

Paragon Australian Long Short Fund

ARSN 161 565 920

Annual Report

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Paragon Australian Long Short Fund

ARSN 161 565 920

Annual Report

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Contents

	Page
Directors' Report	2
Auditor's Independence Declaration	6
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	7
Statement of Financial Position	8
Statement of Changes in Equity	9
Statement of Cash Flows	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11
Directors' Declaration	36
Independent Auditor's Report to the Unitholders of Paragon Australian Long Short Fund	37

These financial statements cover Paragon Australian Long Short Fund as an individual entity.

The Responsible Entity of Paragon Australian Long Short Fund is Paragon Funds Management Ltd (ABN 42 159 623 873) (AFSL 426800).

The Responsible Entity's registered office is:

Level 1
9 Queen Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000

Directors' Report

The Directors of Paragon Funds Management Ltd, the Responsible Entity of Paragon Australian Long Short Fund, present their report together with the financial statements of Paragon Australian Long Short Fund (the 'Fund') for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Principal activities

The Fund's mandate is to invest primarily in Australian listed equities focusing on core competencies in the resource and industrial sectors in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution. The Fund may also invest in foreign listed stocks and equities in unlisted Australian and foreign companies. The objective of the Fund is to produce absolute returns and capital growth for unitholders over a 5 year investment horizon.

The Fund did not have any employees during the year.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the Fund's activities during the year.

The various service providers of the Fund are detailed below:

Service	Provider
Responsible Entity and Investment Manager	Paragon Funds Management Ltd
Prime Broker	UBS AG, Australia Branch
Custodian	UBS Nominees Pty Ltd
Statutory Auditor	Moore Australia Audit (VIC)
Administrator and Registrar	Link Fund Solutions Pty Limited

Directors

The following persons held office as Directors of Paragon Funds Management Ltd during the year or since the end of the year and up to the date of this report:

Mr John Deniz
Ms Hillier Deniz
Mr Samuel Lanyon

Review and results of operations

During the year, the Fund continued to invest in accordance with target asset allocations as set out in the governing documents of the Fund and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

Paragon Australian Long Short Fund
Directors' Report
For the year ended 30 June 2024
(continued)

Review and results of operations (continued)

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

	Year ended	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
Operating profit/(loss) for the year	(5,497,360)	2,204,564
Distributions payable	-	646,790
Distributions (cents per unit)	-	2.4254

The Fund finished the financial year with a negative return of -12.3% net, resulting in the operating loss of \$5,497,360 for the year. Market conditions continued to be mixed throughout the year, with extreme risk-off sell-off periods in both January and June, reversing the strong result achieved in the latter part of 2023. Despite this, previous macro headwinds have turned into tailwinds for the Fund's key exposures, along with strengthening fundamentals for their underlying commodities. As such, the directors remain confident in their outlook for the Fund.

Significant changes in the state of affairs

The Fund's PDS was reissued on 6 May 2024, replacing the previous PDS dated 30 September 2022 reflecting the following main changes:

1. Fund's investment strategy was revised and related risk management limit removed for the portion of international (global) equities permitted to be held by the Fund, enabling greater flexibility as communicated to investors on 8 April 2024. The portion of the portfolio held in international equities to the total portfolio will be opportunity and stock specific driven as with all investments made in the Fund.;
2. Fees and costs disclosures were updated to reflect the latest financial year data as required under RG 97. Actual fees charged to investors and all related terms and conditions remain unchanged however.

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

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year

As detailed in Note 4, the Fund's investment in Latitude 66 experienced a significant price drop since trading commenced on the ASX from 4th July 2024. As the stock remained unlisted at 30 June 2024, the decline was not reflected in the carry value of the stock at 30 June 2024. At the date of signing, Latitude 66 is trading at ~10.5c/share, resulting in a market value decline of \$630,000, the bulk of this impact reflected in the Fund's July performance.

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may have a significant effect on:

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

Likely developments and expected results of operations

The Fund will continue to be managed in accordance with the investment objectives and guidelines as set out in the Product Disclosure Statement ('PDS') and the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

Likely developments and expected results of operations (continued)

The results of the Fund's operations will be affected by a number of factors, including the performance of investment markets in which the Fund invests. Investment performance is not guaranteed and future returns may differ from past returns. As investment conditions change over time, past returns should not be used to predict future returns.

Indemnification and insurance of officers

The Responsible Entity has paid an insurance premium to insure its Directors under a combined Professional Indemnity and Directors and Officers Insurance policy. Details of the indemnity insurance are as follows:

- The Directors, the Fund and the Responsible Entity are indemnified to an aggregate amount of \$5million, against any liability arising from a claim brought against them by a third party, for losses arising from a wrongful act (as defined in the policy), in relation to the provision of professional services provided by the Responsible Entity.
- The policy further indemnifies each of the following Directors against liabilities for costs and expenses incurred by them in defending legal proceedings arising from their conduct while acting in the capacity of director of the company, other than conduct involving a wilful breach of duty in relation to the Fund:

Mr John Deniz
Ms Hillier Deniz
Mr Samuel Lanyon

The policy is a combined policy and as such, premiums for each Director cannot be quantified. Further disclosure of information relating to this policy is not permitted under the contract of insurance.

Indemnification of auditor

The auditor of the Fund is in no way indemnified out of the assets of the Fund.

Fees paid to and interests held in the Fund by the Responsible Entity and its associates

Fees paid to the Responsible Entity and its associates out of Fund property during the year are disclosed in Note 15 to the financial statements.

No fees were paid out of Fund property to the Directors of the Responsible Entity during the year.

The number of interests in the Fund held by the Responsible Entity or its associates as at the end of the financial year are disclosed in Note 15 to the financial statements.

Interests in the Fund

The movement in units on issue in the Fund during the year is disclosed in Note 8 to the financial statements.

The value of the Fund's assets and liabilities is disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position and derived using the basis set out in Note 2 to the financial statements.

Environmental regulation

The operations of the Fund are not subject to any particular or significant environmental regulations under Commonwealth, State or Territory law.

