

**VanEck Geared Australian Equal Weight Fund
(Hedge Fund)
(ASX Code: GMVW)**

ARSN 665 297 281

Financial report

**For the period from 27 February 2024
(commencement of operations) to 30 June 2024**

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These financial statements cover the VanEck Geared Australian Equal Weight Fund (Hedge Fund) as an individual entity.

The Responsible Entity of the VanEck Geared Australian Equal Weight Fund (Hedge Fund) is VanEck Investments Limited (ACN 146 596 116) (AFSL 416755). The Responsible Entity's registered office is:

VanEck Investments Limited
Level 47, Suite 2
25 Martin Place,
Sydney, NSW, Australia, 2000

Directors' report

The Directors of VanEck Investments Limited (ACN 146 596 116), the Responsible Entity of VanEck Geared Australian Equal Weight Fund (Hedge Fund) (the "Fund"), present their report together with the financial statements of the Fund for the period from 27 February 2024 (commencement of operations) to 30 June 2024. The commencement of operations date is the date when the Fund first held an asset. This is colloquially referred to as the 'seeding' date.

This report is the first audited financial report period for the Fund and as such there are no comparative figures for a prior period. Refer to the Notes to the financial statements 2(u) for further information.

Fund information

The Fund is an Australian registered managed investment scheme.

The Responsible Entity's registered office is located at Level 47, Suite 2, 25 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW, Australia, 2000.

Principal activities

The Fund is traded on the Australian Securities Exchange ("ASX") as an exchange traded fund.

The Fund generally invests in a portfolio of the largest and most liquid ASX-listed companies, all equally weighted, via holding VanEck Australian Equal Weight ETF (ASX Code: MVW) units, and are partially funded by secured borrowings in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution and Product Disclosure Statement ("PDS").

The Fund did not have any employees during the period.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the Fund's activities during the period.

Directors

The following persons held office as Directors of the Responsible Entity during the period from 27 February 2024 (commencement of operations) to 30 June 2024 and up to the date of this report:

Jan van Eck
Arian Neiron
Michael Brown
Jonathan Simon
Lee Rappaport

Review and results of operations

The Fund invested in accordance with the Fund's PDS and the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The Fund generally invests in a portfolio of the largest and most liquid ASX-listed companies and aims to give investors geared exposure to the MVW.

Directors' report (continued)

Review and results of operations (continued)

Results

The performance of the Fund, as represented by the results of its operations, was as follows:

	Period from 27 February 2024 to 30 June 2024
Profit/(loss) attributable to unitholders (\$)	(352,573)
Distribution to unitholders (\$)	380,000
Distribution (cents per unit - CPU)	152.00

Distribution (cents per unit - CPU) in the above table includes distributions paid during the financial year ended and the distribution that was payable as at 30 June 2024. Refer to the Notes to the financial statements 2(n) and 8 for further information.

Significant changes in the state of affairs

In the opinion of the Directors, there were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Fund that occurred during the financial period.

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial period

The Fund declared a distribution per unit on 30 June 2024 and which was paid to entitled unitholders on 25 July 2024.

This subsequently paid distribution is set out in *Review and results of operations* section under the Director's report and under the *Distributions to unitholders* section in the Notes to the financial statements.

Except as disclosed above, no other matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:

- (i) the operations of the Fund in future financial years;
- (ii) the results of those operations in future financial years; or
- (iii) the state of affairs of the Fund in future financial years.

Likely developments and expected results of operations

The Fund will continue to be managed in accordance with the investment objectives and guidelines as set out in the Fund's PDS and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The results of the Fund's operations will be affected by a number of factors, including the performance of the investment markets in which the Fund invests. Investment performance is not guaranteed and future returns may differ from past returns. As investment conditions change over time, past returns should not be used to predict future returns.

The Fund's investment objective and strategy aims to give investors geared exposure to the MVW.

Directors' report (continued)

Indemnity and insurance of Officers

No insurance premiums are paid for out of the assets of the Fund in regards to insurance cover provided to either the Directors and Officers (as defined in *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*) of the Responsible Entity or the auditors of the Fund. So long as the Officers of the Responsible Entity act in accordance with the Fund's Constitution and the Law, the Officers remain indemnified out of the assets of the Fund against losses incurred while acting on behalf of the Fund.

During the period ended 30 June 2024, VanEck Australia Pty Ltd (ACN 137 160 528), the parent company of the Responsible Entity paid insurance premiums to insure the Directors and Officers of the Responsible Entity. The terms of the contract prohibit the disclosure of the premiums paid.

Indemnity of auditors

The auditors of the Fund are in no way indemnified out of the assets of the Fund.

Proceedings on behalf of the Fund

No person has applied for leave of court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Fund or intervene in any proceedings to which the Fund is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Fund for all or any part of those proceedings.

The Fund was not a party to any such proceedings during the period.

