

**Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund
(formerly known as "Watermark Absolute Return Fund")**

ARSN 631 094 534

**Annual report
For the year ended 30 June 2024**

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Independent auditor's report to the unit holders of Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund (formerly known as "Watermark Absolute Return Fund")

This annual report covers Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund (formerly known as "Watermark Absolute Return Fund") as an individual entity.

The Responsible Entity of Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund (formerly known as "Watermark Absolute Return Fund") is Equity Trustees Limited (ABN 46 004 031 298) (AFSL 240975).

The Responsible Entity's registered office is:

Level 1, 575 Bourke Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000.

Directors' report

The directors of Equity Trustees Limited, the Responsible Entity of Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund (formerly known as "Watermark Absolute Return Fund") (the "Fund"), present their report together with the financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Principal activities

The Fund invests in or short sells publicly listed securities primarily outside of the S&P/ASX 100 on Australian and New Zealand securities exchanges in accordance with the Product Disclosure Statement and the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The Fund did not have any employees during the year.

On the 21 November 2023, Blackwattle Investment Partners Pty Limited ("Blackwattle") was appointed as the new Investment Manager of Watermark Absolute Return Fund which was renamed as Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund. On the appointment of Blackwattle as investment manager, the Fund's investment strategy changed to a small companies long short strategy. The Fund has entered a six-month transition period from 21 November 2023 to 21 May 2024. During this transition period the Fund's Benchmark will be 50% cash rate as determined by the Reserve Bank of Australia and 50% S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the Fund's activities during the year.

The various service providers for the Fund are detailed below:

Service	Provider
Responsible Entity	Equity Trustees Limited
Investment Manager	Blackwattle Investment Partners Pty Limited*
Custodians, Administrator and Registrar	Apex Fund Services Pty Ltd (an Apex Group Company)
Statutory Auditor	Ernst and Young**

*Watermark Funds Management Pty Limited was the Fund's Investment Manager from 1 July 2023 to 20 November 2023. On the 21 November 2023, Blackwattle Investment Partners Pty Limited ("Blackwattle") was appointed as the new Investment Manager of Watermark Absolute Return Fund which was renamed as Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund.

**On 14 February 2024, Ernst and Young replaced Pitcher Partners as the Fund auditor.

Directors

The following persons held office as directors of Equity Trustees Limited during or since the end of the year and up to the date of this report:

Philip D Gentry	Chairman (resigned 6 June 2024)
Michael J O'Brien	Chairman (appointed 6 June 2024)
Russell W Beasley	
Mary A O'Connor	
David B Warren	
Andrew P Godfrey	(appointed 1 May 2024)

Review and results of operations

During the year, the Fund continued to invest its funds in accordance with the Product Disclosure Statement and the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund performance was 6.52% (net of fees) for the period of 21 November 2023 to 30 June 2024, compared to the Fund's Benchmark of 4.98%.

The Fund's overall performance was 3.78% (net of fees) for the year ended 30 June 2024, compared to the Fund's Benchmark of 6.91%. The Fund's Benchmark was the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA's) cash rate up to 21 November 2023. There was a six-month transition period beginning 22 November 2023 following the appointment of Blackwattle as Investment Manager. During this transition period, the Fund Benchmark was 50% cash rate as determined by the Reserve Bank of Australia and 50% Standard and Poor ("S&P")/ Australian Securities Exchange ("ASX") Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index. The transition period ended 22 May 2024, the Fund Benchmark is Standard and Poor ("S&P")/ Australian Securities Exchange ("ASX") Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index.

The Fund's performance is calculated based on the percentage change in the Fund's Net Asset Value (NAV) price over the period (with any distributions paid during the period reinvested). Returns are disclosed after fees and expenses.

Directors' report (continued)

Review and results of operations (continued)

The performance of the Fund, as represented by the results of its operations, was as follows:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
Profit/(loss) before finance costs attributable to unit holders for the year (\$'000)	1,686	(7,135)
Watermark Absolute Return Fund - Ordinary Class		
Distributions paid and payable (\$'000)	-	221
Distributions (cents per unit)	-	0.2664

Significant changes in the state of affairs

On the appointment of Blackwattle as investment manager, the Fund's investment strategy has changed to a small companies long short strategy.

The Fund entered a six-month transition period between 21 November 2023 and ending 21 May 2024. During this transition period the Fund's Benchmark was 50% cash rate as determined by the Reserve Bank of Australia and 50% S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index. The transition period ended 22 May 2024, the Fund Benchmark is Standard and Poor ("S&P")/ Australian Securities Exchange ("ASX") Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index.

Andrew P Godfrey was appointed as a director of Equity Trustees Limited on 1 May 2024.

Philip D Gentry resigned as a director of Equity Trustees Limited on 6 June 2024.

In the opinion of the directors, there were no other significant changes in the state of affairs of the Fund that occurred during the financial year.

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may have a significant effect on:

- i. the operations of the Fund in future financial years; or
- ii. the results of those operations in future financial years; or
- iii. the state of affairs of the Fund in future financial years.

Likely developments and expected results of operations

The Fund will continue to be managed in accordance with the investment objectives and guidelines as set out in the Product Disclosure Statement and the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The results of the Fund's operations will be affected by a number of factors, including the performance of investment markets in which the Fund invests. Investment performance is not guaranteed and future returns may differ from past returns. As investment conditions change over time, past returns should not be used to predict future returns.

Indemnification and insurance of officers

No insurance premiums are paid for out of the assets of the Fund in regard to insurance cover provided to the officers of Equity Trustees Limited. So long as the officers of Equity Trustees Limited act in accordance with the Fund's Constitution and the Law, the officers remain indemnified out of the assets of the Fund against losses incurred while acting on behalf of the Fund.

Indemnification of auditor

The auditor of the Fund is in no way indemnified out of the assets of the Fund.

Fees paid to and interests held in the Fund by the Responsible Entity and its associates

Fees paid to the Responsible Entity and its associates out of Fund property during the year are disclosed in Note 15 to the financial statements.

No fees were paid out of Fund property to the directors of the Responsible Entity during the year.

The number of interests in the Fund held by the Responsible Entity or its associates as at the end of the financial year are disclosed in Note 15 to the financial statements.

Directors' report (continued)

Interests in the Fund

The movement in units on issue in the Fund during the year is disclosed in Note 8 to the financial statements.

The value of the Fund's assets and liabilities is disclosed in the statement of financial position and derived using the basis set out in Note 2 to the financial statements.

