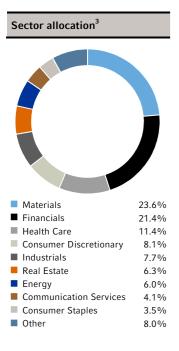
# **Russell Investments Australian Opportunities Fund**



## **Fund objective**

To significantly outperform the Fund's benchmark, before costs and tax, over the long term by providing exposure to a diversified portfolio of predominantly Australian shares.

### Fund strategy

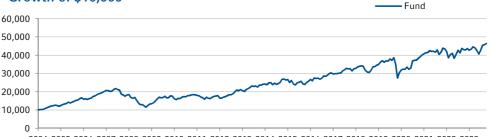
The Fund invests predominantly in shares and unit trusts listed or about to be listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. The Fund may also engage in short selling of securities. Derivatives may be used to obtain or reduce exposure to securities and markets, to implement investment strategies and to manage risk.

### Performance review<sup>1</sup>

| Period ending 29/02/2024 | 1     | 3      | 1    | 3     | 5     | Since     |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|------|-------|-------|-----------|
|                          | month | months | year | years | years | inception |
|                          | %     | %      | %    | %p.a. | %p.a. | %p.a.     |
| Total return             | 1.34  | 9.18   | 7.92 | 6.68  | 6.68  | 8.08      |

1 Performance is net of fees and charges. Assumes reinvestment of income. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance

### Growth of \$10,000



2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

### Fund commentary

The Russell Investments Australian Opportunities Fund outperformed the benchmark in February.

Stock selection within the materials space contributed positively to performance over the period, including underweights to iron ore majors BHP Group and Fortescue and an overweight to Mineral Resources. Partly offsetting these positions was our broader overweight to the sector, which underperformed the market in February. Stock selection amongst property trusts also added value; notably an overweight to sector heavyweight Goodman Group. Goodman Group jumped almost 17% after delivering yet another strong earnings result. Stock selection amongst consumer staples added further value over the period. This included an overweight to Treasury Wine Estates - owner of the Penfolds brand – and underweights to Woolworths and poultry producer Inghams. In contrast, stock selection within the consumer discretionary sector detracted from overall performance in February; notably an underweight to Wesfarmers, which gained almost 17% on the back of better-than-expected earnings. Wesfarmers owns the Bunnings, Kmart and Officeworks brands. Our holdings in Star Entertainment, New Zealand's KMD Brands and Ainsworth Game Technology also weighed on returns. All three stocks recorded sharp declines for the month. Performance was further impacted by a material overweight to the healthcare space. Stock selection within the sector also hurt fund performance, including overweights to ResMed, CSL Ltd. and Ansell.

3 Allocations may not equal 100% due to rounding. <sup>1</sup> As a percentage of net assets. Includes management fee, indirect costs and expense recoveries. Reflects RIM's reasonable estimates of the typical fees for the current financial year. All costs reflect the actual amount incurred for previous financial year and may include RIM's reasonable estimates where information was not available or where RIM was unable to determine the exact amount. Refer to the PDS for further information. <sup>4</sup> As a percentage of net assets. RIM does not charge a performance fee at the Fund level, however underlying funds and managers may charge a performance fee. This estimated fee is based on the average of actual performance fees incurred over the past 5 financial years. Refer to PDS for further information.



COMMITTED TO **RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT** 









# Russell Investments Australian Opportunities Fund (continued)

# Detailed performance review<sup>1,2</sup>

|              | 1 year<br>%p.a. | 3 years<br>%p.a. | 5 years<br>%p.a. | Since<br>inception<br>%p.a. |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total return | 7.9             | 6.7              | 6.7              | 8.1                         |
| Distribution | 6.4             | 8.0              | 6.6              | 6.6                         |
| Growth       | 1.5             | -1.3             | 0.1              | 1.5                         |

1 Performance is net of fees and charges. Assumes reinvestment of income. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. 2 The distribution return reflects income paid from the Fund, whilst the growth return reflects changes in the capital values of the units.

## **ESG** data

|                     | Fund   | Benchmark |
|---------------------|--------|-----------|
| ESG Risk Score**    | 24.13  | 22.59     |
| Carbon Footprint*** | 199.29 | 144.55    |
| Tobacco Exposure    | 0.00%  | 0.00%     |

\*\* Higher scores imply higher ESG risk

\*\*\* Higher score implies greater carbon exposure

The ESG Risk Score is the weighted average of the Sustainalytics' Risk Score for companies in the portfolio. The Sustainalytics' Risk Score focuses on ESG issues that are financially material to the company and incorporates both risk exposure and issue management. The scores range from 0 to 100 where higher scores imply higher ESG risk. The Carbon Footprint is the Weighted Average Carbon Intensity which we define as relative carbon emissions as the weighted average of portfolio companies' Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions divided by revenue (CO2e/\$1M revenue USD).Tobacco exposure is defined as the weight of securities in the portfolio classified as being in the GICS tobacco subindustry.

## **Top ten holdings**

| Security                    |
|-----------------------------|
| CSL LTD                     |
| BHP GROUP LTD               |
| COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUST   |
| SANTOS LTD                  |
| NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK LTD |
| GOODMAN GROUP               |
| ANZ GROUP HOLDINGS LTD      |
| QBE INSURANCE GROUP LTD     |
| BLUESCOPE STEEL LTD         |
| WESTPAC BANKING CORP        |

# Russell Investments Australian Opportunities Fund (continued)

## **Portfolio structure**<sup>4</sup>

| Manager                      | Style                          | Weight<br>% |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Allan Gray                   | Deep Value                     | 12.0        |
| Ausbil Investment Management | Style Neutral, 130/30          | 12.0        |
| Firetrail Investments        | Opportunistic, high conviction | 20.0        |
| L1 Capital (Catalyst)        | Concentrated, activist         | 10.0        |
| Platypus Asset Management    | Aggressive growth              | 14.0        |
| Russell Investments          | Liquidity Reserve              | 3.0         |
| Russell Investments          | Positioning strategies         | 9.0         |
| WaveStone Capital            | Quality growth                 | 20.0        |

4 Russell Investments retains the discretion to change the investment managers at any time without notice. Please check russellinvestments.com.au/disclosures for the latest list of managers.

### **Contact Russell Investments**

For further information about Russell Investments please visit russellinvestments.com.au

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