Income, Capital Growth, Low Cost



Half-Year Review to 31 December 2023



# AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATION INVESTMENT COMPANY IS A LISTED INVESTMENT COMPANY INVESTING IN AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND EQUITIES.

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# **Half-Year in Summary**

2023

Profit for the Half-Year

\$150.1m

Down 8.3% from 2022

Fully Franked Interim Dividend Per Share

11.5¢

11.0 cents per share in 2022

**Total Six-Month Portfolio Return** 

9.0% Including franking\* S&P/ASX 200 Index including franking\* 8.3%

Total Six-Month Shareholder Return

8.4%

Share price plus dividend and franking\*

Management Expense Ratio (Annualised)

0.14%

0.13% last year

Total Portfolio (Including Cash) at 31 December 2023

\$9.5b

\$8.5 billion in 2022

<sup>\*</sup> Assumes an investor can take full advantage of the franking credits.

# **About the Company**

Australian Foundation Investment Company (AFIC) is a listed investment company investing in Australian and New Zealand equities.

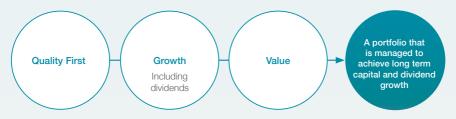
# **Investment Objectives**

The Company aims to provide shareholders with attractive investment returns through access to a growing stream of fully franked dividends and growth in capital invested.

The Company's primary investment goals are:

- to pay dividends which, over time, grow faster than the rate of inflation; and
- to provide attractive total returns over the medium to long term.

# How AFIC Invests - What We Look For in Companies





# Approach to Investing

### Investment Philosophy

Our investment philosophy is built on taking a medium to long term view on companies in a diversified portfolio with an emphasis on identifying and investing in quality companies that are likely to sustainably grow their earnings and dividends over this timeframe.

Quality in this context is an outcome of our assessment of the following factors:

- We prefer companies that have a leadership position or are developing one within the industry in which they operate. This will often mean we are investing in a unique set of assets with competitive advantages that produces attractive returns on invested capital.
- 2. As a long term, tax aware investor we seek to be in companies that have a long term sustainable business model, with low risk of disruption. This helps to ensure portfolio turnover remains low. The analysis may consider technological disruption, environmental issues, including the impact of climate change, and social risks as all of these factors can have a material impact on the assessment of a company's long term sustainability.
- We consider how a company's business can be potentially impacted by influences outside the control of management such as change in government regulation and/or policy.
- 4. We are attracted to companies with outstanding management teams and boards with strong governance processes, whose interests are closely aligned with shareholders, and act in the best interest of all their stakeholders, including their

employees, customers, suppliers and wider communities. We consider matters including safety, diversity, social impacts, environmental impact, and modern slavery where material or appropriate in the context of that company. We regularly review and meet with companies to ensure ongoing alignment with our investment frameworks. Our process may include an assessment of the board in terms of their past performance, history of capital allocation, level of accountability, mix of skills, relevant experience and succession planning. We also consider a company's degree of transparency and disclosure.

Voting on resolutions is one of the key functions that a shareholder has in ensuring better long term returns and management of investment risk. We take input from proxy advisers but conduct our own evaluation of the merits of any resolution. We vote on all company resolutions as part of our regular engagement with the companies in the portfolio and our voting record is on the company's website. We actively engage with companies when we are concerned about resolutions that are not aligned with shareholders' interests. We seek to stay engaged with the companies and satisfy ourselves that any issues are taken seriously and worked through constructively. Ideally we seek to remain invested to influence a satisfactory outcome for stakeholders.

 We prefer companies with more stable income flows. We are wary of companies that have large, inconsistent profit streams.

# **About the Company**

### continued

6. We like our companies to be financially strong and the assessment of the balance sheet and the degree to which the company is self-funding is critical in our analysis. Cash generation is also an important consideration.

Analysis of the above factors helps to inform us of the structure of the industry and a company's sustainable competitive position as well as the quality of the people running the business, strength of the balance sheet and consistency of earnings. Within this analysis some key financial metrics are considered. These include return on capital employed, return on equity, the level of gearing in the balance sheet, margins and free cash flow generation.

Alongside the assessment of quality is an analysis of the ability of companies to grow earnings over time, which ultimately should drive dividend growth.

Recognising value is also an important aspect of sound long term investing. Short term measures such as the price earnings ratio, price to book or price to sales may be of some value but aren't necessarily strong predictors of future performance. Our assessment of value tries to capture the opportunity a business has to prosper and thrive over the medium to long term.