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 6.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors of Paragon Funds Management Ltd.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Deniz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr John Deniz
Director

Melbourne, VIC
23 September 2024

VICTORIA

Level 44, 600 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T +61 3 9608 0100

Level 3, 237 Ryrie Street
Geelong VIC 3220
T +61 3 5215 6800

TASMANIA

161 St John Street
Launceston TAS 7250
T +61 3 6334 0500

victoria@moore-australia.com.au
www.moore-australia.com.au

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER S 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001
TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF PARAGON AUSTRALIAN LONG SHORT FUND**

As auditor for the audit of Paragon Australian Long Short Fund for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Ryan Leemon
Partner – Audit and Assurance
[Moore Australia Audit \(VIC\)](#)
Melbourne, Victoria

23 September 2024



Moore Australia Audit (VIC)
ABN 16 847 721 257
Chartered Accountants

Paragon Australian Long Short Fund
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

		Year ended	
		30 June	30 June
	Notes	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Investment income			
Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost		8,890	216,977
Dividend income		-	460,968
Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	5	(3,641,578)	3,539,804
Net foreign exchange gain/(loss)		169,403	(603,153)
Total investment income/(loss)		(3,463,285)	3,614,596
Expenses			
Management fees	15	633,050	634,900
Interest expense		871,951	320,664
Custody fees		3,177	3,457
Transaction costs		178,223	329,518
Stock loan fees		48,405	11,806
Short dividend expense		193,225	3,269
Expense reimbursement fees	15	105,530	105,839
Other operating expenses		514	579
Total operating expenses		2,034,075	1,410,032
Operating profit/(loss)		(5,497,360)	2,204,564
Finance costs attributable to unitholders			
Distributions to unitholders	9	-	(646,790)
(Increase)/decrease in net assets attributable to unitholders		5,497,360	(1,557,774)
Profit/(loss) for the year		-	-
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		-	-

The above Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Paragon Australian Long Short Fund
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2024

Statement of Financial Position

		As at	
		30 June	30 June
		2024	2023
	Notes	\$	\$
Assets			
Receivables	12	73,179	89,255
Due from brokers - receivable for securities sold		1,484,308	10,437,796
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	6	62,340,090	64,229,279
Total assets		63,897,577	74,756,330
Liabilities			
Borrowings	10	16,859,514	20,581,765
Distributions payable	9	-	646,790
Payables	13	198,426	347,102
Due to brokers - payable for securities purchased		-	75,006
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	7	8,023,000	7,293,750
Total liabilities (excluding net assets attributable to unitholders)		25,080,940	28,944,413
Net assets attributable to unitholders - liability	8	38,816,637	45,811,917

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Paragon Australian Long Short Fund
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Statement of Changes in Equity

	Year ended	
	30 June	30 June
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Total equity at the beginning of the financial year	-	-
Profit/(loss) for the year	-	-
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income	-	-
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	-	-
Total equity at the end of the financial year	-	-

Under Australian Accounting Standards, net assets attributable to unitholders are classified as a liability rather than equity. As a result, there was no equity at the start or the end of the year.

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Paragon Australian Long Short Fund
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Statement of Cash Flows

	Year ended	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
Notes	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Proceeds from sale of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	166,080,308	274,718,843
Payments for purchase of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(166,154,726)	(329,285,334)
Proceeds from re-purchase of financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	35,770,629	30,047,395
Payments for settlement of financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	(27,840,868)	(35,750,021)
Interest income received from financial assets at amortised cost	10,067	226,895
Dividends received	-	460,968
Other income received	855	7,264
Management fees paid	(643,315)	(627,375)
Transaction costs paid	(178,223)	(329,518)
Stock loan fees paid	(43,291)	(44,158)
Custody fees paid	(3,177)	(3,457)
Expense reimbursement fees paid	(107,208)	(104,609)
Interest expense paid	(838,598)	(268,577)
Short dividends paid	(148,425)	(14,700)
Net GST amounts (paid)/received	14,899	343,755
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	11(a) 5,918,927	(60,622,629)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from applications by unitholders	1,053,921	5,938,383
Payments for redemptions by unitholders	(3,109,261)	(2,481,579)
Distributions paid to unitholders	(310,739)	(221,350)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities	(2,366,079)	3,235,454
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	3,552,848	(57,387,175)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	(20,581,765)	37,408,560
Effects of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	169,403	(603,150)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	10 (16,859,514)	(20,581,765)
Non-cash financing activities	11(b) 336,051	2,828,553

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Contents

	Page
1 General information	12
2 Summary of material accounting policies	12
3 Financial risk management	17
4 Fair value measurement	24
5 Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	27
6 Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	28
7 Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	28
8 Net assets attributable to unitholders	29
9 Distributions to unitholders	30
10 Borrowings	30
11 Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	31
12 Receivables	31
13 Payables	32
14 Remuneration of auditor	32
15 Related party transactions	32
16 Events occurring after the reporting period	35
17 Contingent assets and liabilities and commitments	35

1 General information

These financial statements cover Paragon Australian Long Short Fund (the 'Fund') as an individual entity. The Fund was constituted on 6 December 2012, registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission on 20 December 2012 and commenced operations on 1 March 2013. The Fund will terminate on 5 December 2092 unless terminated earlier in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

Paragon Australian Long Short Fund is a registered managed investment scheme under the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The Responsible Entity of the Fund is Paragon Funds Management Ltd (ABN 42 159 623 873) (AFSL 426800) (the 'Responsible Entity'). The Responsible Entity's registered office is Level 19 Queen Street Melbourne, VIC 3000. The Responsible Entity is incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The Fund's mandate is to invest primarily in Australian listed equities focusing on core competencies in the resource and industrial sectors in accordance with PDS and the provisions of the Fund's Constitution. The Fund may also invest in foreign listed stocks and equities in unlisted Australian and foreign companies. The objective of the Fund is to produce absolute returns and capital growth for unitholders over a 5 year investment horizon.

The financial statements of the Fund are for the year ended 30 June 2024. The financial statements are presented in the Australian currency.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Directors of the Responsible Entity on the date the Directors' Declaration was signed. The Directors of the Responsible Entity have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

2 Summary of material accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented, unless otherwise stated in the following text.

(a) Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Corporations Act 2001* in Australia. The Fund is a for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared on the basis of fair value measurement of assets and liabilities, except where otherwise stated.

The Statement of Financial Position is presented on a liquidity basis. Assets and liabilities are presented in decreasing order of liquidity and do not distinguish between current and non-current. All balances are expected to be recovered or settled within twelve months, except for investments in financial assets and liabilities and net assets attributable to unitholders.

The Fund manages financial assets at fair value through profit or loss based on the economic circumstances at any given point in time, as well as to meet any liquidity requirements. As such, it is expected that a portion of the portfolio will be realised within 12 months, however, an estimate of that amount cannot be determined as at reporting date.

In the case of net assets attributable to unitholders, the units are redeemable on demand at the unitholder's option. However, holders of these instruments typically retain them for the medium to long term. As such, the amount expected to be settled within 12 months cannot be reliably determined.

(i) Compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

The financial statements of the Fund also comply with IFRS as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

2 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(a) Basis of preparation (continued)

(ii) New and amended standards adopted by the Fund

The Fund has adopted all standards which became effective for the first time at 30 June 2024, the adoption of these standards has not caused any material adjustments to the reported financial position, performance or cash flow of the Fund.

AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates

The Fund has adopted the amendments to AASB 101 for the first time in the current year. The amendments change the requirements in AASB 101 with regard to disclosure of accounting policies. The amendments replace all instances of the term 'significant accounting policies' with 'material accounting policy information'. Accounting policy information is material if, when considered together with other information included in an entity's financial statements, it can reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements.

These amendments have no effect on the measurement or presentation of any items in the financial statements of the Fund but affect the disclosure of accounting policies of the Fund.

(iii) New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

A number of new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 July 2024 and have not been early adopted in preparing these financial statements. None of these are expected to have a material effect on the financial statements of the Fund.

(b) Financial instruments

(i) Classification

- Financial assets

The Fund classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

- those to be measured at fair value through profit or loss; and
- those to be measured at amortised cost.

The Fund classifies its financial assets based on its business model for managing those financial assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets.

The Fund's portfolio of financial assets is managed and performance is evaluated on a fair value basis in accordance with the Fund's documented investment strategy. The Fund's policy is for the Responsible Entity to evaluate the information about these financial assets on a fair value basis together with other related financial information.

For equity securities, the contractual cash flows of these instruments do not represent solely payments of principal and interest. Consequently, these investments are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

For cash and cash equivalents, due from brokers and receivables, these assets are held in order to collect the contractual cash flows and the contractual terms of these assets give rise on specified dates to cash flow that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding. Consequently, these are measured at amortised cost.

2 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(b) Financial instruments (continued)

(i) Classification (continued)

- Financial liabilities

The Fund makes short sales in which a borrowed security is sold in anticipation of a decline in the market value of that security, or it may use short sales for various arbitrage transactions. Short sales are classified as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss.

For financial liabilities that are not classified and measured at fair value through profit or loss, these are classified as financial liabilities at amortised cost (distributions payable, management fee payable, other payables and due to brokers).

(ii) Recognition and derecognition

The Fund recognises financial assets and financial liabilities on the date it becomes party to the contractual agreement (trade date) and recognises changes in fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities from this date.

Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or the Fund has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership. Financial liabilities are derecognised when the obligation under the liabilities are discharged, cancelled or expired.

(iii) Measurement

- Financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss

At initial recognition, the Fund measures financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. Transaction costs of financial assets and financial liabilities carried at fair value through profit or loss are expensed in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Subsequent to initial recognition, all financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of the 'financial assets or financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss' category are presented in the Statement of Comprehensive Income within 'net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss' in the period in which they arise. Dividend expense on short sales of securities, which have been classified at fair value through profit or loss, is presented as expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

For further details on how the fair value of financial instruments is determined, please see Note 4 to the financial statements.

(iv) Impairment

At each reporting date, the Fund shall estimate a loss allowance on each of the financial assets at amortised cost (cash and cash equivalents, due from brokers and receivables) at an amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses if the credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition. If, at the reporting date, the credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition, the Fund shall measure the loss allowance at an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses. Significant financial difficulties of the counter party, probability that the counter party will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default in payments are all considered indicators that the asset is credit impaired. If the credit risk increases to the point that it is considered to be credit impaired, interest income will be calculated based on the gross carrying amount adjusted for the loss allowance. A significant increase in credit risk is defined by management as any contractual payment which is more than 30 days past due. Any contractual payment which is more than 90 days past due is considered credit impaired.

2 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(b) Financial instruments (continued)

(v) *Offsetting financial instruments*

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the Statement of Financial Position when the Fund has a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts, and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

As at the end of the reporting period, there are no financial assets or liabilities offset or with the right to offset in the Statement of Financial Position.

(c) Net assets attributable to unitholders

Units are redeemable at the unitholders' option, however, applications and redemptions may be suspended by the Responsible Entity if it is in the best interests of the unitholders. The units are classified as financial liabilities.

The units can be put back to the Fund at any time for cash based on the redemption price.

The value of redeemable units is measured at the redemption amount that is payable (based on the redemption unit price) at the end of the reporting period if the unitholders exercised their right to redeem units in the Fund.

(d) Investment income

Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost is recognised on a time-proportionate basis using the effective interest method and includes interest from cash and cash equivalents.

Changes in fair value of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss are recorded in accordance with the policies described in Note 2(b) to the financial statements.

Dividend income is recognised on the ex-dividend date with any related foreign withholding tax recorded as an expense. The Fund currently incurs withholding tax imposed by certain countries on investment income. Such income is recorded gross of withholding tax in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Dividends declared on securities sold short are recorded as a dividend expense on the ex-dividend date.

Trust distributions are recognised on an entitlement basis.

(e) Income tax

Under current legislation, the Fund is not subject to income tax provided it attributes the entirety of its taxable income to its unitholders.

(f) Distributions

The Fund distributes its distributable income, in accordance with the Fund's Constitution, to unitholders by cash or reinvestment. The distribution is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

(g) Increase/decrease in net assets attributable to unitholders

Income not distributed is included in net assets attributable to unitholders. Where the Fund's units are classified as financial liabilities, movements in net assets attributable to unitholders are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as finance costs.

2 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(h) Foreign currency translation

(i) Functional and presentation currency

Balances included in the Fund's financial statements are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates (the 'functional currency'). This is the Australian dollar, which reflects the currency of the economy in which the Fund competes for funds and is regulated. The Australian dollar is also the Fund's presentation currency.

(ii) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translations at year end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when fair value was determined.

The Fund does not isolate that portion of unrealised gains or losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss and which is due to changes in foreign exchange rates. Such fluctuations are included with the net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss.

(i) Due from/to brokers

Amounts due from/to brokers represent receivables for securities sold and payables for securities purchased that have been contracted for but not yet delivered by the end of the year. The due from brokers balance is held for collection and is recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

(j) Applications and redemptions

Unit application and redemption prices are determined by reference to the net assets of the Fund divided by the number of units on issue, adjusted for buy/sell spreads.

(k) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The GST incurred on the costs of various services provided to the Fund by third parties such as custodial services, investment management fees and performance fees have been passed onto the Fund. The Fund qualifies for RITC at a rate of at least 55%; hence investment management fees, performance fees, custodial fees and other expenses have been recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income net of the amount of GST recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Amounts payable are inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from the ATO is included in receivables in the Statement of Financial Position. Cash flows relating to GST are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis.

(l) Use of estimates

The Fund makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the current and next financial year. Estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

For the majority of the Fund's financial instruments, quoted market prices are readily available.

The Fund estimates that the resultant expected credit loss (ECL) derived from using impairment model has not materially impacted the Fund. Please see Note 3 for more information on credit risk.

For more information on how fair value is calculated please refer to Note 4 to the financial statements.

