

Quarterly Investment Update

Contents

- Investor letter & update
- AAN Core Model
- AAN Growth Model
- AAN Australian Model
- AAN Index Core Model
- AAN Index Growth Model
- AAN Sustainable Growth Model

March 2025

AAN Asset Management Pty Ltd

Investor Letter

Dear Investor,

In Q1 2025, global Equity Markets started with a strong January with markets rising to all-time highs, however sentiment quickly turned negative for equities as the Trump administration began implementing aggressive policies against trade partners, seeking to change the balance of global commerce and trade. This has been broadly seen as negative for the global economy and markets, with much uncertainty about the aims and impacts of such an approach.

Developed market equities, benchmarked by the MSCI World index, returned -2.3% for the March quarter, with the largest falls coming in the month of March with a market return of -4.6%. Unusually, the US S&P 500 Index was among the worst performers globally, returning -5.8%, amid speculation that a chaotic policy approach from the Trump Administration could spell the end of 'US Exceptionalism'. While this seems a hasty conclusion after only a short time in office, it is clear that investor sentiment towards US assets has taken a battering; with the US Dollar, US Treasury Bonds and US Equities all being sold down in March.

Conversely, European markets had one of their strongest quarters on record with the FTSE Developed Europe index returning +10.4%. This was driven by a paradigm shift in European politics, with hopes of greater self-sufficiency and expectations of much higher fiscal spending from Germany – long regarded as the engine-room of the European economy. Greater spending on defence and infrastructure are expected to boost economic growth and improve capital utilisation across the continent. The German Dax was up an impressive 11.7% for the quarter, with the French CAC40 up 5.37% and UK's FTSE100 up 6.1%.

"The stock market is a device for transferring money from the impatient to the patient."
- Warren Buffet

However, the Chinese market was buoyed by a tech-revival with the release of the DeepSeek AI model. This has caused Chinese investor sentiment to improve dramatically, with confidence returning that Chinese firms can successfully compete with US firms in AI arena. While the Chinese economy remains sluggish, market conditions appear to have improved.

Further Government support and stimulus initiatives have also helped the market re-rate higher. The tech and consumer heavy Hang Seng index was up a heady 15.2% for the quarter and is now up 54% over 12 months.

The Australian S&P ASX 200 was weaker during the quarter, falling -2.8%. The ASX reporting season through February was one of the most volatile on record, with companies share prices punished or rewarded for their end of year result and forward guidance. Major banks financial updates were regarded as weak, with rising technology costs causing concerns along with weak outlooks for profit growth. Technology companies, which were richly valued coming into February were sold off aggressively and were the worst performing sector.

Within Fixed Income, the US Federal Reserve kept rates on hold through the quarter at 4.5%, with Fed Chair Jerome Powell striking a relatively hawkish tone, emphasising that despite uncertainty with government policy they wish to see inflation come sustainably closer to the 2% target. In Australia, the RBA did cut rates in the February meeting to a rate of 4.1% as was widely expected, however Michelle Bullock provided guidance that any further cuts were predicated on lower inflation. Bond markets have displayed considerable volatility but have ended the quarter at similar yields to where they started, emphasising the uncertain outlook for economic growth and inflation.

The Australian dollar continued to be under pressure, especially against previously weaker currencies such as the Euro, which was up +3.6% and Pound Sterling up 2.3%. The US Dollar was largely flat against the Aussie, as both currencies weakened during the quarter.

Regards,
The AAN Asset Management Investment Committee

Economic Summary

Data from 1 April 2025

Australian unemployment

4.1% mid-quarter compared to 3.9% for the previous quarter.

4.1%

AUD/USD

63c compared to 62c at the end of the December.



Australian bonds

Australian bond yields at 4.38% by quarter end up 0.02 percentage points.

4.38%

Model performance

The AAN Index Core Model was the best performing model for the quarter returning -1.72% and the AAN Index Growth was the best performing model over 12 months returning 5.13%.



Annual inflation

US 2.4% 31 MARCH 2025 compared to 3.5% 31 MARCH 2024. AUS 2.4% DECEMBER 2024 compared to 3.6% DECEMBER 2023.



Equity markets

S&P500 returned -4.58% whilst the ASX200 returned -2.80% for the quarter.



Iron Ore price

Iron Ore \$102 USD/T -1.38% for the quarter.



Gold price

\$3089.58 USD/oz -1.1% for the quarter.



Oil price

Brent crude \$73 USD/bbl -3.0% for the quarter.
West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude \$71 USD/bbl -2.3% for the quarter.



Volatility Index

VIX ranged between 15 and 52 over the quarter.



US yield curve

US 10Y Treasury reached 4.23% by quarter end, with the US10Y/2Y spread at +0.34%.



