ActiveX Ardea Real Outcome Bond Fund (Managed Fund) (ASX:XARO)

ARSN 629 403 925

Fund Facts – 31 March 2024

ASX Ticker	XARO		
Fund Inception Date	10 December 2018	**Fund Size**	$584 million
Underlying Fund Inception Date	20 July 2012	**Underlying Fund Size**	$5.3 billion
Distribution Frequency	Quarterly	**Unit Registry**	Link Market Services
Management Fee	0.50% p.a.	**Fund Issuer**	Fidante Partners Limited

Fund Overview

The ActiveX Ardea Real Outcome Bond Fund (Managed Fund) (the Fund) is a defensive fixed income solution that targets stable returns exceeding the cash rate and inflation, with a quarterly income distribution and daily liquidity.

The Fund does this by employing Ardea's 'relative value' investment approach, which combines the safety of high quality government bonds with proven risk management strategies to deliver low volatility returns, while protecting capital from interest rate fluctuations and general market volatility. (Note: neither the Fund nor the Underlying Fund are guaranteed).

Suits Investors Seeking

- a higher expected return than cash[1]
- an alternative source of income, with low volatility
- a defensive fixed income anchor to diversify portfolio risk away from equities, property and credit investments
- investors who accept some risk and that their investment will include exposure to derivative strategies

1 Neither fund performance nor capital is guaranteed

Monthly Performance Report – 31 March 2024

Fund Performance[2, 3]	1 month	3 months	1 Year	2 years	3 years	5 years	Since inception[4]
Fund	-1.10	-0.50	-0.74	2.01	0.66	2.69	3.17
Australian Consumer Price Index	0.10	1.04	3.70	5.35	5.26	3.80	3.60
Excess Return	-1.20	-1.53	-4.45	-3.34	-4.60	-1.11	-0.43

2 Performance figures are based on the Fund's net asset value, are calculated after fees have been deducted and assume distributions have been reinvested. No allowance is made for tax when calculating these figures. **Past performance is not a reliable indicator of likely future performance.** All periods longer than 1 year are annualised. 3 The performance of the Fund will not exactly replicate that of the Underlying Fund, for example, where cash is held by the Fund. 4 The Fund's inception date is 10 December 2018. Source: Fidante Partners Limited, 31 March 2024**.**

Underlying Fund

The Fund invests in Ardea Real Outcome Fund (Underlying Fund). In this report, where we refer to the Fund's investments we generally do so on a 'look-through' basis; that is, we are referring to the underlying assets that the Fund is exposed to through its investment in the Underlying Fund.

Underlying Fund Performance[5]	1 month	3 months	1 Year	2 years	3 years	5 years	Since inception[6]
Underlying Fund	-1.11	-0.49	-0.73	2.02	0.67	2.72	3.37
Australian Consumer Price Index	0.10	1.04	3.70	5.35	5.26	3.80	2.70
Excess Return	-1.21	-1.53	-4.43	-3.32	-4.59	-1.08	0.67

5 Performance figures are calculated after fees have been deducted and assume distributions have been reinvested. No allowance is made for tax when calculating these figures. **Past performance is not a reliable indicator of likely future performance.** All periods longer than 1 year are annualised. 6 The Underlying Fund's inception date is 20 July 2012. Source: Fidante Partners Limited, 31 March 2024.

Underlying Fund Exposure

Sector Exposure	
Government – National	64%
Government – State	36%
Total	100%

Rating Exposure	
AAA	66%
AA	33%
A	1%
Total	100%

Risk Contribution by Currency	
AUD	43%
CAD	2%
EUR	17%
JPY	1%
NZD	1%
GBP	6%
USD	29%
Total	100%

Sources: Ardea Investment Management, S&P Ratings. Noting investors accept some risk and that their investment will include exposure to derivative strategies.

Fund Benefits
Higher expected returns than cash[1] The Fund has a track record of delivering returns exceeding cash and inflation since inception[2]. As these returns are independent of market direction, Ardea expects to maintain a level of outperformance in rising and falling markets irrespective of the level of the cash rate.
An easier way to access your investment The Fund offers daily trading on the ASX, without break costs that can apply to certain cash products.
Lower risk than many income seeking investments[3] The Fund invests in high-quality government bonds and cash securities, which have lower credit risk, unlike bank hybrids and corporate bonds, while also using sophisticated risk management strategies to help volatility compared to dividend paying stocks.
Defensive fixed income anchor that helps diversify investment portfolio risk The Fund targets positive returns that are independent of interest rate fluctuations and general market volatility. Combining this with proven risk management strategies allows the Fund to help diversify your portfolio risk away from equities, property and credit investments.
Protect the purchasing power of your investment In addition to outperforming[4] cash, the Fund targets returns exceeding inflation, which helps protect the long term purchasing power of your investment.
Experienced and stable investment team: Ardea's investment team has decades of experience across global fixed income markets. Majority employee ownership of the Ardea business fosters team stability.
Fund Risks
The Fund is exposed to a number of risks including interest rate risk, market risk, and collateral risk. Please refer to the Product Disclosure Statement for more information.