Fees paid to and units held in the Fund by the Responsible Entity or its associates

Fees paid to the Responsible Entity and its associates out of Fund's property during the period are disclosed in Note 13 to the financial statements.

No fees were paid out of the Fund's property to the Directors of the Responsible Entity during the period.

The number of units in the Fund held by the Responsible Entity or its associates as at the end of the financial period are disclosed in Note 13 to the financial statements.

Units in the Fund

The movement in units on issue in the Fund during the period is disclosed in Note 7 to the financial statements.

The value of the Fund's assets and liabilities is disclosed on the Statement of financial position and derived using the basis set out in Note 2 to the financial statements.

Environmental regulation

The operations of the Fund are not subject to any particular or significant environmental regulations under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law.

Rounding of amounts to the nearest dollar

The Fund is an entity of a kind referred to in ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191 issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission ("ASIC") relating to the "rounding off" of amounts in the Directors' report. Amounts in the Directors' report have been rounded to the nearest dollar in accordance with that ASIC Corporations Instrument, unless otherwise indicated.

Directors' report (continued)

Auditor's independence declaration

A copy of the Auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 6.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'M' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that tapers to the right.

Michael Brown
Director

Sydney
26 September 2024



**Building a better
working world**

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Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Directors of VanEck Investments Limited, as Responsible Entity for VanEck Geared Australian Equal Weight Fund (Hedge Fund)

As lead auditor for the audit of the financial report of VanEck Geared Australian Equal Weight Fund (Hedge Fund) for the financial period from 27 February 2024 to 30 June 2024, I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit;
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit; and
- c) no non-audit services provided that contravene any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Ernst & Young

Rita Da Silva
Partner
Sydney
26 September 2024

Statement of comprehensive income

	Notes	Period from 27 February 2024 to 30 June 2024 \$
Investment income		
Net losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	5	<u>(222,211)</u>
Total investment income/(loss)		<u>(222,211)</u>
Expenses		
Interest expense*		<u>130,362</u>
Total operating expenses		<u>130,362</u>
Profit/(loss) for the period		<u>(352,573)</u>
Other comprehensive income for the period		<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the period		<u>(352,573)</u>

**It is related to HSBC loan and the interest rate is variable.*

The above Statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of financial position

	Notes	As at 30 June 2024 \$
Assets		
Due from brokers - receivable for securities sold		1,925,458
Receivables	12	1,784,675
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	4, 6	<u>19,760,925</u>
Total assets		<u>23,471,058</u>
Liabilities		
Bank overdraft	9	17
Loan*		10,743,491
Due to brokers - payable for securities purchased**		3,710,127
Interest payable		112,011
Distributions payable	8	<u>380,000</u>
Total liabilities		<u>14,945,646</u>
Net assets attributable to unitholders - Equity		<u>8,525,412</u>

**It is related to HSBC loan and the interest rate is variable.*

***A creation of units in the Fund that was unsettled at 30 June 2024.*

The above Statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of changes in equity

		Period from 27 February 2024 to 30 June 2024
	Notes	\$
Total equity at the beginning of the period		-
Issue of redeemable participating units		9,257,985
Comprehensive loss for the period		(352,573)
Distributions	8	<u>(380,000)</u>
Total equity at the end of the period		<u>8,525,412</u>

Movement in units issued are disclosed in Note 7 to the financial statements.

The above Statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of cash flows

	Notes	Period from 27 February 2024 to 30 June 2024 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		1,206,478
Purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		(19,404,945)
Interest paid		<u>(18,351)</u>
Net cash outflow from operating activities	10(a)	<u>(18,216,818)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from applications by unitholders		7,473,310
Proceeds from loan		<u>10,743,491</u>
Net cash inflow from financing activities		<u>18,216,801</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(17)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		<u>-</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	9	<u>(17)</u>

The above Statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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1 General information

These financial statements for the period from 27 February 2024 (commencement of operations) to 30 June 2024 cover the VanEck Geared Australian Equal Weight Fund (Hedge Fund) (the “Fund”) as an individual entity. The commencement of operations date is the date when the Fund first held an asset. This is colloquially referred to as the ‘seeding’ date. The Fund was registered on 7 February 2023 and started trading on ASX on 29 February 2024. The Fund will terminate in accordance with the provisions of the Fund’s Constitution.

The Responsible Entity of the Fund is VanEck Investments Limited. The Responsible Entity’s registered office is Level 47, Suite 2, 25 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW, Australia, 2000.

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Fund’s functional and presentation currency.

The Fund generally invests in a portfolio of the largest and most liquid ASX-listed companies, all equally weighted, via holding VanEck Australian Equal Weight ETF (ASX Code: MVW) units, and are partially funded by secured borrowings in accordance with the provisions of the Fund’s Constitution and Product Disclosure Statement (“PDS”).

