

Target Market Determination

AUSTRALIAN ETHICAL BALANCED FUND - WHOLESALE

Australian
Ethical



Introduction

This Target Market Determination (TMD) is required under section 994B of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (the Act). This TMD describes the class of consumers that comprises the target market for the financial product and matters relevant to the product's distribution and review (specifically, distribution conditions, review triggers and periods, and reporting requirements). Distributors must take reasonable steps that will, or are reasonably likely to, result in distribution of the product being consistent with the most recent TMD (unless the distribution is excluded conduct).

This document is not a product disclosure statement (PDS) and is not a complete summary of the product features or terms of the product. This document does not take into account any person's individual objectives, financial situation or needs. Persons interested in acquiring this product should carefully read the PDS for the product before making a decision whether to buy this product.

Important terms used in this TMD are defined in the TMD Definitions which supplement this document. Capitalised terms have the meaning given to them in the product's PDS, unless otherwise defined. The PDS can be obtained on our website at www.australianethical.com.au/managed-funds/documents/

Target market summary

This product is suitable for investors seeking capital growth and income through exposure to a diversified range of asset classes, including Australian and international shares, property, fixed income securities and alternative investments, who can bear a medium to high level of risk over a long investment horizon of eight years or greater and wish seek out investments which provide for and support the ethical principles set out in the Australian Ethical Charter.

This product may be suitable as part of a diversified portfolio of investments being either a core or satellite exposure, and is appropriate for investors who seek up to daily access for redemptions.

The product is not suitable for investors requiring capital guarantees or cannot withstand bearing capital losses within a short investment timeframe, or for investors who do not wish to seek out investments which provide for and support the ethical principles set out in the Australian Ethical Charter.

Fund and issuer identifiers

Issuer	Australian Ethical Investment Ltd
Issuer ABN	47003188930
Issuer AFSL	229949
Fund Manager	Australian Ethical Investment Ltd
TMD Contact Details	ddo@australianethical.com.au
Fund Name	Australian Ethical Balanced Fund - Wholesale
ARSN	89919255
APIR Code	AUG0017AU
ISIN	AU60AUG00176
Market Identifier Code	APIR
Product Exchange Code	-
TMD Issue Date	03 June 2024
TMD Version	3
Distribution status of fund	Available

Description of Target Market

TMD indicator key

The Consumer Attributes for which the product is likely to be appropriate have been assessed using a red and green rating methodology:

In Target Market

Not in target market

In the tables below, Column 1, Consumer Attributes, indicates a description of the likely objectives, financial situation and needs of the class of consumers that are considering this product. Column 2, TMD indicator, indicates whether a consumer meeting the attribute in column 1 is likely to be in the target market for this product.

Investment products and diversification

A consumer (or class of consumer) may intend to hold a product as part of a diversified portfolio (for example, with an intended product use of minor allocation). In such circumstances, the product should be assessed against the consumer's attributes for the relevant portion of the portfolio, rather than the consumer's portfolio as a whole. For example, a consumer may seek to construct a balanced or moderate diversified portfolio with a minor allocation to growth assets. In this case, a product with a High risk/return profile may be consistent with the consumer's objectives for that minor allocation notwithstanding that the risk/return profile of the consumer as a whole is Medium. In making this assessment, distributors should consider all features of a product (including its key attributes). The FSC has provided more detailed guidance on how to take this portfolio view for diversification, available on the FSC website.

Appropriateness

The Issuer has assessed the product and formed the view that the product, including its key attributes, is likely to be consistent with the likely objectives, financial situation and needs of consumers in the target market, as the features of this product in Column 3 of the table below are likely to be suitable for consumers with the attributes identified with a green TMD Indicator in Column 2.

Consumer Attributes	TMD indicator	Product description including key attributes
Consumer's investment objective		
Capital growth		To provide investors with a balance between capital growth and a moderate level of income through a diversified portfolio of assets that meet our Ethical Criteria.
Capital preservation		
Income distribution		The Fund aims to achieve returns 3.50% above inflation after management costs over a 10 year period.
Consumer’s intended product use (% of Investable Assets)		
Solution/Standalone (up to 100%)		The opportunity to invest in a diversified portfolio of asset types and markets to reduce the volatility of returns. Asset classes include, but are not limited to, Australian and international shares, property and fixed income securities.
Major allocation (up to 75%)		
Core component (up to 50%)		
Minor allocation (up to 25%)		
Satellite allocation (up to 10%)		
Consumer’s investment timeframe		
Minimum investment timeframe	8 years	The minimum suggested investment timeframe is 8 years.

