

# Bentham Syndicated Loan Fund

November 2023

### **Fund Aim**

To provide investors with a diversified exposure to the global syndicated loan market with an active allocation to investments in different industries, issuers and geographies.

| Fund Performance a                     | s at 30 No | ovember     | 2023 (%)    |        |                   |                   |                   |                    |                    |                        |
|--|------------|-------------|-------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
|  | 1 month    | 3<br>months | 6<br>months | 1 year | 3 years<br>(p.a.) | 5 years<br>(p.a.) | 7 years<br>(p.a.) | 10 years<br>(p.a.) | 15 years<br>(p.a.) | Since inception (p.a.) |
| Gross return (before fees)             | 1.25       | 1.77        | 6.49        | 10.95  | 5.15              | 3.96              | 4.61              | 5.24               | 9.57               | 7.41                   |
| Growth return (after fees)             | 0.47       | -0.57       | 1.72        | 1.36   | -3.38             | -3.27             | -2.28             | -1.78              | 1.32               | -0.83                  |
| Distribution return                    | 0.71       | 2.13        | 4.42        | 8.83   | 7.69              | 6.32              | 6.02              | 6.14               | 7.33               | 7.35                   |
| Total return (after fees) <sup>1</sup> | 1.18       | 1.56        | 6.14        | 10.19  | 4.31              | 3.05              | 3.73              | 4.36               | 8.66               | 6.51                   |
| Benchmark                              | 1.04       | 1.74        | 6.23        | 10.10  | 4.76              | 3.71              | 4.00              | 4.45               | 8.22               | 5.93                   |
| Active return (after fees)2            | 0.14       | -0.18       | -n na       | 0.08   | -0.45             | -0.66             | -n 27             | -0.09              | 0.44               | N 59                   |

Source: Fidante Partners. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Returns may be volatile and may vary from year to year.

### **Portfolio and Market Returns**

The Bentham Syndicated Loan Fund had a total return (after fees) of 1.18% in the month of November, outperforming the benchmark (Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index hedged into AUD) by 0.14%. On a before fees basis the fund returned 1.25% for the month, outperforming the benchmark by 0.21%.

## **Fund Statistics**

At month end, the Fund had a yield to maturity of 10.01% and running yield of 8.42%, with the credit yield spread decreasing by 19 bps to 538 bps during the month. The Fund had an interest rate duration of 0.52 years and credit duration of 2.79 years.

## **Leveraged Loan Market**

The discount margin (3 year) for the Index decreased by 20 bps during the month to 558 bps.

The top performing leveraged loan industries in November were Financial, Healthcare and Aerospace with returns (sector performance in USD terms) of 1.65%, 1.61% and 1.51% respectively. The worst performing loan industries were Consumer Durables, Retail and Transportation with returns of -0.23%, 0.20% and 0.63% respectively.

## **Portfolio Exposures**

The Fund's three largest industry exposures are 13.6% in Electronics, 9.6% in Healthcare, Education and Childcare and 9.5% in Diversified/Conglomerate Service. The Fund's top three company exposures are 1.2% in Polaris Newco, 1.0% in Hub International and 1.0% in Ukg. During the month, the Fund increased its exposure to Veritiv, Hilton Domestic Operating and Mauser Packaging Solutions; with decreased exposures to Deerfield Dakota, Topgolf Callaway Brands and Alkermes.

| Portfolio Summary Statistics        |                  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|
| Yield to maturity                   | 10.01%           |  |  |  |
| Running yield                       | 8.42%            |  |  |  |
| Credit spread <sup>3</sup>          | +538bps          |  |  |  |
| Number of issuers                   | 369              |  |  |  |
| Interest rate duration              | 0.52 years       |  |  |  |
| Credit duration                     | 2.79 years       |  |  |  |
| Average credit quality <sup>4</sup> | B+               |  |  |  |
| Fund size                           | A\$1,987,128,614 |  |  |  |