AAN CORE - AC0001

As at 31 Mar 2025

Investment Manager	AAN Asset Management Pty Ltd
Model Code	AC0001
Investment Fee	0.43% p.a.
Performance Fee	Nil
Less AAN Client Model Fee Discount	0.24% p.a.
Commencement	05 Feb 2016
ICR and Transaction Cost	0.61% p.a.
Indicative No. of Holdings	Unlimited

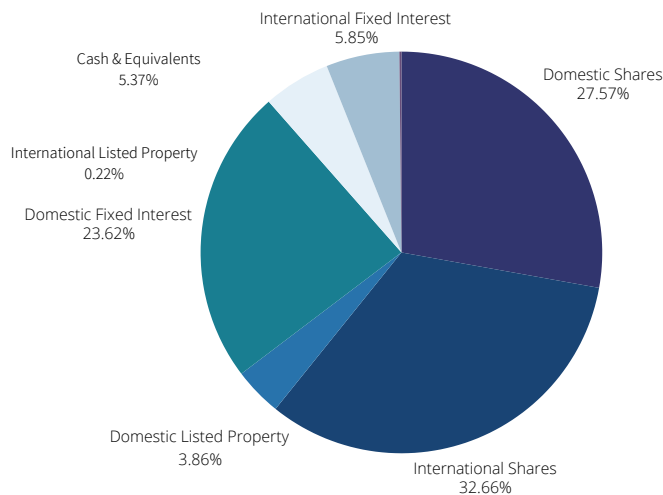
Investment description

The Core portfolio is an actively managed portfolio providing a diversified exposure with a neutral tilt towards growth asset classes (65%) relative to defensive asset classes (35%). The portfolio is constructed using a multi-manager approach which seeks to incorporate a blend of investment styles. The portfolio will generally be reweighted to its strategic weights quarterly and may employ a blend of active and passive investment styles based on market conditions. Investment exposure is obtained through a combination of direct equities, exchange traded products and/or managed funds.

Investment objective

The Core portfolio's investment objective is to outperform CPI by 3.0% p.a before fees over rolling 5-year periods.

Asset Allocation



Top 5 holdings

Lazard Global Equity Franchise	7.84%
Perpetual Diversified Real Return W	7.80%
Schroder Real Return Fund - WC	7.62%
Vaneck Australian Equal Weight ETF	7.26%
Vaneck MSCI International Quality ETF	7.10%

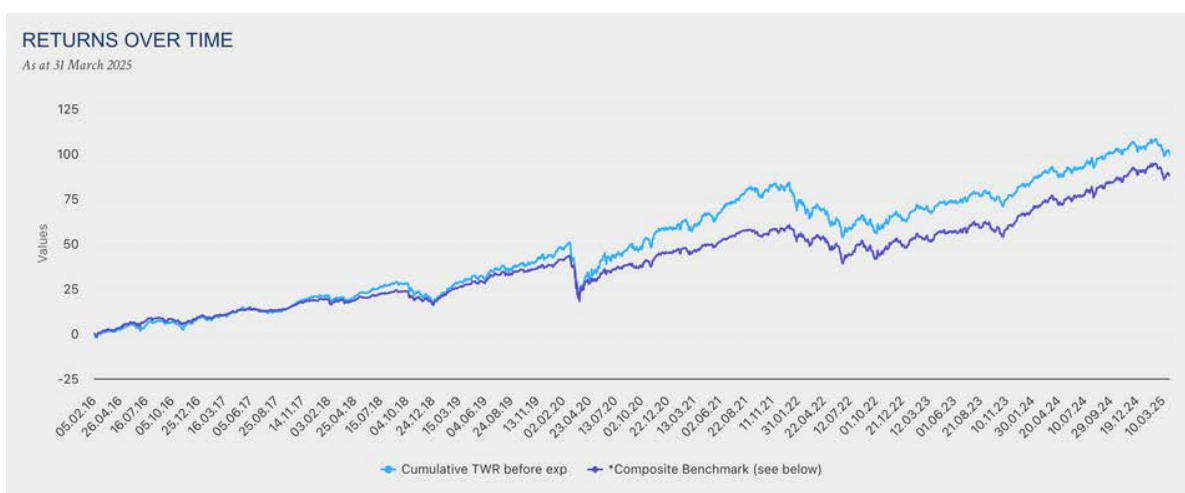
Top 5 holdings represent 37.62% of total fund

Performance

As at 31 Mar 2025

	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	1 yr	3 yrs p.a.	5 yrs p.a.	Since inception p.a.
Total Gross Return	-2.43%	-1.72%	-0.85%	3.26%	4.73%	9.19%	7.43%

Returns over time



AAN Core - AC0001

As at 31 Mar 2025

The Model

The March quarter saw the replacement of the Perpetual Focus Australian Equity Fund with the Ausbil Australian Active Equity Fund. This was completed on the 5th of February. Investment markets have continued to challenge 'value' styled investment managers and the investment committee have opted for a more style neutral approach within the Australian Equity stable. Perpetual are a quality manager and continue to perform well within their peer group.

Ausbil has been allocated 7.25% of the Core portfolio.

Notable Investments

Yarra Enhanced Income Fund:

- The Fund delivered a quarterly gross return of 1.54% with a twelve-month gross return (1 April 24 to 31 March 25) of 8.63%. . Positive performance during the quarter was driven primarily by strong running yields as the fund continues to benefit from the current elevated base rates.

Schroder Real Return Fund:

- The Fund delivered a quarterly gross return of 1.2% with a twelve-month gross return (1 April 24 to 31 March 25) of 8.7%. Exposure to alternative strategies such as Commodities and insurance-linked securities was the top contributor to the quarter with fixed income options buffering the portfolio from equity weakness. Detractors for the quarter was equities with the US Tariff increases leading to a lot of uncertainty in growth assets.