Reporting of social and environmental issues will be influenced by the development of standards by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB). Their potential introduction in Australia should enable investors over time to better make informed decisions on these issues based on company

disclosures arising from these standards. Assessment of commitments and plans by companies to reach net zero by 2050 may also be considered having regard to several factors. These include the industry in which they operate, progress against their plans, their broader contribution to social good in addressing the challenge of reducing global carbon emissions. and the impact on their value if they fail to achieve their stated goals. In applying external data for benchmarking\*, our most recent assessment of the carbon. intensity of AFIC's portfolio showed that it is considerably less than the S&P/ASX 200 Index.

In building the investment portfolio with the principles outlined, we believe we can offer investors a well-diversified portfolio of quality companies structured to deliver total returns ahead of the Australian equity market over the long term with less volatility and with more consistent dividends.

From time to time, some borrowings may be used where potential investment returns justify the use of debt.

AFIC is managed for the benefit of its shareholders with fees based on the recovery of costs rather than as a fixed percentage of the portfolio. There are no additional fees. As a result, the benefit of scale over time results in a very low expense ratio for investors. For the six months to 31 December 2023 this was 0.14 per cent (annualised), or 14 cents for each \$100 invested.

\* Data provided by ISS ESG. Portfolio at 30 June 2023.



# **Review of Operations and Activities**

### **Profit and Dividend**

Half-year profit was \$150.1 million. In the corresponding period last year, half-year profit was \$163.7 million.

Investment income for the six months to 31 December 2023 was \$162.7 million, down from \$174.0 million in the corresponding period last year. The fall was primarily as a result of the decline (as expected) in dividends received from BHP, Rio Tinto and Woodside Energy Group in the six-month period.

Earnings per share for the half-year were 12.1 cents per share. The interim dividend declared is 11.5 cents per share fully franked, an increase of 0.5 cent per share from the previous corresponding period of 11.0 cents per share fully franked. Increasing the interim dividend also satisfies our long term objective of seeking to equalise the quantum of the interim and final dividends over time.

The management expense ratio for AFIC was 0.14 per cent (annualised), with no additional fees.

# The Market and Portfolio Returns

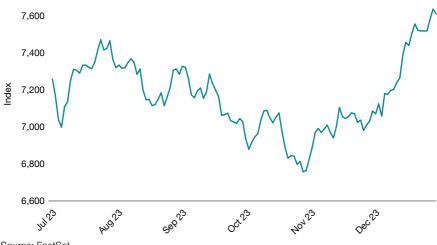
The S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index including the benefit of franking, rose 8.3 per cent in the six months to 31 December 2023. The market rallied sharply late in the period as investor sentiment swung from expectations of an impending recession to the increasing prospect of interest rate

cuts in 2024. Economic growth with inflation falling enhanced the prospects of a soft economic landing. Best-performing sectors were those highly sensitive to interest rates, being banks, real estate and consumer discretionary. Share prices recovered strongly in a number of companies whose value was previously negatively impacted by higher interest rates. The Materials sector delivered mixed performance as iron ore and gold prices remained high, while the lithium price retreated significantly from its previous highs.

AFIC's portfolio outperformed the Index with a return of 9.0 per cent including franking for the six months to 31 December 2023. In the 12 months to 31 December 2023 the portfolio return was 16.0 per cent, ahead of the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index return over this period including franking of 14.0 per cent.

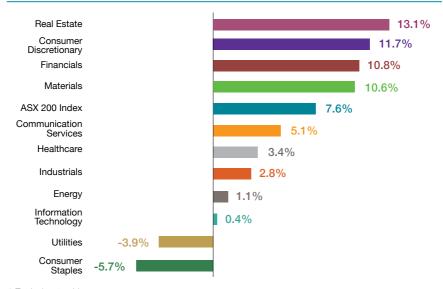
The largest contributors to the relative outperformance over the six-month period were James Hardie Industries, CAR Group, ARB Corporation and Reece. These companies in the prior corresponding period had been a drag on relative performance given the decline in the valuation of many quality companies from their previous very high levels. It is encouraging to see the contribution from these long term holdings despite recent volatility, and we believe this further reinforces the benefit of our long term investment approach focusing on quality companies rather than short term cyclical opportunities.

Figure 1: The S&P/ASX 200 Price Index for the Six Months to 31 December 2023



Source: FactSet

Figure 2: Sector Performance Within the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index\* for the Six Months to 31 December 2023



\* Excludes franking.

# **Review of Operations and Activities**

continued

Five and 10-year portfolio return figures to 31 December 2023 including franking were 12.0 per cent per annum and 8.7 per cent per annum respectively. The S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index over these corresponding periods including franking were 11.8 per cent and 9.5 per cent per annum. These figures include the full benefit of franking, with AFIC's return after costs. This performance has been achieved with lower portfolio volatility than the market (based on the Mercer Investment Performance Survey of Wholesale Equity – Australia) and more consistent dividend income.