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Directors on 26 September 2024. The Directors of the Responsible Entity have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

State Street Australia Limited (“State Street”) is administrator of the Fund. State Street provides certain fund administration services, such as fund accounting and unit pricing, for the Fund. HSBC Bank Australia Limited (“HSBC Australia”) is the Fund’s custodian (“Custodian”). Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited is the lender to the Fund. HSBC Australia is a related body corporate of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited. In this report, “Custodian” also refers to the lender.

2 Summary of material accounting policy information

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied throughout the period presented, unless otherwise stated in the following text.

(a) Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (“AASB”) and the *Corporations Act 2001* in Australia.

The Fund is a for-profit fund for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared on the basis of fair value measurement of assets and liabilities except where otherwise stated.

The Statement of financial position is presented on a liquidity basis.

Assets and liabilities are presented in decreasing order of liquidity and are not distinguished between current and non-current. All balances are expected to be recovered or settled within twelve months, except for investments in financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and net assets attributable to unitholders.

The Fund manages financial assets at fair value through profit or loss based on the economic circumstances at any given point in time, as well as to meet any liquidity requirements. As such, it is expected that a portion of the portfolio will be realised within twelve months, however, an estimate of that amount cannot be determined as at reporting date.

In the case of net assets attributable to unitholders, the units are redeemable on demand at the unitholders’ option. However, holders of these instruments are expected to retain them for the medium to long term. As such, the amount expected to be settled within twelve months cannot be reliably determined.

(i) Compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

The financial statements of the Fund also comply with IFRS as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

2 Summary of material accounting policy information (continued)

(b) Financial instruments

(i) Recognition/derecognition

The Fund recognises financial assets and financial liabilities on the date it becomes a party to the contractual agreement (trade date) and recognise changes in fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities from this date. Financial assets are derecognised when the right to receive cash flows from the investments have expired or the Fund has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

(ii) Classification

The Fund classifies its financial assets and financial liabilities at initial recognition into the categories of financial assets and financial liabilities discussed below.

Financial assets

The Fund classifies its financial assets as subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss on the basis of both:

- The entity's business model for managing the financial assets; and
- The contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset.

Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss ("FVPL")

A financial asset is measured at fair value through profit or loss if:

- Its contractual terms do not give rise to cash flows on specified dates that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding;
- It is not held within a business model whose objective is either to collect contractual cash flows, or to both collect contractual cash flows and sell; or
- At initial recognition, it is irrevocably designated as measured at FVPL when doing so eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise from measuring assets or liabilities or recognising the gains and losses on them on different bases.

The equity securities are classified as fair value through profit or loss.

In applying that classification, a financial asset or financial liability is considered to be held for trading if it is:

- acquired or incurred principally for the purpose of selling or repurchasing it in the near term;
- on initial recognition, it is part of a portfolio of identified financial instruments that are managed together and for which, there is evidence of a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking; or
- it is a derivative (except for a derivative that is a financial guarantee contract or a designated and effective hedging instrument).

2 Summary of material accounting policy information (continued)

(b) Financial instruments (continued)

(ii) Classification (continued)

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost

This category includes all financial liabilities, other than those measured at fair value through profit or loss. The Fund includes in this category bank overdraft, loan, due to brokers - payable for securities purchased, payables and distributions payable.

Financial liabilities measured at FVPL

A financial liability is measured at FVPL if it meets the definition of held for trading. Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss include financial liabilities held for trading and financial liabilities designated upon initial recognition as at fair value through profit or loss. Financial liabilities are classified as held for trading if they are incurred for the purpose of repurchasing in the near term. This category also includes derivative financial instruments entered into by the Fund that are not designated as hedging instruments in hedge relationships as defined. The Fund includes in this category derivative contracts in a liability position.

(iii) Measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are recorded in the Statement of financial position initially at fair value. All transaction costs for such instruments are recognised directly in the Statement of comprehensive income. Financial assets and liabilities, other than those classified as FVPL, are initially measured at fair value adjusted by transaction costs and subsequently measured using the effective interest rate method less impairment losses for financial assets, if any.

Subsequent to initial recognition, all financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of the 'financial assets or financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss' category are presented in the Statement of comprehensive income in the period in which they arise.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets is subsequently based on their quoted market prices at the end of the reporting period without any deduction for estimated future selling costs. The quoted market price used for financial assets and liabilities held by the Fund is the last traded price.

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market are determined using valuation techniques. The Fund uses a variety of methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each reporting date. Valuation techniques used include the use of comparable recent arm's length transactions, reference to other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, option pricing models and other valuation techniques commonly used by market participants making the maximum use of market inputs and relying as little as possible on entity-specific inputs. Further details on how the fair values of financial instruments are determined are disclosed in Note 4.

