### HUNTER GLOBAL FIXED INTEREST FUND



#### 31 March 2023

#### **Report & Commentary**

Fund Information	31 March 2023					
Fund Size	\$1.122 Billion					
Fund Type	PIE					
Investment management	PIMCO					
Benchmark	Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index - \$NZ hedged					
Performance (gross)	1 month	3 months	1 Year	3 Year pa		
Portfolio (%)	+2.16%	+2.91%	-4.85%	-0.53%		
Benchmark (%)	+2.19%	+2.67%	-4.79%	-2.37%		
Alpha (%)	-0.03%	+0.24%	-0.06%	+1.84%		

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's performance was largely in line with its benchmark in March despite having less interest rate risk in a falling interest rate environment. Accordingly, absolute returns were strongly positive as investors bought bonds in what was a "risk off" month.

The performance impact of duration and curve positioning was generally mixed in March with overweights to Australian, South Korean and Canadian duration all adding value while underweights to US and European duration subtracted value with interest rates generally falling across the board as markets reacted to the failure of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) et al and began to price a stronger probability of global recession.

Credit strategies also detracted in March, especially our overweight to securitised assets, where credit spreads generally widened. The Fund had no exposure to SVB or Signature banks and only a small exposure to Credit Suisse debt which ended priced higher after the takeover by UBS (we held no Credit Suisse AT1 bonds). The Fund had no defaults and has no distressed assets.

#### **Investment markets**

March turned out to be a very volatile month for investors, interest rates rising early in the month on the back of higher inflation expectations before rallying sharply as the "banking crisis" took hold. This started with a run on Silicon Valley Bank as depositors became concerned about the health of its balance sheet and its liability management. Customers withdrew US\$40 billion of deposits in one day before the US regulators stepped in to guarantee deposits and providing similar support to other regional banks hit by contagion. Investors then shifted their focus to Credit Suisse in Europe which had faced a series of issues in recent times and, despite being well capitalised, a run on deposits forced an eventual regulator arranged takeover by Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) for US3.3 billion dollars. Of concern for investors in bank assets was the cancellation of AT1 (additional Tier 1) capital, a post GFC construct to provide additional debt structured capital to banks. This appeared to negate the common practice of equity holders being the first loss part of the capital structure. Regulators moved quickly to reassure investors that the traditional capital structure would be respected and that the Credit Suisse situation was a technical function peculiar to the the Credit Suisse AT1 notes.

However, the banking issues have generally seen a tightening of credit conditions spurring renewed recession concerns with the market now questioning the future path of policy rates despite stubbornly high core inflation.

#### Portfolio positioning

PIMCO continues to maintain a cautious view towards both interest rates and corporate credit, still focusing on relative value positions and diversified alpha strategies.

The Fund's duration remained at 5.5 years in March, now 1.3 years lower than the benchmark's duration of 6.8 years.

PIMCO is predominantly underweight duration in Japan, Emerging Markets and and North America with a smaller underweight to core Europe. PIMCO remains overweight Australia and maintains a slightly overweight position in non-core Europe. They have a largely neutral exposure to the UK.

The Fund remains underweight corporate credit generally, targetting financials and non-cyclicals, resulting in a portfolio with high credit quality, with an average rating of AA.

US Federal Reserve "tapering" expectations also sees PIMCO remaining underweight the agency and semigovernment sectors, but retaining an overweight exposure to the mortgage sector. Securitised assets remain PIMCO's preferred way to take spread exposure offering greater default protection in the current environment.

Currency strategies remain largely tactical or target portfolio diversification. Currently the fund is overweight the Australian dollar, Yen and Emerging market currencies, and non-EMU Europe predominantly against the US Dollar. We are also marginally underweight the British Pound and the core Eurozone.

The Fund continues to have a small allocation to inflationlinked bonds.