2 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(m) Significant judgments made in the application of accounting policies

Related party relationship and control - managed investment schemes

While the Responsible Entity controls the financial and operating activities of the Fund in accordance with the Fund's Constitution and PDS, the Responsible Entity's fiduciary obligations to the unitholders of the Fund prevent it from benefiting directly from the activities of the Fund. Instead, the Responsible Entity governs the financial and operating activities of the Fund for the sole purpose of fulfilling its fiduciary obligation of acting in the best interest of the unitholders in its capacity as the Responsible Entity. Accordingly, the Directors do not consider that the Responsible Entity controls the Fund as defined in AASB 10: *Consolidated Financial Statements*.

However, for the purpose of AASB 124: *Related Party Disclosures*, the Directors consider that the Responsible Entity is a related party of the Fund as it is the management entity that provides key management personnel services to the Fund. Accordingly, both the Responsible Entity and its Directors are considered to be key management personnel of the Fund. Refer to Note 15 for additional detail on related party transactions.

3 Financial risk management

The Fund's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including market risk (which incorporates price risk and interest rate risk), credit risk and liquidity risk.

The Fund's overall risk management programme focuses on ensuring compliance with the Fund's PDS and the investment guidelines of the Fund. It also seeks to maximise the returns derived for the level of risk to which the Fund is exposed and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Fund's financial performance.

The Fund invests in a diversified portfolio of long and short stocks comprising equities that are listed on the Australian Securities Exchange ('ASX'). The Fund may use exchange traded derivatives to gain exposure to the underlying physical investments and for hedging purposes. Derivatives are not used speculatively. The Fund may also invest a portion of the Fund's assets in foreign equities listed overseas as well as equities of unlisted Australian and foreign companies, to limits as prescribed in the PDS.

The investment objective of the Fund is to produce absolute returns and capital growth for unitholders over a 5 year investment horizon before taking into account Fund fees and expenses.

The Fund uses different methods to measure different types of risk to which it is exposed. These methods include sensitivity analysis in the case of market risk and ratings analysis for credit risk.

(a) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as interest rates and other market prices will affect the Fund's income or the carrying value of financial instruments. The objective of market risk management is to manage and control market risk exposures within acceptable parameters, while optimising the return on risk.

The Responsible Entity intends to limit this risk by ensuring strict adherence to the Fund's investment guidelines.

(i) Price risk

The Fund is exposed to price risk on equity securities listed or quoted on recognised securities exchange. Price risk arises from investments held by the Fund for which prices in the future are uncertain. Other market price risk is the risk that the value of an instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices, whether caused by factors specific to an individual investment, its issuer or all factors affecting all instruments traded in the market. Where non-monetary financial instruments are denominated in currencies other than the Australian dollar, the price in the future will also fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates which are considered a component of price risk.

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(a) Market risk (continued)

(i) Price risk (continued)

As the majority of the Fund's investments are carried at fair value with fair value changes recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, all changes in market conditions will directly affect net investment income.

All investments present a risk of loss of capital. Except for equities sold short, the maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments. Possible losses from equities sold short can be unlimited.

The Fund mitigates this price risk through diversification, in terms of company, industry, sector, and selection of securities in accordance with the Fund's investment guidelines.

The Fund has built in procedures to ensure adherence to the Fund's investment guidelines at all times.

At 30 June, the overall net market exposures were as follows:

	As at	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
Australian equity securities and trusts	46,133,189	55,245,098
International equity securities	16,206,901	8,984,181
Australian equity securities and trusts sold short	(8,023,000)	(7,293,750)
Total	54,317,090	56,935,529

The Fund manages its exposure to price risk by analysing the investment portfolio by industrial sector. The table below is a summary of the significant sector concentrations within the equity portfolio, net of securities sold short.

Sector	As at 30 June 2024 Fund's equity portfolio (%)	As at 30 June 2023 Fund's equity portfolio (%)
Information technology	8.6	4.1
Financial services	(3.3)	10.0
Energy	12.4	17.2
Health care	2.8	-
Materials	87.0	60.0
Telecommunications services	(4.3)	(3.8)
Industrials	(3.2)	12.5
Total	100.0	100.0

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(a) Market risk (continued)

(i) Price risk (continued)

The table in Note 3(b) summarises the sensitivities of the Fund's assets and liabilities to price risk. The analysis is based on the assumption that the markets in which the Fund invests move by +/- 15% (2023: +/- 15%).

(ii) Foreign exchange risk

The Fund invests in equities listed outside Australia and holds both monetary and non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the Australian dollar. Foreign exchange risk arises as the value of monetary securities denominated in other currencies will fluctuate due to changes in exchange rates. The foreign exchange risk relating to non-monetary assets and liabilities is a component of price risk and not foreign exchange risk.

The Fund's foreign exchange risk is managed by monitoring the actual level of exposure at any point in time, and typically the overall risk/reward for a stock held in a foreign currency will far outweigh any currency risk related to that stock. Furthermore, the offsetting liability for a investment is also held in the same foreign currency, resulting in a 'natural hedge'. Currency exposure may be actively hedged if deemed appropriate by Paragon.

The table below summarises the Fund's financial assets and liabilities, monetary and non-monetary, which are denominated in a currency other than the Australian dollar.

As at 30 June 2024

	US Dollar A\$	Euro A\$	Canadian Dollar A\$
Payables	(10,725)	-	(60,559)
Borrowings	(2,138,553)	-	(11,183,027)
Financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss	2,388,261	2,305,500	11,513,140
Net exposure	238,983	2,305,500	269,554

As at 30 June 2023

	US Dollar A\$	Euro A\$	Canadian Dollar A\$
Payables	(198)	-	(2,678)
Borrowings	13,630	-	(1,651,929)
Financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss	-	2,305,500	6,678,681
Net exposure	13,432	2,305,500	5,024,074

The table in Note 3(b) summarises the sensitivities of the Fund's monetary assets and liabilities to foreign exchange risk. The analysis is based on the assumption that the Australian dollar weakened and strengthened by 15% (2023: 15%) against the material foreign currencies to which the Fund is exposed.

(iii) Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Fund is exposed to cash flow interest rate risk on financial instruments with variable interest rates. Financial instruments with fixed rates expose the Fund to fair value interest rate risk.

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(a) Market risk (continued)

(iii) Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk (continued)

The table below summarises the Fund's exposure to interest rate risk. It includes the Fund's assets and liabilities at fair values, categorised by the earlier of contractual repricing or maturity dates.

