# Milford Diversified Income Fund (AU)

# **March 2024**



## **Portfolio Managers**



Paul Morris
Portfolio Manager



Dan Simmonds
Co-Portfolio Manager

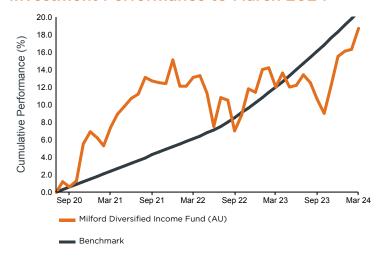
Positive contributions from fixed income, combined with a strong month for shares, saw the Fund return 2.0% in March. Expectations for the timing and extent of central bank rate cuts continue to moderate. Shares have shrugged this off on improving economic growth (i.e. company profits) prospects, while fixed income remains supported by the peak rates narrative.

Fixed income returns benefited in March from slightly lower market interest rates which supported bond prices. Returns also benefited from another month of outperformance of corporate bonds (the Fund's predominant fixed income exposure) relative to government bonds, a broad trend prevailing for a year now. We will look to reduce exposure to corporate bonds where valuations versus government bonds are becoming expensive. There will, however, always be opportunities and we plan to allocate more to Australian corporate bonds given better valuation support, especially via new bond issuance.

The majority of shares delivered positive returns in March. Australian property shares continue to standout, especially Goodman Group (+13.1%) on its data centre development pipeline's ability to benefit from artificial intelligence demand. Global banks enjoyed a strong month, as attractive valuations drew buyers given a more benign economic backdrop. Bank of Ireland (+17.3%) and UK bank NatWest (+16.4%) were notable contributors to Fund returns. NZ electricity company Contact Energy (+7.2%) was helped by a progress report on its new geothermal plant, while Australian electricity company Origin Energy (+6.9%) continues to benefit on expectations of increased shareholder returns, and its share in energy software firm Octopus.

Bond yields remain historically attractive and provide a considerable cushion against the bond price risk associated with most conceivable moves higher in market interest rates. The improving economic outlook means we remain moderately constructive on the parts of the share market which have better valuation support, albeit this cohort is shrinking. Together that should provide a reasonable Fund return outlook, further underpinned by the probability that central bank policy rates have peaked. While getting inflation to official targets may meet with some bumps along the way, our base view is that it should remain sufficiently under control to allow policy makers to react with stimulus should growth slow. All that said, we know there are risks around this view and therefore, considering the Fund's absolute return target, we continue to own downside share market protection via broad market index options and restrict interest rate exposure below long run historic levels.

#### Investment Performance to March 2024<sup>1</sup>



## **Key Fund Facts**

Objective

Provide a regular income as well as providing moderate capital growth, while seeking to preserve capital over rolling two-year periods.

Description

A diversified portfolio that primarily invests in fixed interest and equity income generating securities.

## APIR ETL1908AU  ### MFA03  Redemption Price as at 31 Mar \$1.007  Fund Size* \$15.3 Million  Inception Date August 2020  Minimum Investment \$1,000  Recommended Investment Timeframe 4 years +  Buy-sell Spread +/-0.15%  Entry/Exit Fee Nil  Yield to Maturity 4.81%  Management Fee 0.76%  Fund Pricing Daily  Monthly (0.18 cents per	interest and equity ine	ome generating securities.
mFund Code MFA03  Redemption Price as at 31 Mar \$1.007  Fund Size* \$15.3 Million  Inception Date August 2020  Minimum Investment \$1,000  Recommended Investment Timeframe 4 years +  Buy-sell Spread +/-0.15%  Entry/Exit Fee Nil  Yield to Maturity 4.81%  Management Fee 0.76%  Fund Pricing Daily  Distribution Frequency Monthly (0.18 cents per	Benchmark	RBA Cash Rate + 3.5% p.a.
Redemption Price as at 31 Mar         \$1.007           Fund Size*         \$15.3 Million           Inception Date         August 2020           Minimum Investment         \$1,000           Recommended Investment Timeframe         4 years +           Buy-sell Spread         +/-0.15%           Entry/Exit Fee         Nil           Yield to Maturity         4.81%           Management Fee         0.76%           Fund Pricing         Daily           Distribution Frequency         Monthly (0.18 cents per	APIR	ETL1908AU
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Buy-sell Spread +/-0.15%  Entry/Exit Fee Nil  Yield to Maturity 4.81%  Management Fee 0.76%  Fund Pricing Daily  Distribution Frequency Monthly (0.18 cents per	Minimum Investment	\$1,000
Entry/Exit Fee Nil  Yield to Maturity 4.81%  Management Fee 0.76%  Fund Pricing Daily  Distribution Frequency Monthly (0.18 cents per	Recommended Investment Timeframe	4 years +
Yield to Maturity  4.81%  Management Fee  0.76%  Fund Pricing  Daily  Monthly (0.18 cents per	Buy-sell Spread	+/-0.15%
Management Fee 0.76%  Fund Pricing Daily  Distribution Frequency Monthly (0.18 cents per	Entry/Exit Fee	Nil
Fund Pricing  Daily  Distribution Frequency  Monthly (0.18 cents per	Yield to Maturity	4.81%
Distribution Frequency Monthly (0.18 cents per	Management Fee	0.76%
DISTRIBUTION FREQUENCY	Fund Pricing	Daily
	Distribution Frequency	÷ .

