

SUSTAINABLE CREDIT FUND

As at March 2024

Fund objective

The Fund seeks to achieve a total return before fees that exceeds the total return of the Benchmark by 0.75% p.a. over rolling three year periods.

Sustainability objective

The Fund seeks to invest in credit securities which the Manager expects currently or will in the future contribute positively towards eight 'People' and/or 'Planet' themes.

Investment approach

The Manager utilises a proprietary 'Holistic' framework combining qualitative ESG assessments with third-party ESG measures and metrics to assess issuers; a process then complemented by active stewardship and engagement activities.

Benchmark

Bloomberg AusBond Composite 0-5 Yr Index

Risk profile

Medium

Suggested timeframe

3 years

Inception date

7 February 2023

Fund size

\$60.7 million

Management cost (%)

0.50 p.a.

Buy/sell spread (%)

0.06/0.10[^]

Base currency

AUD

Distribution frequency

(if any)

Monthly

ARSN code

662 889 214

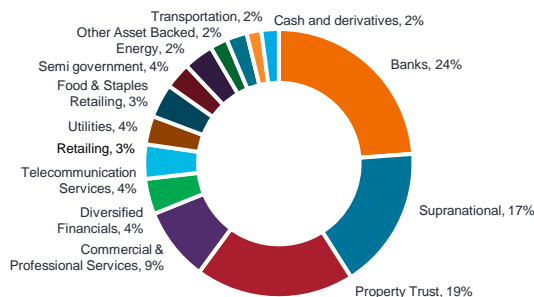
APIR code

HGI3747AU

Performance	1 Month (%)	3 months (%)	6 months (%)	1 year (%)	3 years (% p.a.)	5 years (% p.a.)	10 years (% p.a.)	Since inception p.a. (%)
Fund (gross)	0.81	1.52	4.74	4.72	-	-	-	5.51
Fund (net)	0.77	1.39	4.48	4.19	-	-	-	4.98
Benchmark	0.60	1.00	3.25	2.78	-	-	-	3.80
Excess return*	0.21	0.52	1.49	1.94	-	-	-	1.71

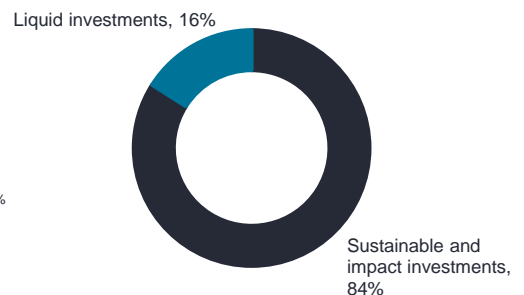
*In line with the fund objective, the excess return is measured against gross performance. Gross return is gross of management costs and sell spread. Past performance is not a reliable indication of future results.

Sector allocation

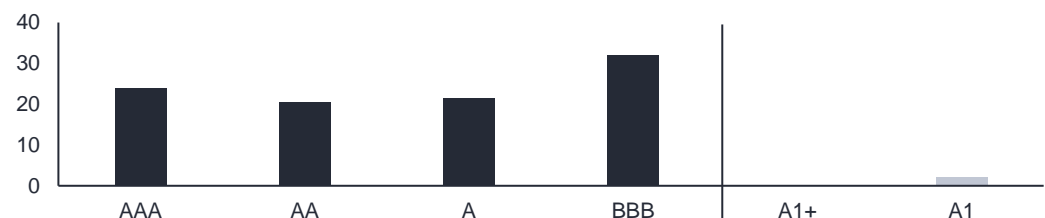


Rounding accounts for small +/- from 100%.

Investments breakdown



Credit rating distribution (%)



Portfolio Characteristics

	Fund	Benchmark
Estimated Weighted Average Yield to Maturity (EWAYTM) ¹	4.96	4.05
Running yield	4.42	3.87
Weighted average credit quality	AA-	AA+
Number of securities (on a look through basis)	77	512
Modified duration	2.95	2.26
Active duration position	0.69	

¹Estimated Weighted Average Yield to Maturity is a measure of the average annual yield of all securities in the Fund (Grossed up for franking credits, where applicable). Benchmark duration is as at month end and therefore does not include rebalancing.

Top holdings

ANZ Bank Subordinated FRN BASEL III T2
La Trobe University 5.311% 08/08/30 AUD
NBN CO LTD 4.2% 14/04/2027 AUD REGS
Transpower New Zealand Ltd 4.977% 29/11/2028 AUD
Commonwealth Bank Of Australia Subordinated FRN BASEL III T2
CPPIB Capital Inc 1.5% 23/06/2028 AUD REGS
DWPF Finance Pty Ltd 2.6% 04/08/2032 AUD
African Development Bank 1.1% 16/12/2026 AUD
GPT Wholesale Office Fund No1 3.222% 05/11/2031 AUD
Vicinity Centres Trust 4.927% 02/06/2028 AUD REGS

[^] For more information and most up to date buy/sell spread information visit www.janushenderson.com/en-au/investor/buy-sell-spreads.