## **Portfolio Adjustments**

During the period, we increased our holdings in Telstra Group, National Australia Bank, CSL, ResMed, ASX, WiseTech Global, Woodside Energy Group and Goodman Group at attractive prices.

We consider long term prospects for all these companies remain strong.
We expect both Telstra and National
Australia Bank to produce sound dividend growth over the medium term.

Both CSL and ResMed were sold off heavily during the period in response to the competitive threat posed by the increased adoption of weight loss drugs. We added to AFIC's holding in these companies, as we consider the increased competition is unlikely to materially impact their respective long term growth prospects. Both companies maintain market leadership positions in their core markets, generate significant free cash flow and continue to heavily invest in research and development.

We recently initiated positions in Mineral Resources and Region Group. Mineral Resources is an Australian mining services company and an iron ore and lithium producer. We are particularly attracted to the long term opportunity for low-cost lithium production as demand for electric vehicles continues to increase. Region Group owns a portfolio of grocery anchored neighbourhood and subregional shopping centres with a tenant mix largely non-discretionary in nature. We purchased our holding at a material discount to asset backing at a price offering an attractive dividend yield.

We exited Ansell Limited and IRESS Limited, considering the long term prospects for these companies will be increasingly challenged as competitive intensity increases. In the case of Ansell, significant new supply has entered the industry challenging the sustainability of price as a driver of revenue growth. While for IRESS, the company is increasing investment in its technology platform to improve functionality as competition has increased. The returns from this investment remain highly uncertain. The small position in FINEOS Corporation was also sold completely, reflecting our concern over the ability of the business to demonstrate attractive long term returns on its investments.

Figure 3: Portfolio Performance\* (Including the Full Benefit of Franking) – to 31 December 2023



- Net asset per share growth plus dividends, including franking
- S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index, including franking

<sup>\*</sup> Per annum returns other than for six months. AFIC's performance figures are after costs.



# **Review of Operations and Activities**

continued

### Share Price and Returns

The following Figure 4 highlights where AFIC's share price was trading relative to the net asset backing at 31 December 2023. Over the six-month period, the share price has moved from a discount of 1.6 per cent at 30 June 2023 to a discount of 2.3 per cent to net asset backing by 31 December 2023. This movement has meant the share price return of 8.4 per cent including franking was behind the portfolio return of 9.0 per cent including franking for this six-month period.

### International Portfolio

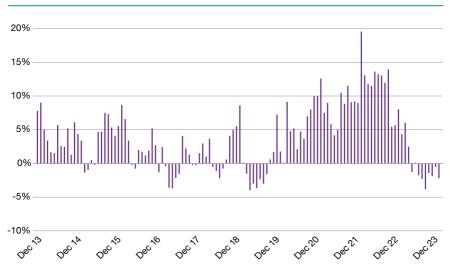
We have continued to successfully invest in the international portfolio over the period. We now have approximately \$125.9 million invested (which represents

approximately 1.3 per cent of the portfolio). This portfolio was first initiated in May 2021 as a potential precursor to establishing a separate low-cost international investment company in the future.

We are encouraged by the performance of this portfolio which has exceeded its benchmark index (the MSCI World Index ex Australia) over the six and 12 month periods, and since its inception.

Over the last 12 months we continued to build on new positions, such as Universal Music Group, Nvidia, United Healthcare, Canadian Pacific, and Freeport McMoran. We also increased our position size in existing investments where we saw value such as Meta Platforms (Facebook) and Netflix. We trimmed some of our recent

Figure 4: Share Price Relative to Net Asset Backing Per Share



outperformers such as Novo Nordisk, McDonald's, Cintas and Pepsi. With those proceeds we reinvested back into other opportunities, particularly rate-sensitive holdings that hadn't performed as well prior to the recent pivot by the central banks and where we saw value, such as Charles Schwab, NextEra Energy and Crown Castle.

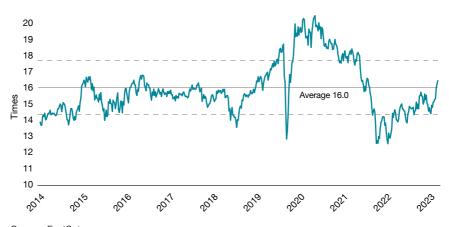
### Outlook

While the strength of recent market performance has been pleasing, operating conditions remain volatile and current market valuations make us somewhat cautious.

Cost inflation is easing but remains elevated, while consumer sentiment is weakening, and household savings rates are starting to decline amid the higher cost of living. It is also not yet entirely apparent that the recent moderation in interest rate expectations is justified. Geopolitical factors, which have had little negative impact on the market more recently, may still have a role to play in investor sentiment as we move into this calendar year.