As at 30 June 2024

	Floating interest rate \$	Fixed interest rate \$	Non- interest bearing \$	Total \$
Assets				
Receivables	-	-	73,179	73,179
Due from brokers - receivable for securities sold	-	-	1,484,308	1,484,308
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	62,340,090	62,340,090
Total assets	-	-	63,897,577	63,897,577
Liabilities				
Borrowings	(16,859,514)	-	-	(16,859,514)
Payables	-	-	(198,426)	(198,426)
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	(8,023,000)	(8,023,000)
Total liabilities (excluding net assets attributable to unitholders)	(16,859,514)	-	(8,221,426)	(25,080,940)
Net exposure	(16,859,514)	-	55,676,151	38,816,637

As at 30 June 2023

	Floating interest rate \$	Fixed interest rate \$	Non- interest bearing \$	Total \$
Assets				
Receivables	-	-	89,255	89,255
Due from brokers - receivable for securities sold	-	-	10,437,796	10,437,796
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	64,229,279	64,229,279
Total assets	-	-	74,756,330	74,756,330

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(a) Market risk (continued)

(iii) Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk (continued)

As at 30 June 2023

	Floating interest rate \$	Fixed interest rate \$	Non- interest bearing \$	Total \$
Liabilities				
Borrowings	(20,581,765)	-	-	(20,581,765)
Distributions payable	-	-	(646,790)	(646,790)
Payables	-	-	(347,102)	(347,102)
Due to brokers - payable for securities purchased	-	-	(75,006)	(75,006)
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	(7,293,750)	(7,293,750)
Total liabilities (excluding net assets attributable to unitholders)	(20,581,765)	-	(8,362,648)	(28,944,413)
Net exposure	(20,581,765)	-	66,393,682	45,811,917

The table in Note 3(b) summarises the impact of an increase/decrease in interest rates on the Fund's operating profit/(loss) and net assets attributable to unitholders through changes in fair value or changes in future cash flows. The analysis is based on the assumption that interest rates changed by +/- 75 basis points (2023: +/- 75 basis points) from the year end rates with all other variables held constant.

(b) Summarised sensitivity analysis

The following table summarises the sensitivity of the Fund's operating profit/(loss) and net assets attributable to unitholders to market risks. The reasonably possible movements in the risk variables have been determined based on management's best estimate having regard to a number of factors, including historical levels of changes in interest rates and the historical correlation of the Fund's investments with the relevant benchmark and market volatility. However, actual movements in the risk variables may be greater or less than anticipated due to a number of factors, including unusually large market shocks resulting from changes in the performance of the economies, markets and securities in which the Fund invests. As a result, historic variations in risk variables are not a definitive indicator of future variances in the risk variables.

	Impact on operating profit/(loss)/ Net assets attributable to unitholders			
	Price risk		Interest rate risk	
	-15%	+15%	-75bps	+75bps
	\$	\$	\$	\$
30 June 2024	(8,147,654)	8,147,654	(126,446)	126,446
30 June 2023	(8,540,329)	8,540,329	(154,363)	154,363

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(b) Summarised sensitivity analysis (continued)

	Impact on operating profit/(loss)/ Net assets attributable to unitholders					
	Foreign exchange risk					
	-15%	+15%	-15%	+15%	- 15%	+ 15%
	US Dollar \$	US Dollar \$	CAN Dollar \$	CAN Dollar \$	Euro Dollar \$	Euro Dollar \$
30 June 2024	(35,847)	35,847	(40,433)	40,433	(345,825)	345,825
30 June 2023	(2,015)	2,015	(753,611)	753,611	(345,825)	345,825

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties failed to perform as contracted. Market prices generally incorporate credit assessments into valuations and risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of on-balance sheet financial assets and liabilities as they are carried at fair value. The total credit risk for on-balance sheet items, other than derivatives, is therefore limited to the amount carried on the Statement of Financial Position.

The Fund's maximum credit risk exposure at balance date in relation to each class of recognised financial asset, other than equity and derivative financial instruments, is the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Statement of Financial Position. This does not represent the maximum risk exposure that could arise in the future as a result of changes in values, but best represents the current maximum exposure at the reporting date.

The Fund does not have a significant concentration of credit risk that arises from an exposure to a single counterparty or group of counterparties having similar characteristics. The main concentration of credit risk, to which the Fund is exposed, arises from cash and cash equivalents and amounts due from brokers balances. None of these assets are impaired nor past their due date. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the carrying amount of these balances as at the reporting date.

The Fund uses UBS AG, Australia Branch as its prime broker. UBS AG has a rating of A+ by S&P as at 30 June 2024 (30 June 2023: A+).

(i) Derivative financial instruments

For derivative financial instruments, the Responsible Entity/Investment Manager has established limits such that transactions only take place with participants of ASX.

(ii) Settlement of securities transactions

All transactions in listed securities are settled/paid for upon delivery using approved brokers. The risk of default is considered low, as delivery of securities sold is only made once the broker has received payment. Payment is made once the securities purchased have been received by the broker. The trade will fail if either party fails to meet its obligations.

(iii) Cash and cash equivalents

In accordance with the Fund's policy, the Investment Manager monitors the Fund's credit position on a daily basis, and the Board of Directors reviews it on a quarterly basis.

(iv) Other

The Fund is not materially exposed to credit risk on other financial assets.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of each reporting period is the carrying amount of the financial assets. None of these assets are impaired nor past due but not impaired.

3 Financial risk management (continued)

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund may not be able to generate sufficient cash resources to settle its obligations in full as they fall due or can only do so on terms that are materially disadvantageous.

The Fund is exposed to monthly cash redemptions of redeemable units. It therefore primarily holds investments that are traded in an active market and can be readily disposed.

The Fund will always comprise of asset classes whereby at least 70% of the Fund's total assets can reasonably be expected to be realised within ten days at all times.

In order to manage the Fund's overall liquidity, the Responsible Entity has the discretion to reject an application for units and to defer or adjust redemption of units if the exercise of such discretion is in the best interests of unitholders. The Fund did not reject or withhold any redemptions during 2024 and 2023.

(i) Maturities of non-derivative financial liabilities

The table below analyses the Fund's non-derivative financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at balance sheet date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

	Less than 1 month \$	1-6 months \$	6-12 months \$	1-2 years \$
As at 30 June 2024				
Borrowings	16,859,514	-	-	-
Distributions payable	-	-	-	-
Payables	198,426	-	-	-
Due to brokers - payable for securities purchased	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	-	8,023,000	-	-
Net assets attributable to unitholders	38,816,637	-	-	-
Contractual cash flows	55,874,577	8,023,000	-	-
	Less than 1 month	1-6 months	6-12 months	1-2 years
As at 30 June 2023				
Borrowings	20,581,765	-	-	-
Distributions payable	646,790	-	-	-
Payables	347,102	-	-	-
Due to brokers - payable for securities purchased	75,006	-	-	-
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	-	7,293,750	-	-
Net assets attributable to unitholders	45,811,917	-	-	-
Contractual cash flows	67,462,580	7,293,750	-	-

4 Fair value measurement

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

- Financial assets / liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (see Notes 6 and 7)

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 measurement 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); and
- 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 fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets (such as listed equity securities) is based on their quoted market prices at the close of trading at the end of the reporting period without any deduction for estimated future selling costs.

