

## Bentham Defensive Income Fund (Class I)

### **Fund Aim**

Fund aims to provide investors with access to a diversified, defensive, multi-sector credit strategy with a focus on providing steady monthly income with a focus on downside volatility.

### Fund Performance as at 31 May 2024 (%)

|                             | 1 month | 3 months | 6 months | 1 year | 2 Year (p.a.) | Since inception (p.a.) |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------|----------|--------|---------------|------------------------|
| Gross return (before fees)  | 0.70    | 0.26     | 4.36     | 6.06   | 3.86          | 1.93                   |
| Benchmark*                  | 0.39    | 0.30     | 2.15     | 2.61   | 3.19          | 2.16                   |
| Excess return (before fees) | 0.32    | -0.04    | 2.20     | 3.45   | 0.67          | -0.23                  |

Source: Fidante Partners. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Returns may be volatile and may vary from year to year. The inception date of the fund is 16 June 2021.

### **Portfolio and Market Returns**

The Bentham Defensive Income Fund (Class I) had a before fees return of 0.70% for the month, outperforming the benchmark by 0.32%.

### **Portfolio Update**

Investment markets were higher in May, boosted by strong earnings in the US (led by the tech sector) and expectations for global rate cuts in the coming months - albeit with divergence on timing between the US and Europe. Fixed Income and Credit markets were higher, led by Capital Securities and European High Yield.

The Fund was active in both the UK and Australian primary RMBS market during the month. Investments were focused in the senior tranches of prime transactions from issuers including HSBC, ING and Macquarie.

The Fund participated in primary semi-government and bank capital issuance during the month, re-deploying proceeds from relative value sales and transaction repayments.

The Fund was active in primary capital markets during the month, participating in corporate investment grade, bank capital, sovereign and semi-government primary issuance.

The Fund held a 6.2-year interest duration position at month end, primarily in the Australian and UK markets. The duration position contributed to performance over the month.

### **Portfolio Summary Statistics**

| Yield to maturity                      | 5.59%             |  |  |  |
|--|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Running yield                          | 4.23%             |  |  |  |
| Credit spread <sup>1</sup>             | +117bps           |  |  |  |
| Number of issuers                      | 93                |  |  |  |
| Interest rate duration                 | 6.18 years        |  |  |  |
| Credit duration                        | 2.88 years        |  |  |  |
| Average credit quality <sup>2</sup>    | AA                |  |  |  |
| Investment grade <sup>3</sup> exposure | 101% of portfolio |  |  |  |
| Ratings implied loss rate              | 0.02%             |  |  |  |
| Fund size                              | A\$51,628,343     |  |  |  |
|  |                   |  |  |  |

### **Risk Characteristics**

| 1 Year Volatility        | 7.06 |
|--------------------------|------|
| 1 Year Sharpe Ratio      | 0.49 |
| 1 Year Tracking Error    | 4.16 |
| 1 Year Information Ratio | 0.83 |

| Fund Distributions                           |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Distribution frequency                       | Monthly          |
| Monthly distribution <sup>4</sup>            | 0.41% (May 2024) |
| Target distribution rate (FY24) <sup>5</sup> | 5.0%             |

<sup>2</sup> The average credit quality is calculated using a duration adjusted Moody's Weighted Average Rating Factor (WARF) for both the S&P and Moody's security credit ratings within a portfolio.

<sup>3</sup> An assigned credit rating of BBB-/Baa3 or better by a credit rating agency.

<sup>5</sup> Target distribution rates for FY24 set at 5.0% of the monthly unit price. Bentham intends to achieve the distribution rate for FY2024 with taxable income. If there is a shortfall of taxable income, the distribution may possibly include a capital return.

The current distribution rate setting was based on the running yield of the Fund as at 30 June 2023 and assumes the Fund continues to achieve an equivalent yield for FY2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Spread over the swap rate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Calculated as the cents per unit (CPU) distribution at the month end divided by the ex-distribution unit price at the start of the month.



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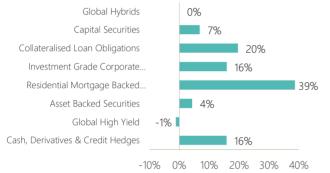
| Monthly Distribution Returns History (%) <sup>1</sup> |                    |                     |                              |                                       |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| Jul   | Aug                | Sep                 | Oct                          | Nov                                   | Dec  | Jan   | Feb  | Mar   | Apr   | May   | Jun   | $\rm YTD^2$  |
| 0.42  | 0.43               | 0.42                | 0.42                         | 0.41                                  | 0.42   | 0.42  | 0.42   | 0.42  | 0.42  | 0.41  | -   | 4.82   |
| 0.42  | 0.42               | 0.42                | 0.41                         | 0.42                                  | 0.40   | 0.42  | 0.42   | 0.40  | 0.41  | 0.40  | 0.46  | 4.96   |
|   |                    |                     |                              |                                       |  |   |  |   |   |   | 5.09  | 6.09   |
| 0   | <b>Jul</b><br>0.42 | Jul Aug   0.42 0.43 | Jul Aug Sep   0.42 0.43 0.42 | Jul Aug Sep Oct   0.42 0.43 0.42 0.42 | Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov   0.42 0.43 0.42 0.42 0.41 | Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec   0.42 0.43 0.42 0.42 0.41 0.42 | Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan   0.42 0.43 0.42 0.42 0.41 0.42 0.42 | Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb   0.42 0.43 0.42 0.42 0.41 0.42 0.42 0.42 | Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar   0.42 0.43 0.42 0.42 0.41 0.42 0.42 0.42 | Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr   0.42 0.43 0.42 0.41 0.42 | Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May   0.42 0.43 0.42 0.42 0.41 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.41 | Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun   0.42 0.43 0.42 0.42 0.41 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.41 -   0.42 0.42 0.42 0.41 0.42 0.42 0.42 0.41 0.40 0.46 |

