# MORPHIC ASSET MANAGEMENT UPDATE

05 December 2017

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CERTIFIED BY RIAA

Signatory of:





# **Morphic Asset Management Update**

- Signatory of Principles for Responsible Investment (formerly known as UNPRI)
- Morphic Ethical Equities Fund and Morphic Global Opportunities Fund are certified Ethical investments by the Responsible Investment Association of Australasia (RIAA)
- First donation to Bush Heritage from Morphic Asset Management



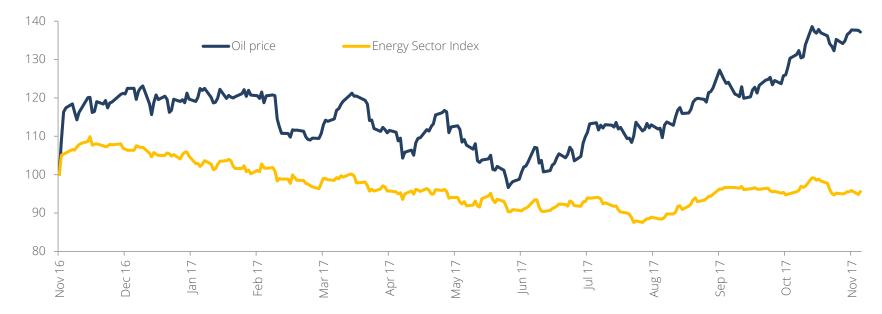








# Mark Fulton – Valuing oil companies for a post-carbon world

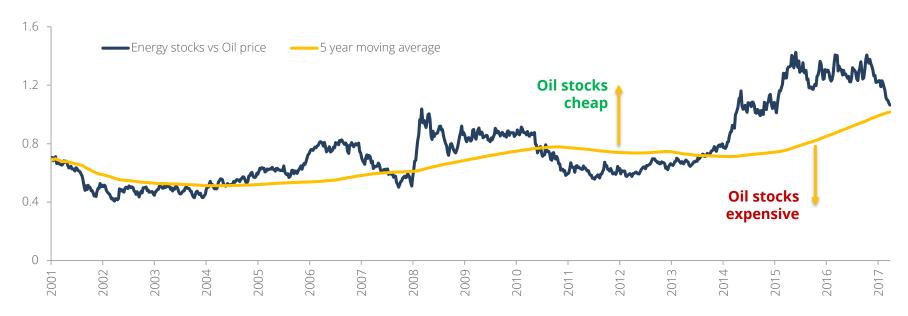


### Energy stocks Index (XLE:US) vs Oil price (CO1:COM) USD, normalised, Nov 2016 – Nov 2017

Source: Bloomberg, Team Analysis



# Mark Fulton – Valuing oil companies for a post-carbon world



Energy stocks Index (XLE:US) vs Oil price (CO1:COM) USD, 2001 - 2017

Source: Bloomberg, Team Analysis



# A WORD FROM BUSH HERITAGE



YEARS OF CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE

## **Bush Heritage – Healthy Country, Protected Forever**

- We are a national charity that exists to protect Australia's unique animals, plants and their habitats and stop them from being lost forever.
- We do this by owing and managing a network of wildlife reserves around the country.
- The numbers...
  - 6.2 million hectares of land protected
  - 14 reserves and partnerships
  - 🥪 5200 species recorded on our land
  - 1 222 threatened species protected