(iv) Impairment of Financial assets

The Fund holds only receivables and due from brokers with no financing component and which have maturities of less than 12 months at amortised cost and, as such, has chosen to apply the simplified approach for expected credit losses ("ECL") under AASB 9. Therefore, the Fund does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date.

(c) Material accounting policies

All applicable standards and interpretations have been adopted.

2 Summary of material accounting policy information (continued)

(d) Redeemable participating units

Units are classified as equity. Notwithstanding the obligation of the Fund to redeem the units at the Authorised Participants' option, a person who is a ASX trading participant or has engaged a ASX trading participant to act on its behalf to acquire and dispose of units in a Fund, the Responsible Entity considers the units to meet the requirements for equity classification within AASB 132.16A and B. The Fund's Constitution states that the distributions are at the discretion of the Responsible Entity. The units can be put back in the Fund at any time for cash based on the redemption price. The fair value of redeemable units is measured at the redemption amount that is payable (based on the redemption unit price) at the end of the reporting period if the Authorised Participants exercised their right to redeem the units in the Fund. Refer to the relevant PDS for the explanation of Authorised Participant.

(e) Capital management

The Responsible Entity manages its net assets attributable to unitholders as equity. The amount of the net assets attributable to unitholders can change significantly as the Fund is subject to daily applications and redemptions at the discretion of the Authorised Participants.

The Responsible Entity monitors the level of daily applications and redemptions relative to the liquid assets in the Fund.

In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Responsible Entity may return capital to unitholders. The Fund is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements.

(f) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of presentation in the Statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are classified as liabilities in the Statement of financial position.

Cash and cash equivalents are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, reduced by impairment losses.

Payments and receipts relating to the purchase and sale of investment securities are classified as cash flows from operating activities, as movements in the fair value of these securities represent the Fund's main income generating activity.

(g) Investment income

Interest income is recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income for all financial instruments not at fair value through profit or loss using the effective interest method.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset or financial liability and of allocating the interest income or interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts throughout the expected life of the financial instrument, or a shorter period where appropriate, to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or liability. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Fund estimates cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument (for example, prepayment options) but does not consider future credit losses. The calculation includes all fees paid or received between the parties to the contract that are an integral part of the effective interest rate, including transaction costs and all other premiums or discounts.

Net changes in fair value of financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are recognised as income and are determined as the difference between the fair value at the balance date or consideration received (if sold during the financial period) and the fair value as at the prior balance date or initial fair value (if acquired during the financial period). This includes both realised and unrealised gains and losses, but does not include interest or dividend income.

2 Summary of material accounting policy information (continued)

(h) Expenses

All expenses are recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income on an accrual basis.

(i) Income tax

Under current legislation, the Fund is not subject to income tax as the income tax liability is attributed to unitholders under the Attribution Managed Investment Trust ("AMIT") regime.

The benefits of tax credits paid are passed on to unitholders.

(j) Distributions

In accordance with the Fund's PDS, the Fund may pay a distribution on a semi-annual basis. The distributions to unitholders are recognised in the Statement of changes in equity.

(k) Foreign currency translation

(i) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the Fund's financial statements are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates (the "functional currency"). This is the Australian dollar, which reflects the currency of the economy in which the Fund competes for funds and is regulated. The Australian dollar is also the Fund's presentation currency.

(l) Due from/to brokers

Amounts due from/to brokers represent receivables for securities sold and payables for securities purchased that have been contracted for but not yet delivered as at period end. Trades are recorded on trade date and normally settled within three business days.

(m) Receivables

Receivables may include amounts for dividends, trust distributions, interest and applications received for units in the Fund. Dividends and trust distributions are accrued when the right to receive payment is established. Interest is accrued at the end of the reporting period from the time of last payment. Amounts are generally received within 30 days of being recorded as receivables.

(n) Payables

Payables include liabilities and accrued expenses owed by the Fund which are unpaid as at the end of the reporting period.

The distribution amount payable to unitholders as at the end of the reporting period is recognised separately on the Statement of financial position as unitholders are presently entitled to the distributable income under the Fund's Constitution.

(o) Applications and redemptions

Unitholders can only apply for additional units if they are Authorised Participants. Application amounts can be paid by cash or in the form of a parcel of prescribed securities transferred to the Custodian. The parcel of securities related to in-specie applications generally reflect the characteristics of the Fund's investment objective. Investors may purchase units by trading on ASX.

Unitholders can only redeem units if they are Authorised Participants. The Fund's PDS sets out the circumstances when the Responsible Entity may delay or suspend the processing of applications (creations) or redemptions. Units can be sold by trading on ASX.

2 Summary of material accounting policy information (continued)

(o) Applications and redemptions (continued)

Unit prices are determined by reference to the net assets of the Fund divided by the number of units on issue. For unit pricing purposes, net assets are determined using the last reported trade price for securities. These prices may differ from the market.