The Fund values its investments in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 2 to the financial statements. For the majority of its investments, the Fund relies on information provided by independent pricing services for the valuation of its investments.

The quoted market price used for financial assets and financial liabilities held by the Fund is the last sale price.

A financial instrument is regarded as quoted in an active market if quoted prices are readily and regularly available from an exchange, dealer, broker, industry group, pricing service, or regulatory agency, and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

An active market is a market in which transactions for the asset or liability take place with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.

(ii) Fair value in an inactive or unquoted market (level 2 and level 3)

The fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities that are not traded in an active market is determined using valuation techniques. These include the use of recent arm's length market transactions, reference to the current fair value of a substantially similar other instrument, discounted cash flow techniques, option pricing models or any other valuation technique that provides a reliable estimate of prices obtained in actual market transactions.

4 Fair value measurement (continued)

(iii) Recognised fair value measurements

The following table presents the Fund's assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value as at 30 June.

As at 30 June 2024	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
Financial assets				
Australian equity securities and trusts	44,080,246	1,052,943	1,000,000	46,133,189
International equity securities	13,354,267	547,134	2,305,500	16,206,901
Total financial assets	57,434,513	1,600,077	3,305,500	62,340,090
Financial liabilities				
Australian equity securities and trusts sold short	8,023,000	-	-	8,023,000
Total financial liabilities	8,023,000	-	-	8,023,000
 As at 30 June 2023				
Financial assets				
Australian equity securities and trusts	52,331,095	1,914,003	1,000,000	55,245,098
International equity securities	6,111,028	567,653	2,305,500	8,984,181
Total financial assets	58,442,123	2,481,656	3,305,500	64,229,279
Financial liabilities				
Australian equity securities and trusts sold short	7,293,750	-	-	7,293,750
Total financial liabilities	7,293,750	-	-	7,293,750

4 Fair value measurement (continued)

(iii) Recognised fair value measurements (continued)

The Level 2 investments typically relate to private placements in pre-IPO stocks in which the Fund has subscribed to in advance of the stocks official listing. Fair value is determined using the valuation technique of the subscription price or the most recent arms' length placement price by the number of securities subscribed for by the Fund under the relevant offer.

Additionally, Level 2 investments may include stocks temporarily suspended from trading. Fair value is determined as the market price at date of suspension.

The level 3 investments as at 30 June 2024 remain unchanged for the year and comprise of:

1. Latitude 66 Cobalt Limited - The carry value of \$1,000,000 is based on the arms' length capital raise by the company in June 2019 and Management's own internal valuation. The company's gold and cobalt resources and cash combined (and nil debt) are currently valued by Management at an implied market value of \$86m, far exceeding our implied carry value of \$35m.

An ASX listing via a 'reverse takeover/merger' with ASX-listed DCX was completed in late June, at which time the stock was suspended from trading. Trading of the stock, now changed to ASX code LAT and trading name Latitude 66, commenced from 4th July. Despite the strong performance in the gold price and its peer group, LAT's share price fell significantly since listing, however on very small volume of ~5% of total shares, predominantly driven by ex-DCX shareholders liquidating their positions. Management's view is that such small trading does not reflect efficient pricing and by no means reflects the true value of the stock's holding.

2. ISX Financial EU Plc (ISXFEU) - The current carry value of \$2,305,500 is Paragon's valuation of the unlisted European subsidiary of Southern Cross Payments Limited (ASX:SP1) (formerly iSignthis Limited) (ASX: ISX)), upon the European demerger in December 2020. The valuation remains unchanged, and is supported by the company's continuing revenue growth and strengthening financial position. The growth is self-funded, as the company remains cash flow positive and gross margins and profitability metrics continue to improve year on year. Management's latest assessment arrives at an estimated market-cap of A\$820-\$860m (A\$7.45-\$7.82/share) against a derived carry value of \$5.30/share. ISXFEU is preparing for an international listing before the end of the year. Given buoyant global markets, particularly for ISXFEU's sector and expanding valuations for its peers, as well as the company's very strong growth metrics, we remain confident that an IPO price well in excess of our carrying value will be achieved. The court cases have progressed throughout 2024. Any findings are ring-fenced to ISX AU and do not impact on ISX FEU. Management does not attribute any value to the shares held in the Australian company, which does retain adequate cash for these ongoing legal proceedings. On this valuation basis, and considerations noted above, it is the opinion of the directors that the current carry value remains appropriate.

(iv) Transfers between levels

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

Leo Lithium Limited was acquired in September at a cost of \$1,502,943 (69c/share), and was transferred from Level 1 to Level 2 at 31 December 2023, upon the company going into a voluntary trading halt at a closing share price of 50.5c/share, and remained suspended at 30 June 2024. The company has since entered into an agreement to sell its remaining 40% JV share of its Mali Lithium asset, with intended cash distributions to shareholders planned in two tranches upon completion of the transaction - T1 estimated at 14-16c/share in early 2025, and T2 estimated at 15c/share in July 2025, at which time the residual value of our investment can be supported by the remaining assets of the company.

There were no other transfers between levels in the fair value hierarchy at the end of the reporting period.

4 Fair value measurement (continued)

(v) *Fair value measurements in an inactive market (Level 2) and using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)*

The following table presents the movement in level 2 and level 3 instruments for the year ended 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023 by class of financial instrument.

As at 30 June 2024

	Unlisted equity securities		
	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance - 1 July	2,481,656	3,305,500	5,787,156
Purchases	1,437,716	-	1,437,716
Sales	(1,922,085)	-	(1,922,085)
Gains/(losses) recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	(397,210)	-	(397,210)
Closing balance	1,600,077	3,305,500	4,905,577

As at 30 June 2023

Opening balance - 1 July	-	3,305,500	3,305,500
Purchases	2,547,916	-	2,547,916
Gains/(losses) recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	(66,260)	-	(66,260)
Closing balance	2,481,656	3,305,500	5,787,156

(vi) *Financial instruments not carried at fair value*

The carrying values of receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values.

Net assets attributable to unitholders' carrying value does not differ from its fair value (deemed to be redemption price for individual units) due to no differences in valuation inputs.