Given these conditions, it is even more important in our opinion to maintain the focus on owning a diversified portfolio of quality companies that are not totally reliant upon the macroeconomic environment to deliver earnings growth. In this context it will be interesting to see how companies are faring in the upcoming reporting season and their expectations moving forward.

Figure 5: S&P/ASX 200 Price Earnings Ratio as an Indicator of Market Valuation



Source: FactSet

# **Review of Operations and Activities**

continued

As patient investors, the one certainty we do know is that the market in periods like this will often provide good buying opportunities across a range of companies as it overreacts to short term news flow. In this context, AFIC currently has sufficient cash resources to take advantage of such opportunities. Our strategy of owning a diversified portfolio of quality companies well positioned to deliver earnings growth over the medium to long term remains appropriate. While market volatility may emerge, short term periods of uncertainty often present good buying opportunities for investors like AFIC, which is focused on a company's long term prospects to deliver earnings and dividend growth.

# **Directorship Matters**

Mr John Paterson, the Chairman of the Company, and Ms Catherine Walter AM, Non-Executive Director retired at the conclusion of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held on 3 October 2023.

Mr Paterson was a Director since 2005, and prior to that served as an Alternate Director from April 1987 to June 2005, and Chairman since October 2018. Mr Paterson was also Chairman of the Investment Committee and a member of the Remuneration, Nomination and Audit Committees. He was also a Non-Executive Director of the Company's subsidiary, Australian Investment Company Services Limited (AICS).

Ms Walter was a Director since 2002 and was Chairman of the Nomination Committee and a member of the Remuneration, Investment and Audit Committees The Board wishes to record its deep thanks to both Mr Paterson and Ms Walter for their invaluable contribution to Board deliberations over their tenure. Their extensive experience has been of outstanding value to the Board, executives and shareholders of Australian Foundation Investment Company Limited.

The Board elected Mr Craig Drummond as the Chairman with effect from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting on 3 October 2023. Mr Drummond has been a Director of the Company since July 2021 and sits on the Investment and Nomination Committees. Mr Drummond is also Non-Executive Chairman of AICS. He is Chairman of Transurban Ltd, the President of the Geelong Football Club Limited and a Governor of The Ian Potter Foundation.

Mr Drummond has had an extensive public company executive career as CFO with National Australia Bank and as CEO with Medibank. Prior to this he worked in financial markets with Goldman Sachs JBWere and Bank of America for 28 years.

Ms Katie Hudson was appointed as a Non-Executive Director of the Company on 1 January 2024.

Ms Hudson is a portfolio manager for Yarra Capital Management focused on the small and mid cap universe and, in addition, serves as Yarra Capital's Head of Australian Equities Research.

Ms Hudson has more than 20 years of experience in investment markets, including roles as an equities research analyst and portfolio manager. Prior to

transitioning to Yarra Capital Management, Ms Hudson was a portfolio manager and managing director at Goldman Sachs Asset Management and has previously worked as an equities analyst and partner at JBWere. Prior to this Ms Hudson spent seven years at PwC, where she was a senior manager primarily focused on mergers and acquisitions advisory and transaction support.

Mr Richard Murray was appointed as a Non-Executive Director of the Company on 22 January 2024.

He has recently been appointed as CEO of Total Tools Holdings, commencing at the end of January 2024.

Prior to this, his most recent executive role was as CEO and Executive Director of Premier Investments, a major ASX-listed owner of retail brands such as Smiggle, Just Jeans, Peter Alexander, Dotti and Portmans.

Before his role at Premier Investments, Mr Murray was the Group Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of JB Hi-Fi, the major electronic and white goods retailer. He had an 18-year career at JB Hi-Fi, including as Chief Financial Officer, taking the business through the IPO process. Prior to that he had roles for 10 years in the Corporate Finance and Assurance and Advisory practices at Deloitte.

We are delighted to welcome both Ms Hudson and Mr Murray to the Board. Ms Hudson's broad knowledge across various sectors and her depth of experience in investment markets and Australian equities, in addition to Mr Murray's detailed knowledge of retail and fast-moving consumer goods sectors and financial experience will complement the Board's existing mix of skills.



# **Top 25 Investments**

# As at 31 December 2023

Includes investments held in both the investment and trading portfolios.

