

High Growth Fund

(formerly Advocacy Fund)

Interim Financial Report
as at 31 December 2021



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Directors' Report

Directors' Report

For the half-year ended 31 December 2021

The Directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited, the "Responsible Entity" of the Australian Ethical High Growth Fund ("the Scheme") present the Directors' report together with the financial statements of the Scheme for the half-year ended 31 December 2021 and the accompanying independent auditor's report.

RESPONSIBLE ENTITY

Australian Ethical Investment Limited (ABN 47 003 188 930) serves as the Responsible Entity for the Scheme.

The following persons were Directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited (AEIL) during the period under review and up to the date of this report unless otherwise indicated:

- John McMurdo, Managing Director and CEO
- Kate Greenhill
- Stephen Gibbs
- Mara Bun
- Michael Monaghan
- Julie Orr

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND STATE OF AFFAIRS

From 1 October 2021, the Scheme was renamed as the Australian Ethical High Growth Fund (formerly the Australian Ethical Advocacy Fund). From that date there were changes to the Fund's investment strategy, most notably the fund made investments in growth assets such as alternatives and unlisted property. The Scheme continues to be classified as high growth and its risk/return profile remains unchanged.

The principal activity of the Scheme is to pool investors' savings to invest in a diversified portfolio of securities, in accordance with the investment objectives and guidelines as set out in the current Product Disclosure Statement and within the provisions of the Scheme's Constitution. The Constitution of the Scheme authorises investments in a range of listed and unlisted asset classes, including shares, property, alternative assets and cash. Investments are sought to pursue the goal of a just and sustainable society and the protection of the natural environment as well as providing unitholders (the Scheme's investors) with a competitive financial return.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

In many ways, 2021 was like a sequel to 2020 as Covid continued to dominate our daily lives, with extended lockdowns and closed borders hurting people and businesses alike. While the shadow of the pandemic loomed over the Australian economy for a second consecutive year, federal and state government support helped mitigate the worst impacts with the focus on getting the nation vaccinated leading to a gradual easing of restrictions.

But despite signs that we are transitioning to living with Covid as vaccines and treatments get the upper hand, the sweeping impact of Omicron shows that sentiment around the pandemic can still shift quickly.

Around the world, companies are reconfiguring their operations in response to Covid. That the pandemic continues to test many companies is an important reminder of having a robust business to be able to manage through unpredictable circumstances. Australian Ethical has remained strong throughout thanks to our resilient business structure and thorough business continuity plan.

The knock-on effects of reduced employee availability during the most recent Omicron wave have not radically impacted Australian Ethical, where our pre-pandemic flexible work policy and existing bench strength in key areas have helped us continue relatively unaffected.

While we now have a far greater understanding of Covid than we did in 2020 or even early 2021, it's clear that people and businesses continue to be affected by the pandemic. Even with restrictions easing, many of the longer-term impacts are still uncertain. As such, the board and senior leadership team remain alert to the situation as it evolves and continue to monitor any strategic risks and horizon threats, as well as the principal risks more directly associated with our business activities.

Despite continuing economic uncertainty and market volatility, the economy has shown resilience to the pandemic and lockdowns thanks to fiscal support. Management continue to review the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and the Scheme's fair value management principles applied to the asset valuations include impacts from the pandemic.

The Scheme's liquid assets are valued daily at fair value based on a market price where the security is traded on a properly regulated market. The liquid asset classes (e.g. units in unlisted trusts and cash) are the primary source of liquidity to meet the redemption, distribution, and expense obligations of the Scheme. At all times during the period, requests for redemptions have been met through available cash or via the sale of liquid investments at fair value. The Investment Managers of the illiquid assets held by the Scheme continue to actively monitor the impacts of COVID-19. These assets have been subject to more frequent valuations to ensure they are recorded at fair value for both unit pricing and financial reporting.

Overview

The investments of the Scheme are consistent with those set out in the Scheme's Product Disclosure Statement dated 1 October 2021.

Results

Total return is the percentage change of a unitholder's financial interest in the Scheme assuming all distributions are reinvested in the Scheme. These returns are calculated in accordance with FSC Standard 6 Product Performance - Calculation of Returns. The Scheme achieved the following total returns for the period:

- Retail class 8.25% (December 2020: 15.63%); and
- Wholesale class 8.50% (December 2020: 16.18%).