Environmental regulation

The operations of the Fund are not subject to any particular or significant environmental regulations under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law.

Rounding of amounts to the nearest thousand dollars

Amounts in the Directors' report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars in accordance with *ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191*, unless otherwise indicated.

Auditor's independence declaration

A copy of the Auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 5.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors of Equity Trustees Limited through a delegated authority given by Equity Trustees Limited's Board.



Andrew P Godfrey
Director

Melbourne
25 September 2024



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Auditor's independence declaration to the directors of Equity Trustees Limited as Responsible Entity for Blackwattle Small Cap Long Short Quality Fund

As lead auditor for the audit of the financial report of Blackwattle Small Cap Long Short Quality Fund for the financial year ended 30 June 2024, I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit;
- b. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit; and
- c. No non-audit services provided that contravene any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ernst & Young'.

Ernst & Young

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rohit Khanna'.

Rohit Khanna
Partner
25 September 2024

Statement of comprehensive income

	Note	Year ended	
		30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Income			
Interest income from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		82	75
Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost		1,495	2,177
Dividend and distribution income		1,071	2,229
Net foreign exchange gain/(loss)		(49)	55
Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		2,531	(2,444)
Other income		2	22
Total income/(loss)		5,132	2,114
Expenses			
Management fees and costs		1,049	1,328
Interest expense from financial liability at amortised cost		3	6
Transaction costs		1,019	4,340
Stock loan fees		111	744
Short dividend expenses		570	2,396
Withholding tax expense		172	293
Other expenses		522	142
Total expenses		3,446	9,249
Profit/(loss) before finance costs attributable to unit holders for the year		1,686	(7,135)
Finance costs attributable to unit holders			
Distributions to unit holders	9	-	(221)
(Increase)/decrease in net assets attributable to unit holders	8	-	7,356
Profit/(loss) for the year		1,686	-
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,686	-

The above statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of financial position

	Note	As at	
		30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	10	1,363	60,702
Receivables	12	217	363
Due from brokers – receivable for securities sold		1,543	14,738
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	5	68,194	54,205
Total assets		71,317	130,008
Liabilities			
Bank overdraft		1,323	1,376
Distributions payable	9	-	221
Payables	13	143	182
Due to brokers – payable for securities purchased		1,283	20,997
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	6	12,718	31,762
Total liabilities (excluding net assets attributable to unit holders)		15,467	54,538
Net assets attributable to unit holders - equity	8	55,850	-
Net assets attributable to unit holders - liability	8	-	75,470

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of changes in equity

	Note	Year ended	
		30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Total equity at the beginning of the financial year		-	-
Reclassification due to reassessment of the criteria under AASB 132	8	75,470	-
Comprehensive income for the year			
Profit/(loss) for the year		1,686	-
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income		1,686	-
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners			
Applications	8	1,572	-
Redemptions	8	(22,889)	-
Reinvestment of distributions	8	11	-
Total transactions with owners in their capacity as owners		(21,306)	-
Total equity at the end of the financial year		55,850	-

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes with reference to Notes 1, 2(c) and 8.

Statement of cash flows

	Note	Year ended	
		30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Proceeds from sale of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		188,853	831,134
Payments for purchase of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		(209,672)	(741,507)
Proceeds from re-purchase of financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss		104,222	837,497
Payments for settlement of financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss		(120,479)	(943,879)
Interest income received from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		192	(35)
Interest income received from financial assets at amortised cost		1,495	2,244
Dividends and distributions received		877	2,321
Other income received		115	80
Management fees and costs paid		(1,048)	(1,376)
Performance fees paid		-	(1,567)
Interest expense paid		(3)	(56)
Transaction costs paid		(1,019)	(4,340)
Stock loan fees paid		(111)	(874)
Dividend expense paid on short securities		(610)	(2,781)
Other expenses paid		(522)	(330)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	11 (a)	(37,710)	(23,469)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from applications by unit holders		1,572	24,274
Payments for redemptions by unit holders		(22,889)	(46,827)
Distributions paid to unit holders		(210)	(6,194)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities		(21,527)	(28,747)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(59,237)	(52,216)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		59,326	111,487
Effect of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents		(49)	55
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	10 (a)	40	59,326
Non-cash operating and financing activities			
Issue of units under the distribution reinvestment plan	11 (b)	66	464

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the financial statements

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1. General information

These financial statements cover Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund (the "Fund") as an individual entity. The Fund is an Australian registered managed investment scheme which was constituted on 18 January 2019 and will terminate in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution or by Law.

The Responsible Entity of the Fund is Equity Trustees Limited (ABN 46 004 031 298) (AFSL 240975) (the "Responsible Entity"). The Responsible Entity's registered office is Level 1, 575 Bourke Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000. The financial statements are presented in the Australian currency unless otherwise noted.

On the 21 November 2023, Blackwattle Investment Partners Pty Limited ("Blackwattle") was appointed as the new Investment Manager of Watermark Absolute Return Fund which was renamed as Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund. On the appointment of Blackwattle as investment manager, the Fund's investment strategy changed to a small companies long short strategy. The Fund has entered a six-month transition period from 21 November 2023 to 21 May 2024. During this transition period the Fund's Benchmark will be 50% cash rate as determined by the Reserve Bank of Australia and 50% S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index.

The Fund invests in or short sells publicly listed securities primarily outside of the S&P/ASX 100 on Australian and New Zealand securities exchanges in accordance with the Product Disclosure Statement and the provisions of the Fund's Constitution. During the reporting period, management reviewed the classification of net assets attributable to unit holders and concluded that with the Fund, now with a single Foundation class of units on the expiry of the B class units, meets the conditions to classify its units as equity. As such, units in the Fund have been reclassified from liability to equity, refer to Note 8 for further information.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors on the date the Directors' declaration was signed. The directors of the Responsible Entity have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

2. Summary of material accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented, unless otherwise stated in the following text.

a. Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Corporations Act 2001* in Australia. The Fund is a for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared on the basis of fair value measurement of assets and liabilities, except where otherwise stated.

The statement of financial position is presented on a liquidity basis. Assets and liabilities are presented in decreasing order of liquidity and do not distinguish between current and non-current. All balances are expected to be recovered or settled within 12 months, except for investments in financial assets and liabilities and net assets attributable to unit holders.

The Fund manages financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss based on the economic circumstances at any given point in time, as well as to meet any liquidity requirements. As such, it is expected that a portion of the portfolio will be realised within 12 months, however, an estimate of that amount cannot be determined as at reporting date.