# Value at Closing Prices at 29 December 2023

|       |   | Total Value<br>\$ Million | % of the<br>Portfolio |
|-------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1     | BHP*  | 888.8                     | 9.6                   |
| 2     | Commonwealth Bank of Australia                    | 860.6                     | 9.3                   |
| 3     | CSL   | 727.8                     | 7.8                   |
| 4     | National Australia Bank*                          | 431.0                     | 4.6                   |
| 5     | Wesfarmers  | 420.5                     | 4.5                   |
| 6     | Macquarie Group                                   | 411.2                     | 4.4                   |
| 7     | Transurban Group*                                 | 373.2                     | 4.0                   |
| 8     | Westpac Banking Corporation                       | 346.4                     | 3.7                   |
| 9     | Goodman Group                                     | 256.9                     | 2.8                   |
| 10    | Rio Tinto   | 252.6                     | 2.7                   |
| 11    | Woolworths Group                                  | 248.0                     | 2.7                   |
| 12    | James Hardie Industries                           | 235.6                     | 2.5                   |
| 13    | Telstra Group                                     | 221.9                     | 2.4                   |
| 14    | ANZ Group Holdings                                | 209.9                     | 2.3                   |
| 15    | Woodside Energy Group                             | 200.0                     | 2.2                   |
| 16    | CAR Group*  | 190.8                     | 2.1                   |
| 17    | Mainfreight                                       | 169.5                     | 1.8                   |
| 18    | Coles Group                                       | 156.6                     | 1.7                   |
| 19    | Reece   | 143.1                     | 1.5                   |
| 20    | Amcor   | 138.5                     | 1.5                   |
| 21    | ResMed  | 135.5                     | 1.5                   |
| 22    | ARB Corporation                                   | 130.9                     | 1.4                   |
| 23    | ASX   | 110.8                     | 1.2                   |
| 24    | Sonic Healthcare*                                 | 106.3                     | 1.1                   |
| 25    | Santos  | 105.8                     | 1.1                   |
| Total |   | 7,472.3                   |                       |
| As pe | ercentage of total portfolio value (excludes cash | )                         | 80.5%                 |

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates that options were outstanding against part of the holding.

# **Income Statement**

# For the Half-Year Ended 31 December 2023

|   | Half-Year<br>2023<br>\$'000 | Half-Year<br>2022<br>\$'000 |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dividends and distributions             | 162,673                     | 173,974                     |
| Revenue from deposits and bank bills    | 3,263                       | 1,297                       |
| Net gains/(losses) on trading portfolio | 1,332                       | 2,890                       |
| Total income                            | 167,268                     | 178,161                     |
| Finance costs                           | (700)                       | (612)                       |
| Administration expenses                 | (6,200)                     | (5,430)                     |
| Profit before income tax                | 160,368                     | 172,119                     |
| Income tax                              | (10,289)                    | (8,377)                     |
| Profit for the half-year                | 150,079                     | 163,742                     |
|   |                             |                             |
|   | Cents                       | Cents                       |
| Earnings per share                      | 12.05                       | 13.25                       |

# **Balance Sheet**

# As at 31 December 2023

|   | 31 Dec<br>2023<br>\$'000 | 30 June<br>2023<br>\$'000 |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Current assets  |                          |                           |
| Cash  | 235,080                  | 165,385                   |
| Receivables   | 12,264                   | 44,709                    |
| Trading portfolio   | 1,179                    | 3,837                     |
| Total current assets                                      | 248,523                  | 213,931                   |
| Non-current assets  |                          |                           |
| Investment portfolio                                      | 9,284,254                | 8,749,226                 |
| Deferred tax assets                                       | 1,993                    | -                         |
| Total non-current assets                                  | 9,286,247                | 8,749,226                 |
| Total assets  | 9,534,770                | 8,963,157                 |
| Current liabilities                                       |                          |                           |
| Payables  | 1,628                    | 1,268                     |
| Borrowings – bank debt                                    | 10,000                   | 10,000                    |
| Tax payable   | 17,555                   | 32,156                    |
| Provisions  | 3,939                    | 6,057                     |
| Total current liabilities                                 | 33,122                   | 49,481                    |
|   | ·                        | •                         |
| Non-current liabilities                                   |                          |                           |
| Provisions  | 159                      | 90                        |
| Deferred tax liabilities – other                          | -                        | 830                       |
| Deferred tax liabilities – investment portfolio           | 1,518,271                | 1,355,200                 |
| Total non-current liabilities                             | 1,518,430                | 1,356,120                 |
| T 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1                   | 4 554 550                | 4 405 004                 |
| Total liabilities   | 1,551,552                | 1,405,601                 |
| Net assets  | 7,983,218                | 7,557,556                 |
| Shareholders' equity                                      |                          |                           |
| Share capital   | 3,173,363                | 3,136,332                 |
| Revaluation reserve                                       | 3,272,450                | 2,926,191                 |
| Realised capital gains reserve                            | 485,622                  | 509,741                   |
| General reserve   | 23,637                   | 23,637                    |
| Retained profits  | 1,028,146                | 961,655                   |
| Total shareholders' equity (including minority interests) | 7,983,218                | 7,557,556                 |