Lazard Global Equity Franchise Fund:

- After a difficult last quarter in 2024 where the funds return was well below the MSCI index (a performance of 0.14% vs the index at 11.87% for the quarter) the March quarter saw a strong performance relative to benchmark. For the March 2025 quarter the fund had a performance of 6.38% (net of fees) versus the MSCI World Index return of -2.42%. Since 2019, investment markets have been experiencing regular periods of momentum and momentum reversal, which has contributed to volatility in Lazard's relative returns. Lazard would argue, by prioritizing companies with strong and consistent earnings growth, they can aim to achieve steady returns, without relying on market sentiment or temporary valuation boosts.

Performance

The AAN Core model returned -1.66% (before fees) this quarter, bringing the rolling 12-month total to 3.53% (before fees).

AAN GROWTH - AC0002

As at 31 Mar 2025

Investment Manager	AAN Asset Management Pty Ltd
Model Code	AC0002
Investment Fee	0.47% p.a.
Performance Fee	Nil
Less AAN Client Model Fee Discount	0.22% p.a.
Commencement	02 Sept 2016
ICR and Transaction Cost	0.54% p.a.
Indicative No. of Holdings	Unlimited

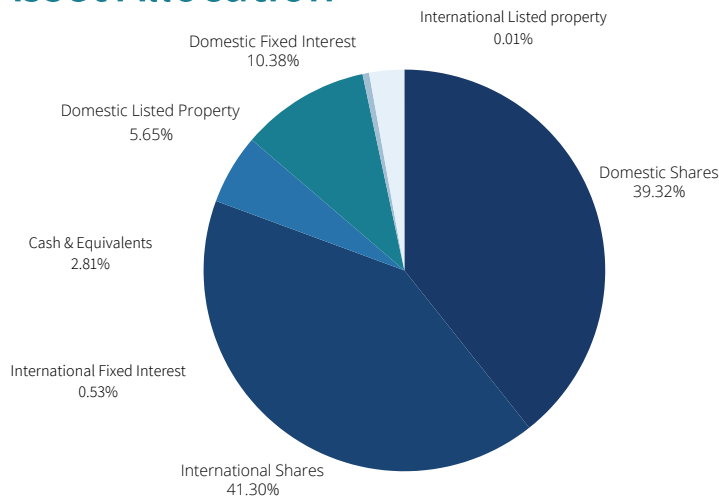
Investment description

The Growth portfolio is an actively managed portfolio providing a diversified exposure with a focus on growth asset classes (90%) relative to defensive asset classes (10%). The portfolio is constructed using a multi-manager approach which seeks to incorporate a blend of investment styles. The portfolio will generally be reweighted to its strategic weights quarterly and may employ a blend of active and passive investment styles based on market conditions. Investment exposure is obtained through a combination of direct equities, exchange traded products and/or managed funds.

Investment objective

The Growths portfolio's investment objective is to outperform CPI by 4.0% p.a before fees over rolling 7-year periods.

Asset Allocation



Top 5 holdings

Lazard Global Equity Franchise	10.33%
Vaneck Australian Equal Weight ETF	9.26%
Franklin Global Growth A	9.08%
Vanguard MSCI Index International Shares (Hedged) ETF	9.07%
Vaneck MSCI International Quality ETF	9.06%

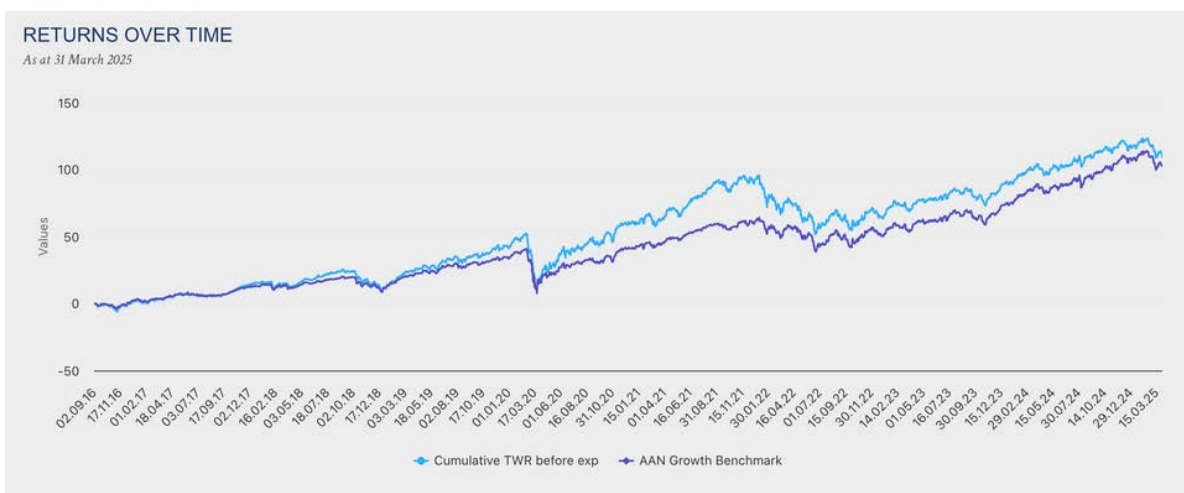
Top 5 holdings represent 46.80% of total fund