In the case of net assets attributable to unit holders', the units are redeemable on demand at the unit holder's option. However, holders of these instruments typically retain them for the medium to long term. As such, the amount expected to be settled within 12 months cannot be reliably determined.

i. Compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

The financial statements of the Fund also comply with IFRS as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

ii. New and amended standards adopted by the Fund

The Fund has applied the following standards and amendments for the first time for its financial year beginning 1 July 2023:

- AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates [AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 108, AASB 134 & AASB Practice Statement 2].

The amendments have had an impact on the Fund's disclosures of accounting policies, including the requirement to disclose 'material' rather than 'significant' accounting policies, but not on the measurement, recognition or presentation of any items in the Fund's financial statements.

None of the other standards, interpretations or amendments to existing standards that are effective for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 July 2023 have a material impact on the amounts recognised in the prior periods or will affect the current or future periods.

iii. New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

A number of new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 July 2024 and have not been early adopted in preparing these financial statements.

None of these are expected to have a material effect on the financial statements of the Fund.

2. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

b. Financial instruments

i. Classification

- Financial assets

The Fund classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

- those to be measured at fair value through profit or loss; and
- those to be measured at amortised cost.

The Fund classifies its assets based on its business model for managing those financial assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets.

The Fund's portfolio of financial assets is managed and its performance is evaluated on a fair value basis in accordance with the Fund's documented investment strategy. The Fund's policy is for the Investment Manager to evaluate the information about these financial assets on a fair value basis together with other related financial information.

For equity securities and derivatives, the contractual cash flows of these instruments do not represent solely payments of principal and interest. Consequently, these investments are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

For debt securities, the contractual cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, however they are neither held for collecting contractual cash flows nor held both for collecting contractual cash flows and for sale. The collection of contractual cash flows is only incidental to achieving the Fund's business objective. Consequently, the debt securities are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

For cash and cash equivalents, receivables and due from brokers, these assets are held in order to collect the contractual cash flows. The contractual terms of these assets give rise, on specified dates, to cash flow that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding. Consequently, these are measured at amortised cost.

- Financial liabilities

The Fund makes short sales in which a borrowed security is sold in anticipation of a decline in the market value of that security, or it may use short sales for various arbitrage transactions. Short sales are held for trading and are consequently classified as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss. Derivative contracts that have a negative fair value are presented as liabilities at fair value through profit or loss.

For financial liabilities that are not classified and measured at fair value through profit or loss, these are classified as financial liabilities at amortised cost (due to brokers, distributions payable, management fees and costs payable and short dividends payable).

ii. Recognition and derecognition

The Fund recognises financial assets and financial liabilities on the date it becomes party to the contractual agreement (trade date) and recognises changes in the fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities from this date.

Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or the Fund has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership. Financial liabilities are derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires. When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as the derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

iii. Measurement

- Financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss

At initial recognition, the Fund measures financial asset and financial liability at its fair value. Transaction costs of financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value through profit or loss are expensed in the statement of comprehensive income.

Subsequent to initial recognition, all financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of 'financial assets or liabilities at fair value through profit or loss' category are presented in the statement of comprehensive income within 'net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss' in the period in which they arise.

For further details on how the fair value of financial instruments is determined please see Note 4 to the financial statements.

- Financial instruments at amortised cost

For financial assets and financial liabilities at amortised cost, they are initially measured at fair value including directly attributable costs and are subsequently measured using the effective interest rate method less any allowance for expected credit losses.

Cash and cash equivalents, receivable, due from brokers, payables and due to brokers are carried at amortised cost.

2. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

b. Financial instruments (continued)

iv. Impairment

At each reporting date, the Fund shall estimate a loss allowance on each of the financial assets carried at amortised cost (cash and cash equivalents, due from brokers and receivables) at an amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses if the credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition. If, at the reporting date, the credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition, the Fund shall measure the loss allowance at an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses. Significant financial difficulties of the counter party, probability that the counter party will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default in payments are all considered indicators that the asset is credit impaired. If the credit risk increases to the point that it is considered to be credit impaired, interest income will be calculated based on the net carrying amount adjusted for the loss allowance. A significant increase in credit risk is defined by management as any contractual payment which is more than 30 days past due. Any contractual payment which is more than 90 days past due is considered credit impaired.

The expected credit loss (ECL) approach is based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due in accordance with the contract and all the cash flows that the Fund expects to receive. The shortfall is then discounted at an approximation to the asset's original effective interest rate.

The amount of the impairment loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income within other expenses. When a trade receivable for which an impairment allowance had been recognised becomes uncollectible in a subsequent period, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in the statement of comprehensive income.

c. Net assets attributable to unit holders

Units are redeemable at the unit holders' option; however, applications and redemptions may be suspended by the Responsible Entity if it is in the best interests of the unit holders.

The units can be put back to the Fund at any time for cash based on the redemption price, which is equal to a proportionate share of the Fund's net asset value attributable to the unit holders.

The units are carried at the redemption amount that is payable at the reporting date if the holder exercises the right to put the units back to the Fund.

The Fund's units are classified as equity as they satisfy the following criteria under *AASB 132 Financial Instruments: Presentation*:

- the puttable financial instrument entitles the holder to a pro-rata share of net assets in the event of the Fund's liquidation;
- the puttable financial instrument is in the class of instruments that is subordinate to all other classes of instruments and class features are identical;
- the puttable financial instrument does not include any contractual obligations to deliver cash or another financial asset, or to exchange financial instruments with another entity under potentially unfavourable conditions to the Fund, and is not a contract settled in the Fund's own equity instruments; and
- the total expected cash flows attributable to the puttable financial instrument over the life are based substantially on the profit or loss.

d. Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of presentation in the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions and other short term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowing in the statement of financial position.

Payments and receipts relating to the purchase and sale of investment securities are classified as cash flows from operating activities, as trading of these securities represents the Fund's main income generating activity.

e. Income

i. Interest income

Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost is recognised using the effective interest method and includes interest from cash and cash equivalents. Interest from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is determined based on the contractual coupon interest rate and includes interest from debt securities measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts throughout the expected life of the financial instrument, or a shorter period where appropriate, to the net carrying amount of the financial asset. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Fund estimates cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instruments (for example, prepayment options) but does not consider future credit losses. The calculation includes all fees paid or received between the parties to the contract that are an integral part of the effective interest rate, including transaction costs and all other premiums or discounts.