### Bush Heritage – We work where we are needed most

### **Bush Heritage – Our Reserves & Partnerships**



















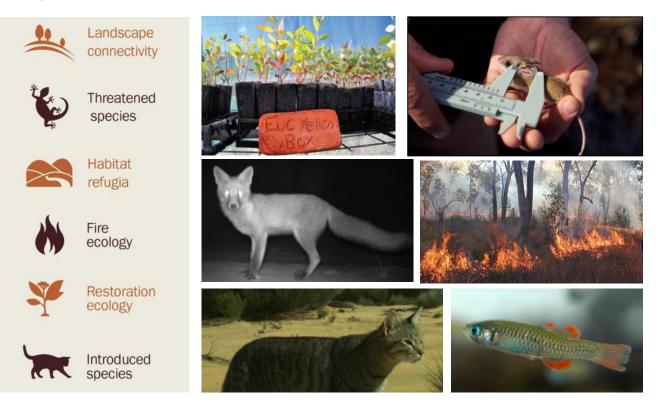






### **Bush Heritage – Science Plan: six research themes**



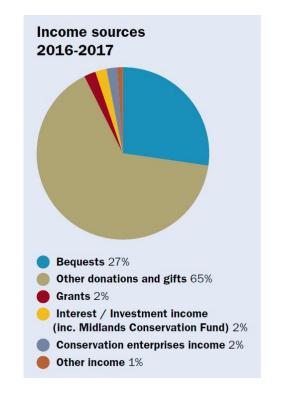




## **Bush Heritage – Performance**

Area (hectares)	Growth in area managed for conservation Land purchases — Cumulative area protected Partnership agreements
7 000 000	
6 000 000	
5 000 000	
4 000 000	- mentilis messaris de difición suma de dans <mark>any</mark> gnes en
3 000 000	
2 000 000	
1 000 000	
	1992 1992 1992 1995 1995 1995 1995 1995









# Morphic Ethical Equities Fund (ASX: MEC) Update

### **MEC Performance\***

As at October 2017

1 Month	3 Months	ITD p.a.
5.51%	9.05%	7.00%

\* Performance is net of investment management fees, before company admin costs and taxes

#### **Options details** As at October 2017



### Platform availability

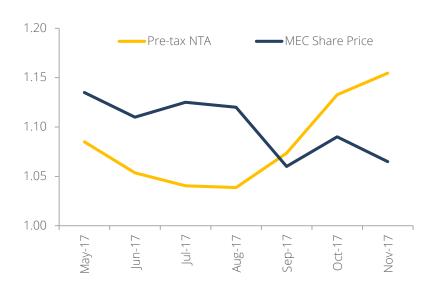








MEC Share Price vs NTA\*\* AUD, May 2017 - 23 November 2017



\*\* Net Tangible Asset Value before tax Past performance is not indicative of future performance.



# Morphic Global Opportunities Fund (MGOF) Update



#### **MGOF Performance**

As at October 2017

1 Month	3 Months	CYTD	1 Year	ITD p.a.
5.13%	8.94%	13.88%	22.59%	17.95%

### **Three-Year Risk Measures**

Nov 2014 - Oct 2017

	MGOF	Average Peer	Index
Standard Deviation	9.96	11.06	10.99
Sharpe Ratio	1.05	0.97	1.02
Alpha	0.74	0.18	

Source: Morningstar, Index used by Morningstar is ACWI ex Australia

### MGOF Performance of \$10,000\*



\*Calculations are based on exit price with distributions reinvested, after ongoing fees and expenses but excluding individual tax, member fees and entry fees (if applicable). Fund Inception 2 August 2012.

### Platform availability





# **Portfolio positioning**

As at October 2017 by country, sector and stock

Stocks ( <i>Shorts</i> )	Theme	Region	MGOF Position Weighting	MEC Position Weighting
Alstom	Global Rail	Europe	3.8%	3.8%
Service Corp	US Deathcare	North America	3.0%	3.0%
Samsung Electronics	Global Tech	Asia Pacific	2.9%	3.0%
Ateam	Japanese E-Commerce	Asia Pacific	2.8%	2.9%
Western Alliance	US Quality Banks	North America	2.6%	2.6%
Open House	Japanese Homebuilders	Asia Pacific	2.3%	2.4%
lida Group	Japanese Homebuilders	Asia Pacific	(2.1%)	(2.2%)
Wells Fargo	US Quality Banks	North America	(2.1%)	(2.1%)
Macromill	Global Research	Asia Pacific	2.0%	2.0%
Hazama Ando	Engineering & Construction	Asia Pacific	1.9%	2.0%