Performance

As at 31 Mar 2025

	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	1 yr	3 yrs p.a.	5 yrs p.a.	Since inception p.a.
Total Gross Return	-3.49%	-3.12%	-2.26%	2.28%	5.01%	11.59%	8.49%

Returns over time



AAN Growth - AC0002

As at 31 Mar 2025

The Model

As with the AAN Core, the march quarter saw the replacement of the Perpetual Focus Australian Equity Fund with the Ausbil Australian Active Equity Fund. Ausbil will receive a 9.37% allocation of the model (25% of the Australian Equity allocation)

Notable Investments

Yarra Enhanced Income Fund:

- The Fund delivered a quarterly gross return of 1.54% with a twelve-month gross return (1 April 24 to 31 March 25) of 8.63%. . Positive performance during the quarter was driven primarily by strong running yields as the fund continues to benefit from the current elevated base rates.

Lazard Global Equity Franchise Fund:

- After a difficult last quarter in 2024 where the funds return was well below the MSCI index (a performance of 0.14% vs the index at 11.87% for the quarter) the March quarter saw a strong performance relative to benchmark. For the March 2025 quarter the fund had a performance of 6.38% (net of fees) versus the MSCI World Index return of -2.42%. Since 2019 investment markets have been experiencing regular periods of momentum and momentum reversal, which has contributed to volatility in Lazard's relative returns. Lazard would argue, by prioritizing companies with strong and consistent earnings growth, they can aim to achieve steady returns, without relying on market sentiment or temporary valuation boosts.

Performance

The AAN Growth model returned -3.05% (before fees) for the quarter, bringing the rolling 12 month return to 2.63% (before fees).

AAN Australian - AC0003

As at 31 Mar 2025

Investment Manager	AAN Asset Management Pty Ltd
Model Code	AC0003
Investment Fee	0.55% p.a.
Performance Fee	Nil
Less AAN Client Model Fee Discount	0.19% p.a.
Commencement	30 Jan 2017
ICR and Transaction Cost	0.22% p.a.
Indicative No. of Holdings	Unlimited

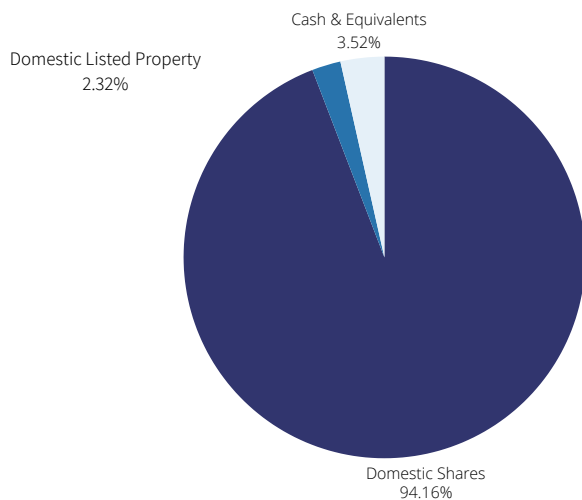
Investment description

The AAN Australian model provides exposure to an actively managed portfolio of Australian equities. The portfolio is constructed using a multi-manager approach which seeks to reduce style bias and may employ a blend of active and passive investment styles based on market conditions. Investment exposure is obtained through a combination of direct equities, exchange traded products and/or managed funds.

Investment objective

The AAN Australian Model's investment objective is to outperform the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index before fees over rolling 7-year periods.

Asset Allocation



Top 5 holdings

VanEck Australian Equal Weight ETF	25.23%
AUSBIL Australian Active Equity	24.31%
National Australia Bank Limited FPO	5.44%
CSL Limited FPO	4.45%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia FPO	4.34%

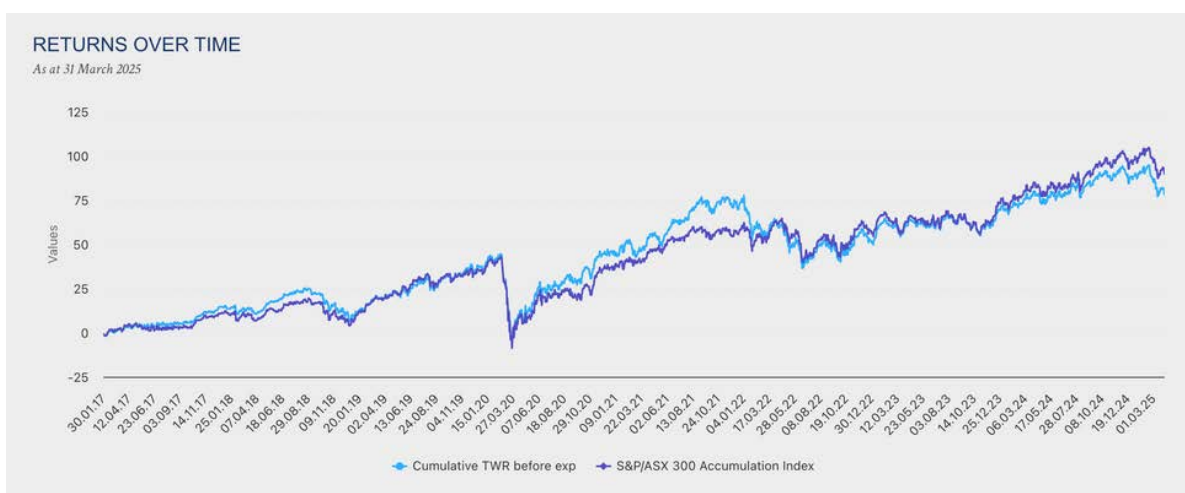
Top 5 holdings represent 63.77% of total fund