Distributions paid and/or payable

Distributions paid and/or payable by the Scheme during the period are shown in the accompanying Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

As per Note 2 the \$1,704,523 interim distributions (December 2020: \$1,788,151) paid by the classes were as follows:

- Retail class of 0.43 (December 2020: 0.57) cents per unit;
- Wholesale class of 0.72 (December 2020: 1.32) cents per unit; and
- Zero class of 1.58 (December 2020: 2.04) cents per unit.

The prior year final distribution of \$8,992,382 was paid in July 2021.

Net assets

The value of the Scheme's net assets attributable to unitholders as at 31 December 2021 was \$302,114,545 (30 June 2021: \$235,682,003).

Fees

Responsible Entity fees per annum charged for the period were as follows:

- 1.39% for the retail class (December 2020: 1.90%);
- 0.95% for the wholesale class reduced to 0.90% effective 1 October 2021 (December 2020: 0.95%); and
- Nil for the zero class (December 2020: Nil).

Climate change

2021 saw increasing momentum around consensus on reducing emissions, which was highlighted on a global stage at the COP26 conference in Glasgow. We're hopeful that this public demand and bottom-up pressure from the broader investor community will help accelerate Australia's green transition, together with the expectation that all ASX-listed corporates will soon commit to net zero.

At our AGM in October 2021, we announced our own more ambitious 2040 net zero target for our investment portfolio, bringing forward the 2050 target we set in 2015. Our net zero target is for our investment in the private sector, not for our investment in government bonds and other public sector investments.

For global emissions to reach net zero by 2050, the world will need diverse successful zero emissions businesses operating across the economy by 2040. These businesses which are leading in the management of climate risk and opportunity are the businesses we want to invest in, so that by 2040 we can offer our investors high performing, zero emissions portfolios.

Setting a net zero 2040 target helps drive capacity and innovation to make this a reality. We also continue to enhance our interim targets to ensure we are on path.

INDEMNITIES AND INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR THE RESPONSIBLE ENTITY AND AUDITORS

No insurance premiums are paid for out of the assets of the Scheme for insurance cover provided to the Responsible Entity, its officers or auditor of the Scheme. Where the Responsible Entity acts in accordance with the Scheme's Constitution and the law, it is generally entitled to an indemnity out of the assets of the Scheme against losses incurred while acting on behalf of the Scheme. The auditor of the Scheme is not indemnified out of the assets of the Scheme.

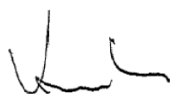
ROUNDING OF AMOUNTS

The Scheme is of a kind referred to in ASIC Corporations Instrument 2016/191, issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, relating to 'rounding off'. Amounts in this report have been rounded off in accordance with that Corporations Instrument to the nearest thousand dollars, or in certain cases, the nearest dollar.

AUDITOR'S DECLARATION

The auditor's independence declaration is included on page 10 of the interim financial report and forms part of the Directors' report for the period ended 31 December 2021.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited.



John McMurdo
Managing Director
Australian Ethical Investment Limited
22 February 2022

Lead Auditor's Independence Declaration



Lead Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To the Directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited, the Responsible Entity
for the Australian Ethical High Growth Fund

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the review of Australian Ethical High Growth Fund for the half-year ended 31 December 2021 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the review; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

KPMG

Andrew Reeves
Partner

Sydney
22 February 2022

Financial Statements

Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the half-year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Dec-21 \$'000	Dec-20 \$'000
Investment income			
Dividends		2,024	1,563
Net change in fair value of financial assets		21,562	26,524
Net investment income		23,586	28,087
Operating expenses			
Management fees		345	243
Operating expenses before finance costs		345	243
Profit from operating activities		23,241	27,844
Finance costs			
Distributions paid and payable to unitholders of the Scheme	2	(1,705)	(1,788)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders (total comprehensive income)	4	21,536	26,056

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2021

	Note	Dec-21 \$'000	Jun-21 \$'000
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		3,195	421
Receivables		2,038	10,575
Financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss	5	298,608	233,689
Total assets		303,841	244,685
Liabilities			
Payables		21	11
Distribution payable	2	1,705	8,992
Total liabilities		1,726	9,003
Net assets attributable to unitholders	4	302,115	235,682
Represented by:			
Net assets attributable to unitholders at net asset value price		303,975	244,791
Distribution payable to unitholders of the Scheme	2	(1,705)	(8,992)
Adjustments arising from different unit pricing and accounting valuation		(155)	(117)
Total net assets attributable to unitholders	4	302,115	235,682

