
Performance Fee <sup>1</sup>	10.0% of the excess return of the Units of the Fund above the higher of the Index Relative hurdle (S&P Global Infrastructure Index A\$ Unhedged Net Total Return) and the Absolute Return Hurdle (the yield of 10-year Australian Government Bonds). Additionally, the Performance Fees are subject to a high water mark.
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\*From 1 January 2015, as the UBS Developed Infrastructure and Utilities Net Total Return Index (AUD) ceased to be available, it has been replaced by the S&P Global Infrastructure Index A\$ Unhedged Net Total Return.

# AUD Performance<sup>2</sup>

	Fund (%)	Index (%) <sup>3</sup>	Excess (%)
1 Month	2.0	1.5	0.5
3 Months	7.7	6.1	1.6
6 Months	20.4	17.3	3.1
1 Year	27.1	27.9	-0.8
Since Inception (% p.a.)	26.3	24.3	2.0

# Top 10 Holdings

		% of Fund
Transurban Group	Toll Roads	8.9
Crown Castle International Corp	Communications	7.1
Atlantia Spa	Toll Roads	6.7
SES	Communications	5.9
National Grid Plc	Transmission and Distribution	5.8
Flughafen Zeurich AG	Airports	5.2
Enbridge Inc	Energy Infrastructure	4.8
Eutelsat Communications	Communications	4.4
Fraport AG Frankfurt Airport Services	Airports	4.4
Auckland International Airport	Airports	4.3

# **Regional Breakdown**

	% of Fund
North America	29.8
Europe Ex-UK	27.0
United Kingdom	10.7
Developed Asia	0.3
Emerging Markets	4.4
Australia	13.3
New Zealand	4.3
Other	0.2
Cash	10.0
Total	100

# Performance Chart growth of AUD \$1,000<sup>2</sup>



# Industry Breakdown



# Country Exposure by Domicile of Listing<sup>4</sup>



<sup>2</sup>Calculations are based on exit price with distributions reinvested, after ongoing fees and expenses but excluding individual tax, member fees and entry fees (if applicable). Fund Inception 1 July 2013. <sup>3</sup>S&P Global Infrastructure Index A\$ Unhedged Net Total Return spliced with UBS Developed Infrastructure and Utilities Net Total Return Index (AUD). Note: as the UBS Developed Infrastructure and Utilities Net Total Return Index (AUD) ceased to be published from 31 March 2015, it was replaced by Magellan on 1 January 2015 with the S&P Global Infrastructure Index A\$ Unhedged Net Total Return. \*Calculated on a domicile of asset basis

#### Performance

During the March 2015 quarter, in Australian dollar terms, the Fund generated a return net of fees of +7.71%, 1.58% better than the benchmark S&P Global Infrastructure Index return of +6.13%. This brought the 1 year return for the Fund to +27.07%.

The Fund's Utility exposures were a minor drag on performance during the quarter with a weighted average return of -2.1%. In contrast, the Fund's Infrastructure exposures returned a weighted average +12.6% for the quarter. The strong performance was driven by the Fund's Ports holdings (weighted average return of +19.3%), Toll Road (+16.7%), Airports (+12.9%) and Communications (+9.8%). Of particular note were the returns from Italian toll road company SIAS (+35.5%), another Italian company Atlantia (which owns the significant majority of the interurban toll roads in Italy as well as Rome Airport) of +26.5%, Oil & Gas Storage Tank company Vopak +19.3%, German Airport company Fraport +15.4% and satellite company Eutelsat +15.1%.

There were quite divergent returns from stocks included in commonly used benchmark indices but excluded from our universe of investable stocks. On the positive side, Chinese infrastructure stocks increased by an average of 17% for the quarter while European utilities with significant competitive power generation businesses increased by approximately 7%. In contrast, US competitive energy businesses declined by an average of 5%, US Oil & Gas MLPs were down an average 4% as were US rail companies. Brazilian infrastructure stocks also fell an average 10% during the period.