Performance

As at 31 Mar 2025

	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	1 yr	3 yrs p.a.	5 yrs p.a.	Since inception p.a.
Total Gross Return	-3.83%	-4.77%	-6.78%	-1.80%	1.68%	10.46%	6.23%

Returns over time



AAN Australian - AC0003

As at 31 Mar 2025

The Model

There were no material changes to the portfolio this quarter other than reweighting back to benchmark allocations.

Notable Investments

iShares S&P/ASX 20 ETF (IESG):

- The iShares Top 20 fund was 0.07% below benchmark (S&P/ASX20) with a return of -3.54% for the quarter. Over twelve months the return was 3.35% which was just below the benchmark but above the index for the S&P ASX 200 (2.84%). Within Australia's top 20 stocks, the twelve-month trailing yield is at 4.56%, before franking, which can support the fund performance in negative markets.

VanEck Australian Equal Weight ETF (MVW):

- The ETF returned -1.43% for Q1 2025, outperforming the S&P/ASX 200 Index by 1.37%. The fund's positions in gold miner, Evolution Mining (positively benefiting from the surge in the gold price) and underweight positions in CSL (Health Care) and Goodman Group (Real Estate) contributed to the outperformance. The largest negative impacts came from exposure to Mineral Resources limited (dealing with declining iron ore and lithium prices), Reece Ltd (impacted by softness in the construction industry and reduced demands for their products) and Pilbara Minerals which was also impacted by declining lithium prices.

Performance

The AAN Australian model returned -4.59% (before fees) for the quarter and -0.99% (before fees) for the 12-month period. The S&P ASX 200 index returned -2.8% for the quarter and +2.84% over the twelve months.

AAN Index Core - AC0004

As at 31 Mar 2025

Investment Manager	AAN Asset Management Pty Ltd
Model Code	AC0004
Investment Fee	0.30% p.a.
Performance Fee	Nil
Minimum Initial Investment	No fixed minimum
Commencement	24 Feb 2017
ICR and Transaction Cost	0.20% p.a.
Indicative No. of Holdings	Up to 25

Investment description

The Index Core portfolio is an actively managed diversified portfolio which obtains exposure using a blend of passive ETFs listed on the ASX and index based managed funds. The portfolio is constructed with a strategic growth exposure of 65% and defensive exposure of 35%. The portfolio will generally be reweighted to its strategic weights quarterly.

Investment objective

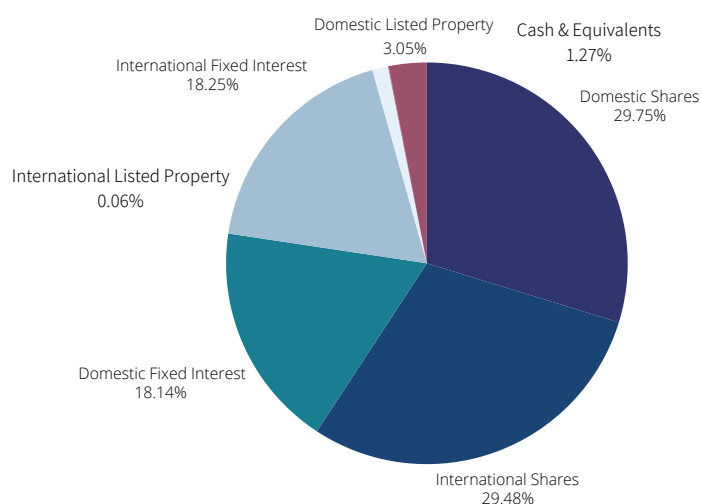
The Index Core portfolio's investment objective is to outperform CPI by 2.50% p.a before fees over rolling 5-year periods.

Top 5 holdings

BetaShares Australia 200 ETF	29.59%
Vanguard Global Aggregate Bond Index (Hedged) ETF	18.25%
iShares Australian Bond Index	18.17%
Vanguard US Total Market Shares Index ETF	14.97%
iShares hedged International EQ IDX FS S	7.43%