THEME: JAPAN

### Is history repeating itself?

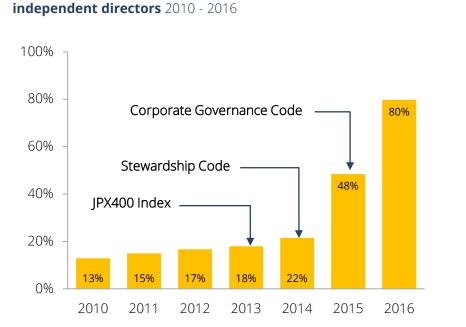


- Japan has a history of resisting change until it is forced upon it e.g. Perry's 'black ships'
- Once it does, a consensus based society then changes rapidly
- Threat of China & declining population are arguably the **new** 'black ships'

Source: Australian Ministry of Finance, Cabinet office

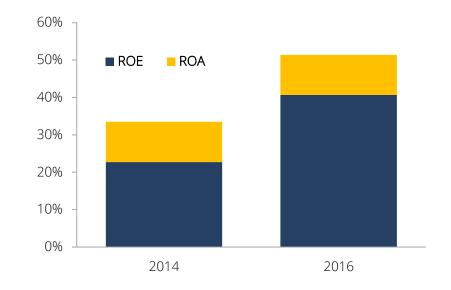


## Are Abe's reforms a response to the new 'black ships'?



Percentage of 1st section companies with two or more

#### Japanese companies citing return-on-equity ("ROE") and returnon-assets ("ROA") targets in medium-term plans



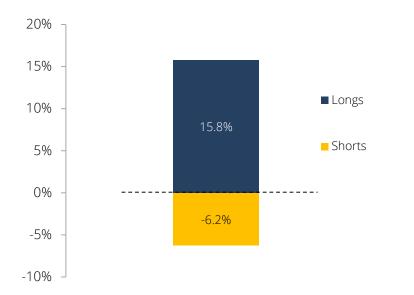
\*Source: Morningstar



# Japan is interesting from both a macro and micro perspective

#### **Current MGOF Long/Short Japan Direct Exposure**

As at October 2017



#### **Top 5 MGOF Japanese holdings in the portfolio** As at October 2017

Stocks ( <i>Shorts</i> )	Theme	Position Weighting
Ateam	Japanese E-Commerce	2.8%
Open House	Japanese Homebuilders	2.3%
lida Group	Japanese Homebuilders	(2.1%)
Macromill	Global Research	2.0%
Hazama Ando	Engineering & Construction	1.9%

Source: Morphic Asset Management, Team Analysis



# Japan Property Developers: It's all in the name



### **Open House (3288 JP)**

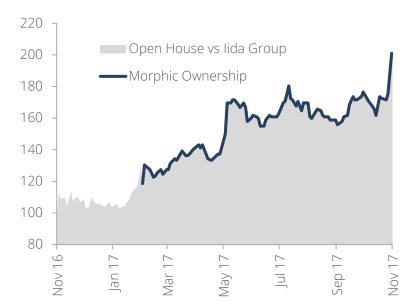
• Shareholder friendly: Dividends, buybacks, relatively progressive & young board (2 under 40)

### lida (3291 JP)



- Merger of 6 listed companies controlled by one family
- Founder's son in law is CEO, lacks influence
- Other siblings running subsidiaries with divergent strategies

### **Open House versus lida Group share price**



Normalised, November 2016 – November 2017

Source: Bloomberg, Team Analysis



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# A stock with weak ESG standards can be a profitable short

### Prada

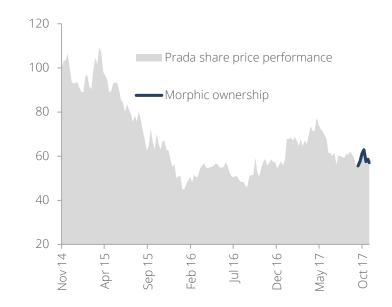
- Prada screened poorly on a number of internal models
  - Falling EPS revisions