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the half-year ended 31 December 2021

The Scheme's net assets attributable to unitholders are classified as a liability under AASB 132 'Financial Instruments: Presentation'. As such the Scheme has no equity and no items of changes in equity at the start and end of the period.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the half-year ended 31 December 2021

	Dec-21	Dec-20
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Management fees paid	(337)	(232)
Net cash used in operating activities	(337)	(232)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from sale of investments	77,060	3,131
Purchase of investments	(109,854)	(7,250)
Net cash used in investing activities	(32,794)	(4,119)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from issue of units	43,103	10,525
Payments for redemption of units	(6,565)	(6,074)
Distributions paid to unitholders	(633)	(111)
Net cash provided by financing activities	35,905	4,340
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	2,774	(11)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July	421	196
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	3,195	185

Notes to the Financial Statements

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the half-year ended 31 December 2021

NOTE 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

REPORTING ENTITY

The Australian Ethical High Growth Fund ("the Scheme"), a for-profit entity, is a registered managed investment scheme under the Corporations Act 2001. The Scheme was constituted on 18 November 2009 and will terminate on 17 November 2089 unless terminated earlier in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme's Constitution. The Scheme is domiciled in Australia. The financial statements of the Scheme are for the half-year ended 31 December 2021.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (AASBs) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the Corporations Act 2001. The financial statements of the Scheme comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and interpretations adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

BASIS OF PREPARATION

This interim financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with AASB 134 Interim Financial Reporting and the Corporations Act 2001. Compliance with AASB 134 ensures compliance with International Financial Reporting Standard IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting. The interim financial report covers Australian Ethical High Growth Fund (the "Scheme") as an individual entity. The responsible entity of the Scheme is Australian Ethical Investment Limited (the "Responsible Entity"). The registered office is Boardroom Pty Limited, Grosvenor Place, Level 12, 225 George Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000. The interim financial report is presented in Australian dollars, which is the Scheme's functional currency.

Investment administration of the Scheme is conducted by National Australia Bank Limited Asset Servicing (NAS). All of the assets of the Scheme are held by external custodian, NAS. The Responsible Entity conducts oversight on the investment administration services provided by NAS and monitors the credit ratings and capital adequacy of the custodian.

Selected explanatory notes are included to explain events and transactions that are significant to an understanding of the changes in financial position and performance of the Scheme since the last annual financial statements as at and for the year ended 30 June 2021 (then known as the Australian Ethical Advocacy Fund). The interim financial report does not include all of the information required for full annual financial reports and should be read in conjunction with the annual financial report of the Scheme as at and for the year ended 30 June 2021 (then known as the Australian Ethical Advocacy Fund), and any public announcements made in respect of the Scheme during the reporting period in accordance with continuous disclosure requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Directors of the Responsible Entity on 22 February 2022.

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year. There have been no significant changes in the risk management policies and procedures of the Scheme since previous year end.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The preparation of this interim financial report requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results may differ from these

estimates. In preparing this interim financial report, the significant judgements made by management in applying the Scheme's accounting policies and key sources of estimation were the same as those that applied to the financial statements as at and for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

Management continue to monitor the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in Australia and its impact on the financial statements. The Scheme's net assets continue to record growth through strong investment performance and net inflows during the period.

The fair value management principles applied to the asset valuations include impacts from the pandemic and are consistent with the 30 June 2021 annual financial report. The Scheme has not been over-exposed to the industries worst affected by COVID-19 and as a result management have not made any additional adjustments to any estimates or valuations.

FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT PRINCIPLES

Financial instruments comprise financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss, receivables, cash and cash equivalents, payables, and distributions payable.

The Scheme can invest into a variety of assets, including listed Australian equities, unit trusts and derivative contracts. Generally, valuation information is obtained from third-party industry standard service providers to ensure that the most recent security prices are obtained. The prices used to value investments include, but are not limited to:

- independent prices obtained for each security;
- quoted 'bid' prices on securities; and
- redemption prices published by the relevant Responsible Entity, for investments into unlisted unit trusts.

For certain investments, prices cannot be obtained from the above sources. In these instances, valuations obtained from service providers are estimated through the use of valuation models which are consistent with accepted industry practice and incorporate the best available information regarding assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the assets or liabilities. Irrespective of the method used by third-party industry standard service providers to obtain valuations, prices achieved in actual transactions may be different.