Interest income on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is also recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. Changes in fair value of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss are recorded in accordance with the policies described in Note 2(b) to the financial statements.

2. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

e. Income (continued)

ii. Dividends and distributions

Dividend income is recognised on the ex-dividend date with any related foreign withholding tax recorded as an expense. The Fund currently incurs withholding tax imposed by certain countries on investment income. Such income is recorded gross of withholding tax in the statement of comprehensive income.

Trust distributions are recognised on an entitlement basis.

f. Expenses

All expenses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income on an accruals basis.

Interest expense from financial liability at amortised cost is recognised using the effective interest method and includes interest expenses from the credit facility.

As per the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement (PDS), ordinary expenses such as investment management fees, Responsible Entity fees, custodian fees, administration and audit fees, and other ordinary expenses of operating the Fund are covered by the management fees and costs.

Dividend expenses on short positions in equity securities equal to the dividends due on these securities. Such dividend expense is recognised in profit or loss when the shareholders' right to receive payment is established.

g. Income tax

Under current legislation, the Fund is not subject to income tax provided it attributes the entirety of its taxable income to its unit holders on present entitlement basis.

The Fund currently incurs withholding taxes imposed by certain countries on investment income and capital gains. Such income or gains are recorded gross of withholding taxes in the statement of comprehensive income. Withholding taxes are included in the statement of comprehensive income as an expense.

h. Distributions

The Fund may distribute its distributable income, in accordance with the Fund's Constitution, to unit holders by cash or reinvestment. The distributions are recognised in the statement of changes in equity.

i. Increase/decrease in net assets attributable to unit holders

Income not distributed is included in net assets attributable to unit holders. As the Fund's units are classified as financial liabilities, movements in net assets attributable to unit holders are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as finance costs.

j. Foreign currency translation

i. Functional and presentation currency

Balances included in the Fund's financial statements are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates (the "functional currency"). This is the Australian dollar which reflects the currency of the economy in which the Fund competes for funds and is regulated. The Australian dollar is also the Fund's presentation currency.

ii. Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translations at period end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when fair value was determined.

The Fund does not isolate that portion of unrealised gains or losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss which is due to changes in foreign exchange rates. Such fluctuations are included in the net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss.

k. Due from/to brokers

Amounts due from/to brokers represent receivables for securities sold and payables for securities purchased that have been contracted for but not yet delivered by the end of the year. The due from brokers balance is held for collection and is recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

2. Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

l. Receivables

Receivables may include amounts for interest, dividend and trust distributions. Dividend and trust distributions are accrued when the right to receive payment is established. Where applicable, interest is accrued on a monthly basis. Amounts are generally received within 30 days of being recorded as receivables.

m. Payables

Payables include liabilities and accrued expenses owed by the Fund which are unpaid as at the end of the reporting period.

A separate distribution payable is recognised in the statement of financial position.

Distributions declared effective 30 June in relation to unit holders who have previously elected to reinvest distributions are recognised as reinvested effective 1 July of the following financial year.

n. Applications and redemptions

Applications received for units in the Fund are recorded net of any entry fees payable prior to the issue of units in the Fund. Redemptions from the Fund are recorded gross of any exit fees payable after the cancellation of units redeemed.

o. Goods and services tax (GST)

The GST incurred on the costs of various services provided to the Fund by third parties such as management, administration and custodian services where applicable, have been passed on to the Fund. The Fund qualifies for Reduced Input Tax Credits (RITC) at a rate of at least 55%. Hence, fees for these services and any other expenses have been recognised in the statement of comprehensive income net of the amount of GST recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Amounts payable are inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from the ATO is included in receivables in the statement of financial position. Cash flows relating to GST are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis.

p. Use of estimates and judgements

The Fund makes estimates, assumptions and judgements that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the current and next financial year. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future periods effected.

For the majority of the Fund's financial instruments, quoted market prices are readily available. However, certain financial instruments, for example over-the-counter derivatives or unquoted securities, are fair valued using valuation techniques. Where valuation techniques (for example, pricing models) are used to determine fair values, they are validated and periodically reviewed by experienced personnel of the Investment Manager.

The Fund estimates that the resultant expected credit loss (ECL) derived from using impairment model has not materially impacted the Fund. Please see Note 3(c) for more information on credit risk.

Models use observable data, to the extent practicable. However, areas such as credit risk (both own and counterparty), volatilities and correlations, require management to make estimates and judgements. Changes in assumptions about these factors could affect the reported fair value of financial instruments.

For more information on how fair value is calculated refer to Note 4 to the financial statements.

q. Rounding of amounts

The Fund is an entity of a kind referred to in *ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191* relating to the "rounding off" of amounts in the financial statements. Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise indicated.

3. Financial risk management

The Fund's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk (including price risk, foreign exchange risk and cash flow and fair value interest rate risk), credit risk and liquidity risk.

The Fund's overall risk management programme focuses on ensuring compliance with the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement and the investment guidelines of the Fund. It also seeks to maximise the returns derived for the level of risk to which the Fund is exposed and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Fund's financial performance. The Fund's policy allows it to use derivative financial instruments in managing financial risks.

All investments present a risk of loss of capital. The maximum loss of capital on long equity and debt securities is limited to the fair value of those positions. The maximum loss of capital on long futures and forward currency contracts is limited to the notional contract values of those positions. On equities sold short, the maximum loss can be unlimited.

3. Financial risk management (continued)

The investments of the Fund, and associated risks, are managed by the Investment Manager, Blackwattle Investment Partners Pty Limited, under an Investment Management Agreement (IMA) approved by the Responsible Entity, and containing the investment strategy and guidelines of the Fund, consistent with those stated in the Product Disclosure Statement.

The Fund uses different methods to measure different types of risk to which it is exposed. These methods include sensitivity analysis in the case of price risk and cash flow and fair value interest rate risk.

a. *Market risk*

i. *Price risk*

The Fund is exposed to price risk on equity securities listed or quoted on recognised securities exchanges. Price risk arises from investments held by the Fund for which prices in the future are uncertain. Where non-monetary financial instruments are denominated in currencies other than the Australian dollar, the price in the future will also fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates which are considered a component of price risk.

Price risk is managed by investing in a diversified portfolio of long and short equities across sectors and industries in line with the guidelines of the IMA. The Fund will typically consist of 30-60 long securities positions, and 10-30 short positions. The Fund targets a 130% long / 30% short portfolio structure.

