

Russell Investments Australian Government Bond ETF

ARSN 154 587 710

Interim report

For the half-year ended 31 December 2023

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This interim report does not include all the notes of the type normally included in an annual financial report. Accordingly, this report is to be read in conjunction with the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023 and any public announcements made in respect of Russell Investments Australian Government Bond ETF during the interim reporting period in accordance with the continuous disclosure requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

This interim report covers Russell Investments Australian Government Bond ETF as an individual entity.

The Responsible Entity of the Russell Investments Australian Government Bond ETF is Russell Investment Management Ltd.

(ABN 53 068 338 974) (AFSL 247185).

The Responsible Entity's registered office is:

Level 28, 85 Castlereagh Street,
Sydney, NSW 2000.

Directors' report

The directors of Russell Investment Management Ltd. (ABN 53 068 338 974 AFSL No. 247185), the Responsible Entity of Russell Investments Australian Government Bond ETF (the "Fund"), present their report together with the financial statements of the Fund, for the half-year ended 31 December 2023.

Directors

The following persons held office as directors of Russell Investment Management Ltd. during the half-year or since the end of the half-year and up to the date of this report:

Bronwyn Yates
 Neil Rogan
 James Harwood
 Timothy Furlan (appointed, effective 27 September 2023)
 Peter Gunning (resigned, effective 5 December 2023)
 Jodie Hampshire (resigned, effective 26 September 2023)
 David MacKenzie (appointed, effective 14 December 2023)

Review and results of operations

There have been no significant changes to the Fund's operations since the previous financial year. During the half-year, the Fund continued to invest in accordance with its investment objective and investment strategy as set out in the governing documents of the Fund and the provisions of the Fund's constitution.

Results

The performance of the Fund, as represented by the results of its operations, was as follows:

	Half-year ended	
	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
Operating profit/(loss) (\$'000)	<u>5,066</u>	<u>(1,063)</u>
<i>Distributions</i>		
Distribution paid and payable (\$'000)	<u>1,246</u>	<u>359</u>
Distribution (Cents per unit - CPU)	<u>14.82</u>	<u>8.27</u>

The movement in the assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position corresponds with the units issued and redeemed during the half-year as reflected in note 4 and the performance of the Fund during the half-year.

Significant changes in state of affairs

In the opinion of the directors, there were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Fund that occurred during the financial half-year.

Matters subsequent to the end of the half-year

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2023 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:

- (i) the operations of the Fund in future financial periods, or
- (ii) the results of those operations in future financial periods, or
- (iii) the state of affairs of the Fund in future financial periods.

Directors' report (continued)

Rounding of amounts to the nearest thousand dollars

Amounts in the Directors' report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars in accordance with *Australian Securities & Investments Commission ("ASIC") Corporations (Rounding in Financial Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191*, unless otherwise indicated.

Auditor's independence declaration

A copy of the Auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 4.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



Director

Sydney
8 March 2024

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Auditor's Independence Declaration

As lead auditor for the review of Russell Investments Australian Government Bond ETF for the half-year ended 31 December 2023, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the review; and
- (b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Cuthbert'.

Simon Cuthbert
Partner
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Sydney
8 March 2024

Statement of comprehensive income

	Half-year ended	
	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Investment income		
Interest income from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	1,827	913
Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	3,402	(1,881)
Other income	12	4
Total investment income/(loss)	5,241	(964)
Operating expenses		
Management costs	6 175	99
Total operating expenses	175	99
Profit/(loss) for the half-year	5,066	(1,063)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the half-year	5,066	(1,063)

The above statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of financial position

		As at	
		31 December 2023	30 June 2023
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		42	90
Receivables		869	707
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	3	<u>167,043</u>	<u>105,772</u>
Total assets		<u>167,954</u>	<u>106,569</u>
Liabilities			
Payables		152	103
Distribution payable	5	341	96
Due to brokers - unsettled purchases		<u>385</u>	<u>385</u>
Total liabilities		<u>878</u>	<u>584</u>
Net assets attributable to unitholders - equity	4	<u>167,076</u>	<u>105,985</u>