Top 5 holdings represent 88.41% of total fund

Asset Allocation

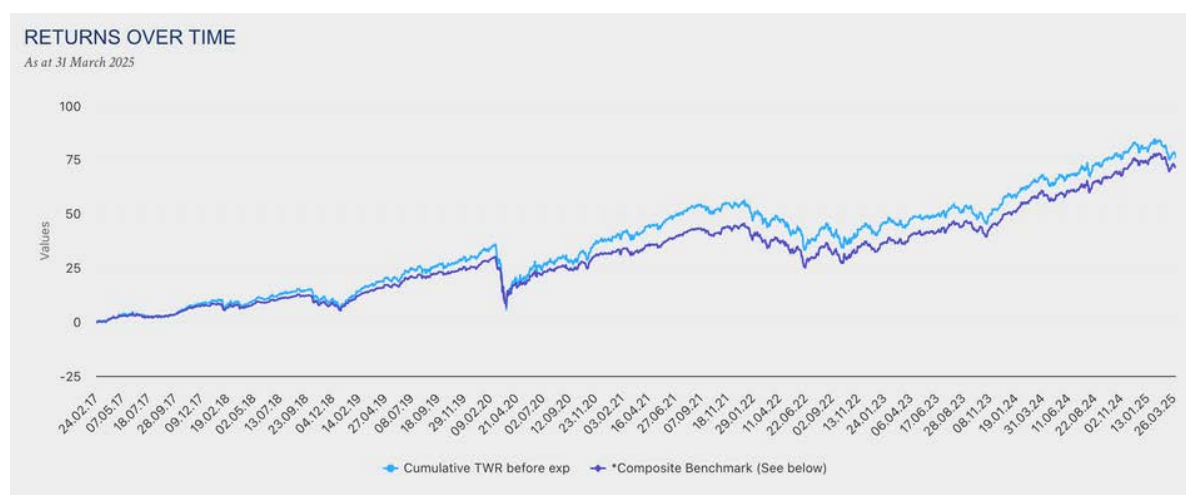


Performance

As at 31 Mar 2025

	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	1 yr	3 yrs p.a.	5 yrs p.a.	Since inception p.a.
Total Gross Return	-2.62%	-2.17%	0.05%	4.71%	5.31%	8.66%	6.90%

Returns over time



AAN Index Core - AC0004

As at 31 Mar 2025

The Model

There were no material changes to the portfolio this quarter other than reweighting back to benchmark allocations. The portfolio is likely to be aligned more closely with the asset allocations of the AAN Core Model in the April 30 reweight and more information will be provided in the 2025, June 30 update.

Notable Investments

The top contributing assets over 1 January to 31 March 2025 was Vanguard All-World ex-US shares Index ETF (5.30%), iShares Core Composite Bond Index (+1.27%) and the Vanguard Global Aggregate Bond ETF (+1.3%).

Performance

The AAN Index Core model returned -2.17% (before fees) over the quarter which brought the rolling 12-month period return to 4.84% (before fees).

Key Quarterly Contributors:

- Vanguard All-World ex-US shares Index ETF (5.30%)
- Vanguard Global Aggregate Bond Index (Hedged) ETF (1.36%)
- iShares Australian Bond Index Fund (1.27%)

Key Quarterly Detractors:

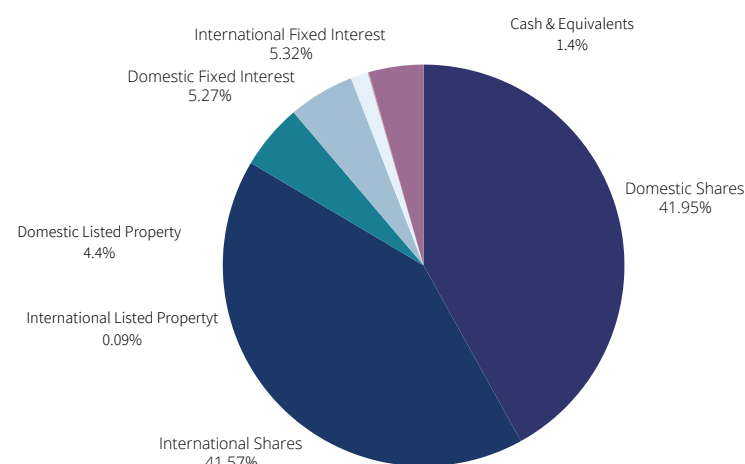
- iShares Wholesale Australian Listed Property Index Fund (-6.59%)
- Vanguard US Total Market Shares Index ETF AUD (-5.43%)
- BetaShares ASX 200 ETF (-2.82%)

AAN Index Growth - AC0005

As at 31 Mar 2025

Investment Manager	AAN Asset Management Pty Ltd
Model Code	AC0005
Investment Fee	0.30% p.a.
Performance Fee	Nil
Minimum Initial Investment	No fixed minimum
Commencement	22 Aug 2018
ICR and Transaction Cost	0.17% p.a.
Indicative No. of Holdings	Up to 25

Asset Allocation



Investment description

The Index Growth portfolio is an actively managed diversified portfolio which obtains exposure by using a blend of passive ETFs listed on the ASX and index based managed funds. The portfolio is constructed with a higher emphasis on growth exposure (90%) relative to defensive exposure (10%). The portfolio will generally be reweighted to its strategic weights quarterly.

Investment objective

The Index Growth portfolio's investment objective is to outperform CPI by 3.5% p.a before fees over rolling 5-year periods.