(p) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The GST incurred on the costs of various services provided to the Fund by third parties such as management, administration and custodian services where applicable have been passed onto the Fund. The Fund qualifies for Reduced Input Tax Credits (RITC) at a rate of at least 55%. Hence fees for these services and any other expenses have been recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income net of the amount of GST recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Accounts payable are inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from the ATO is included in receivables in the Statement of financial position. Cash flows relating to GST are included in the Statement of cash flows on a gross basis.

(q) Use of estimates

The Fund may make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. Estimates are continually evaluated and based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

For certain other financial instruments, including amounts due from/to brokers, accounts payable and accrued expenses, the carrying amounts approximate fair value due to the immediate or short-term nature of these financial instruments.

(r) New standards, amendments and interpretations not yet adopted

A number of new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 July 2024, and have not been early adopted in preparing these financial statements. None of these are expected to have a material effect on the future financial statements of the Fund.

(s) Rounding of amounts

The Fund is an entity of a kind referred to in ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191 issued by ASIC relating to the "rounding off" of amounts in the financial statements. Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar in accordance with that ASIC Corporations Instrument, unless otherwise indicated.

(t) Basis of accounting period

Corporations Act 2001 (Corporations Act) requires the first financial year for a company, registered scheme or disclosing entity (an entity) to start on the day of its registration. The first financial year may last for 12 months or a period, no longer than 18 months, determined by the Directors.

(u) Comparative period

The Fund was constituted on 27 January 2023, registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission on 7 February 2023 and commenced operations on 27 February 2024. This report is the first audited financial report period for the Fund, hence there is no comparative information.

3 Financial risk management

The Fund's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk (including price risk), credit risk and liquidity risk.

3 Financial risk management (continued)

The Fund's overall risk management programme focuses on ensuring compliance with the Fund's PDS and Constitution and seeks to maximise the returns derived for the level of risk to which the Fund is exposed. Financial risk management is carried out by the Responsible Entity.

The Fund uses different methods to measure different types of risk to which it is exposed. These methods are explained below.

(a) Market risk

(i) Price risk

The Fund is exposed to price risk on equity securities listed or quoted on recognised securities exchanges. Price risk arises from investments held by the Fund for which prices in the future are uncertain. Where non-monetary financial instruments are denominated in currencies other than the Australian dollar, the price in the future will also fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates which are considered a component of price risk. The Responsible Entity reviews portfolio composition daily to ensure this requirement is adhered to.

The table at Note 3(b) summarises the sensitivities of the Fund's assets and liabilities to price risk. The analysis is based on the assumption that the markets in which the Fund invests move by +/-10%.

(ii) Foreign exchange risk

Foreign exchange risk arises as the value of monetary securities denominated in other currencies will fluctuate due to changes in exchange rates.

All assets are in Australian dollars and therefore not subject to foreign exchange risk.

(iii) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that interest rate movements will have a negative impact on investment value or returns. Interest rate risk is managed in accordance with the underlying investment strategy of the Fund.

The majority of the Fund's financial assets are non-interest bearing. As a result, the Fund's assets are not subject to significant amounts of risk due to fluctuations in the prevailing levels of market interest rates. Any excess cash and cash equivalents are invested at short-term market interest rates.

The majority of the Fund's financial liabilities are the secured borrowings that partially fund the investment portfolio. The interest rate risk is that interest rate movements will change the interest expense on those borrowings which will impact the profit. The total of such borrowings at the end of the financial year were \$10,743,491.

The HSBC, as lender, in the event of insolvency while the Fund remains indebted to the Lender, the Lender has the right as the secured creditor to appoint receivers, to enter into possession of and sell the Fund's assets.

The following sensitivity analysis is based on the assumption that interest rates increase or decrease by 100 basis points, with all other variables held constant. Such an increase would have increased the loss for the current period, which is less than a full year, by approximately \$24,000. A decrease by 100 basis points would have decreased the loss by the same amount.

(b) Summarised sensitivity analysis

The following table summarises the sensitivity of the Fund's profit and net assets attributable to unitholders to the various market risks. The reasonably possible movements in the risk variables have been determined based on management's best estimate, having regard to a number of factors, including historical correlation of the Fund's investments with the relevant benchmark and market volatility. However, actual movements in the risk variables may be greater or less than anticipated due to a number of factors, including unusually large market shocks resulting from changes in the performance of the economies, markets and securities in which the Fund invests. As a result, historic variations in risk variables are not a definitive indicator of future variations in the risk variables.

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(b) Summarised sensitivity analysis (continued)

	Price risk	
	Impact on profit/Net assets attributable to unitholders	
	-10%	+10%
	\$	\$
30 June 2024	(1,976,093)	1,976,093

In determining the impact of an increase/decrease in net assets attributable to unitholders arising from market risk, the Responsible Entity has considered the current financial period and expected future movements of the portfolio based on market information in order to determine a reasonably possible shift in assumptions.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty will fail to perform contractual obligations, either in whole or part. Credit risk primarily arises from investments in derivative financial instruments. Other credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents, deposits with banks and other financial institutions, amounts due from brokers and other receivables. None of these assets are impaired nor past due but not impaired.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of each reporting period is the carrying amount of the financial assets.