5 Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss

Net gains/(losses) recognised in relation to financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
Financial assets		
Net realised gain/(loss) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	2,777,804	(9,661,401)
Net unrealised gain/(loss) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(6,345,714)	14,245,642
Total net gains/(losses) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(3,567,910)	4,584,241

**5 Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss
(continued)**

	Year ended	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
Financial liabilities		
Net realised gain/(loss) on financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	(287,788)	(170,832)
Net unrealised gain/(loss) on financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	214,120	(873,605)
Total net gains/(losses) on financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	(73,668)	(1,044,437)
 Total net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	 (3,641,578)	 3,539,804

6 Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

	As at	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
Australian equity securities and trusts	46,133,189	55,245,098
International equity securities	16,206,901	8,984,181
Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	62,340,090	64,229,279

The Fund's investment strategy was revised on 6 May 2024, resulting in the removal of the limit for the portion of international equities permitted to be held by the Fund. The portion of the portfolio held in international equities against the total portfolio will be opportunity and stock specific driven and will vary depending on the opportunities available geographically, predominantly North America. At 30 June 2024, the portion of financial assets held in international equities was 26%, compared with 14% for prior year.

7 Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

	As at	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
Australian equity securities and trusts sold short	8,023,000	7,293,750
Total financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	8,023,000	7,293,750

8 Net assets attributable to unitholders

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

	Year ended		Year ended	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2024	30 June 2023	30 June 2023
	Units	\$	Units	\$
Opening balance	26,667,445	45,811,917	22,767,409	37,728,786
Applications	790,061	1,275,290	3,747,445	6,178,383
Redemptions	(1,901,152)	(3,109,261)	(1,554,338)	(2,481,579)
Reinvestment of distributions	195,617	336,051	1,706,929	2,828,553
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders	-	(5,497,360)	-	1,557,774
Closing balance	25,751,971	38,816,637	26,667,445	45,811,917

	Year ended		Year ended	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2024	30 June 2023	30 June 2023
	Units	\$	Units	\$
Class A (non-series based units)	25,751,971	38,816,637	26,667,445	45,811,917
Closing balance	25,751,971	38,816,637	26,667,445	45,811,917

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

Capital risk management

The Fund considers its net assets attributable to unitholders as capital, notwithstanding that net assets attributable to unitholders are classified as a liability. The amount of net assets attributable to unitholders can change significantly on a monthly basis as the Fund is subject to monthly applications and redemptions at the discretion of unitholders.

Applications and redemptions are reviewed relative to the liquidity of the Fund's underlying assets on at minimum a monthly basis by the Investment Manager. Under the terms of the Fund's Constitution, the Responsible Entity has the discretion to reject an application for units and to defer or adjust a redemption of units if the exercise of such discretion is in the best interests of unitholders.

9 Distributions to unitholders

There were no distributions declared for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The distributions declared during the year ended 30 June 2023 were as follows:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2023	30 June 2023
	\$	CPU*
Distributions payable	646,790	2.4254
Total distributions	646,790	2.4254

* Distribution is expressed as cents per unit amount in Australian Dollar.

10 Borrowings

	As at	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
Borrowings	16,859,514	20,581,765
	16,859,514	20,581,765

Borrowings comprise of a cash advance (overdrawn balance) provided by the prime broker under a formal prime brokerage agreement, up to a maximum credit limit as determined by the prime broker. Interest expense is calculated on the daily overdrawn balance. The interest rate charged is as set out in the prime brokerage agreement and can be changed by the prime broker from time to time. The Fund's assets are granted as security under a general security deed to the prime broker for all liabilities owing, and the maximum credit limit provided is subject to a margin calculation of the Fund's assets held less liabilities owing, and any shortfall in margin can be immediately called upon.

The weighted average interest rate of the Fund's borrowings as at 30 June 2024 is 5.48% (2023: 2.48%).

11 Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

(a) Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	Year ended	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
Profit/(loss) for the year	(5,497,360)	1,557,774
Distributions to unitholders	-	646,790
Proceeds from sale of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	166,080,308	274,718,843
Payments for purchase of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(166,154,726)	(329,285,334)
Proceeds from re-purchase of financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	35,770,629	30,047,395
Payments for settlement of financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	(27,840,868)	(35,750,021)
Net (gains)/losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	3,641,578	(3,539,804)
Effects of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(169,403)	603,153
Unfunded application rectification	1,369	-
Net change in receivables and other assets	16,076	361,515
Net change in payables and other liabilities	71,324	17,060
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	5,918,927	(60,622,629)

(b) Non-cash financing activities

	Year ended	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
The following distribution payments to unitholders were satisfied by the issue of units under the distribution reinvestment plan	336,051	2,828,553
Total non-cash financing activities	336,051	2,828,553

As described in Note 2(g), income not distributed is included in net assets attributable to unitholders. The change in this amount each year (as reported in (a) above) represents a non-cash financing cost as it is not settled in cash until such time as it becomes distributable.

12 Receivables

	As at	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
Interest receivable	185	1,362
GST receivable	72,994	87,893
Total receivables	73,179	89,255

Paragon Australian Long Short Fund
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024
(continued)

13 Payables

		As at	
		30 June	30 June
	Notes	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Management fee payable	15	51,280	61,545
Monies not allocated to units		-	220,000
Interest payable		88,847	55,494
Other payables		58,299	10,063
Total payables		198,426	347,102

14 Remuneration of auditor

During the year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by the auditor of the Fund:

	Year ended	
	30 June	30 June
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Moore Australia		
<i>Audit and other assurance services</i>		
Audit and review of financial statements	33,500	34,500
Audit of compliance plan	6,500	6,500
Total remuneration for audit and other assurance services	40,000	41,000
<i>Taxation services</i>		
Tax compliance services	9,700	9,500
Total remuneration for taxation services	9,700	9,500
Total remuneration of Moore Australia	49,700	50,500

The auditor's remuneration is borne by the Responsible Entity.

Fees are stated net of GST.

15 Related party transactions

The Responsible Entity of Paragon Australian Long Short Fund is Paragon Funds Management Ltd (ABN 42 159 623 873) (AFSL 426800). Accordingly, transactions with entities related to Paragon Funds Management Ltd are disclosed below.

The Responsible Entity has contracted services to UBS AG, Australia Branch to act as Prime Broker and Link Fund Solutions Pty Limited to act as Administrator for the Fund. The contracts are on normal commercial terms and conditions.

15 Related party transactions (continued)

(a) Directors

Key management personnel include persons who were Directors of Paragon Funds Management Ltd at any time during or since the end of the financial year and up to the date of this report.

Mr John Deniz
Ms Hillier Deniz
Mr Samuel Lanyon

(b) Other key management personnel

There were no other persons, aside from the Directors, with responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Fund, directly or indirectly during the financial year.

(c) Transactions with key management personnel

There were no transactions with key management personnel during the reporting period.

(d) Key management personnel compensation

Key management personnel are paid by Paragon Funds Management Ltd. Payments made from the Fund to Paragon Funds Management Ltd do not include any amounts directly attributable to the compensation of key management personnel.

(e) Key management personnel loans

The Fund has not made, guaranteed or secured, directly or indirectly, any loans to key management personnel or their personally related entities at any time during the reporting period.