The table at Note 3(b) summarises the sensitivities of the Fund's assets and liabilities to price risk. The analysis is based on the reasonably possible shift that the investment portfolio in which the Fund invests moves by +/- 10% (2023: +/-10%).

ii. *Foreign exchange risk*

The Fund operates internationally and holds both monetary and non-monetary assets dominated in currencies other than the Australian dollar. Foreign exchange risk arises as the value of monetary securities denominated in other currencies fluctuate due to changes in exchange rates. The foreign exchange risk relating to non-monetary assets and liabilities is a component of price risk and not foreign exchange risk. However, the Investment Manager monitors the exposure of all foreign currency denominated assets and liabilities.

Foreign exchange risk is managed by the investment Manager through its treasury management framework. Where the Investment Manager invests in international securities, it will aim to broadly manage the Fund's exposure to currency movement by balancing long and short exposures in foreign currencies.

The fair value of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities, monetary and non-monetary, which are denominated in a currency other than the Australian dollar is summarised below.

	Canadian Dollars A\$'000	US Dollars A\$'000	New Zealand Dollars A\$'000	Pound Sterling A\$'000
As at 30 June 2024				
Cash and cash equivalents	-	4	-	1
Net exposure	-	4	-	1
As at 30 June 2023				
Cash and cash equivalents	-	16,780	-	-
Due from brokers – receivable for securities sold	-	-	1,017	-
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	570	-	967	-
Bank overdraft	(488)	-	(806)	(82)
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	(1,153)	-
Net exposure	82	16,780	25	(82)

The table at Note 3(b) summarises the sensitivities of the Fund's monetary assets and liabilities to foreign exchange risk. The analysis is based on the reasonably possible shift that the Australian dollar weakened and strengthened by 10% (2023: +/-10%) against the material foreign currencies to which the Fund is exposed.

iii. *Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk*

The Fund is exposed to cash flow interest rate risk on financial instruments with variable interest rates. Financial instruments with fixed rates expose the Fund to fair value interest rate risk.

The Fund's interest bearing financial instruments expose them to risks associated with the effects of fluctuation in the prevailing market interest rate on its financial positions and cash flows. The risk is measured using sensitivity analysis.

Interest rate risk is actively managed by the Investment Manager. The majority of the Fund's interest bearing assets are held on term deposit with an Australian bank. These investments are actively managed to ensure the Fund obtains competitive rates of return while ensuring sufficient liquidity to meet cash flow requirements. Cash may also be held with the Prime Broker as margin collateral. The Investment Manager has negotiated favorable terms with the Prime Broker in respect of interest earned on the Fund's cash.

3. Financial risk management (continued)

a. Market risk (continued)

iii. Cash flow and fair value Interest rate risk (continued)

The table below summarises the Fund's exposure to interest rate risk at the end of the reporting period.

	Floating interest rate \$'000	Fixed interest rate \$'000	Non- interest bearing \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 30 June 2024				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	1,363	-	-	1,363
Receivables	-	-	217	217
Due from brokers – receivable for securities sold	-	-	1,543	1,543
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	68,194	68,194
Total financial assets	1,363	-	69,954	71,317
Financial liabilities				
Bank overdraft	1,323	-	-	1,323
Payables	-	-	143	143
Due to brokers – payable for securities purchased	-	-	1,283	1,283
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	12,718	12,718
Total financial liabilities	1,323	-	14,144	15,467
Net exposure	40	-	55,810	55,850
As at 30 June 2023				
Cash and cash equivalents	60,702	-	-	60,702
Receivables	-	-	363	363
Due from brokers – receivable for securities sold	-	-	14,738	14,738
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	25,522	28,683	54,205
Total financial assets	60,702	25,522	43,784	130,008
Financial liabilities				
Distributions payable	-	-	221	221
Bank overdraft	1,376	-	-	1,376
Payables	-	-	182	182
Due to brokers – payable for securities purchased	-	-	20,997	20,997
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	31,762	31,762
Total financial liabilities	1,376	-	53,162	54,538
Net exposure	59,326	25,522	(9,378)	75,470

The table at Note 3(b) summarises the impact of an increase/decrease in interest rates on the Fund's operating profit and net assets attributable to unit holders through changes in fair value or changes in future cash flows. The analysis is based on the reasonably possible shift that the interest rates changed by +/- 75 basis points (2023: +/- 75 basis points) from the year end rates with all other variables held constant.

b. Summarised sensitivity analysis

The following table summarises the sensitivity of the Fund's operating profit and net assets attributable to unit holders to market risks. The reasonably possible movements in the risk variables have been determined based on management's best estimate, having regard to a number of factors, including historical levels of changes in foreign exchange rates, interest rates and the historical correlation of the Fund's investments with the relevant benchmark and market volatility. However, actual movements in the risk variables may be greater or less than anticipated due to a number of factors, including unusually large market movements resulting from changes in the performance of and/or correlation between the performances of the economies, markets and securities in which the Fund invests. As a result, historic variations in risk variables should not be used to predict future variances in the risk variables.

	Impact on operating profit/net assets attributable to unit holders					
	Price risk		Foreign exchange risk		Interest rate risk	
	+10% \$'000	-10% \$'000	+10% \$'000	-10% \$'000	+75bps \$'000	-75bps \$'000
As at 30 June 2024	5,548	(5,548)	-	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2023	(308)	308	1,699	(1,699)	636	(636)

3. Financial risk management (continued)

c. Credit risk

The Fund is exposed to credit risk, which is the risk that a counterparty will be unable to pay its obligations in full when they fall due, causing a financial loss to the Fund.

The Fund does not have a significant concentration of credit risk that arises from an exposure to a single counterparty or group of counterparties having similar characteristics. The main concentration of credit risk, to which the Fund is exposed, arises from cash and cash equivalents and amounts due from brokers balances. None of these assets are impaired nor past their due date. The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents and amounts due from broker.