The clearing and depositary operations of the Fund's security transactions are mainly concentrated with one counterparty namely State Street Australia Limited. The Standard and Poor's credit rating of the Fund's counterparties as at 30 June 2024 is:

- AA- for State Street Bank & Trust Company; and
- AA- for Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund may not be able to generate sufficient cash resources to settle its obligations in full as they fall due or can only do so on terms that are materially disadvantageous.

The Fund's listed securities are considered readily realisable, as they are listed on ASX.

The Fund may, from time to time, invest in derivative contracts traded over the counter, which are not traded in an organised market and may be illiquid. As a result, the Fund may not be able to quickly liquidate its investments in these instruments at an amount close to their fair value to meet its liquidity requirements or to respond to specific events such as deterioration in the creditworthiness of any particular issuer or counterparty. No such investments were held at the end of the reporting period.

The Fund uses leverage as part of its primary investment strategy to provide a geared exposure to MVW. The target gearing ratio for the Fund will vary between 45% and 60%, which means that on a given day the Fund's geared exposure is anticipated to vary between 182% and 250%. The Fund's assets are used as security for borrowing. HSBC, as lender, has a first ranking security interest over Fund assets.

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(d) Liquidity risk (continued)

(i) Maturities of non-derivative financial liabilities

The table below analyses the Fund's non-derivative financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period to the earliest possible contractual maturity date at the reporting period end date. The amounts in the table are contractual undiscounted cash flows.

As at 30 June 2024	Less than 1 month \$	1 to 6 months \$	6 to 12 months \$	Over 12 months \$	No stated maturity \$	Total \$
Bank overdraft	17	-	-	-	-	17
Loan	-	-	-	-	10,743,491	10,743,491
Due to brokers - payable for securities purchased	3,710,127	-	-	-	-	3,710,127
Interest payable	112,011	-	-	-	-	112,011
Distributions payable	380,000	-	-	-	-	380,000
Contractual cash flows	4,202,155	-	-	-	10,743,491	14,945,646

4 Fair value measurement

The Fund measures and recognises the following assets and liabilities at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (see Note 6)

The Fund has no assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis in the current reporting period.

AASB 13 requires disclosure of fair value measurements by level of the following fair value hierarchy:

- quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1);
- inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly (level 2); and
- inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs) (level 3).

(i) Fair value in an active market (level 1)

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets is based on their quoted market prices at the end of the reporting period without any deduction for estimated future selling costs.

The Fund values its investments in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 2 to the financial statements.

The quoted market price used for financial assets held by the Fund is the last traded price; the appropriate quoted market price for financial liabilities is the last traded price. When the Fund holds derivatives with offsetting market risks, it uses mid-market prices as a basis for establishing fair values for the offsetting risk positions and applies this last traded price to the net open position, as appropriate.

A financial instrument is regarded as quoted in an active market if quoted prices are readily and regularly available from an exchange, dealer, broker, industry group, pricing service, or regulatory agency, and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

4 Fair value measurement (continued)

(ii) Valuation techniques used to derive level 2 and level 3 fair value

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market is determined using valuation techniques. These include the use of recent arm's length market transactions, reference to the current fair value of a substantially similar other instrument, discounted cash flow techniques, option pricing models or any other valuation technique that provides a reliable estimate of prices obtained in actual market transactions.

Where discounted cash flow techniques are used, estimated future cash flows are based on management's best estimates and the discount rate used is a market rate at the end of the reporting period applicable for an instrument with similar terms and conditions.

For other pricing models, inputs are based on market data at the end of the reporting period. Fair values for unquoted equity investments are estimated, if possible, using applicable price/earnings ratios for similar listed companies adjusted to reflect the specific circumstances of the issuer.

The fair value of derivatives that are not exchange traded is estimated at the amount that the Fund would receive or pay to terminate the contract at the end of the reporting period taking into account current market conditions (volatility and appropriate yield curve) and the current creditworthiness of the counterparties. The fair value of a forward contract is determined as a net present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at appropriate market rates as at the valuation date.

Some of the inputs to these models may not be market observable and are therefore estimated based on assumptions.

The output of a model is always an estimate or approximation of a value that cannot be determined with certainty, and valuation techniques employed may not fully reflect all factors relevant to the positions the Fund holds. Valuations are therefore adjusted, where appropriate, to allow for additional factors including liquidity risk and counterparty risk.

Recognised fair value measurements

The table below presents the Fund's financial assets measured at fair value according to the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2024.