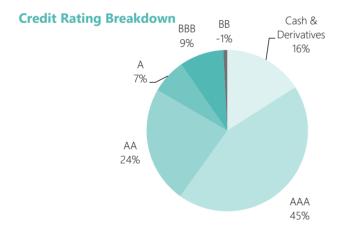
Source: Fidante Partners

Past distributions are no indication of future distributions.

<sup>1</sup> Calculated as the cents per unit (CPU) distribution at month end divided by the ex-distribution unit price at the start of the month.

#### **Portfolio Asset Allocation**



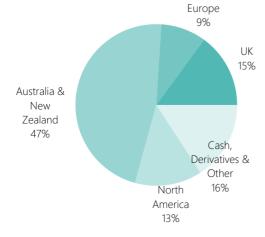


| Top Issuer Exposures                  |      |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| CIFC European Funding CLO - 4X        | 2.8% |
| Triton Trust - 2022-1                 | 2.4% |
| Commonwealth Bank Of Australia        | 2.4% |
| Medallion Trust - 2017-2              | 2.3% |
| lvy Hill Middle Market Credit - 7x    | 2.2% |
| Madison Park Euro Funding - 17X       | 2.2% |
| Dryden Euro CLO - 2020-89X            | 2.0% |
| Westpac Securitisation Trust - 2024-1 | 1.9% |
| Vermilion Trust - 2021-1              | 1.9% |
| Western Aust Treas Corp               | 1.9% |
|                                       |      |

May 2024

| Interest Rate<br>Duration (yrs) | AUD  | USD  | EUR  | GBP  | CAD  | NZD  | Total |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Total                           | 2.44 | 0.16 | 0.03 | 2.41 | 0.00 | 1.15 | 6.18  |

### **Regional Breakdown**





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## May 2024

| Fund Overview                   |  | Fund Overview (Con  | it.)  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Inception date                  | 16 June 2021   |   | The Fund is a diversified multi-sector credit   |  |
| APIR code                       | CSI0521AU  |   | trategy with a focus on providing investors with<br>tready monthly income from an actively managed  |  |
| Benchmark                       | 50% Bloomberg Ausbond Composite Bond Index<br>and 50% Bloomberg Ausbond Bank Bill Index  | C   | bortfolio of fixed income securities with a focus on<br>downside protection.  |  |
| Performance objective           | To exceed the Benchmark (cash) by 1.5% p.a. over rolling three-year periods  | C   | Actively managed Fund with the flexibility to<br>change the credit exposures to suit market<br>conditions across the credit cycle.        |  |
| Suggested investment time frame | Medium term, minimum 3 years   | • [   | Access to global investment opportunities<br>Diversified sources of income across many<br>countries, industries, companies and investment |  |
| Investment universe             | Global credit and fixed interest markets, including<br>but not limited to, investment grade securities,<br>asset backed securities, capital securities and<br>derivatives. | t<br>• (<br>• F   | ypes<br>Jnique asset classes with specialist expertise<br>Regular monthly distributions<br>Daily unit pricing                             |  |
| Credit quality                  | Minimum exposure of 90% to investment grade rated securities   | Pricing and Fees  |   |  |
| Interest rate exposure          | Actively managed   | Unit frequency pricing  | Daily   |  |
| Currency                        | AUD Hedged, between 95% and 105% of NAV  | Management fee (Class I)  | 0.35%   |  |
| Tail risk management            | Ongoing tail risk hedging strategy in place. The<br>Investment Manager will use a small proportion of  | Recoverable expenses  | 0.05% p.a. estimate   |  |
|                                 | Fund yield to purchase options to protect the  | Buy/sell spread <sup>1</sup>  | +0.140%/-0.140%   |  |
|                                 | portfolio.   | Minimum initial investmen   | t A\$10,000   |  |
| Fund documentation              | Information memorandum for Wholesale Investors.<br>Contact us for Product Disclosure Statement class   | S. <sup>1</sup> Buy/sell spread is retained in the Fund to cover transaction costs. It is not paid to th<br>Investment Manager. The buy/sell spread is reviewed on a monthly basis to ensure i<br>fairly reflects market transaction costs. |   |  |

#### More information:

Fund Information (for Wholesale and Institutional investors):

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This material has been prepared by Bentham Asset Management ABN 92 140 833 674 AFSL 356199 (Bentham), the investment manager of Bentham Defensive Income Fund (Fund). Fidante Partners Limited ABN 94 002 835 592 AFSL 234668 (Fidante) is a member of the Challenger Limited group of companies (**Challenger Group**) and is the responsible entity of the Fund. Other than information which is identified as sourced from Fidante in relation to the Fund, Fidante is not responsible for the information in this material, including any statements of opinion.

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