The Fund's returns by sector and region are shown in the following graphs.





#### Bond Yields and Utility Returns

Over many years markets have traded infrastructure stocks, and particularly utilities, as "interest rate sensitive" stocks – on the logic that they carry more debt than the average industrial company and, therefore, a rise in interest rates will impact their earnings and/or mean that their relative dividend yield will become less attractive compared to less risky alternatives such as bank deposits. Superficially these arguments have merit.

But the relationship between bond yields and the share price performance of utilities can break down for many reasons. The following graph uses a Bernstein index of returns of regulated US utilities and the relative change in yield of US 10 year bonds (inverted to highlight correlation). As can be clearly seen, the two factors were highly correlated from the start of the utility return series in 1972 to around 2001 - but there has been effectively no correlation since (R squared of 0.0346 for the statistically minded).



Source: Bernstein, Magellan

In more recent times we have seen the knee-jerk reaction of the market to actual or expected increases in short term rates in the US. As the following graph shows between 2 May 2013 and 25 June 2013, the S&P Global Infrastructure Index fell by 7.5% after 10 year US bond yields increased by 1.0%.



Similarly, twice in the second half of last year the S&P Global Infrastructure Index fell materially as markets became more focussed on potential bond yield increases.



But as the following graph showing the same S&P Global Infrastructure Index highlights that all three previously mentioned downturns are barely noticeable when viewed in the context of the performance of the sector over the last three years.



So what of the next few years? We believe that, while there is likely to be some short term volatility around US utility prices as interest rates progressively increase, the key determinant of the share price performance of those utilities will be their underlying financial performance. Magellan believes that rising interest rates will have, at worst, only a very marginal negative impact on their financial performance. This is because:

- High quality regulated utilities have been a major beneficiary of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) because credit markets now offer debt to these companies that is:
  - Cheaper;
  - Longer term;
  - Available from many more sources
- Consequently, utilities now carry higher levels of fixed price debt and have relatively less debt maturing in any one year.
- Accordingly, any increase in interest rates will have little impact on their all up cost of debt. Indeed, the cost of debt for a number of companies can be expected to continue to fall over coming years as expensive pre-GFC debt is refinanced with much lower cost debt (albeit debt that is more expensive than right now).
- Finally, many of the US utilities have passed the peak in their capex programs which will allow dividend payout ratios to be increased to offset any comparative disadvantage they may face when traded as a dividend yield play.

### **Outlook and Strategy**

The Fund seeks to provide investors with attractive risk-adjusted returns from the infrastructure asset class. It does this by investing in a portfolio of listed infrastructure companies that meet our strict definition of infrastructure at discounts to their assessed intrinsic values. We expect that the Fund should provide investors with real returns of approximately 5% to 6% over the longer term.

We believe that infrastructure assets, with requisite earnings reliability and a linkage of earnings to inflation, offer attractive, long-term investment propositions. Furthermore, given the predictable nature of earnings and the structural linkage of those earnings to inflation, the investment returns generated by infrastructure assets are different from standard asset classes and offer investors valuable diversification when included in an investment portfolio. In the current uncertain economic and investment climate, the reliable financial performance of infrastructure investments makes them particularly attractive and an investment in listed infrastructure can be expected to reward patient investors with a three to five year timeframe.

**Important Information:** Units in the Magellan Infrastructure Fund (Unhedged) (Fund) are issued by Magellan Asset Management Limited (ABN 31 120 593 946, AFS Licence No 304 301). Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results and no person guarantees the future performance of the Fund, the amount or timing of any return from it, or that it will achieve its investment objective. This material has been provided for general information purposes and must not be construed as investment advice. This material has been prepared without taking into account the investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any particular person. Investors should consider obtaining professional investment advice tailored to their specific circumstances and should read the relevant Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) prior to making any investment decisions. The PDS is available at www.magellangroup.com.au or can be obtained by calling 02 8114 1888.