As at 30 June 2024	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss				
Listed unit trusts	<u>19,760,925</u>	-	-	<u>19,760,925</u>
Total	<u>19,760,925</u>	-	-	<u>19,760,925</u>

The Fund's policy is to recognise transfers into and transfers out of fair value hierarchy levels as at the end of the reporting period.

(i) Transfers between levels

There were no transfers between the levels in the fair value hierarchy for the period ended 30 June 2024. There were also no changes made to any of the valuation techniques applied as at 30 June 2024.

(ii) Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

The Fund did not hold any financial instruments with fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs during the period ended 30 June 2024.

(iii) Fair values of other financial instruments

Due to their short-term nature, the carrying amounts of receivables and payables are assumed to approximate fair value.

5 Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss

Net gains/(losses) recognised in relation to financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss:

	Period from 27 February 2024 to 30 June 2024 \$
Financial assets	
Net gains/(losses) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(222,211)
Total net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	<u>(222,211)</u>

6 Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

	As at 30 June 2024 \$
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	
Listed unit trusts	<u>19,760,925</u>
Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	<u>19,760,925</u>

7 Units issued

Movements in the number of units during the period were as follows:

	Period from 27 February 2024 to 30 June 2024 No.
Opening balance	-
Applications	<u>250,000</u>
Closing balance	<u>250,000</u>

As stipulated within the Fund's Constitution, a unit confers an equal undivided, vested, and inalienable interest in the assets as a whole, subject to the liabilities. There are no separate classes of units and each unit has the same rights attaching to it as all other units of the Fund.

7 Units issued (continued)

Capital risk management

The amount of net assets attributable to unitholders can change significantly on a daily basis as the Fund is subject to daily applications and redemptions at the discretion of the Authorised Participants.

Daily applications and redemptions are reviewed relative to the liquidity of the Fund's underlying assets on a daily basis by the Responsible Entity. Under the terms of the Fund's Constitution, the Responsible Entity has the discretion to reject an application for units and to defer or adjust a redemption of units if the exercise of such discretion is in the best interests of unitholders.

8 Distributions to unitholders

The distributions during the period were as follows:

	Period from 27 February 2024 to 30 June 2024 \$	Period from 27 February 2024 to 30 June 2024 CPU
Distributions payable	<u>380,000</u>	<u>152.00</u>
Total distributions	<u>380,000</u>	<u>152.00</u>

9 Cash and cash equivalents

	As at 30 June 2024 \$
Cash at bank	<u>-</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>-</u>

9 Cash and cash equivalents (continued)

Reconciliation to cash at the end of the period

The above figures are reconciled to cash at the end of the financial period as shown in the Statement of cash flows as follows:

	As at 30 June 2024 \$
Balances as above	-
Bank overdrafts*	(17)
Balance per Statement of cash flows	(17)

*In 2024, the bank overdrafts interest was charged 7.40% p.a.

10 Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	Period from 27 February 2024 to 30 June 2024 \$
(a) Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	
Profit/(loss) for the period	(352,573)
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	1,206,478
Purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	(19,404,945)
Net (gains)/losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	222,211
Net change in payables	112,011
Net cash outflow from operating activities	(18,216,818)

11 Remuneration of auditors

During the period, the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by the auditor of the Fund:

	Period from 27 February 2024 to 30 June 2024 \$
Ernst & Young	
<i>Audit services</i>	
Audit of financial statements	9,000
Total auditor remuneration	9,000
<i>Other assurance services</i>	
Audit of compliance plan	1,500
Total remuneration for other assurance services	1,500
Total remuneration of Ernst & Young	10,500

During the period, auditor's remuneration was paid by VanEck Australia Pty Ltd., the direct parent of the Responsible Entity.

12 Receivables

	As at 30 June 2024 \$
Applications receivable	1,784,675
Total Receivables	1,784,675

13 Related party transactions

Responsible Entity

The Responsible Entity of the Fund is a wholly owned subsidiary of VanEck Australia Pty Ltd. The direct parent of the Responsible Entity is a wholly owned subsidiary of Van Eck Associates Corporation, incorporated in the United States of America. The registered office of the Responsible Entity and the Fund is Level 47, Suite 2, 25 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW, Australia, 2000.

13 Related party transactions (continued)

Key management personnel

Key management personnel include the Directors of the Responsible Entity and the Responsible Entity itself.

VanEck Investments Limited

Jan van Eck
Arian Neiron
Michael Brown
Jonathan Simon
Lee Rappaport

(a) Other key management personnel

There were no other key management personnel who had authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling activities of the Fund, directly or indirectly during the financial period.