Consumer's Risk (ability to bear loss) and Return profile

Low		Suitable for consumers with a Medium to High risk and return profile. This is due to the product's exposure to equity assets which have a volatile return pattern, the inclusion of more defensive assets in this product helps to moderate this volatility. A consumer should note that the product's investment universe will generally be more limited than non-ethically, non sustainably invested peers and the returns and volatility may be higher or lower than these peers over equivalent periods.
Medium		
High		
Very high		
Extremely high		

Consumer's need to access capital

Within one week of request		Redemption requests can be made daily and are generally paid within 7 business days. During distribution periods redemptions may be delayed.
Within one month of request		
Within three months of request		
Within one year of request		
Within 5 years of request		
Within 10 years of request		
10 years or more		

The Issuer considers that the distribution conditions will make it more likely that the investors who acquire units in the Fund are in the target market on the basis of:

- The Fund's advertisements and website content is directed towards consumers in the Fund's target market.
- The online and paper application form for the Fund include filtering questions and alerts relevant to the distribution conditions.
- The Fund is available for distribution only through platforms if the platform provider has an arrangement with the Issuer governing their relationship with the Issuer.
- The distributors' past performance in relation to the distribution of financial products, about which the Issuer is aware.
- Any other relevant information about a distributor, about which the Issuer is aware.

Distribution conditions/restrictions

Distribution Condition	Distribution Condition Rationale
Direct	This product can be accessed via the Australian Ethical website by downloading the relevant PDS and application form (online or paper). Consumers may only access the product directly once they (or their adviser) have considered this TMD, read the PDS and completed the questions contained in the application form.
Platform / Wrap	The product can be accessed via an investment or superannuation platform. The issuer of each platform has its own obligations as a distributor to take reasonable steps to ensure retail distribution is consistent with this TMD.

Review processes

Review Triggers

- Material change to key attributes, fund investment objective and/or fees.
- Material deviation from benchmark / objective over sustained period.
- Key attributes have not performed as disclosed by a material degree and for a material period.
- Determination by the issuer of an ASIC reportable Significant Dealing.
- Material or unexpectedly high number of complaints (as defined in section 994A(1) of the Act) about the product or distribution of the product.
- The use of Product Intervention Powers, regulator orders or directions that affects the product.

Mandatory TMD review periods

Review period	Maximum period for review
Initial review	15 Months
Subsequent review	27 Months

Distributor reporting requirements

Reporting Requirement	Reporting Period	Which distributors this requirement applies to
Complaints (as defined in section 994A(1) of the Act) relating to the product. The distributor should provide all the content of the complaint, having regard to privacy.	As soon as practicable but no later than 10 business days following end of calendar quarter.	All distributors
Significant dealing outside of target market, under section 994F(6) of the Act. See Definitions for further detail.	As soon as practicable but no later than 10 business days after distributor becomes aware of the significant dealing.	All distributors

Disclaimer

Important information about this document

This target market determination (TMD) is made by Australian Ethical Investment Ltd (ABN 47 003 188 930 AFSL No. 229949) (Issuer) pursuant to section 994B of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth). The Issuer is the trustee of the Australian Ethical Balanced Fund - Wholesale (ARSN: 89919255) (Fund) and the issuer of the Product.

This document is not a summary of the Fund or the Product, or the Product Disclosure Statement for the Product (PDS). It does not (and is not intended to) set out a summary of the terms or features of the Product.

This document is intended to provide a record of the Issuer's assessment of the Product, which forms the basis of this TMD. It also details the Product's distribution channel(s) and distribution strategy which must align to this TMD. This document is also used as a basis for the periodic review of the Product's suitability for distribution to the identified target market.

This document does not (and is not intended to) provide or constitute financial product advice. The target market described in this TMD is general in nature only and does not make any statement or representation that a particular person is or is not in the target market described in this TMD. This TMD does not take into account the objectives, financial situation and needs of any particular person and the Issuer makes no representation as to whether or not the Fund or the Product is suitable for any particular person.

Prior to making any decision in relation to the Fund or the Product, investors should obtain and consider the PDS, and obtain financial product advice if necessary. The PDS may be obtained by contacting the Issuer on 1800 021 227. This TMD should not be taken by a person to be a substitute for obtaining and considering the PDS or obtaining financial product advice that takes into account the person's objectives, financial situation and needs.