Top 5 holdings

BetaShares Australia 200 ETF	41.70%
Vanguard US Total Market Shares Index ETF	21.11%
iShares hedged International EQ IDX FS S	10.46%
Vanguard All-world ex-US Shares Index ETF	10.15%
Vanguard Global Aggregate Bond Index (Hedged) ETF	5.32%

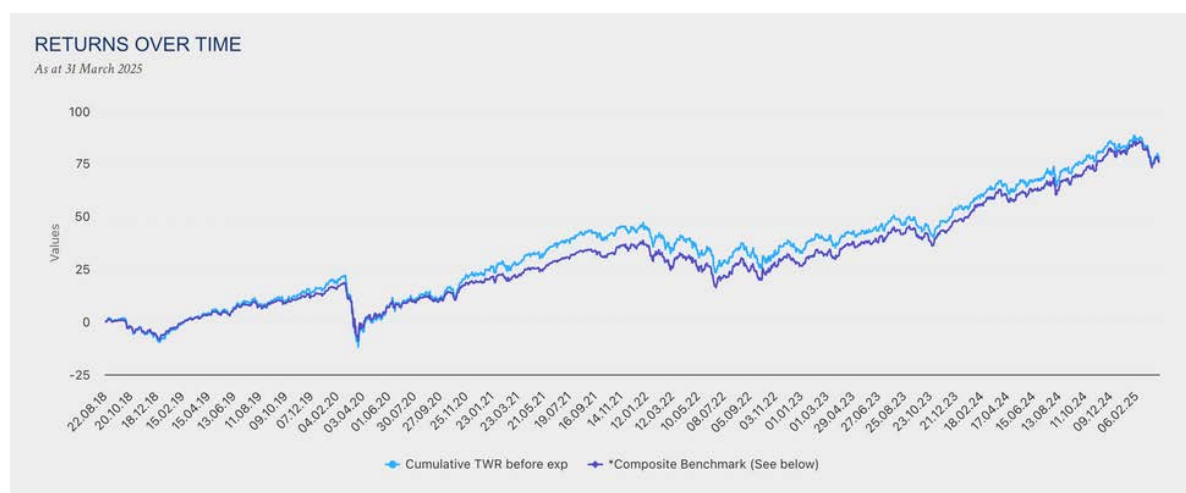
Top 5 holdings represent 88.74% of total fund

Performance

As at 31 Mar 2025

	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	1 yr	3 yrs p.a.	5 yrs p.a.	Since inception p.a.
Total Gross Return	-3.63%	-3.47%	-0.05%	5.13%	7.10%	12.32%	8.43%

Returns over time



AAN Index Growth - AC0005

As at 31 Mar 2025

The Model

There were no material changes to the portfolio this quarter other than reweighting back to benchmark allocations. The portfolio is likely to be aligned more closely with the asset allocations of the AAN Growth Model in the April 30 reweight and more information will be provided in the 2025, June 30 update.

Notable Investments

The top contributing asset over 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025 was the Vanguard All-World ex-US shares Index ETF (5.30%), iShares Core Composite Bond Index (+1.27%) and the Vanguard Global Aggregate Bond ETF (+1.3%).

Performance

The AAN Index Growth model returned -3.47% (before fees) this quarter, bringing the rolling 12-month return to 5.31% (before fees).

Key Quarterly Contributors:

- Vanguard All-World ex-US shares Index ETF (5.30%)
- Vanguard Global Aggregate Bond ETF (+1.3%)
- iShares Core Composite Bond Index (+1.27%)

Key Quarterly Detractors:

- iShares Wholesale Australian Listed Property Index Fund (-6.59%)
- Vanguard US Total Market Shares Index ETF AUD (-5.43%)
- BetaShares ASX 200 ETF (-2.82%)

AAN Sustainable Growth - AC0006

As at 31 Mar 2025

Investment Manager	AAN Asset Management Pty Ltd
Model Code	AC0006
Investment Fee	0.40% p.a.
Performance Fee	Nil
Less AAN Client Model Fee Discount	0.21% p.a.
Commencement	17 Dec 2020
ICR and Transaction Cost	0.59% p.a.
Indicative No. of Holdings	

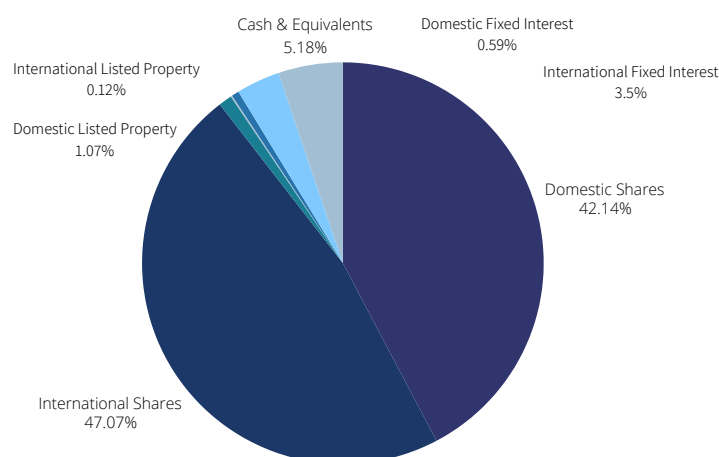
Investment description

The model caters for investors seeking a portfolio of predominantly growth assets that aligns with their preference for sustainable investments with potential for making a positive contribution to society. The model has a strategic allocation of 90% to growth assets and 10% to defensive assets via investing in managed funds, ETFs and/or Australian equity model portfolios, that will each employ their own sustainable investment approach. The overall model is managed according to the manager's Sustainable Investment Policy which seeks to avoid tobacco and tobacco products, gambling, alcohol, pornography, armaments manufacture or distribution, high impact fossil fuels and predatory lending. A company with a minor or indirect exposure to one of the sectors will not be automatically excluded, although may be subject to ongoing review by the manager.