The Fund determines credit risk and measures expected credit losses for financial assets measured at amortised cost using probability of default, exposure at default and loss given default. Management consider both historical analysis and forward looking information in determining any expected credit loss. At 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023, all receivables, amounts due from brokers, cash and short-term deposits are held with counterparties with a credit rating of A- or higher and are either callable on demand or due to be settled within 1 week. Management considers the probability of default to be close to zero as these instruments have a low risk of default and the counterparties have a strong capacity to meet their contractual obligations in the near term. As a result, no loss allowance has been recognised based on 12-month expected credit losses as any such impairment would be wholly insignificant to the Fund.

i. Settlement of securities transactions

All transactions in listed securities are settled/paid for upon delivery using approved brokers. The risk of default is considered low, as delivery of securities sold is only made once the broker has received payment. Payment is made once the securities purchased have been received by the broker. The trade will fail if either party fails to meet its obligations.

ii. Cash and cash equivalents and due from brokers

The exposure to credit risk for cash and cash equivalents is low as all counterparties have a rating of A- (2023: A-) (as determined by Standard & Poors) or higher.

iii. Other

The Fund is not materially exposed to credit risk on other financial assets.

iv. Maximum exposure to credit risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk before any credit enhancements at the end of each reporting period is the carrying amount of the financial assets. None of these assets are impaired nor past due but not impaired.

d. Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund may not be able to generate sufficient cash resources to settle its obligations in full as they fall due or can only do so on terms that are materially disadvantageous.

Exposure to liquidity risk for the Fund may arise from the requirement to meet monthly unit holder redemption requests or to fund foreign exchange related cash flow requirements.

All assets within the Fund are listed marketable securities on the ASX. Liquidity testing of the portfolio is conducted continuously by the Portfolio Managers, with minimum liquidity requirements.

In order to manage the Fund's overall liquidity, the Responsible Entity has the discretion to reject an application for units and to defer or adjust redemption of units if the exercise of such discretion is in the best interests of unit holders. The Fund did not reject or withhold any redemptions during 2024 and 2023.

i. Maturities of non-derivative financial liabilities

All non-derivative financial liabilities of the Fund in the current period have maturities of less than 1 month.

ii. Maturities of net settled derivative financial instruments

There were no derivative financial instruments during the year ended 30 June 2024.

3. Financial risk management (continued)

d. Liquidity risk (continued)

ii. Maturities of net settled derivative financial instruments (continued)

The table below analyses the Fund's net settled derivative financial instruments based on their contractual maturity. The Fund may, at its discretion, settle financial instruments prior to their original contractual settlement date, in accordance with its investment strategy, where permitted by the terms and conditions of the relevant instruments.

	Less than 1 month \$'000	1 to 6 months \$'000	6 to 12 months \$'000	Over 12 months \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 30 June 2023					
Net settled derivatives					
Australian share price index futures	-	54	-	-	54
Total net settled derivatives	-	54	-	-	54

4. Fair value measurement

The Fund measures and recognises financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss on a recurring basis.

- Financial assets/liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (see Note 5 and Note 6)
- Derivative financial instruments (see Note 7)

The Fund has no assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis in the current reporting period.

AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* requires disclosure of fair value measurements by level of the following fair value measurement hierarchy:

- Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1);
- Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly (level 2); and
- Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs) (level 3).

The Fund values its investments in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 2 to the financial statements. For the majority of its investments, the Fund relies on information provided by independent pricing services for the valuation of its investments.

a. Valuations using level 1 inputs

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets (such as listed unit trusts) are based on quoted market prices at the close of trading at the end of the reporting period without any deduction for estimated future selling costs.

The quoted market price used for financial assets held by the Fund is the current bid price; the quoted market price for financial liabilities is the current asking price. When the Fund holds derivatives with offsetting market risks, it uses mid-market prices as a basis for establishing fair values for the offsetting risk positions and applies this bid or asking price to the net open positions, as appropriate.

A financial instrument is regarded as quoted in an active market if quoted prices are readily and regularly available from an exchange, dealer, broker, industry group, pricing service, or regulatory agency, and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

An active market is a market in which transactions for the asset or liability take place with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.

b. Recognised fair value measurements

The table below presents the Fund's financial assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value as at 30 June 2024.

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 30 June 2024				
Financial assets				
Australian listed equity securities	65,660	-	-	65,660
Australian listed property trusts	2,534	-	-	2,534
Total financial assets	68,194	-	-	68,194
Financial liabilities				
Australian listed equity securities	12,718	-	-	12,718
Total financial liabilities	12,718	-	-	12,718

4. Fair value measurement (continued)

b. Recognised fair value measurements (continued)

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 30 June 2023				
Financial assets				
Australian listed equity securities	26,487	-	-	26,487
Australian listed units trusts	2,142	-	-	2,142
Australian share price index futures	54	-	-	54
Australian fixed interest securities	25,522	-	-	25,522
Total financial assets	54,205	-	-	54,205
Financial liabilities				
Australian listed equity securities	29,717	-	-	29,717
Australian listed property trusts	1,199	-	-	1,199
Australian listed units trusts	846	-	-	846
Total financial liabilities	31,762	-	-	31,762

c. Transfer between levels

Management's policy is to recognise transfers into and transfers out of fair value hierarchy levels as at the end of the reporting period.

There were no transfers between levels in the fair value hierarchy at the end of the reporting period.

d. Financial instruments not carried at fair value

The carrying values of receivables and payables approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature.

5. Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

	As at	
	30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Australian listed equity securities	65,660	26,487
Australian listed property trusts	2,534	-
Australian listed units trusts	-	2,142
Australian fixed interest securities	-	25,522
Australian share price index futures	-	54
Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	68,194	54,205

An overview of the risk exposures and fair value measurements relating to financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is included in Note 3 and Note 4 to the financial statements.

6. Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

	As at	
	30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Australian listed equity securities	12,718	29,717
Australian listed property trusts	-	1,199
Australian listed units trusts	-	846
Total financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	12,718	31,762

An overview of the risk exposures and fair value measurements relating to financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss is included in Note 3 and Note 4 to the financial statements.

7. Derivative financial instruments

In the normal course of business the Fund enters into transactions in various derivative financial instruments which have certain risks. A derivative is a financial instrument or other contract which is settled at a future date and whose value changes in response to the change in a specified interest rate, financial instrument price, commodity price, foreign exchange rate, index of prices or rates, credit rating or credit index or other variable.

Derivative financial instruments require no initial net investment or an initial net investment that is smaller than would be required for other types of contracts that would be expected to have a similar response to changes in market factors.

Derivative transactions include many different instruments such as forwards, futures and options. Derivatives are considered to be part of the investment process and the use of derivatives is an essential part of the Fund's portfolio management. Derivatives are not managed in isolation. Consequently, the use of derivatives is multifaceted and includes:

- hedging to protect an asset or liability of the Fund against a fluctuation in market values, foreign exchange risk or to reduce volatility;
- a substitution for trading of physical securities; and
- adjusting asset exposures within the parameters set in the investment strategy, and adjusting the duration of fixed interest portfolios or the weighted average maturity of cash portfolios.