| Risk Characteristics                  |      |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| 5 Year Volatility <sup>5</sup>        | 7.58 |
| 5 Year Sharpe Ratio <sup>6</sup>      | 0.34 |
| 5 Year Tracking Error <sup>7</sup>    | 0.96 |
| 5 Year Information Ratio <sup>8</sup> | 0.26 |

| Fund Distributions                               |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Distribution frequency                           | Monthly          |
| Monthly distribution <sup>9</sup>                | 0.71% (Nov 2023) |
| Target distribution rate<br>(FY24) <sup>10</sup> | 1m BBSW + 4.5%   |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Total Return (after fees) is calculated using pre-distribution month end withdrawal unit prices, and assumes all income is reinvested in additional units. Total Return equals Growth return (after fees) plus Distribution return (after fees).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Active Return of the Fund is the difference between the Total Return and the return of the Benchmark. Gross Returns (before fees) are calculated by adding back the fees and expenses deducted. Please refer to the PDS for more information on fees and expenses.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Spread over the swap rate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The average credit quality is calculated using a duration adjusted Moody's Weighted Average Rating Factor (WARF) for both the S&P and Moody's security credit ratings within a portfolio.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Volatility is Standard Deviation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Sharpe Ratio is the excess return over the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (before fees) divided by Standard Deviation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Tracking Error is the Standard Deviation of the Active Return (before fees).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Information Ratio is the Active Return (before fees) divided by the Tracking Error.

<sup>9</sup> Calculated as the cents per unit (CPU) distribution at the month end divided by the ex-distribution unit price at the start of the month.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Target distribution rates for FY24 set at one month Australian Bank Bill Swap Rate (BBSW) plus 4.5% of the monthly unit price. Bentham intends to achieve the distribution rate for FY2024 with taxable income. If there is a shortfall of taxable income, the distribution may possibly include a capital return.

The current distribution rate setting was based on the running yield of the Fund as at 30 June 2023 and assumes the Fund continues to achieve an equivalent yield for FY2024. Actual distributions, however, can differ from this setting because of future matters which are not known or able to be presently identified.



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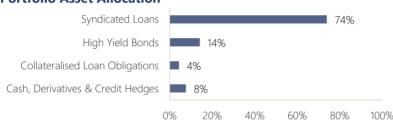
| Monthly Distri | ibution F | Returns | History | (%) <sup>1</sup> |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|
| Financial Year | Jul       | Aug     | Sep     | Oct              | Nov  | Dec  | Jan  | Feb  | Mar  | Apr  | May  | Jun  | $YTD^2$ |
| 2024           | 0.72      | 0.72    | 0.71    | 0.70             | 0.71 | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | 3.63    |
| 2023           | 0.51      | 0.54    | 0.59    | 0.63             | 0.65 | 0.67 | 0.67 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.72 | 0.70 | 0.72 | 8.00    |
| 2022           | 0.29      | 0.30    | 0.29    | 0.30             | 0.30 | 0.29 | 0.30 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.31 | 0.33 | 3.38    |
| 2021           | 0.39      | 0.38    | 0.38    | 0.37             | 0.38 | 0.37 | 0.38 | 0.37 | 1.86 | 1.50 | 1.50 | 2.10 | 10.69   |
| 2020           | 0.37      | 0.35    | 0.35    | 0.36             | 0.34 | 0.33 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.33 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 3.70    |
| 2019           | 0.41      | 0.41    | 0.40    | 0.41             | 0.40 | 0.41 | 0.42 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.39 | 0.38 | 0.37 | 4.83    |

Source: Fidante Partners

#### Past distributions are no indication of future distributions.

- 1 Calculated as the cents per unit (CPU) distribution at month end divided by the ex-distribution unit price at the start of the month.
- <sup>2</sup> Annual distribution return (Year-to-Date) is calculated as the Total Return (after fees) minus Growth Return. Total Return (after fees) is calculated using pre-distribution month end withdrawal unit price, and assumes distributions are reinvested. Growth Return equals the percentage change in unit price.

