

# **Fund Benefits**

#### **Active Management**

JCB is a specialist fixed income manager with significant global investment management experience and expertise.

#### Access

The Fund provides access to investment knowledge, markets, opportunities and risk management systems that individual investors may not be able to obtain on their own.

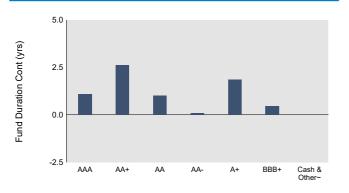
#### **Diversification and Income**

When bonds are held as part of a broader portfolio of different asset classes, diversification may assist in managing market volatility. Bond securities in general are considered a defensive asset class. The income generated by bond securities is consistent and regular (usually semi-annual).

### **Fund Performance**

Returns (After fees)	Fund*	Benchmark**
1 Month	0.26%	0.31%
3 Months	0.77%	0.71%
1 Year	1.68%	0.89%
2 Years p.a.	3.17%	2.62%
3 Years p.a.	1.41%	0.85%
5 Years p.a.	-1.40%	-1.64%
Inception p.a.	0.37%	0.11%

### Asset Allocation by Credit Rating (Duration Contribution)\*\*\*



# Platform Availabilty

Asgard	Ausmaq	Aust Money Market
BT Panorama	HUB24	Implemented Portfolios
Mason Stevens	Netwealth	Powerwrap
Praemium	uXchange	Xplore Wealth

## **Fund Facts**

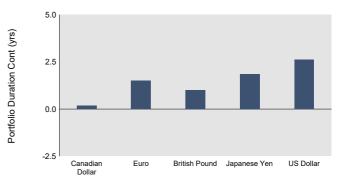
Investment Manager	Channel Investment Management Ltd
Underlying Fund Investment Manager	JamiesonCooteBonds Pty Ltd or JCB (Portfolio Manager: Charles Jamieson)
Structure / Underlying Fund	The Fund invests into the CC JCB Active International Bond SP (in USD)
Inception Date^	25 February 2019
Benchmark	Bloomberg Global G7 TRI Value Hedged AUD
Management Fee#	0.15% p.a.
Administration Fee#	0.10% p.a.
Indirect Costs#	0.34% p.a.
Buy / Sell Spread	0.05% / 0.05%
Distributions	Semi-annual
Fund Size⁺	AUD \$42.1 million

#### Fund Overview

Characteristics	Fund	Benchmark
Modified Duration (yrs)***	7.15	6.92
YTM + Hedging Effect^^	4.66	4.02
Weighted Ave. Credit Rating***	A+	AA

^^ Data refers to CC JCB Global Bond Fund - Hedged Class (APIR: CHN4711AU) and Bloomberg Global G7 TRI Value Hedged AUD. Source: JamiesonCooteBonds Pty Ltd. See Definition of Terms.

#### Asset Allocation by Currency (Duration Contribution)\*\*\*



### **Further Information**

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# All figures disclosed include the net effect of GST and RITC. ^ Inception Date for performance calculation purposes. + Fund size refers to the CC JCB Global Bond Fund - Hedged Class (APIR: CHN4711AU), also referred to as Class A units, and is based on month end unit prices before tax in Australian Dollars. Net performance is calculated after management fees and operating costs. Individual Investor level taxes are not taken into account when calculating returns. This is historical performance data. It should be noted the value of an investment can rise and fall and past performance is not indicative of future performance. \*\* Benchmark refers to the Bloomberg Global G7 TRI Value Hedged AUD. \*\*\* Data refers to Underlying Fund, CC JCB Active International Bond Segregated Portfolio (in USD); and where applicable, Underlying Benchmark, Bloomberg Global G7 TRI Value Hedged USD. ~ Cash & Other includes cash at bank, outstanding settlements and futures margin accounts.



## Market Review & Outlook

As investors returned from their summer vacations in the northern hemisphere, markets have been transfixed on the prospects for cooling labour markets and politicised US Federal Reserve (US Fed) appointees amid record investment grade credit and government bond supply.

Monetary policy has had a moderate easing bias or been left on hold and yields have been stubbornly rangebound across most of major advanced economy yield curves (with the exception of the ultralong 30+ year sector).