An investment in the Product is subject to investment risk, including the loss of income or the principal invested. While any forecasts, estimates and opinions in this material are made on a reasonable basis, actual future results and performance of the Product may differ materially from the forecasts, estimates and opinions set out in this TMD. No guarantee as to the repayment of capital, the performance of the Product or any rate of return described in this TMD is made by the Issuer or any other person.

This material is not intended for distribution to, or use by, any person in any jurisdiction or country where such distribution or use would be contrary to local law or regulation.

The Issuer, and its officers, employees, agents and advisers, believe that the information in this TMD and the sources on which the information is based (which may be sourced from third parties) are correct as at the date of this TMD. While every care has been taken in the preparation of this TMD, no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given and no responsibility for the information is accepted by Issuer, or its officers, employees, agents or advisers. To the fullest extent permitted under law, the Issuer excludes all liability for information provided in this TMD.

No part of this TMD may be reproduced or distributed in any manner without the prior written permission of the Issuer.

Definitions

Consumer's intended product use (% of Investable Assets)

Solution/Standalone (up to 100%)	The consumer may hold the investment as up to 100% of their total investable assets. The consumer is likely to seek a product with very high portfolio diversification.
Major allocation (up to 75%)	The consumer may hold the investment as up to 75% of their total investable assets. The consumer is likely to seek a product with at least high portfolio diversification.
Core Component (up to 50%)	The consumer may hold the investment as up to 50% of their total investable assets. The consumer is likely to seek a product with at least medium portfolio diversification.
Minor allocation (up to 25%)	The consumer may hold the investment as up to 25% of their total investable assets. The consumer is likely to seek a product with at least low portfolio diversification.
Satellite allocation (up to 10%)	The consumer may hold the investment as up to 10% of the total investable assets. The consumer may seek a product with very low portfolio diversification. Products classified as extremely high risk are likely to meet this category only.
Investable Assets	Those assets that the investor has available for investment, excluding the residential home.

Portfolio diversification

Very Low	The product provides exposure to a single asset (for example, a commercial property) or a niche asset class (for example, minor commodities, crypto-assets or collectibles).
Low	The product provides exposure to a small number of holdings (for example, fewer than 25 securities) or a narrow asset class, sector or geographic market (for example, a single major commodity (e.g. gold) or equities from a single emerging market economy).
Medium	The product provides exposure to a moderate number of holdings (for example, up to 50 securities) in at least one broad asset class, sector or geographic market (for example, Australian fixed income securities or global natural resources).
High	The product provides exposure to a large number of holdings (for example, over 50 securities) in multiple broad asset classes, sectors or geographic markets (for example, global equities).
Very High	The product provides exposure to a large number of holdings across a broad range of asset classes, sectors and geographic markets with limited correlation to each other.

Consumer's intended investment timeframe

Minimum	The minimum suggested timeframe for holding the product. Typically, this is the rolling period over which the investment objective of the product is likely to be achieved.
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Consumer's investment objective

Capital growth	The consumer seeks to invest in a product designed or expected to generate capital return over the investment timeframe. The consumer prefers exposure to growth assets (such as shares or property) or otherwise seeks an investment return above the current inflation rate.
Capital preservation	The consumer seeks to invest in a product designed or expected to have low volatility and minimise capital loss. The consumer prefers exposure to defensive assets that are generally lower in risk and less volatile than growth investments (this may include cash or fixed income securities).
Income distribution	The consumer seeks to invest in a product designed or expected to distribute regular and/or tax-effective income. The consumer prefers exposure to income-generating assets (this may include high dividend-yielding equities, fixed income securities and money market instruments).