While derivatives are used for trading purposes, they are not used to gear (leverage) a portfolio. Gearing a portfolio would occur if the level of exposure to the markets exceeds the underlying value of the Fund.

To mitigate leverage risk, each Fund monitors the overall exposures that leverage grants it, along with the potentially increased risks, and ensures that risks remain within internally set parameters.

The Fund holds the following derivatives:

a. Futures contracts

Futures are contractual obligations to buy or sell financial instruments on a future date at a specified price established in an organised market. The futures contracts are collateralised by cash or marketable securities. Changes in futures contracts' values are usually settled net daily with the exchange. Interest rate futures are contractual obligations to receive or pay a net amount based on changes in interest rates at a future date at a specified price, established in an organised financial market.

There were no derivative financial instruments during the year ended 30 June 2024.

The Fund's derivative financial instruments measured at fair value at year end are detailed below as at 30 June 2023:

	Contractual/ notional \$'000	Assets \$'000	Liabilities \$'000
As at 30 June 2023			
Australian share price index futures	(3,939)	54	-
Total derivatives	(3,939)	54	-

Information about the Fund's exposure to credit risk, foreign exchange risk, interest rate risk and about the methods and assumptions used in determining fair values is provided in Note 3 and Note 4 to the financial statements. The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period is the carrying amount of each class of derivative financial instruments disclosed above.

8. Net assets attributable to unit holders - equity

Under AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*, puttable financial instruments are classified as equity where certain strict criteria are met. The Fund shall classify a financial instrument as an equity instrument from the date when the instrument has all the features and meets the conditions. The Fund's units are classified as equity as they meet the definition of a financial instrument to be classified as equity.

During the reporting period, management reviewed the classification of net assets attributable to unit holders and concluded that with the Fund, now with a single class of shares, meets the conditions to classify its units as equity as set out in Note 2(c). As such, units in the Fund have been reclassified from liability to equity for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Movements in the number of units and net assets attributable to unit holders during the year were as follows:

	Year ended		Year ended	
	30 June 2024 Units '000	30 June 2024 Units \$'000	30 June 2023 Units '000	30 June 2023 Units \$'000
Watermark Absolute Return Fund- Ordinary Class*				
Opening balance	-	-	24,112	25,207
Applications	-	-	357	363
Redemptions	-	-	(24,604)	(25,030)
Reinvestment of distributions	-	-	135	150
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	-	-	-	(690)
Closing balance	-	-	-	-

8. Net assets attributable to unit holders - equity (continued)

	Year ended		Year ended	
	30 June 2024 Units '000	30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 Units '000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund**				
Opening balance	82,840	75,470	81,497	80,500
Applications	1,685	1,572	25,167	23,911
Redemptions	(25,137)	(22,889)	(24,107)	(22,574)
Reinvestment of distributions	12	11	283	299
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	-	-	-	(6,666)
Profit/(loss) for the half-year	-	1,686	-	-
Closing balance	59,400	55,850	82,840	75,470
Closing balance		55,850		75,470

*Watermark Absolute Return Fund - Ordinary Class pertains only to the existing class of shares in 31 December 2022 financial statements and went to nil on 24 January 2023 as disclosed in 30 June 2023 financial report.

**This pertains to the Watermark Absolute Return Fund - B class in 31 December 2022 financial report. The B class has been renamed to Foundation Class in 30 June 2023 financial report. Further, the Foundation class was renamed in accordance with the new PDS as a result of change in the name of the Fund and the Investment Manager from 21 November 2023. A letter has been distributed to the unitholders to advise of the changes in the Fund's details.

As stipulated within the Fund's Constitution, each unit represents a right to an individual share in the Fund and does not extend to a right in the underlying assets of the Fund.

As at 30 June 2024, the Fund has only one class of units and each unit has the same rights attaching to it as all other units of the Fund.

As at 30 June 2023, there were two separate classes of units. Each unit within the same class had the same rights as all other units within that class. Each unit class had a different management fees rate. Foundation class units holder were not charged management fees while redemption on Foundation class units were charged early redemption fee for a period of 12 months. These redemption fees were paid to the Investment Manger.

Units are redeemed on demand at the unit holder's option. However, holders of these instruments typically retain them for the medium to long term. As such, the amount expected to be settled within twelve months after the end of the reporting period cannot be reliably determined.

Capital risk management

The Fund considers its net assets attributable to unit holders as capital which is classified as equity. The amount of net assets attributable to unit holders can change significantly on a monthly basis as the Fund is subject to monthly applications and redemptions at the discretion of unit holders.

Monthly applications and redemptions are reviewed relative to the liquidity of the Fund's underlying assets on a monthly basis by the Responsible Entity. Under the terms of the Fund's Constitution, the Responsible Entity has the discretion to reject an application for units and to defer or adjust redemption of units if the exercise of such discretion is in the best interests of unit holders.

9. Distributions to unit holders

The distributions declared during the year were as follows:

	Year ended		Year ended	
	30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2024 CPU	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2023 CPU
Distributions - Watermark Absolute Return Fund- Ordinary Class				
June (payable)	-	-	221	0.2664
Total distributions	-	-	221	0.2664

10. Cash and cash equivalents

	As at	
	30 June 2024 \$'000	30 June 2023 \$'000
Cash at bank	1,363	60,702
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,363	60,702

10. Cash and cash equivalents (continued)

a. Reconciliation to statement of cash flows

The above figures reconcile to the amount of cash shown in the statement of cash flow at the end of the year as follows:

	As at	
	30 June	30 June
	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance per above	1,363	60,702
Bank overdraft	(1,323)	(1,376)
Balance per statement of cash flows	40	59,326

11. Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

a. Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	Year ended	
	30 June	30 June
	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Profit/(loss) for the year	1,686	-
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	-	(7,356)
Distributions to unit holders	-	221
Proceeds from sale of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	188,853	831,134
Payments for settlement of financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	(120,479)	(943,879)
Payments for purchase of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(209,672)	(741,507)
Proceeds from re-purchase of financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	104,222	837,497
Net (gains)/losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	(2,531)	2,444
Effect of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	49	(55)
Short dividend reinvested	55	15
Net change in receivables	146	385
Net change in payables	(39)	(2,368)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	(37,710)	(23,469)

b. Non-cash operating and financing activities

The following short sale of the investment were satisfied by the participation in distribution reinvestment plan	55	15
The following distribution payments to unit holders were satisfied by the issue of units under the distribution reinvestment plan	11	449
Total non-cash operating and financing activities	66	464