SUSTAINABLE CREDIT FUND

(continued)

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**Head of Australian
Fixed Interest**
Jay Sivapalan



Portfolio Manager
Shan Kwee

Fund Performance

The Janus Henderson Sustainable Credit Fund (Fund) returned 0.77% (net) and 0.81% (gross). The Fund outperformed the Bloomberg AusBond Composite 0-5Yr Index (Benchmark) by 0.21% (gross) in March, which returned 0.60% over the month.

The Sustainable Credit Fund has a dual mandate; a sustainability objective and a performance objective. Each company within the portfolio has gone through our credit approval process, which includes negative screens, credit analysis and a sustainability assessment using our proprietary holistic ESG framework and active stewardship (where appropriate). In conjunction with normal portfolio construction practices, securities are chosen for their alignment with sustainable themes as well as their return potential for investors. These themes include 'Planet' (decarbonisation, circular economy, sustainable buildings, biodiversity) and 'People' (equality and alleviating poverty, inclusion and social diversity, aid disability support, affordable housing).

The Fund invests in a diversified and sustainable allocation of credit and agency securities, with at least 80% exposure to securities deemed 'Sustainable' and/or 'Impact' in our assessment. The Fund has over 75% allocated to investment grade credit, with the remainder across supranationals & agencies, semi governments and liquidity.

It was a better month for bonds with Australian government bond yields rallying by 8-17bps across the curve. The Fund is actively navigating duration positioning with an overweight bias to the two- to five-year maturity range which aided outperformance in March. Over the first quarter of 2024 government bond yields are broadly unchanged, with income generation and credit carry and spread compression generating excess returns within the Fund complemented by active duration management. Excess return since inception has been running above the medium-term Fund objective in the current environment which is favouring active management. We remain positive on the outlook for returns from the strategy's healthy risk adjusted income levels from the investment grade credit spectrum, which we think offers a sweet spot of risk adjusted return opportunity for this stage in the credit cycle. The balance of strong investor and reasonably priced local IG credit spreads allowed the primary market to continue to present securities which offer attractive income over the coming year. We added two new securities in March, one of which was Kiwibank, the New Zealand government owned bank which is a certified B Corporation. They issued a senior AUD bond with a yield of 5.4% which is rated A+.

For further insights from our team, please view the following articles:

- [Five sustainable investing myths busted](#)
- [Can the bond market help solve the housing affordability crisis?](#)
- [Green Bonds: an investment in the planet's future?](#)
- [Investing in a fairer future: Social bonds in focus](#)
- [Promoting decarbonisation, the Aussie way](#)

SUSTAINABLE CREDIT FUND

(continued)

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The global economy remains soft but not in recession, and the US economy is holding up better than most expected.

Market Review

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) monitors these forces closely, as well as the progress of the domestic economy. They kept policy unchanged, as expected, at 4.35%.

As central banks remain highly data dependent, bond yields swayed according to the news flow. Monthly end to end, yields were lower but intra-month there was no consistent trend. Australian three-year government bond yields ended the month 9 basis points (bps) lower at 3.62%, while 10-year government bond yields were 17bps lower at 3.96%.

Global economic data continues to be volatile, as the aftereffects of the pandemic flow through, the lagged impact of the hiking cycle works through the system, and at the margins, major global themes play out.

In a complete reversal versus this time last year, easing financial conditions globally encouraged a swathe of corporates to access primary bond markets. Investors eager to lock-in attractive yields ahead of an anticipated rate-cutting cycle, lapped up new issuance pushing credit spreads even tighter. The Australian iTraxx Index ended 5bps tighter at 64bps (adjusted for the semi-annual roll), while the Australian fixed and floating credit indices returned +0.90% and +0.50% respectively with credit outperforming government equivalents.

Market Outlook

The global economy remains soft but not in recession, and the US economy is holding up better than most expected. In this environment, the Australian economy is arguably underperforming. The household sector is anticipated to remain soft in the first half, before picking up later in the year. The investment cycle is mature, and expected to pull back in the second half, while government spending will assume its typical counter cycle role.

Our base case is for the RBA to remain on hold at current rates before commencing an easing cycle in August 2024. We price a more modest than historically average easing cycle, of around 175bps, spread over 12 months. We see the risks skewed to the downside, with a rising probability that the RBA may have to move slightly faster than our base case. In this scenario, the RBA starts moving in August 2024, with a total of 250bps of cuts, to below neutral interest rates over the following year.

