

13 September 2023

## Ophir High Conviction Fund (ASX:OPH) – Investor Update

Dear Investor,

On Wednesday 13th September 2023, we will be providing a video update on our Funds, including the Ophir High Conviction (ASX:OPH, “the Fund”).

Please find below the key points we will convey in the update relating to the Fund.

### 1. Market insights & Fund performance\*

The Australian share market was one of the more resilient markets in August which saw significant falls for major stock indices. The ASX 100 and ASX Small Ordinaries indices returned -0.4% and -1.2% respectively over the month. Growth stocks outperformed Value stocks over the month, with the MSCI Australia Growth Index (+0.9%) outperforming its Value (-1.3%) counterpart by 2.2%. However, over the last quarter Value stocks have outperformed Growth stocks by 3.3%.

During the month, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) noted in its Statement on Monetary Policy that inflation in Australia is easing but still remains too high, particularly in services prices. The RBA expects wages growth to strengthen in the second half of the year due to ongoing tightness in the labour market and household consumption remains a key source of uncertainty. This rather hawkish note coupled with the Federal Reserve Chair Powell’s hawkish speech at the recent Jackson Hole Economic Policy Symposium has dampened investor sentiment more recently.

For the month ending 31 August 2023, the Net Asset Value (NAV) of the Fund was down -1.2% (net of fees) with the OPH ASX returning -3.1%, compared to the benchmark which was down -1.3%.

\*We note past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

### 2. Reporting season outcomes and insights

August is an important month for the Fund as portfolio companies announce their annual results. In this reporting season, 61% of the Fund beat expectations, 26% provided results in line with expectations and 13% missed expectations. In terms of earnings guidance, 10% of the Fund raised, 43% maintained, 31% downgraded and 15% didn’t provide guidance. These figures have been reweighted to only include stocks that reported in the latest reporting season.

Some of the insights from the reporting season include (1) overall there were EPS downgrades but revenue beats, (2) margins declined driven by wage pressure and interest costs, (3) a slowdown but no big fall off in consumer demand and (4) Capex spend was maintained and upgraded in aggregate.

In terms of commentaries from Australian companies, in general they were reporting more stabilisation from operations in the U.S., New Zealand and China whilst the most negative areas were increasing labour costs and greater interest rate burdens.

### 3. Stock in Focus

Life360 (ASX:360) – 360 is a San Francisco based company that offers a mobile application for multi-channel messaging and tracking platform for family communication, lost item retrieving and medical treatment services. 360 performed well, gaining +20.7% over the month after beating estimates and raising EBITDA guidance for calendar year 2023.

### 4. OPH trading at a discount

We note the OPH share price traded at a discount to its Net Tangible Asset per share (NTA) for August 2023.

We like the opportunity to buy low throughout the cycle, whether that is stocks in our own Funds, or OPH itself with our own personal investments.

### 5. OPH buy-back facility

We commenced utilising the buy-back facility for OPH during March 2020 as markets sold off during the early stages of COVID-19. We have renewed the facility and will continue to utilise this where we see good value on offer in the OPH unit price. We have a process and rules in place for when we use the facility in the market to buy back OPH units. We remain committed to this facility and process and will continue to use this mechanism where we believe it is in the best interests of all unitholders and accretive to performance of the Fund over the long term.

We remain as hard working as ever to find and allocate to those small and mid-cap businesses listed in Australia that we believe can significantly grow earnings and provide attractive risk-adjusted returns over the medium to long term.

Your sincerely,



Andrew Mitchell & Steven Ng

Co-Founders & Senior Portfolio Managers  
Ophir Asset Management

For further information, please contact:

George Chirakis

Chief Executive

Ophir Asset Management

[george.chirakis@ophiram.com](mailto:george.chirakis@ophiram.com)

We note past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

This information has been prepared by Ophir Asset Management (ABN: 88 156 146 717, AFSL 420082) the Investment Manager of the Ophir High Conviction Fund and is authorised for release by The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited (ABN: 45 003 278 831, AFSL 235 150) as responsible entity and the issuer of units in the Trust. It is general information only and is not intended to provide you with financial advice and has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. You should consider the product disclosure statement (and any ASX Announcements) prior to making any investment decisions. If you require financial advice that takes into account your personal objectives, financial situation or needs, you should consult your licensed or authorised financial adviser. To the extent permitted by law, no liability is accepted for any loss or damage as a result of any reliance on this information. The PDS and target market determination can be obtained by calling +612 8188 0397 or visiting our website [ophiram.com.au](http://ophiram.com.au).

The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited (Level 18, 123 Pitt St, Sydney, NSW, 2000) is a part of the Perpetual group of companies. No company in the Perpetual Group (Perpetual Limited ABN 86 000 431 827 and its subsidiaries) guarantees the performance of any fund or the return of an investor's capital.