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of changes in equity

		Half-year ended	
		31 December 2023	31 December 2022
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Total equity at the beginning of the financial half-year		105,985	73,279
Comprehensive income for the half-year			
Profit/(loss) for the half-year		5,066	(1,063)
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the half-year		5,066	(1,063)
Transactions with unitholders	4		
Applications		57,642	19,241
Redemptions		(376)	-
Reinvestment of distributions		5	14
Distribution paid and payable	5	(1,246)	(359)
Total transactions with unitholders		56,025	18,896
Total equity at the end of the financial half-year		167,076	91,112

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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Statement of cash flows

	Half-year ended	
	31 December 2023 \$'000	31 December 2022 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	16,334	8,966
Purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	(74,432)	(27,816)
Interest received	1,902	933
Other income received	12	-
Management costs paid	(126)	(90)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	(56,310)	(18,007)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from applications by unitholders	57,634	18,872
Payments for redemptions by unitholders	(376)	-
Distribution paid	(996)	(924)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities	56,262	17,948
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(48)	(59)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the half-year	90	89
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the half-year	42	30
Non-cash financing activities		
During the half-year, the following distribution payments were satisfied by the issue of units under the distribution reinvestment plan	5	14

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1 Basis of preparation of interim report

This interim report for the half-year ended 31 December 2023 has been prepared in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and Australian Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting*.

These interim financial statements do not include all the notes of the type normally included in an annual financial report. Accordingly, these interim financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the annual financial report for the year ended 30 June 2023 and any public announcements made in respect of Russell Investments Australian Government Bond ETF during the interim reporting period.

The Fund is organised into one main segment which operates solely in the business of investment management within Australia. The Fund operates in Australia and holds investments in Australia. Operating segments are reported in a manner consistent with internal reporting used by the chief operating decision maker. The chief operating decision maker, who is responsible for allocating resources and assessing performance of the operating segments, has been identified as the directors of the Responsible Entity. The Fund's investments are managed on a single portfolio basis in one operating segment, being investments in debt securities, and performance is reviewed against the performance of the Fund's target.

The principal accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year and the corresponding interim reporting period, unless otherwise stated.

(a) New accounting standards and interpretations

There are no standards, interpretations or amendments to existing standards that are effective for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 July 2023 that have a material impact on the amounts recognised in the prior periods or will affect the current or future periods.

2 Fair value measurement

The Fund measures and recognises the following assets at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL) (see note 3)

The Fund has no assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis in the current reporting period.

AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* requires disclosure of fair value measurements by level of the following fair value hierarchy:

- quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1);
- inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly (level 2); or
- inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs) (level 3).

(i) Fair value in an active market (level 1)

The Fund values its investments in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements as at 30 June 2023. For the majority of its investments, the fair value was determined by reference to published price quotations in an active market.

The quoted market prices used for both financial assets and financial liabilities were last traded prices.

(ii) Valuation techniques used to derive level 2 and level 3 fair value

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market are determined by using quoted market prices, dealer quotes and/or valuation techniques.

2 Fair value measurement (continued)

Recognised fair value measurements

The following table presents the Fund's assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value through profit or loss across the fair value hierarchy.

As at 31 December 2023	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
Financial assets				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:				
Debt securities	-	167,043	-	167,043
Total	-	167,043	-	167,043

As at 30 June 2023	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
Financial assets				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:				
Debt securities	-	105,772	-	105,772
Total	-	105,772	-	105,772

The Fund's policy is to recognise transfers into and transfers out of fair value hierarchy levels as at the end of the reporting period.

(i) Transfers between levels

There were no transfers between levels for the half-year ended 31 December 2023. There were also no changes made to any of the valuation techniques applied as of 31 December 2023.

(ii) Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

The Fund did not hold any financial instruments with fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs during the half-year ended 31 December 2023.

(iii) Valuation processes

Portfolio reviews are undertaken regularly by management to identify securities that potentially may not be actively traded or have stale security pricing. This process identifies securities which could be regarded as being level 2 or level 3 securities.

(iv) Fair values of other financial instruments

The Fund has assets and liabilities carried at amortised cost. Due to their short-term nature, their carrying values are a reasonable approximation of fair value.