- Consensus assuming an unlikely swift turnaround
- ESG audit highlights "worst in class"
  - Excessive consultancy agreements and director fees
  - Related-party transactions favouring co-CEOs
  - Director's independence questionable

#### Prada share price performance

Normalised, November 2014 - October 2017



Source: Bloomberg, Team Analysis



# ANY QUESTIONS?

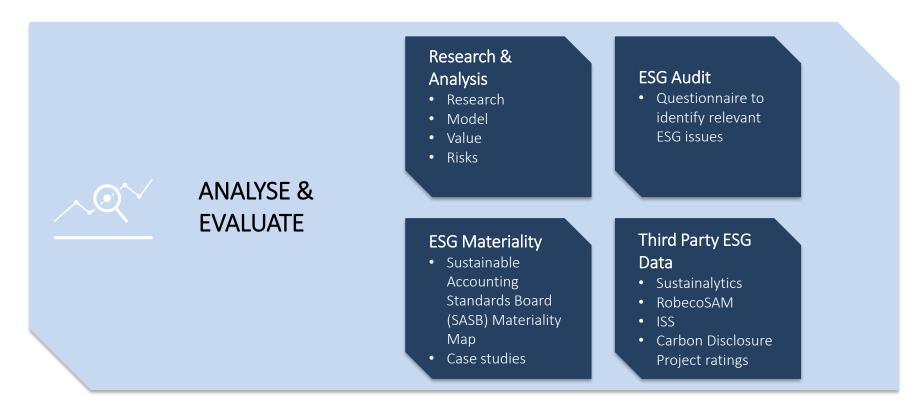


$\bigcirc$	EXCLUDE	Morphic excludes investments in companies fundamentally misaligned with sustainable practices
	ANALYSE & EVALUATE	Morphic integrates consideration of material ESG issues within research and financial analysis
	ENGAGE	Morphic engages with companies to encourage achievement of best-practice in all ESG-related business practices







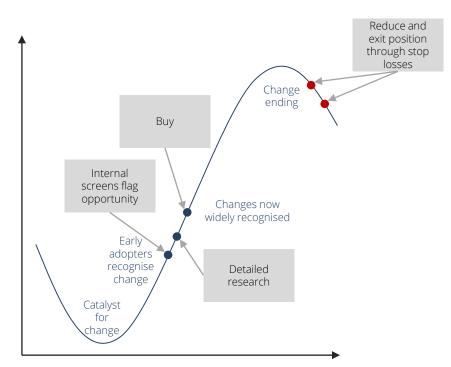








# Philosophy: Markets have trouble pricing changes efficiently



#### Morphic investment by stage of the change cycle Illustrative

### We select investments based on:

- Expected absolute returns
- "Market style" risk is it a risk on/off investment?

### We determine position sizes based on:

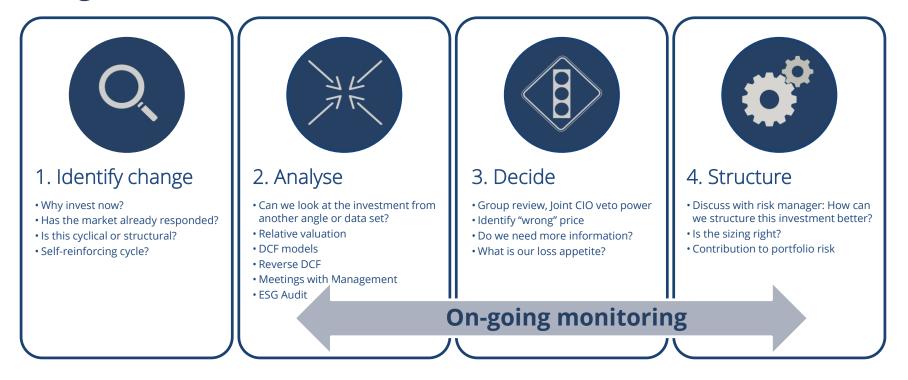
- Conviction level
- Risk of individual investment idea
- Contribution to portfolio risk