(b) Key management personnel unitholdings

The key management personnel of the Responsible Entity held units in the Fund as follows:

30 June 2024

Unitholder	Number of units held opening (Units)	Number of units held closing (Units)	Fair value of investment (\$)	Interest held (%)	Number of units acquired (Units)	Number of units disposed (Units)	Distributions paid/payable by the Fund (\$)
Arian Neiron	-	405	14,427	0.16	405	-	616
Michael Brown	-	-	-	-	11,100	11,100	-

Key management personnel compensation

Key management personnel are paid by VanEck Australia Pty Ltd, the parent company of the Responsible Entity. Payments made from the Fund to the Responsible Entity do not include any amounts attributable to the compensation of key management personnel.

Key management personnel loan disclosures

The Fund has not made, guaranteed or secured, directly or indirectly, any loans to the key management personnel or their personally related entities at any time during the reporting period.

Other transactions within the Fund

Apart from those details disclosed in this note, no key management personnel have entered into a material contract with the Fund during the reporting period and there were no material contracts involving Directors' interests existing at period end.

Related party transactions

VanEck Geared Australian Equal Weight Fund (Hedge Fund) charges a nil management fee. This is the indirect cost represented as a percentage of the gross asset value. If the average gearing level is 50%, the indirect cost will be 0.70% of the net asset value.

13 Related party transactions (continued)

Related party transactions (continued)

All expenses in connection with the preparation of accounting records and maintenance of the Fund's register of unitholders are fully borne by the Responsible Entity.

Related party unit holdings

No other parties except those disclosed in Note 13(b) related to the Fund held units in the Fund as at 30 June 2024.

Investments

The Fund held investments in the following schemes which are also managed by VanEck Investments Limited or its related parties:

	Fair value of investments 2024 \$	Interest held 2024 %	Distributions received/receivable 2024 \$	Units acquired during the period 2024 No.	Units disposed during the period 2024 No.
VanEck Australian Equal Weight ETF	19,760,925	0.86	-	581,585	33,450

14 Events occurring after the reporting period

No significant events have occurred since the end of the reporting period which would impact on the financial position of the Fund disclosed in the Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the period ended on that date.

15 Contingent assets and liabilities and commitments

There are no outstanding contingent assets, liabilities or commitments as at 30 June 2024.

Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the Directors of the Responsible Entity:

- (a) the financial statements and notes set out on pages 7 to 27 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - (i) complying with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
 - (ii) giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the reporting period ended on that date; and
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Fund will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.
- (c) Note 2(a) confirms that the financial statements also comply with the International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.



Michael Brown
Director

Sydney
26 September 2024



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Independent Auditor's Report to the unitholders of VanEck Geared Australian Equal Weight Fund (Hedge Fund)

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of VanEck Geared Australian Equal Weight Fund (Hedge Fund) (the "Fund"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the period from 27 February 2024 to 30 June 2024, notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information and the directors' declaration of VanEck Investments Limited, the Responsible Entity of the Fund.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Fund is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the period ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Fund 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 financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial report of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, but we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. For each matter below, our description of how our audit addressed the matter is provided in that context.

We have fulfilled the responsibilities described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report, including in relation to these matters. Accordingly, our audit included the performance of procedures designed to respond to our assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report. The results of our audit procedures, including the procedures performed to address the matters below, provide the basis for our audit opinion on the accompanying financial report.

Investment Existence and Valuation

Why significant

As an exchange traded fund, the Fund has a significant investment portfolio consisting primarily of listed unit trusts. As at 30 June 2024, the value of these financial assets were \$19,760,925 which represents 84.2% of the total assets held by the Fund.

As disclosed in the Fund's accounting policy Note 2 to the financial report, these financial assets are recognised at fair value through profit or loss in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.

Pricing and other market drivers can have a significant impact on the value of these financial assets and relevant disclosures in the financial report. Accordingly, valuation of the investment portfolio was considered a key audit matter.

How our audit addressed the key audit matter

Our audit procedures included:

We obtained and assessed the assurance report on the controls of the Fund's administrator and custodian, in relation to the Fund Administration Services and Custody Services it provided for the period ended 30 June 2024 and assessed the auditor's qualifications, competence, objectivity and the results of their procedures.

We agreed all investment holdings to third party confirmations at 30 June 2024.

We assessed the fair value of all investments in the portfolio held at 30 June 2024. For listed unit trusts, we verified the values against independently sourced market prices.

We assessed the adequacy of the disclosures included in Notes 2, 4 and 6 to the financial report.

Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for the other information. The other information is the directors' report accompanying the financial report.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Directors of the Responsible Entity for the Financial Report

The directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for the preparation of the 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 of the Responsible Entity determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors of the Responsible Entity either intend to liquidate the Fund or cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors of the Responsible Entity.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors of the Responsible Entity of the Fund's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors of the Responsible Entity regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



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We also provide the directors of the Responsible Entity with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated to the directors of the Responsible Entity, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ernst & Young' in a cursive script.

Ernst & Young

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rita Da Silva' in a cursive script.

Rita Da Silva
Partner
Sydney
26 September 2024