Consumer's risk (ability to bear loss) and return profile

	<p>This TMD uses the Standard Risk Measure (SRM) to estimate the likely number of negative annual returns for this product over a 20 year period, using the guidance and methodology outlined in the Standard Risk Measure Guidance Paper For Trustees (note the bands in the SRM guidance differ from the bands used in this TMD). However, SRM is not a complete assessment of risk and potential loss. For example, it does not detail important issues such as the potential size of a negative return (including under conditions of market stress) or that a positive return could still be less than a consumer requires to meet their investment objectives/needs. The SRM methodology may be supplemented by other risk factors. For example, some products may use leverage, derivatives or short selling; may have liquidity or withdrawal limitations; may have underlying investments with valuation risks or risks of capital loss; or otherwise may have a complex structure or increased investment risks, which should be documented together with the SRM to substantiate the product risk rating.</p> <p>A consumer's desired product return profile would generally take into account the impact of fees, costs and taxes.</p>
Low	<p>For the relevant part of the consumer's portfolio, the consumer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• has a conservative or low risk appetite,• seeks to minimise volatility and potential losses (e.g. has the ability to bear up to 1 negative return over a 20 year period (SRM 1 to 2)), and• is comfortable with a low target return profile. <p>The consumer typically prefers stable, defensive assets (such as cash).</p>
Medium	<p>For the relevant part of the consumer's portfolio, the consumer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• has a moderate or medium risk appetite,• seeks low volatility and potential losses (e.g. has the ability to bear up to 4 negative returns over a 20 year period (SRM 3 to 5)), and

- is comfortable with a moderate target return profile.
The consumer typically prefers defensive assets (for example, fixed income).

High	<p>For the relevant part of the consumer's portfolio, the consumer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has a high risk appetite, • can accept high volatility and potential losses (e.g. has the ability to bear up to 6 negative returns over a 20 year period (SRM 5 or 6)), and • seeks high returns (typically over a medium or long timeframe). <p>The consumer typically prefers growth assets (for example, shares and property).</p>
Very high	<p>For the relevant part of the consumer's portfolio, the consumer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has a very high risk appetite, • can accept very high volatility and potential losses (e.g. has the ability to bear 6 to 7 negative returns over a 20 year period (SRM 6 or 7)), and • seeks to maximise returns (typically over a medium or long timeframe). <p>The consumer typically prefers high growth assets (such as high conviction portfolios, hedge funds, and alternative investments).</p>
Extremely high	<p>For the relevant part of the consumer's portfolio, the consumer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has an extremely high risk appetite, • can accept significant volatility and losses, and • seeks to obtain accelerated returns (potentially in a short timeframe). <p>The consumer seeks extremely high risk, speculative or complex products which may have features such as significant use of derivatives, leverage or short positions or may be in emerging or niche asset classes (for example, crypto-assets or collectibles).</p>

Consumer's need to access capital

This consumer attribute addresses the likely period of time between the making of a request for redemption/withdrawal (or access to investment proceeds more generally) and the receipt of proceeds from this request under ordinary circumstances. Issuers should consider both the frequency for accepting the request and the length of time to accept, process and distribute the proceeds of such a request. To the extent that the liquidity of the underlying investments or possible liquidity constraints (e.g. ability to stagger or delay redemptions) could impact this, this is to be taken into consideration in aligning the product to the consumer's need to access capital. Where a product is held on investment platforms, distributors also need to factor in the length of time platforms take to process requests for redemption for underlying investments. Where access to investment proceeds from the product is likely to occur through a secondary market, the liquidity of the market for the product should be considered

Distributor reporting

Significant dealings	<p>Section 994F(6) of the Act requires distributors to notify the issuer if they become aware of a significant dealing in the product that is not consistent with the TMD. Neither the Act nor ASIC defines when a dealing is 'significant' and distributors have discretion to apply its ordinary meaning.</p> <p>The issuer will rely on notifications of significant dealings to monitor and review the product, this TMD, and its distribution strategy, and to meet its own obligation to report significant dealings to ASIC.</p> <p>Dealings outside this TMD may be significant because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they represent a material proportion of the overall distribution conduct carried out by the distributor in relation to the product, or • they constitute an individual transaction which has resulted in, or will or is likely to result in, significant detriment to the consumer (or class of consumer). <p>In each case, the distributor should have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the nature and risk profile of the product (which may be indicated by the product's risk rating or withdrawal timeframes), • the actual or potential harm to a consumer (which may be indicated by the value of the consumer's investment, their intended product use or their ability to bear loss), and • the nature and extent of the inconsistency of distribution with the TMD (which may be indicated by the number of red and/or amber ratings attributed to the consumer). <p>Objectively, a distributor may consider a dealing (or group of dealings) outside the TMD to be significant if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it constitutes more than half of the distributor's total retail product distribution conduct in relation to the product over the quarter, • the consumer's intended product use is solution/standalone, • the consumer's intended product use is core component or higher and the consumer's risk/return profile is low, or • the relevant product has a green rating for consumers seeking extremely high risk/return.
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