1 Past performance is not an indicator of future performance. Neither fund performance nor capital is guaranteed. 2 Inception date is 20 July 2012 3 When compared to Equities (S&P/ASX200 Accumulation), REITs (S&P/ASX200 A-REIT), Ausbond Composite (Australian govt and non-government bonds) and Ausbond Govt (Australian govt bonds). 4 Refers to the Fund's historical track record since inception

Portfolio Commentary

The portfolio delivered a return of -1.10% for the month of March, resulting in a return of -0.50% for the quarter.

Rolling quarterly performance remains within the normal range of expected performance variability, based on the portfolio's volatility target.

As usual, performance drivers for the quarter were diversified across small gains / losses generated by many modestly sized trades, with no unusually concentrated performance drivers. The only exception this quarter being option exposures as described below.

Curve RV strategies contributed positive performance for the quarter. (+0.17%)

Bond vs Derivative RV strategies contributed negative performance for the quarter. (-0.11%)

Option exposures contributed negative performance for the quarter. (-1.27%)

Option exposures incurred losses this quarter due to large declines in the market pricing of volatility across global interest rate markets. Such declines occur when financial markets transition to a more stable and risk positive environment. Conversely, these option exposures are biased to outperform in periods of market stress when conventional investments tend to incur losses.

While we are currently in a positive risk environment, this can change quickly as there is much uncertainty relating to inflation, recession risk and geopolitics. As the portfolio is structurally 'long volatility' via options and has a bias to deliver positive returns when equity / bond markets incur losses, the portfolio remains well positioned to act as a defensive portfolio stabiliser when these latent macro risks resurface.

Inflation Beta contributed negative performance for the quarter. (-0.25%)

Inflation beta incurred losses this quarter as AU breakeven inflation rates declined due to a growing macro consensus view that AU inflation is moderating. As an example, AU 5Y breakeven inflation rates fell by 22bps over the quarter. (Mar-2024 = 2.47% vs Dec-2023 = 2.69%)

Bond Carry contributed positive performance for the quarter. (+1.08%)

<u>Explanatory Notes</u>

- The normal range of expected performance variability is defined relative to the portfolio's volatility / TE target (2.0% p.a.). Based on this, quarterly excess returns should mostly be within a range of -0.5% / +1.5% (1 std dev band, 68% of sample) and sometimes outside this range, but no wider than -1.5% / +2.5% (2 std dev band, incremental 27% of sample).
- Curve RV strategies seek to profit from RV pricing anomalies in the shapes of interest rate curves.
- Bond vs Derivative RV strategies seek to profit from anomalies in the relative pricing of government bonds vs interest rate derivatives.
- Option exposures stem from RV trades that involve buying interest rate options. These exposures are biased to outperform in periods of market stress and are used to balance risk vs other types of RV trades that may temporarily underperform at such times.
- Inflation beta exposure stems from the portfolio's structural exposure to market-based inflation pricing through holdings of inflation-linked bonds and inflation swaps.
- Bond Carry refers to the return earned from duration hedged exposure to government bonds, which results from the portfolio's Bond vs Derivative RV strategies. This return is approximately equal to the cash rate. (labelled "Cash Benchmark Return" in the performance attribution table)

Understanding Performance

The Underlying Fund's highly differentiated investment approach generates returns exclusively from capturing RV mispricing opportunities across global interest rate markets. This approach is intentionally independent of the level of bond yields, the direction of interest rates and broader bond market themes.

The Underlying Fund's portfolio construction process intentionally diversifies risk across many different types of independent and modestly sized RV trades. Therefore, performance is the cumulative result of interactions between hundreds of trades entered, exited, and held over the preceding months.

For these reasons, the Underlying Fund's performance is ordinarily not driven by a few key trades, nor can it be mapped to broader market fluctuations or macro themes. This is intentional, because the Underlying Fund aims to deliver volatility-controlled returns that exhibit low correlation to the performance of government bond, credit, and equity markets. This is precisely why the Underlying Fund can offer compelling diversification benefits when combined with conventional investments.

Please note that monthly performance attribution is heavily influenced by short-term 'noise' and ordinarily offers little genuine information value.