We determine appropriate hedges and/or risk mitigation to:

- Enhance reward/risk
- Eliminate unintended consequences



# Investment Process: Fundamental research combined with risk management





# **Identify Change**

What we seek Why it matters

### Quality

Earnings revisions ROE vs. COE means changing fundamentals

### Value

Mispricing relative to value *means market still to reflect change* 

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### Investment opportunities

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Confirmation that change is real

Momentum





# Identifying Investments: Leveraging diverse views

Fundamental research

- 83 years of collective experience
- Modelling of stocks in-house
- Meetings with management
- Conferences

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### Tech-enabled research

- Look for different data sources
- Apply Quantitative models
- Factors based research

600+ stocks we researched or owned previously

6000+ liquid stocks globally





### **Analyse Ideas**

Focussed set of idea sources			
Ethical screening			
Bot	tom Up	Top Down	
Factor and industry screens for new ideas	Review of previously held stocks via quantitative models	Macro and thematic research	
<ul><li>Promising outputs subject to detailed research based on:</li><li>Review of publicly available materials</li><li>Contact with management</li></ul>			
Res	earch Reports written in standard temp	olates	
Review of investme	nts' progress against expectations conc	lucted at least weekly	



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### **Investment Decision**

- Four senior team members act as capital allocators
- Approvals following presentation at team meetings
- All proposals subject to veto by either PM
- Sizing based on loss tolerance and VaR
- Exits determined by valuation, news flow and stop-losses



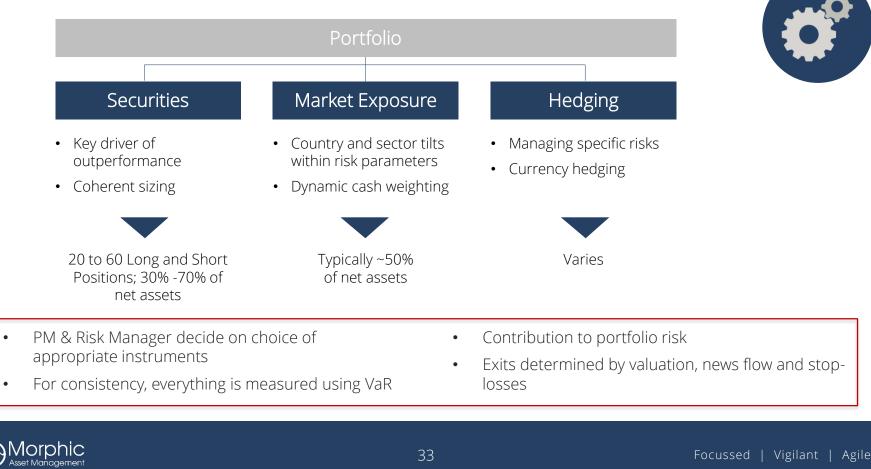


Robust but flexible approach allowing real time reaction pre and post trade



## **Portfolio Construction**

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# **Ongoing Monitoring: Portfolio Management governance**

### Checklist for analysts

- 1. Daily news flow update
- 2. Preview and de-brief after company results/conference calls
  - Prepare "Estimates vs Actual" template
  - Update company models
  - Provide CIOs with updated "indicative value" where appropriate
- 3. Monitor industry publications, key statistics
- 4. Monitor results from companies in the value chain and direct competitors
- 5. Test and restate drivers/assumptions where appropriate
- 6. Update state of the industry body of knowledge