3 Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

	As at	
	31 December 2023	30 June 2023
	Fair value \$'000	Fair value \$'000
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		
Debt securities	<u>167,043</u>	<u>105,772</u>
Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	<u>167,043</u>	<u>105,772</u>

4 Net assets attributable to unitholders

Movements in the number of units and net assets attributable to unitholders during the half-year were as follows:

	Half-year ended			
	31 December 2023	31 December 2022	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
	No.'000	No.'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance	5,706	3,925	105,985	73,279
Applications	3,100	1,020	57,642	19,241
Redemptions	(20)	-	(376)	-
Units issued upon reinvestment of distributions	1	1	5	14
Distribution paid and payable	-	-	(1,246)	(359)
Profit/(loss) for the half-year	-	-	5,066	(1,063)
Closing balance	<u>8,787</u>	<u>4,946</u>	<u>167,076</u>	<u>91,112</u>

As stipulated within the Fund's constitution, each unit represents a right to an individual share in the Fund and does not extend to a right to the underlying assets of the Fund.

There are no separate classes of units and each unit has the same rights attaching to it as all other units of the Fund.

5 Distributions to unitholders

The distributions for the half-year were as follows:

	Half-year ended			
	31 December 2023	31 December 2023	31 December 2022	31 December 2022
	\$'000	CPU	\$'000	CPU
Interim distributions	<u>1,246</u>	<u>14.82</u>	<u>359</u>	<u>8.27</u>
Total distributions for the half-year	<u>1,246</u>	<u>14.82</u>	<u>359</u>	<u>8.27</u>

At 31 December 2023, the above distributions include a distribution payable amount of \$341,181 (2022: \$0).

6 Responsible Entity's/manager's fees and other transactions

The Responsible Entity charges management costs at the rate of 0.240% (2022: 0.240%) per annum of daily net asset value of the Fund under the terms of constitution and the product disclosure statement.

Other operating expenses include but are not limited to custody, administration, registry, legal, reporting and audit expense. These expenses are incurred and paid by the Responsible Entity on behalf of the Fund.

All related party transactions are conducted on normal commercial terms and conditions. The transactions during the half-year and amounts payable at half-year end between the Fund and the Responsible Entity were as follows:

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
	\$	\$
Management costs for the half-year incurred by the Fund	174,932	99,008
Management costs payable to the manager at the end of the reporting period	149,757	73,838

7 Events occurring after the reporting period

No significant events have occurred since the end of the reporting period which would impact on the financial position of the Fund disclosed in the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the half-year ended on that date.

8 Contingent assets and liabilities and commitments

There were no outstanding contingent assets, liabilities or commitments as at 31 December 2023 and 30 June 2023.

Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the directors of the Responsible Entity:

- (a) the financial statements and notes set out on pages 5 to 12 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - (i) complying with Accounting Standards, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, and
 - (ii) giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its performance for the financial half-year ended on that date.
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Fund will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



Director

Sydney
8 March 2024

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Independent auditor's review report to the unitholders of Russell Investments Australian Government Bond ETF

Report on the half-year financial report

Conclusion

We have reviewed the half-year financial report of Russell Investments Australian Government Bond ETF (the Registered Scheme) which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the half-year ended on that date, selected other explanatory notes and the directors' declaration.

Based on our review, which is not an audit, we have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the accompanying half-year financial report of Russell Investments Australian Government Bond ETF does not comply with the *Corporations Act 2001* including:

1. giving a true and fair view of the Registered Scheme's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its performance for the half-year ended on that date
2. complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

Basis for conclusion

We conducted our review in accordance with ASRE 2410 *Review of a Financial Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity* (ASRE 2410). Our responsibilities are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the half-year financial report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Registered Scheme in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to the audit of the annual financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

Responsibilities of the directors of the Responsible Entity for the half-year financial report

The directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for the preparation of the half-year financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors of the Responsible Entity determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the half-year financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

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Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the half-year financial report

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the half-year financial report based on our review. ASRE 2410 requires us to conclude whether we have become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the half-year financial report is not in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* including giving a true and fair view of the Registered Scheme's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its performance for the half-year ended on that date, and complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

A review of a half-year financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Simon Cuthbert
Simon Cuthbert
Partner

Sydney
8 March 2024