Before decisively repricing the entire yield curve, investors are awaiting further clarity on several competing themes, including the restructuring of the global trade system with protectionist measures like tariffs and the impulse from related fiscal policy responses; the fiscal drag from ageing populations and dwindling labour supply, affected in part by restrictive immigration policies; and most of all the pervasive uncertainty surrounding the economic effects of uncertainty and indeterminacy surrounding the policy positions and objectives of the current US administration.

So, the question does arise as to why the 30-year sector has de-anchored and ultra long yields are reaching record highs across major advanced economies in North America, the UK, Europe and Japan? There are three interrelated points to be made here.

First, the natural demand for ultralong bonds may be waning as pension funds globally move away from defined benefit products (where retirement income is fully funded by employers acting as plan sponsors) to defined contribution schemes (where concessionally taxed contributions from employees are placed in investment vehicles subject to market risk in order to fund retirement). There is now a curtailed need for pension funds to match long dated liabilities with ultralong bond investments.

Second, while repricing of the ultralong bonds may imply expectations amongst investors regarding rising neutral rates and potentially structurally higher inflation, as reflected by a larger term premium (possibly accompanied by concerns around long run fiscal sustainability) - it's also the case that long bond yields at record high levels present attractive entry points for investors at present, and offer excellent running yields. For a retiree, asset owner, or net saver with a long-time horizon, a long bond yield comfortably above 5 per cent presents a compelling investment alternative to the rollover risk implied by term deposits or share market volatility.

Third, there's a tendency in markets to focus on sensationalist headlines and short-term developments, much of which is obsolete within days, weeks or months. The steepening of the yield curve is one such sensational topic. Record high ultralong yields have not led to a re-allocation away from fixed income as an asset class, given that interest rates markets are otherwise rangebound and supply is being readily absorbed by the market in government bond markets. Rather, a disciplined investment process, anchored by long standing objectives and supported by skill and judgement in the portfolio construction task, can deliver consistent, robust returns on a risk-adjusted basis throughout the economic cycle.

Finally, it's worth noting a couple of updates to Jamieson Coote Bonds (JCB) views on the outlook for monetary policy across major advanced economies that JCB invests in or otherwise follow, given their influence on pricing across high grade markets:

In the US, the US Fed is expected to cut its policy rate later this month, as a reflection of the cooling labour market. Depending on the successor to Chairman Jerome Powell and the composition of the FOMC, there may be strong calls to reduce interest rates significantly at the behest of the Trump Administration. Activity is otherwise holding up, sustained by robust domestic demand, and prices remain relatively well contained.



In Europe, the European Central Bank should be able to comfortably hold interest rates, amid steady disinflation towards target and modest growth, and notwithstanding the ensuing political crisis in France. Similarly, in Japan later this month the Bank of Japan will most likely maintain its policy rate unchanged and further defer its hiking cycle, given pervasive international uncertainty and the turmoil in the ruling Liberal Democracy Party. In the UK and Canada, the Bank of England and Bank of Canada both face formidable challenges in reviving moribund activity and weak labour markets but are reticent to cut further out of concerns around stalling the disinflation process or a potential wage-price spiral.

Domestically, the RBA would have been encouraged by the latest GDP print in the first week of September, which showed signs of resilience in the household and business sectors. Unless the upcoming jobs data for August is remarkably weak, or the third quarter inflation data to be released in October reveals novel inflationary pressures, it's likely the RBA will remain on hold this month but look to cut in November and December.



### **Fund Review**

For the month ending July, the CC JCB Global Bond Fund - Hedged Class returned 0.26 % (after fees), underperforming the Bloomberg Global G7 Total Return Index Value Hedged AUD.

August began with a jolt to fixed income markets following a disappointing US jobs report on 1 August. The report included the largest downward revisions in five years, triggering a sharp flight to safety. The 2-year US Treasury yield plunged by 28 basis points (bps), marking its biggest one-day drop since the US Federal Reserve's December 2023 meeting. This move reflected a sudden shift in interest rate expectations, with investors pricing in a more dovish outlook for monetary policy.