# **Summarised Statement of Changes in Equity**

# For the Half-Year Ended 31 December 2023

|   | Half-Year<br>2023<br>\$'000 | Half-Year<br>2022<br>\$'000 |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total equity at the beginning of the half-year    | 7,557,556                   | 6,990,489                   |
|   |                             |                             |
| Dividends paid                                    | (167,176)                   | (165,866)                   |
| Dividend Reinvestment Plan                        | 37,121                      | 36,914                      |
| Other share capital adjustments                   | (90)                        | (49)                        |
| Total transactions with shareholders              | (130,145)                   | (129,001)                   |
| Profit for the half-year                          | 150,079                     | 163,742                     |
| Revaluation of investment portfolio               | 582,535                     | 346,925                     |
| Provision for tax on revaluation                  | (176,807)                   | (106,905)                   |
| Revaluation of investment portfolio (after tax)   | 405,728                     | 240,020                     |
| Total comprehensive income for the half-year      | 555,807                     | 403,762                     |
| Realised gains/(losses) on securities sold        | 73,205                      | 58,677                      |
| Tax on realised gains/(losses) on securities sold | (13,736)                    | (12,410)                    |
| Net realised gains/(losses) on securities sold    | 59,469                      | 46,267                      |
| Transfer from revaluation reserve to realised     |                             |                             |
| gains reserve                                     | (59,469)                    | (46,267)                    |
| Total equity at the end of the half-year          | 7,983,218                   | 7,265,250                   |

A full set of AFIC's interim accounts are available on the Company's website.

# **Holdings of Securities**

### As at 31 December 2023

Individual investments for the combined investment and trading portfolios as at 31 December 2023 are listed below. The list should not, however, be used to evaluate portfolio performance or to determine the net asset backing per share at other dates. Net asset backing is advised to the Australian Securities Exchange each month and is recorded on the toll free telephone service at 1800 780 784 and posted to AFIC's website afi.com.au.

Individual holdings in the portfolios may change during the course of the year. In addition, holdings which are part of the trading portfolio may be subject to call options or sale commitments by which they may be sold at a price significantly different from the market price prevailing at the time of the exercise or sale.

| Code | Ordinary Shares, Trust Units or Stapled Securities | Number<br>Held<br>'000 | Market<br>Value<br>\$'000 |
|------|--|------------------------|---------------------------|
| AlA  | Auckland International Airport                     | 10,300                 | 83,738                    |
| ALQ* | ALS  | 7,622                  | 97,701                    |
| AMC  | Amcor  | 9,745                  | 138,476                   |
| ANZ  | ANZ Group Holdings                                 | 8,098                  | 209,893                   |
| ARB  | ARB Corporation                                    | 3,640                  | 130,894                   |
| ASX  | ASX  | 1,757                  | 110,796                   |
| AUB  | AUB Group  | 1,342                  | 37,245                    |
| BHP* | BHP  | 17,634                 | 888,765                   |
| BRG  | Breville Group                                     | 702                    | 19,129                    |
| BXB  | Brambles   | 5,840                  | 79,424                    |
| CAR* | Car Group  | 6,140                  | 190,822                   |
| CBA  | Commonwealth Bank of Australia                     | 7,698                  | 860,636                   |
| COH  | Cochlear   | 334                    | 99,808                    |
| COL  | Coles Group  | 9,722                  | 156,613                   |
| CPU  | Computershare                                      | 3,630                  | 88,536                    |

| Code | Ordinary Shares, Trust Units or Stapled Securities | Number<br>Held<br>'000 | Market<br>Value<br>\$'000 |
|------|--|------------------------|---------------------------|
| CSL  | CSL  | 2,539                  | 727,804                   |
| CWY  | Cleanaway Waste Management                         | 18,185                 | 48,918                    |
| DJW  | Djerriwarrh Investments                            | 7,505                  | 22,816                    |
| DMP* | Domino's Pizza Enterprises                         | 945                    | 55,126                    |
| DUI  | Diversified United Investment                      | 12,030                 | 60,512                    |
| EQT  | EQT Holdings                                       | 1,647                  | 42,010                    |
| FPH  | Fisher & Paykel Healthcare                         | 3,600                  | 78,588                    |
| GMG  | Goodman Group                                      | 10,155                 | 256,922                   |
| IAG* | Insurance Australia Group                          | 6,280                  | 35,489                    |
| IEL  | IDP Education                                      | 2,740                  | 54,882                    |
| JBH  | JB Hi-Fi   | 1,131                  | 59,991                    |
| JHX  | James Hardie Industries                            | 4,170                  | 235,563                   |
| MFT  | Mainfreight (NZX listed)                           | 2,637                  | 169,509                   |
| MGR  | Mirvac Group                                       | 29,350                 | 61,342                    |
| MIN  | Mineral Resources                                  | 707                    | 49,455                    |
| MIR  | Mirrabooka Investments                             | 8,728                  | 25,747                    |
| MQG  | Macquarie Group                                    | 2,240                  | 411,246                   |
| NAB* | National Australia Bank                            | 14,072                 | 430,997                   |
| NAN  | Nanosonics   | 5,726                  | 25,194                    |
| NWL  | Netwealth Group                                    | 3,489                  | 53,731                    |
| NXT  | NEXTDC   | 1,744                  | 23,942                    |
| PXA  | PEXA Group   | 3,299                  | 36,617                    |
| REA  | REA Group  | 577                    | 104,524                   |
| REH  | Reece  | 6,390                  | 143,072                   |