### Structured meeting schedule

Forum	lssues
Daily debrief	<ul> <li>Analysts update with "night action"</li> <li>General (company- &amp; macro) news flow</li> <li>Preview / update after company results</li> </ul>
Weekly meeting (Stocks)	<ul><li>Position (re-sizing)</li><li>Presentation of ideas for inclusion</li></ul>
Weekly meeting (Risk, Macro & Portfolio Construction)	<ul><li>Asset Allocation</li><li>Risk dashboard</li><li>Macro discussion and hedging strategy</li></ul>

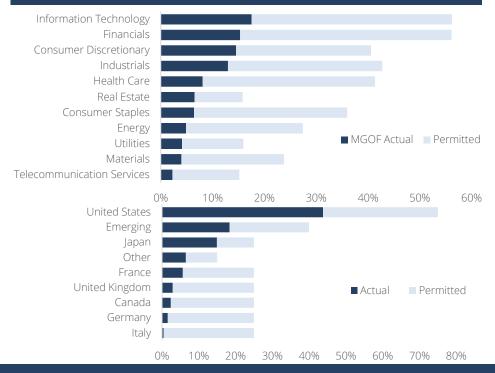


# Structuring investment to capture intended exposures only

### Intended exposures and hedging

- Regular analysis of country, regional and industry exposures
- Use of ETFs to align active equity exposure with the target portfolio
- Strict single stock size limits:
  - o Market cap:
    - >\$400M
    - >\$1bn for shorts
  - o Liquidity: >\$3M
  - o Max size: 5%
- Average holding period:
  - o Long positions: 6-24 months
  - o Short positions: 3-6 months
- Average Exposures:
  - o Net: 100%
  - o Gross: 160%

### Sector and regional limits





# **Comprehensive overview of portfolio risks**



### Checklist for Risk Manager

- 1. Measure and Monitor individual Investment Risks
  - Historical Simulations and volatility
     analysis

### 2. Test the Portfolio as a whole

- Concentration Risks
- Liquidity Risks
- Stress Testing
- 3. Ensure Limits are adhered to
- 4. Keep team updated on the current macroeconomic landscape and event risks



## **Experienced Senior investment team**



#### 27 years experience in financial markets.

Jack co-founded Morphic Asset Management in 2012. He was previously Deputy Chief Investment Officer at Sydney based global equity manager Hunter Hall with responsibility for risk management and portfolio construction.

Jack Lowenstein Managing Director Joint Chief Investment Officer He played a key role in building Hunter Hall from just \$13m under management when he joined, to a peak of just under \$3 billion. In ten years as a Portfolio Manager with Hunter Hall, he generated substantial out-performance.



Geoff Wood Head of Macro & Risk

#### 16 years experience in financial markets.

- Geoff joined Morphic at the inception in 2012. He previously worked in risk management at Global Trading Strategies, a global macro hedge fund that managed in excess of US\$1 billion through the global financial crisis, 2009 to 2011.
- Prior to that, he worked in risk management at Barclays Capital in London, managing the risks arising from the hedge fund clients of the bank's Prime Brokerage business.



Chad Slater

Executive Director Joint Chief Investment Officer

17 years experience in financial markets.

- Chad co-founded Morphic Asset Management in 2012. He was previously a Portfolio Manager and Head of Currency and Macroeconomics at Hunter Hall for five years.
- Prior to this, Chad was an Investment analyst at BT Financial Group including a secondment to Putnam Investments in Boston. He began his career as an Economist at Australian Federal Treasury.



James Tayler Head of Research

#### 23 years experience in financial markets.

- James joined Morphic in 2016. He was previously Head of Investment Research at Knight Vinke, a leading activist investor focused on European companies, based in Zurich and London.
- Prior to this, James was Head of Investment Research for a single family office in Switzerland following more than 10 years at Swiss Reinsurance Company.



# Significant alignment of interests with investors

- All senior team members are shareholders in the Firm
- Senior team members have a significant proportion of NAV in the Fund
- Short term incentives are driven by individual and Fund performance
- One third of bonuses invested into the Fund with three year lock-up to ensure long term alignment



### **Morphic Asset Management**

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### For further enquiries:



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