Tony Hildyard - 021 830 720 tony.hildyard@harbourasset.co.nz

#### Manager: Harbour Asset Management Limited <u>contactus@harbourasset.co.nz</u> 0800 460 830

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#### 31 March 2023



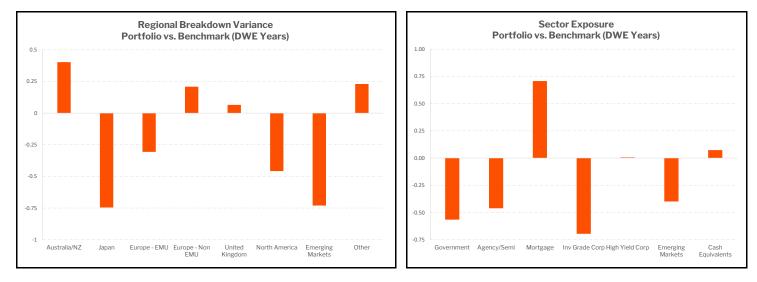
Hunter Global Fixed Interest Fund

#### Investment Portfolio Characteristics

Investment Statistics			Quality Breakdown		Curve Exposure						
Effective Duration	5.5		Market Value		Market Value	Duration Weighted Exposure Dura			Duration We	uration Weighted Exposure	
Benchmark Duration	6.8		% Portfolio		% Benchmark	% Portfolio	% Benchmark		Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark	
Average Maturity	6.6		72.6	AAA	39.9	2.2	0.1	0 - 1 years	0.1	0.0	
Average Coupon	2.4		2.8	AA	13.6	6.2	7.4	1 - 3 years	0.3	0.5	
Average Quality	AA		8.3	А	32.1	14.8	12.9	3 - 5 years	0.8	0.9	
Fund Total Carry	5.8		13.0	BBB	14.5	54.4	33.7	5-10 years	3.0	2.3	
Benchmark Total Carry	4.9		3.3	Sub Inv Grade	0.0	22.4	45.9	10+ years	1.2	3.1	
		•	100	Total	100	100	100	Total	5.5	6.8	

Regional Breakdown by currency of settlement)							
Duration Weighted Exposure Duration Weighted Exposure							
% Portfolio	% Benchmar	k	Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark			
9.0	1.3	Australia/NZ	0.5	0.1			
7.3	16.9	Japan	0.4	1.1			
19.8	20.4	Europe - EMU	1.1	1.4			
5.4	1.2	Europe - Non EMU	0.3	0.1			
7.5	5.1	United Kingdom	0.4	0.3			
46.5	44.1	North America	2.5	3.0			
-1.8	9.3	Emerging Markets	-0.1	0.6			
6.3	1.7	Other	0.3	0.1			
100	100	Total	5.5	6.8			

Sector Breakdown						
Duration Weig	hted Exposure		Duration Weighted Exposure			
% Portfolio	% Benchmark		Years Portfolio	Years Benchmark		
53.2	51.1	Government	2.9	3.5		
0.9	7.5	Agency/Semi	0.0	0.5		
27.5	11.7	Mortgage	1.5	0.8		
7.1	16.0	Inv Grade Corp	0.4	1.1		
0.1	0.0	High Yield Corp	0.0	0.0		
9.8	13.7	Emerging Markets	0.5	0.9		
1.4	0.0	Cash Equivalents	0.1	0.0		
100	100	Total	5.5	6.8		







## **COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE**

# HUNTER GLOBAL FIXED INTEREST FUND (THE "FUND") (RETAIL UNIT TRUST)

## Investment Mandate Compliance Certificate for month ended 31 March 2023

Harbour Asset Management Limited (the "Manager"), certifies that to the best of our knowledge, and having made reasonable enquiries, that, and except as specified in this certificate;

- 1. The Fund has at all times complied with the Fund's Trust Deed;
- The Fund has complied with internal guidelines as described in the Statement of Investment Policy & Objectives (SIPO), dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022;
- 3. PIMCO Australia Pty Ltd ('PIMCO') as the appointed underlying specialist investment manager for the Hunter Global Fixed Interest Fund, provides Harbour with a monthly certification of compliance.

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6 April 2023

Date

Tim Morrison Head of Compliance Harbour Asset Management Limited