# **Holdings of Securities**

# As at 31 December 2023 continued

| Code  | Ordinary Shares, Trust Units or Stapled Securities | Number<br>Held<br>'000 | Market<br>Value<br>\$'000 |
|-------|--|------------------------|---------------------------|
| RGN   | Region Group                                       | 16,000                 | 36,160                    |
| RHC   | Ramsay Health Care                                 | 1,226                  | 64,500                    |
| RIO   | Rio Tinto  | 1,862                  | 252,601                   |
| RMD   | ResMed   | 5,327                  | 135,519                   |
| SEK   | Seek   | 3,795                  | 101,437                   |
| SHL*  | Sonic Healthcare                                   | 3,320                  | 106,332                   |
| STO   | Santos   | 13,921                 | 105,797                   |
| TCL*  | Transurban Group                                   | 27,233                 | 373,213                   |
| TLS   | Telstra Group                                      | 56,030                 | 221,880                   |
| WBC   | Westpac Banking Corporation                        | 15,125                 | 346,363                   |
| WDS   | Woodside Energy                                    | 6,440                  | 200,026                   |
| WES   | Wesfarmers   | 7,372                  | 420,499                   |
| WOW   | Woolworths Group                                   | 6,667                  | 248,012                   |
| WTC   | WiseTech Global                                    | 623                    | 46,956                    |
| XRO   | Xero   | 835                    | 93,771                    |
| Total |  |                        | 9,159,537                 |

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates that options were outstanding against part of the holding.

# **Holdings of International Securities**

As at 31 December 2023

| Code     | Ordinary Shares, Trust Units or Stapled Securities | Number<br>Held<br>2023 | Market<br>Value<br>2023<br>A\$ |
|----------|--|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACN-US   | Accenture  | 5,506                  | 2,831,571                      |
| AENA-ES  | Aena   | 8,638                  | 2,294,771                      |
| GOOGL-US | Alphabet   | 31,314                 | 6,410,602                      |
| AMZN-US  | Amazon   | 23,915                 | 5,325,153                      |
| AAPL-US  | Apple  | 20,058                 | 5,659,565                      |
| CP-US    | Canadian Pacific                                   | 17,432                 | 2,019,672                      |
| SCHW-US  | Charles Schwab                                     | 32,976                 | 3,324,970                      |
| CMG-US   | Chipotle   | 1,115                  | 3,737,023                      |
| CTAS-US  | Cintas   | 2,851                  | 2,518,032                      |
| COST-US  | Costco   | 2,976                  | 2,878,863                      |
| CCI-US   | Crown Castle                                       | 14,286                 | 2,411,620                      |
| EL-US    | Estée Lauder                                       | 4,752                  | 1,018,496                      |
| FERG-GB  | Ferguson   | 12,851                 | 3,621,797                      |
| FTNT-US  | Fortinet   | 24,470                 | 2,099,037                      |
| FCX-US   | Freeport   | 33,740                 | 2,105,039                      |
| HLMA-GB  | Halma  | 5,840                  | 249,193                        |
| HCA-US   | HCA Healthcare                                     | 9,164                  | 3,635,267                      |
| HD-US    | Home Depot   | 6,034                  | 3,064,548                      |
| ICE-US   | Intercontinental                                   | 16,678                 | 3,139,133                      |
| TFLO-US  | iShares Treasury FRB                               | 17,106                 | 1,265,160                      |
| JPM-US   | JP Morgan  | 14,176                 | 3,533,935                      |
| OR-FR    | L'Oréal  | 2,398                  | 1,749,461                      |
| MC-FR    | LVMH Moët  | 2,191                  | 2,602,075                      |
| MAR-US   | Marriott   | 8,715                  | 2,880,220                      |
| MA-US    | Mastercard   | 2,876                  | 1,797,673                      |
| MCD-US   | McDonalds  | 7,156                  | 3,109,568                      |
| META-US  | Meta   | 7,983                  | 4,141,101                      |