### **Portfolio Asset Allocation**





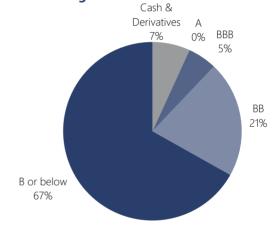


## **Discount Margin and Average Price of US Loan Market**



Source: Credit Suisse

## **Credit Rating Breakdown**



# **Top 5 Industry Exposures (Moody's SIC)**

| Electronics                             | 13.6% |
|---|-------|
| Healthcare, Education and Childcare     | 9.6%  |
| Diversified/Conglomerate Service        | 9.5%  |
| Finance                                 | 7.9%  |
| Diversified/Conglomerate  Manufacturing | 6.8%  |

| Pricing and Fees |  |
|------------------|--|
|------------------|--|

| Unit frequency pricing       | Daily            |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Management fee               | 0.77%            |
| Recoverable expenses         | 0.07% (Nov 2023) |
| Buy/sell spread <sup>3</sup> | +0.520%/-0.520%  |
| Entry and exit fees          | Nil              |
| Minimum initial investment   | A \$ 10,000      |

<sup>3</sup> Buy/sell spread is retained in the Fund to cover transaction costs. It is not paid to the Investment Manager. The buy/sell spread is reviewed on a monthly basis to ensure it fairly reflects market transaction costs.



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| Fund Overview      |  | Platform Availability & mFund Code |   |                                 |     |  |  |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----|--|--|
| Portfolio Manager  | Tom Flannery and Richard Quin  | AMP eWrap                          | ✓ | OnePath PortfolioOne            | ✓   |  |  |
| Inception date     | 16 August 2004   | AMP PortfolioCare                  | ✓ | Macquarie Wrap Super Manager    | ✓   |  |  |
| APIR code          | CSA0046AU  | AMP Wealthview                     | ✓ | Macquarie Wrap Investment       | ✓   |  |  |
| Benchmark          | Credit Suisse Leveraged Loan Index   | Asgard eWrap                       | ✓ | MLC Wrap – IDPS                 | ✓   |  |  |
|                    | (hedged into Australian dollars)   | Asgard Master Trust                | ✓ | MLC Wrap – Super                | ✓   |  |  |
| Return objective   | The Fund aims to achieve investment returns above the Benchmark over the suggested   | North                              | ✓ | MLC Navigator                   | ✓   |  |  |
|                    | investment time frame  | Summit                             | ✓ | Netwealth – Private             | ✓   |  |  |
| 33                 | Medium term, minimum 3 years   | BT Panorama                        | ✓ | Oasis                           | ✓   |  |  |
| time frame         |  | BT Wrap                            | ✓ | PowerWrap                       | ✓   |  |  |
| Fund aim           | To provide investors with a diversified exposure to the global syndicated loan market with an active   | FirstWrap                          | ✓ | uXchange                        | ✓   |  |  |
|                    | allocation to investments in different industries, issuers and geographies   | Hillross Portfolio Care            | ✓ | ASX mFund Settlement Service BA | M04 |  |  |
| Interest rate risk | Predominantly floating rate  | HUB24                              | ✓ |                                 |     |  |  |
| Currency           | Hedged into Australian dollars   |                                    |   |                                 |     |  |  |
| Fund features      | <ul> <li>Access to global senior secured syndicated loans which are not generally available to direct retail investors</li> <li>Regular monthly distributions</li> <li>High running yield with low interest rate risk</li> <li>Australian domiciled trust with a 15+ year track record</li> <li>Loans are valued to market prices daily – with daily unit pricing</li> </ul> |                                    |   |                                 |     |  |  |



### More information:

Retail Investors: Fidante Partners Investor Services on 13 51 53 or info@fidante.com.au

<u>Advisers</u>: Please contact <u>funds@benthamam.com</u> or call 02 9994 7929 <u>Institutional Investors / Consultants</u>: <u>institutional@benthamam.com</u>

Website: www.benthamam.com

PDS: Bentham Syndicated Loan Fund PDS

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