## **HUNTER GLOBAL FIXED INTEREST FUND**



Report & Commentary 31 March 2019

Fund Information	31 March 2019				
Fund Size	\$686 millio	n			
Fund Type	PIE				
Investment management	PIMCO				
Benchmark	Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index - \$NZ hedged				
Performance (gross)	1 month 3 months 12 months Inception*				
Portfolio (%)	+1.46%	+3.14%	+4.51%	+4.92%	
Benchmark (%)	+1.73%	+2.77%	+4.62%	+4.20%	
Alpha (%)	-0.27%	+0.37%	-0.11%	+0.72%	

The performance in this fact sheet is gross of fees and tax. Investors should also refer to the quarterly Fund Update, which is available on <u>hunterinvestments.co.nz</u> and <u>business.qovt.nz/disclose</u>.

#### Performance update

The Hunter Global Fixed Interest Fund returned +1.46% for the month of March, but underperformed the benchmark's return of +1.73% (being the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index - \$NZ hedged) for the same period.

The main positive contributors to performance this month were duration and curve positioning in the US and a short currency exposure to the Euro.

Meanwhile, detracting from performance were an underweight to UK duration, Country selection in the Eurozone and a long exposure to emerging market currencies (particularly Russian rubles and Indian rupee).

#### **Investment markets**

Risk sentiment moderated in March with sovereign yields moving lower on the back of falling growth expectations and increasingly dovish messages from Central Banks. Political uncertainty also continued to influence markets, in UK it was volatile Brexit negotiations as UK MP's voted against a no-deal exit but also voted down Theresa May's Brexit deal for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time. The Brexit deadline has now been extended. UK Gilt yields fell during the month but GBP remained largely unchanged. The US yield curve, however, continued to flatten with the 10-year Treasury yield falling below 3-month Treasury bill rate, the curve inverting for the first time since 2007. Inverted curves are seen as a harbinger of recession in the next year or two.

#### Portfolio positioning

The Fund continues to remain defensively positioned, underweight duration overall although the size of the underweight has been reduced (6.4 years vs index at 7.0 years).

Within regions, the Fund holds a modest overweight to intermediate U.S. duration but is underweight the front and long ends of the yield curve as PIMCO believes that the yield curve will need to steepen. U.S. rates still offer an attractive pick-up versus other developed market interest rates.

PIMCO is also now flat to underweight European duration. They remain underweight semi-core and peripheral Eurozone duration but overweight to core and some satellite European Countries. The Fund maintains its underweight of French duration as the ECB ends quantitative easing.

PIMCO is maintaining a modest underweight to UK duration both as a relative value trade and because of concerns around Brexit outcomes.

The Fund is also underweight duration in Japan as recent policy changes point to higher rates there and as a "cheap" hedge for global rates should they recalibrate higher.

The Fund continues to have exposure to a diversified basket of high yielding emerging market currencies (including RUB, ARS, MXN and COP) against the Euro.

In the credit risk sector, the Fund remains underweight investment-grade corporate credit preferring securitized assets such as the agency and non-agency mortgage sector due to their attractive yields and downside protection.

The Fund also holds exposure to Danish "callable" mortgages and Swedish "covered" bonds and, recently, UK residential MBS which PIMCO view as offering an attractive source of "safe spread".

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<sup>\*</sup>Annualised performance since inception

### 31 March 2019

# Hunter Global Fixed Interest Fund Investment Portfolio Characteristics

Investment Statistics					
Effective Duration	6.4				
Benchmark Duration	7.0				
Average Maturity	8.9				
Average Coupon	2.5				
Average Quality	AA-				
Total Carry	3.4				

Quality Breakdown					
Market Value		Market Value			
% Portfolio		% Benchmark			
61.1	AAA	40.0			
6.9	AA	16.0			
14.7	Α	28.6			
10.8	BBB	15.4			
6.5	Sub Inv Grade	0.0			
100	Total	100			

Regional Breakdown by currency of settlement)					
Duration Weighte	ed Exposure	Duration Weighted Exposure			
% Portfolio	% Benchmark		Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark	
4.0	1.2	Australia/NZ	0.3	0.1	
16.3	22.3	Japan	1.0	1.6	
24.1	23.9	Europe - EMU	1.6	1.7	
3.1	1.5	Europe - Non EMU	0.2	0.1	
2.0	7.6	United Kingdom	0.1	0.5	
49.0	40.7	North America	3.2	2.9	
-0.1	1.2	<b>Emerging Markets</b>	0.0	0.1	
1.5	1.6	Other	0.1	0.1	
100	100	Total	6.4	7.0	

1	Regional Breakdown Variance Portfolio vs. Benchmark (DWE Years)							
0.5								
0				_			_	
-0.5								
-1	Australia/NZ	Japan	Europe - EMU E	urope - Non EMU	United Kingdom	North America	Emerging Markets	Other



Curve Exposure					
<b>Duration Weighted Exposure</b>			Duration We	ighted Exposure	
% Portfolio	% Benchmark		Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark	
9.4	0.1	0 - 1 years	0.6	0.0	
2.8	6.7	1 - 3 years	0.2	0.5	
34.4	14.2	3 - 5 years	2.2	1.0	
26.6	29.6	5-10 years	1.7	2.1	
26.8	49.5	10+ years	1.7	3.5	
100	100	Total	6.4	7.0	

Sector Breakdown					
<b>Duration Weig</b>	hted Exposure		Duration Weighted Exposure		
% Portfolio	% Benchmark		Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark	
47.3	59.2	Government	3.0	4.2	
4.8	8.1	Agency/Semi	0.3	0.6	
19.3	10.3	Mortgage	1.2	0.7	
11.1	16.7	Inv Grade Corp	0.7	1.2	
1.4	0.0	High Yield Corp	0.1	0.0	
6.2	5.8	<b>Emerging Markets</b>	0.4	0.4	
9.9	0.0	Cash Equivalents	0.6	0.0	
100	100	Total	6.4	7.0	