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<sup>\*</sup>The Fund Size represents the total assets of the fund



# Milford Diversified Income Fund (AU) March 2024

#### Investment Performance to March 2024<sup>2</sup>

	1 Month	6 Months	1 year	3 years (p.a.)	5 years (p.a.)	Since inception (p.a.) <sup>3</sup>
Milford Diversified Income Fund (AU)	2.03%	7.26%	5.95%	3.37%	-	4.78%
Benchmark	0.64%	3.83%	7.65%	5.59%	-	5.24%
Excess Return	1.39%	3.43%	-1.70%	-2.22%	-	-0.46%

**Current Asset Allocation** 

### **Top Equity Holdings**

Holdings	% of Fund
Telstra	1.88%
Precinct	1.77%
Contact Energy	1.30%
Infratil	1.15%
Goodman	1.09%
Metcash	1.03%
Bank of Ireland Group	0.98%
Ameren	0.88%
HCA Holdings	0.86%
Region RE	0.80%

	Actual	Neutral	Maximum Range
International Fixed Interest	26.84%	35%	0-70%
Australian Fixed Interest	30.63%	20%	0-70%
Australian Equities	18.84%	20%	0-50%
International Equities	7.50%	5%	0-40%
Listed Property	4.44%	15%	0-30%
Cash and Other <sup>4</sup>	11.75%	5%	0-60%

# **Top Fixed Interest Holdings**

Holdings	% of Fund
CBA 5% 2028	2.03%
NBS 5.35% 2028	2.00%
Scentre Group 5.125% 2080	1.86%
Warnermedia 3.755% 2027	1.64%
AT&T 2.875% Perpetual	1.60%
Downer Group 3.7% 2026	1.56%
Asciano 5.25% 2025	1.48%
Westpac 7.199% 2038	1.47%
Contact 6.398% 2030	1.42%
NatWest 7.416% 2033	1.37%

Note: Fixed interest securities are reported in the following format: Issuer name, interest (coupon rate), maturity year.

#### **Fund Changes**

There have been no material changes to the Fund's risk profile or strategy since the last monthly report. There have been no changes to the key service providers or individuals playing a key role in investment since the last monthly report.

Disclaimer: Equity Trustees Limited ("Equity Trustees") (ABN 46 004 031 298), AFSL 240975, is the responsible Entity for the Milford Diversified Income Fund (AU). Equity Trustees is a subsidiary of EQT Holdings Limited (ABN 22 607 797 615), a publicly listed company on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: EQT). This Monthly Fact Sheet has been prepared by Milford Australia Pty Ltd. as the Investment Manager, to provide you with general information only. In preparing this Monthly Fact Sheet, we did not take into account the investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any particular person. It is not intended to take the place of professional advice and you should not take action on specific issues in reliance on this information. Neither Milford Australia Pty Ltd., Equity Trustees nor any of their related parties, employees or directors, provide any warranty of accuracy or reliability in relation to such information or accepts any liability to any person who relies on it. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. You should obtain a copy of the Product Disclosure Statement before making a decision about whether to invest in this product.

Milford Diversified Income Fund (AU)'s Target Market Determination is available at https://milfordasset.com.au/documents-and-forms. The Target Market Determination is a document describing who this financial product is likely to be appropriate for (i.e. the target market), and any conditions around how the product can be distributed to investors. It also describes the events or circumstances where the Target Market Determination for this financial product may need to be reviewed.

<sup>1.</sup> Cumulative performance since inception, after all fees and expenses, and assumes reinvestment of distributions. 2. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Returns greater than one year are annualised. 3. Inception date of the Fund is 03 August 2020. 4. Cash and Other reported above is adjusted to reflect the Fund's notional positions.