Despite the initial volatility, sentiment improved mid-month. Stronger economic data and dovish remarks from the US Fed Chair Jerome Powell at Jackson Hole, helped stabilise markets. The S&P 500 posted a 2.0% total return, but more importantly for bond investors, Powell's tone reinforced expectations for a slower pace of tightening or even earlier interest rate cuts. This supported a rally in longer-duration bonds and contributed to a steepening of the US yield curve, with the 2s30s spread widening by 37bps to 131bps—a notable shift that suggests growing confidence in the long-term economic outlook.

However, inflation risk re-emerged, driven by political developments. President Trump's criticism of the US Fed and his proposal to remove Governor Lisa Cook raised concerns about central bank independence. This led to a rise in inflation expectations, with the 2-year US inflation swap rate climbing 9bps to 3.05%. For global bond markets, this signals potential volatility ahead, especially if political interference undermines the US Fed's credibility.

Currency movements also played a role. The US Dollar weakened against all G10 currencies, with the dollar index falling 2.2%. This had mixed implications for global bonds: while it supported demand for US Treasuries from foreign investors, it also boosted gold prices by 4.8%, reflecting a hedge against currency and inflation risk.

In Europe, political uncertainty in France added pressure to sovereign debt markets. The announcement of a confidence vote on 8 September triggered a sell-off in French bonds. The 10-year Franco-German spread widened by 13bps to 79bps, its largest monthly move since June. Remarkably, French 10-year yields nearly surpassed Italy's, closing just 5bps below on 27 August, —the closest spread between the two since 2003. This convergence signals rising fiscal risk in France and could lead to broader contagion in European debt markets if political instability persists.

Meanwhile, Brent Crude fell 6.1%, deepening its year-to-date losses. While lower oil prices can ease inflation pressures, they also reflect concerns about global growth, which could influence central bank policy and bond market dynamics in the months ahead.

The Underlying Fund had a flat month after getting wrongfooted initially in Treasuries following the weaker than expected employment report. European positions were a slight drag, the subdued range for the month impeded tactical positioning. The Underlying Fund continued to target Italian and Japanese markets given their attractive yields on an FX hedged basis.



#### **Definition of Terms:**

Modified Duration - is a systematic risk or volatility measure for bonds. It measures the bond portfolio's sensitivity to changes in interest rates.

YTM + Hedging Effect - is the total return anticipated on the portfolio if the bond holdings were held until their maturity, including the cost or benefit associated with the currency hedge.

Weighted Average Credit Rating - is a measure of credit risk. It refers to the weighted average of all the bond credit ratings in a bond portfolio.

Duration Contribution - refers to the portion of the overall duration attributable to the segment (i.e. credit rating or sector) in years. Contribution to duration is calculated by multiplying an instruments duration by the percentage weight of the instrument in the portfolio. This calculation includes the contribution to duration by holding futures contracts.

Channel Investment Management Limited ACN 163 234 240 AFSL 439007 ('CIML') is the Responsible Entity and issuer of units in the CC JCB Global Bond Fund ARSN 631 235 553 ('the Fund'). The appointed Investment Manager is JamiesonCooteBonds Pty Ltd ACN 165 890 282 AFSL 459018 ('JCB'). The Fund invests into the CC JCB Active International Bond Segregated Portfolio ('Underlying Fund'). Neither CIML or JCB, their officers, or employees make any representations or warranties, express or implied as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information contained in this report and nothing contained in this report is or shall be relied upon as a promise or representation, whether as to the past or the future. Past performance is not a reliable indication of future performance. This information is given in summary form and does not purport to be complete. Information in this report, should not be considered advice or a recommendation to investors or potential investors in relation to holding, purchasing or selling units in the Fund and does not take into account your particular investment objectives, financial situation or needs. Before acting on any information you should consider the appropriateness of the information having regard to these matters, any relevant offer document and in particular, you should seek independent financial advice. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward looking statements. Neither CIML nor JCB have any obligation to publicly release the result of any revisions to these forward looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this report. For further information and before investing, please read the Product Disclosure Statement available at www.channelcapital.com.au. A Target Market Determination for the Fund is available at www.channelcapital.com.au

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