Investment objective

The AAN Sustainable Growth Model has an objective to outperform CPI by 4% p.a before fees over rolling 7-year periods, through investing in a diversified portfolio of growth and income assets that meet the manager's ESG requirements.

Asset Allocation



Top 5 holdings

AXA IM Sustainable Equity	11.52%
Perpetual ESG Australia Share	11.52%
Stewart Investors Worldwide Sustainability	11.10%
Alphinity Sustainable Share	11.09%
iShares Core MSCI World EX Aus ESG (AUD HED) ETF	10.83%

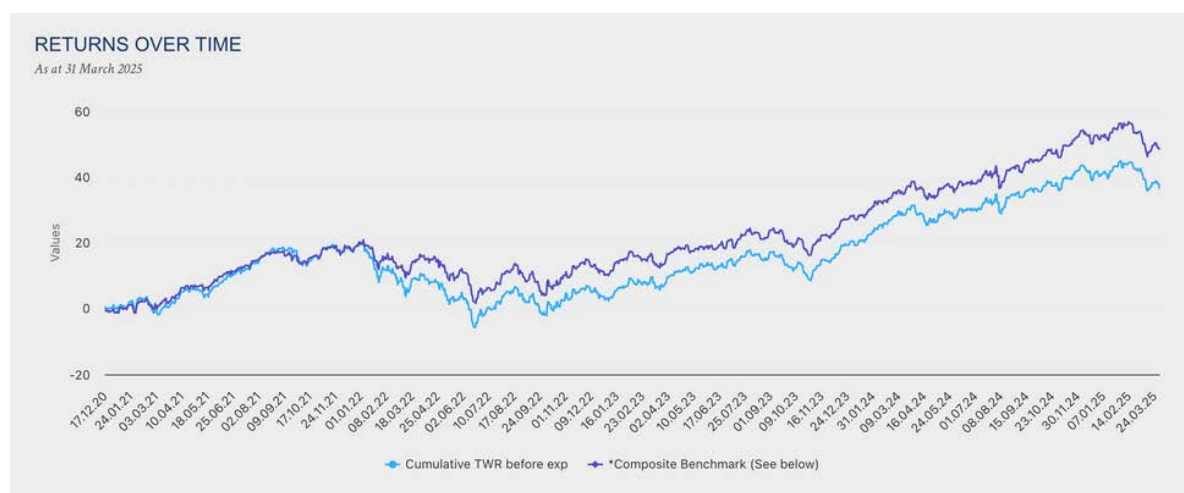
Top 5 holdings represent 56.06% of total fund

Performance

As at 31 Mar 2025

	1 mth	3 mths	6 mths	1 yr	3 yrs p.a.	5 yrs p.a.	Since inception p.a.
Total Gross Return	-3.84%	-2.71%	0.16%	3.70%	6.84%	N/A	7.13%

Returns over time



AAN Sustainable Growth - AC0006

As at 31 Mar 2025

The Model

There were no material changes to the portfolio this quarter other than reweighting back to benchmark allocations.

Notable Investments

Perpetual ESG Real Return Fund:

- The Perpetual ESG fund returned 2.16%(gross) for the Quarter, 1 Jan 2025 – 31 Mar 2025. Over the rolling twelve months, 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025, it has returned 5.20% (gross). The funds value bias in global equities protected capital, as growth stocks, especially in the tech sector, reversed some of their recent gains. Explicit downside protection positions in US Equity put options, allocations to US 2-year bonds, emerging market fixed income and elevated cash allocations, all contributed to the positive return in a difficult quarter for equity markets.

Alphinity Sustainable Share Fund:

- Alphinity outperformed the ASX 300 Index over the quarter 1 Jan 2025 to 31 March 2025 by 0.05% with a return of -2.4%. Over the twelve months to 31 March 2025, the outperformance was 2.5% with a return of 5.15%. The fund remains modestly underweight Banks as the earnings upgrade cycle is coming to an end. Valuations are less stretched after the recent pullback which does provide some opportunity. Commodities are facing headwinds which has led to an underweight position.

Performance

The AAN Sustainable Growth model returned -2.69% this quarter (before fees) whilst over 12 months the model returned 3.91% (before fees).

Key Quarterly Contributors:

- Perpetual ESG Australian Share Fund ((-0.140.67%%)
- Alphinity Sustainable Share fund (-2.4%)

Key Quarterly Detractors:

- IDP AXA IM Sustainable Equity (-5.24%)
- BetaShares Global Sustainability Leaders ETF (-3.81%)
- Stewart Investors Worldwide All Cap (-3.06%)

General Advice Warning

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Performance is based on a model portfolio and is gross of investment management and administration fees, but net of transaction costs. The total return performance figures quoted are historical and do not allow for the effects of income tax or inflation. Total returns assume the reinvestment of all portfolio income. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Portfolio holdings may not be representative of current or future recommendations for the portfolio. The securities listed may not represent all of the recommended portfolio's holdings. If you want more information on the benchmarks used for each model please visit the AANAM website at www.aanam.com.au.