12. Receivables

	As at	
	30 June	30 June
	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Dividend and distributions receivable	96	19
Interest receivable	-	110
GST receivable	121	214
Other income receivable	-	20
Total receivables	217	363

13. Payables

	As at	
	30 June	30 June
	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Management fees and costs payable	143	142
Short dividends payable	-	40
Total payables	143	182

14. Remuneration of auditors

During the year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by the auditors of the Fund:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2024 \$	30 June 2023 \$
Ernst and Young		
<i>Audit and other assurance services</i>		
Audit and review of financial statements	22,990	-
Total auditor remuneration and other assurance services	22,990	-
<i>Taxation services</i>		
Tax compliance services	6,180	-
Total remuneration for taxation services	6,180	-
Total remuneration of Ernst and Young	29,170	-
Pitcher Partners Sydney		
<i>Audit and other assurance services</i>		
Audit and review of financial statements	-	26,300
Total auditor remuneration and other assurance services	-	26,300
<i>Taxation services</i>		
Tax compliance services	-	12,800
Total remuneration for taxation services	-	12,800
Total remuneration of Pitcher Partners Sydney	-	39,100
PricewaterhouseCoopers		
<i>Audit and other assurance services</i>		
Audit of compliance plan	2,400	2,346
Total auditor remuneration and other assurance services	2,400	2,346
Total remuneration of PricewaterhouseCoopers	2,400	2,346

The auditors' remuneration is borne by the Investment Manager. Fees are stated exclusive of GST.

15. Related party transactions

The Responsible Entity of Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund (formerly known as "Watermark Absolute Return Fund) is Equity Trustees Limited (ABN 46 004 031 298) (AFSL 240975). Accordingly, transactions with entities related to Equity Trustees Limited are disclosed below.

The Responsible Entity has contracted services to Blackwattle Investment Partners Pty Limited, to act as Investment Manager for the Fund and Apex Fund Services Pty Ltd to act as Administrator, Custodian and Registrar for the Fund. The contracts are on normal commercial terms and conditions.

a. Key management personnel

i. Directors

Key management personnel include persons who were directors of Equity Trustees Limited at any time during or since the end of the financial year and up to the date of this report.

Philip D Gentry	Chairman (resigned 6 June 2024)
Michael J O'Brien	Chairman (appointed 6 June 2024)
Russell W Beasley	
Mary A O'Connor	
David B Warren	
Andrew P Godfrey	(appointed 1 May 2024)

ii. Responsible Entity

Other than fees paid to the Responsible Entity, there were no other transactions.

iii. Other key management personnel

There were no other key management personnel with responsibility for planning, directing and controlling activities of the Fund, directly or indirectly during the financial year.

15. Related party transactions (continued)

b. Transactions with key management personnel

There were no transactions with key management personnel during the reporting period.

c. Key management personnel unit holdings

Key management personnel did not hold units in the Fund as at 30 June 2024 (30 June 2023: nil).

d. Key management personnel compensation

Key management personnel are paid by EQT Services Pty Ltd. Payments made from the Fund to Equity Trustees Limited do not include any amounts directly attributable to the compensation of key management personnel.

e. Key management personnel loans

The Fund has not made, guaranteed or secured, directly or indirectly, any loans to the key management personnel or their personally related entities at any time during the reporting period.

f. Other transactions within the Fund

Apart from those details disclosed in this note, no key management personnel have entered into a material contract with the Fund during the financial year and there were no material contracts involving management personnel's interests existing at year end.

g. Responsible Entity fees, Investment Manager's fees and other transactions

The transactions during the year and amounts payable as at year end between the Fund, the Responsible Entity and the Investment Manager were as follows:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2024 \$	30 June 2023 \$
Management fees the year	759,967	1,028,614
Responsible Entity Fees for the year	51,146	88,866
Management fees payable at year end	139,670	101,900
Responsible Entity fees payable at year end	3,333	33,745

Under the terms of the Fund's Constitution and Product Disclosure Statement, management fees and costs includes responsible entity fees paid to the Responsible Entity, management fees paid to the Investment Manager and other costs (such as custody fees, administration fees and audit fees) paid to other unrelated parties. Please refer to the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement for information on how management fees and costs are calculated.

h. Related party unit holdings

Parties related to the Fund (including Equity Trustees Limited, its related parties and other Funds managed by Equity Trustees Limited), held units in the Fund as follows:

	Number of units held opening	Number of units held closing	Fair value of investment \$	Interest held %	Number of units acquired	Number of units disposed	Distributions paid/payable by the Fund \$
Unit holder							
As at 30 June 2024							
Equity Trustees Superannuation Limited <Amg Super Fund A/C>	131,076	95,350	90,096	0.1613	740	36,466	-
Unit holder							
As at 30 June 2023							
Equity Trustees Superannuation Limited <Amg Super Fund A/C>	123,630	131,076	119,358	0.1582	7,446	-	350

i. Investments

The Fund did not hold any investments in Equity Trustees Limited or its related parties during the year (2023: nil).

16. Events occurring after the reporting period

No significant events have occurred since the end of the year which would impact on the financial position of the Fund as disclosed in the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the year ended on that date.

17. Contingent assets and liabilities and commitments

There were no outstanding contingent assets, liabilities or commitments as at 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023.

Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the directors of the Responsible Entity:

- a. The financial statements and notes set out on pages 6 to 26 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - i. complying with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
 - ii. giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date.
- b. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Fund will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and
- c. Note 2(a) confirms that the financial statements also comply with the International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors of Equity Trustees Limited through a delegated authority given by Equity Trustees Limited's Board.



Andrew P Godfrey
Director

Melbourne
25 September 2024

Independent auditor's report to the unitholders of Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Blackwattle Small Cap Long-Short Quality Fund (the Fund), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Fund is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- a. Giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Information other than the financial report and auditor's report thereon

The directors of the Equity Trustees Limited (Responsible Entity) are responsible for the other information. The other information is the directors' report accompanying the financial report.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the directors for the financial report

The directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- ▶ Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- ▶ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- ▶ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors of the Responsible Entity.
- ▶ Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors of the Responsible Entity of the Fund's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.



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- ▶ Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors of the Responsible Entity regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Ernst & Young

Rohit Khanna
Partner
Sydney
25 September 2024