(f) Other transactions within the Fund

Apart from those details disclosed in this note, no key management personnel have entered into a material contract with the Fund during the financial year and there were no material contracts involving key management personnel's interests existing at year end.

(g) Responsible Entity and Investment Manager's fees and other transactions

Under the terms of the PDS, the Investment Manager is entitled to receive management fees of up to 1.5% per annum (inclusive of GST net of RITC), calculated by reference to the monthly net assets value of the Fund and payable monthly by the Fund.

In addition, the Investment Manager is entitled to a performance fee calculated at the end of each month, monthly in arrears and paid at the end of each half year period ending 30 June and 31 December. The performance fee is calculated as 20% (inclusive of GST net of RITC) of the Fund's out-performance subject to a 5% hurdle rate and a high-watermark. At 30 June 2024, there was no performance fee (30 June 2023: \$nil) was recorded in the Fund.

Transactions with related parties have taken place in the ordinary course of business. The transactions during the year and amounts payable at year end between the Fund and the Responsible Entity and the Investment Manager were as follows:

15 Related party transactions (continued)

	Year ended	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
	\$	\$
Management fees for the year	633,050	634,900
Aggregate amounts payable to the Investment Manager at the end of the reporting period	51,280	61,545
Fees earned by the Responsible Entity in respect of investments by the Fund	105,530	105,839
Aggregate amounts payable to the Responsible Entity at the end of the reporting period	8,385	10,063

(h) Related party unitholdings

Parties related to the Fund (including Paragon Funds Management Ltd, its related parties and other schemes managed by Paragon Funds Management Ltd), held units in the Fund as follows:

As at 30 June 2024	No. of units held opening	No. of units held closing	Fair value of investment (\$)	Interest held (%)	No. of units acquired	No. of units disposed	Distributions paid/payable by the Fund (\$)
Unitholders							
Deniz Pty Ltd ATF The Deniz Family Trust	683,916	638,575	961,120	2.48	9,655	(54,996)	-
H Deniz Super Pty Ltd <H Deniz Superannuation Fund>	241,751	245,164	368,997	0.95	3,413	-	-
John & Prudence Deniz ATF Deniz Superannuation Fund	440,080	464,546	699,189	1.80	24,466	-	-
Hillier Deniz	83,678	84,859	127,722	0.33	1,181	-	-
Sicksamba Pty Ltd ATF Sicksamba Super Fund	240,248	243,640	366,702	0.95	3,392	-	-
Heidi Sick ATF Sick Family Trust	56,559	57,358	86,329	0.22	799	-	-
Paragon Funds Management Ltd	95,856	97,210	146,310	0.38	1,354	-	-
SHM Capital Pty Ltd	1,106,486	923,134	1,389,408	3.58	15,622	(198,974)	-
HD Investing Co Pty Ltd	178,320	180,838	272,179	0.70	2,518	-	-
	3,126,894	2,935,324	4,417,956	11.39	62,400	(253,970)	-

15 Related party transactions (continued)

(h) Related party unitholdings (continued)

As at 30 June 2023	No. of units held opening	No. of units held closing	Fair value of investment (\$)	Interest held (%)	No. of units acquired	No. of units disposed	Distributions paid/payable by the Fund (\$)
Unitholders							
Deniz Pty Ltd ATF The Deniz Family Trust	1,187,888	683,916	1,173,116	2.56	96,028	(600,000)	16,588
H Deniz Super Pty Ltd <H Deniz Superannuation Fund>	219,360	241,751	414,675	0.91	22,391	-	5,863
John & Prudence Deniz ATF Deniz Superannuation Fund	396,658	440,080	754,819	1.65	43,422	-	10,674
Hillier Deniz	133,855	83,678	143,533	0.31	10,821	(60,998)	2,030
Sicksamba Pty Ltd ATF Sicksamba Super Fund	222,279	240,248	412,097	0.90	17,969	-	5,827
Heidi Sick ATF Sick Family Trust	52,329	56,559	97,016	0.21	4,230	-	1,372
Paragon Funds Management Ltd	338,687	95,856	164,423	0.36	7,169	-	2,324
SHM Capital Pty Ltd	468,604	1,106,486	1,897,955	4.15	637,882	-	26,836
HD Investing Co Pty Ltd	132,601	178,320	305,873	0.67	45,719	-	4,325
	<u>3,152,261</u>	<u>3,126,894</u>	<u>5,363,507</u>	<u>11.72</u>	<u>885,631</u>	<u>(660,998)</u>	<u>75,839</u>

(i) Investments

The Fund did not hold any investments in Paragon Funds Management Ltd or its related parties during the year (2023: nil).

16 Events occurring after the reporting period

As detailed in Note 4, the Fund's investment in Latitude 66 experienced a significant price drop since trading commenced on the ASX from 4th July 2024. As the stock remained unlisted at 30 June 2024, the decline was not reflected in the carry value of the stock at 30 June 2024. At the date of signing, Latitude 66 is trading at ~10.5c/share, resulting in a market value decline of \$630,000, the bulk of this impact reflected in the Fund's July performance.

No other significant events have occurred since the end of the year which would impact on the financial position of the Fund disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2024 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the year ended on that date.

17 Contingent assets and liabilities and commitments

There are no outstanding contingent assets, liabilities or commitments as at 30 June 2024 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 7 to 35 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - (i) complying with Australian 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 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the 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, and
- (c) Note 2(a) confirms that the financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.
- (d) The Fund has not prepared a Consolidated entity disclosure statement as it was not a part of a consolidated group and did not have any controlled entities at the end of the financial year, or at any time during the financial year.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors of Paragon Funds Management Ltd.



Mr John Deniz
Director

Melbourne, VIC
23 September 2024

VICTORIA

Level 44, 600 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T +61 3 9608 0100

Level 3, 237 Ryrie Street
Geelong VIC 3220
T +61 3 5215 6800

TASMANIA

161 St John Street
Launceston TAS 7250
T +61 3 6334 0500

victoria@moore-australia.com.au
www.moore-australia.com.au

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF PARAGON AUSTRALIAN LONG SHORT FUND

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Paragon Australian Long Short Fund (the Fund), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of material accounting policy information and other explanatory notes and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of the Fund is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the auditor independence requirements with Corporations Act 2001 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the directors of Paragon Funds Management Ltd (Responsible Entity), would be in the same terms if given to the directors of the Responsible Entity as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Fund's annual report of the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

The directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001*, and for such internal control as the directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the ability of the Fund to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: https://auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



RYAN LEEMON
Partner – Audit and Assurance
[Moore Australia Audit \(VIC\)](#)
Melbourne, Victoria

23 September 2024



Moore Australia Audit (VIC)
ABN 16 847 721 257
Chartered Accountants