Classification

On initial recognition a financial asset is classified as measured at amortised cost, fair value through profit or loss, or fair value through other comprehensive income. Financial liabilities are classified as measured at amortised cost or fair value through profit or loss.

Recognition and initial measurement

A financial instrument is recognised when the Scheme becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Purchases and sales of financial assets are accounted for at trade date (i.e. the date the Scheme commits itself to purchase or sell the asset).

Measurement

Subsequent to initial recognition, all instruments classified at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value with changes in their fair value recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income. All other financial instruments are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less any recognised impairment.

Financial liabilities arising from redeemable units issued by the Scheme are carried at the redemption amount representing the unitholders' rights to the residual interest in the Scheme's assets, effectively the fair value at the reporting date.

Derecognition

The Scheme derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows in a transaction in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred or in which the Scheme neither transfers nor retains substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership and does not retain control of the financial asset.

On derecognition of a financial asset, the difference between the carrying amount of the asset (or the carrying amount allocated to the portion of the asset that is derecognised) and the consideration received (including any new asset obtained less any new liability assumed) is recognised in profit or loss. Any interest in such transferred financial assets that is created or retained by the Scheme is recognised as a separate asset or liability. The Scheme derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged or cancelled, or expire.

NOTE 2 – DISTRIBUTIONS PAID AND PAYABLE

	Dec-21	Dec-20
	\$'000	\$'000
Distributions payable	1,705	1,788

The Scheme's interim distributions for the 6 months from the classes were as follows:

- Retail class of 0.43 (December 2020: 0.57) cents per unit;
- Wholesale class of 0.72 (December 2020: 1.32) cents per unit; and
- Zero class of 1.58 (December 2020: 2.04) cents per unit.

The prior year final distribution of \$8,992,382 was paid in July 2021.

NOTE 3 – ISSUED UNITS

Each unit represents a right to an individual share in the Scheme per the Constitution. Zero class units are issued to other Schemes managed by the Responsible Entity and the Australian Ethical Retail Superannuation Fund (AERSF) and are not charged a Responsible Entity fee. All other rights attached to zero class units are the same as those of the other classes.

	Dec-21	Dec-20
	Units	Units
Retail class		
On issue at beginning of period	1,957,969	1,914,604
Issued	929,357	674,740
Transferred to other classes	(408,766)	(486,444)
Redeemed	(80,321)	(99,507)
On issue at period end	2,398,239	2,003,393

	Dec-21	Dec-20
	Units	Units
Wholesale class		
On issue at beginning of period	25,954,169	23,588,942
Issued	5,663,962	1,410,872
Transferred from other classes	408,645	485,169
Redeemed	(1,959,457)	(1,829,040)
On issue at period end	30,067,319	23,655,943
Zero class		
On issue at beginning of period	78,541,864	68,710,066
Issued	15,602,385	4,469,660
Redeemed	(772,059)	(1,329,279)
On issue at period end	93,372,190	71,850,447

NOTE 4 – NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS

The Scheme manages its net assets attributable to unitholders as capital, notwithstanding net assets attributable to unitholders are classified as a liability. The amount of net assets attributable to unitholders can change significantly on a daily basis as the Scheme is subject to daily applications and redemptions at the discretion of unitholders. Daily applications and redemptions are reviewed relative to the liquidity of the Scheme's underlying assets on a daily basis by the Responsible Entity. Under the terms of the Scheme's Constitution, the Responsible Entity has the discretion to reject an application for units and to defer a redemption of units if the exercise of such discretion is in the best interest of the unitholders.

The objective of the Scheme is to provide unitholders with returns in accordance with the Product Disclosure Statement. The Scheme aims to deliver income and capital appreciation through investing in Australian and international equities. The Scheme is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements.

	Dec-21	Dec-20
	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance	235,682	165,046
Issued	43,103	10,525
Distributions reinvested	8,359	1,791
Redeemed	(6,565)	(6,074)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders	21,536	26,056
Net assets attributable to unitholders	302,115	197,344

NOTE 5 – FAIR VALUES

The following table provides an analysis of financial instruments that are measured subsequent to initial recognition at fair value, grouped into Levels 1 to 3 based on the degree to which the fair value is observable.

Level 1: Using quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2: Derived from inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices); and

Level 3: Derived from valuation techniques that include inputs for the asset or liability that is not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs). This category includes instruments valued using quoted prices in active markets for similar instruments, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are considered less than active or other valuation techniques.