# **Holdings of International Securities**

# As at 31 December 2023 continued

| Code     | Ordinary Shares, Trust Units or Stapled Securities | Number<br>Held<br>2023 | Market<br>Value<br>2023<br>A\$ |
|----------|--|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| MSFT-US  | Microsoft  | 16,463                 | 9,072,759                      |
| NESN-CH  | Nestlé   | 20,806                 | 3,532,651                      |
| NFLX-US  | Netflix  | 3,982                  | 2,841,276                      |
| NEE-US   | Nextera  | 20,749                 | 1,847,076                      |
| NKE-US   | Nike   | 13,963                 | 2,221,653                      |
| NOVOB-DK | Novo Nordisk                                       | 23,536                 | 3,568,058                      |
| NVDA-US  | Nvidia   | 3,431                  | 2,490,083                      |
| PEP-US   | PepsiCo  | 8,800                  | 2,190,320                      |
| ROG-CH   | Roche  | 5,251                  | 2,235,561                      |
| SPGI-US  | S&P Global   | 3,927                  | 2,535,232                      |
| SU-FR    | Schneider  | 10,851                 | 3,193,232                      |
| SBUX-US  | Starbucks  | 11,612                 | 1,633,808                      |
| TMO-US   | Thermo Fisher                                      | 2,943                  | 2,289,330                      |
| UNH-US   | United Health                                      | 3,965                  | 3,059,196                      |
| UMG-NL   | Universal Music                                    | 50,498                 | 2,109,806                      |
| V-US     | Visa   | 4,332                  | 1,652,875                      |
| Total    |  |                        | 125,896,461                    |

# **Major Transactions in the Investment Portfolio**

| Acquisitions            | Cost<br>(\$'000) |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Mineral Resources       | 52,113           |
| Region Group            | 32,994           |
| Telstra Corporation     | 30,326           |
| National Australia Bank | 30,289           |
| CSL                     | 27,440           |

| Disposals               | Proceeds<br>(\$'000) |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| James Hardie Industries | 58,105               |
| IRESS*                  | 33,759               |
| Ansell*                 | 32,260               |
| Woolworths Group        | 26,820               |
| AUB Group               | 18,514               |

<sup>\*</sup> Complete disposal from the portfolio.

# New Companies Added to the Portfolio

Mineral Resources

Region Group

# **Company Particulars**

# Australian Foundation Investment Company Limited (AFIC)

ABN 56 004 147 120

### **Directors**

Craig M Drummond, Chairman Mark Freeman, Managing Director Rebecca P Dee-Bradbury Julie A Fahey Katie M Hudson Graeme R Liebelt Richard L Murray David A Peever

### Company Secretaries

Matthew J Rowe Andrew JB Porter

### **Auditor**

PricewaterhouseCoopers Chartered Accountants

# Country of Incorporation

Australia

# Registered Office and Mailing Address

Level 21, 101 Collins Street Melbourne Victoria 3000

### **Contact Details**

Telephone (03) 9650 9911 Facsimile (03) 9650 9100 Email invest@afi.com.au

Website afi.com.au

For enquiries regarding net asset backing (as advised each month to the Australian Securities Exchange):

**Telephone** 1800 780 784 (toll free)

# **Shareholder Information**

### Share Registrar

Computershare Investor Services Pty Ltd

Yarra Falls

452 Johnston Street Abbotsford, Victoria 3067

### **New Zealand Address**

Computershare Investor Services Limited

159 Hurstmere Road Takapuna Auckland 0622

### Shareholder

**Facsimile** 

Enquiry Lines 1300 662 270 (AU)

0800 333 501 (NZ)

+61 3 9415 4373 (OS)

(from overseas) (03) 9473 2500

Website investorcentre.com/

contact

For all enquiries relating to shareholdings, dividends and related matters, please contact the share registrar in your country.

# Securities Exchange Codes

**AFI** Ordinary shares

(ASX and NZX)

# **Shareholder Meetings**

### Melbourne Shareholder Meeting

**Time** 9.30am

**Date** Wednesday 13 March 2024 **Venue** ZINC Federation Square

Swanston Street and

Flinders Street
Melbourne

### Canberra Shareholder Meeting

**Time** 9.30am

Date Friday 15 March 2024
Venue Rex Hotel Ballroom

150 Northbourne Avenue

Braddon

### Sydney Shareholder Meeting

**Time** 9.30am

Date Monday 18 March 2024

Venue Marble Room

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel

27 O'Connell Street Sydney

### Brisbane Shareholder Meeting

**Time** 9.30am

Date Tuesday 19 March 2024

Venue Sky Room

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre Corner Merivale and Glenelg Streets South Bank Brisbane

# Perth Shareholder Meeting

**Time** 9.30am

Date Monday 25 March 2024

Venue Swan Room

Parmelia Hilton 14 Mill Street

Perth

### Adelaide Shareholder Meeting

**Time** 9.30am

**Date** Tuesday 26 March 2024 **Venue** Panorama Rooms

Adelaide Convention Centre

North Terrace Adelaide