Contact Us

For further information, please contact 1300 721 637 (within Australia) and 02 8023 5428 (outside of Australia) or email: info@fidante.com.au

For investor enquiries, please contact Link Market Services: 1800 441 104 or email: fidante@linkmarketservices.com.au

For financial planner enquiries, please contact your local Business Development Manager or Email: bdm@fidante.com.au

www.fidante.com.au

Underlying Fund Ratings

Zenith RECOMMENDED

5 Highly Recommended Lonsec Research

Morningstar Bronze™

Analyst-Driven % 100 Data Coverage % 100 The Morningstar Medalist Rating™ for the ActiveX Ardea Real Outcome Bond Fund (Managed Fund) (ASX: XARO) is "Bronze" as of 07/09/2022.

This material has been prepared by Ardea Investment Management Pty Ltd (ABN 50 132 902 722, AFSL 329 828) (Ardea), the investment manager of the ActiveX Ardea Real Outcome Bond Fund (Managed Fund) and Ardea Real Outcome Fund. Fidante Partners Limited ABN 94 002 835 592 AFSL 234668 (Fidante) is a member of the Challenger Limited group of companies (**Challenger Group**) and is the responsible entity of the Fund. Other than information which is identified as sourced from Fidante in relation to the Fund, Fidante is not responsible for the information in this material, including any statements of opinion. It is general information only and is not intended to provide you with financial advice or take into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. You should consider, with a financial adviser, whether the information is suitable to your circumstances. The Fund's Target Market Determination and Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) available at www.fidante.com should be considered before making a decision about whether to buy or hold units in the Fund. To the extent permitted by law, no liability is accepted for any loss or damage as a result of any reliance on this information. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Ardea and Fidante have entered into arrangements in connection with the distribution and administration of financial products to which this material relates. In connection with those arrangements, Ardea and Fidante may receive remuneration or other benefits in respect of financial services provided by the parties. Fidante is not an authorised deposit-taking institution (ADI) for the purpose of the *Banking Act 1959* (Cth), and its obligations do not represent deposits or liabilities of an ADI in the Challenger Group (**Challenger ADI**) and no Challenger ADI provides a guarantee or otherwise provides assurance in respect of the obligations of Fidante. Investments in the Fund are subject to investment risk, including possible delays in repayment and loss of income or principal invested. Accordingly, the performance, the repayment of capital or any particular rate of return on your investments are not guaranteed by any member of the Challenger Group.

The Zenith Investment Partners (ABN 27 103 132 672, AFS Licence 226872) ("Zenith") rating (assigned March 2024) referred to in this document is limited to "General Advice" (s766B Corporations Act 2001) for Wholesale clients only. This advice has been prepared without taking into account the objectives, financial situation or needs of any individual and is subject to change at any time without prior notice. It is not a specific recommendation to purchase, sell or hold the relevant product(s). Investors should seek independent financial advice before making an investment decision and should consider the appropriateness of this advice in light of their own objectives, financial situation and needs. Investors should obtain a copy of, and consider the PDS or offer document before making any decision and refer to the full Zenith Product Assessment available on the Zenith website. Past performance is not an indication of future performance. Zenith usually charges the product issuer, fund manager or related party to conduct Product Assessments. Full details regarding Zenith's methodology, ratings definitions and regulatory compliance are available on our Product Assessments and at http://www.zenithpartners.com.au/RegulatoryGuidelines

The rating issued 10/2023 is published by Lonsec Research Pty Ltd ABN 11 151 658 561 AFSL 421 445 (Lonsec). Ratings are general advice only, and have been prepared without taking account of your objectives, financial situation or needs. Consider your personal circumstances, read the product disclosure statement and seek independent financial advice before investing. The rating is not a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold any product. Past performance information is not indicative of future performance. Ratings are subject to change without notice and Lonsec assumes no obligation to update. Lonsec uses objective criteria and receives a fee from the Fund Manager. Visit lonsec.com.au for ratings information and to access the full report.

 Neither Morningstar, its affiliates, nor the content providers guarantee the data or content contained herein to be accurate, complete or timely nor will they have any liability for its use or distribution. This report or data has been prepared for clients of Morningstar Australasia Pty Ltd (ABN: 95 090 665 544, AFSL: 240892) and/or New Zealand wholesale clients of Morningstar Research Ltd, subsidiaries of Morningstar, Inc. Any general advice has been provided without reference to your financial objectives, situation or needs. For more information refer to our Financial Services Guide at www.morningstar.com.au/s/fsg.pdf. You should consider the advice in light of these matters and if applicable, the relevant Product Disclosure Statement before making any decision to invest. Morningstar's publications, ratings and products should be viewed as an additional investment resource, not as your sole source of information. Morningstar's full research reports are the source of any Morningstar Ratings and are available from Morningstar or your adviser. Past performance does not necessarily indicate a financial product's future performance. To obtain advice tailored to your situation, contact a financial adviser.