	Dec-21			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Designated at fair value through profit or loss				
Equities				
Unlisted Property trust	-	8,617	-	8,617
Unit trusts				
Unlisted Australian Ethical trusts	-	289,723	268	289,991
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	298,340	268	298,608

	Dec-20			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Designated at fair value through profit or loss				
Unit Trusts				
Unlisted Australian Ethical trusts	-	233,689	-	233,689
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	233,689	-	233,689

The Scheme does not hold any Level 1 assets. During the period there were no transfers between levels.

During the period, the Scheme purchased units in the Australian Ethical Alternatives Fund which is disclosed as a Level 3 Asset. The transfers took place effective 30 November 2021.

For Level 3 assets, the internal valuation has been adjusted by 10% (2020: 10%). At balance date, the effect on net assets attributable to unitholders as a result of changes defined above with all other variables remaining constant would be as follows:

	Dec-21	Jun-21
	\$'000	\$'000
Increase in alternative assets by 10%	27	-
Decrease in alternative assets by 10%	(27)	-

The following table shows a reconciliation from the beginning balances to the ending balances for fair value measurements in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy.

	Dec-21	Jun-21
	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance at 1 July	-	-
Transactions with Level 3 Unlisted Australian Ethical trusts	264	-
Disposals	-	-
Net fair value profit	4	-
Closing balance at 31 December 2021	268	-

CARRYING AMOUNTS VERSUS FAIR VALUE

The fair values of financial assets and liabilities approximates their carrying amounts in the Statement of Financial Position.

NOTE 6 - CONTINGENCIES

There are no contingent assets or liabilities as at 31 December 2021 (June 2021: Nil).

NOTE 7 - EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO THE REPORTING DATE

As the investments in the Scheme are measured at their 31 December 2021 fair values in the financial report, any volatility in values subsequent to the balance date is not reflected in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income or the Statement of Financial Position. However, the current value of investments is reflected in the current unit price.

Management continue to monitor the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in Australia and have assessed that there are no changes required to the financial statements subsequent to the end of the period.

During the period from 31 December 2021 and the date of this report, there were no items, transactions or events of a material and unusual nature likely in the opinion of the Responsible Entity, to significantly affect the operations of the Scheme, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Scheme in future financial periods.

Directors' Declaration

Directors' Declaration

In the opinion of the Directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited, the Responsible Entity of the Australian Ethical High Growth Fund (the "Scheme"):

- a) The financial statements and notes that are set out on pages 10 to 20 are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:
 - i. Giving a true and fair view of the Scheme's financial position as at 31 December 2021 and of its performance for the six month period ended on that date; and
 - ii. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards (AASB 134 Interim Financial Reporting) and Corporations Regulations 2001;
- b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Scheme will be able to pay its debts when they become due and payable: and
- c) The Scheme has operated during the half-year 31 December 2021 in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme's Constitution.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited.



John McMurdo
Managing Director
Australian Ethical Investment Limited
22 February 2022

Independent Auditor's Report



Independent Auditor's Review Report

To the unitholders of Australian Ethical High Growth Fund

Conclusion

We have reviewed the accompanying **Interim Financial Report** of Australian Ethical High Growth Fund (the Scheme).

Based on our review, which is not an audit, we have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the Interim Financial Report of Australian Ethical High Growth Fund does not comply with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Scheme's financial position as at 31 December 2021 and of its performance for the Interim Period ended on that date; and
- complying with *Australian Accounting Standard AASB 134 Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

The **Interim Financial Report** comprises:

- Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021;
- Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, Statement of changes in equity and Statement of cash flows for the Interim Period ended on that date;
- Notes 1 to 7 comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- The Directors' Declaration.

Basis for Conclusion

We conducted our review in accordance with ASRE 2410 *Review of a Financial Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity*. Our responsibilities are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Review of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Scheme 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 annual financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Interim Financial Report

The Directors of Australian Ethical Investment Limited (the Responsible Entity) are responsible for:

- the preparation of the Interim 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 Interim Financial Report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



Auditor's responsibility for the review of the Interim Financial Report

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the Interim Financial Report based on our review. ASRE 2410 requires us to conclude whether we have become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the Interim Financial Report does not comply with the *Corporations Act 2001* including giving a true and fair view of the Scheme's financial position as at 31 December 2021 and its performance for the Interim Period ended on that date, and complying with *Australian Accounting Standard AASB 134 Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

A review of an Interim Financial Report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards* and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

KPMG

Andrew Reeves
Partner

Sydney
22 February 2022