In recognition of the complex macroeconomic environment, our credit strategy remains skewed towards high-quality, investment grade issuers with resilient business models, solid earnings power and conservative balance sheets. We continue to judiciously seek out, create and access such opportunities, while simultaneously preserving significant capacity to take advantage of opportunities arising through future market dislocations.

A strong rally in Tier 2 has normalised the relative value in bank capital instruments, and for the first time in two years we see some value emerging in existing hybrid structures before the APRA Additional Tier 1 Capital recommendations are likely revised later this year. We remain overweight in Tier 2, and used primary markets to begin a minor rotation toward major bank hybrids. Primary market supply remains healthy and has accelerated post reporting season. We continue to see opportunities to add securities producing strong risk adjusted yields in the investment grade spectrum, with conservatively geared Australian REIT senior debt showing attractive relative value together with selected core infrastructure subsectors. We favour allocating now while all in yields remain attractive ahead of a potential cutting cycle.

SUSTAINABLE CREDIT FUND

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We are electing to be under allocated to sub investment grade and illiquid credit, with a strong preference to earn reasonable income and capital gains up in quality for now. Our expectation remains for lower quality credit spreads to remain bumpy as investors digest higher costs of capital and slowing growth this year. We are withholding risk and liquidity capacity in anticipation of more attractive entry points for global high yield and loans. We favour further bolstering levels of credit protection (via credit default swaps) as we approach the point in the cycle where effects of policy tightening become more apparent.

For the Australian Fixed Interest Team's outlook, visit <https://go.janushenderson.com/Viewpoint-Apr24>.

For further insights on our views for 2024 please visit: <https://go.janushenderson.com/AFI-2024-Outlook>.

ESG Commentary

The bond market was extremely active in March, with domestic ESG labelled bonds following this trend. Issuance was dominated by governments with the most notable coming from the South Australian government with their funding entity South Australian Government Financing Authority (SAFA) issuing a five-year \$2 billion sustainability bond. Moving forward SAFA have adopted a whole program approach with all bonds issued from 2018 being captured under their sustainable framework and labelled as sustainable.

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As at March Quarter 2024

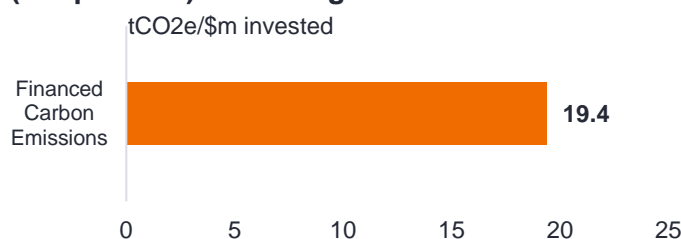
Labelled bonds# structure breakdown

	Fund
Sustainability-linked	8%
Sustainability	12%
Social	10%
Green	41%

Labelled bonds include use of proceeds bonds such as green, social and sustainability bonds which fund projects with specific and dedicated environmental and/or social benefits and sustainability-linked bonds that do not finance particular projects but rather have their coupons linked to the issuers reaching predetermined sustainability performance targets and key performance indicators. Percentages may not add up to 100% as the breakdown only considers labelled bond investments in the fund.

Source: Janus Henderson Investors

Financed Carbon Emissions (Scope 1 & 2) – Coverage 35.8%



Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (Scope 1 & 2) – Coverage 72.0%



Source: Janus Henderson Investors

The Coverage refers to the data that is available from MSCI ESG analytics. They do not provide ESG data for all investable companies.

	Theme	Measure	Fund	Coverage
PLANET	Decarbonisation	% of issuers with a net zero target by 2050	97%	100%
	Circular economy	% of companies with programs for recycling, re-using and composting	92%	55%
	Sustainable buildings	% of companies who have obtained green building certificates	50%	55%
	Biodiversity	% of companies with a policy on biodiversity in place	67%	55%
PEOPLE	Inclusion & social diversity	% of companies with a minimum of 35% of women in senior positions*	83%	100%
		% of companies with a minimum of 35% of women on the board*	86%	100%
	Affordable housing	Number of dwellings developed to provide more affordable housing projects*	4,900	
		Number of Australians who were assisted in the purchasing or building of a home*	61,000	
	Disability support & services	Of those assisted in the purchasing of new homes, % of households with a disability supported*	30%	
	Social equality & poverty	% of companies that support charitable program, direct contributions to community and have affirmative action policies in place	50%	55%

Source: Janus Henderson Investors

Note: * These figures represent outcomes aligning to the relevant 'People' theme, which result from funding provided via instruments in which the Fund invests. Coverage refers to the percentage of companies in our corporate universe that report on the respective metrics. This data is collated from company sustainability statements as well as third party systems by the investment team.

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Important information

A Product Disclosure Statement, dated 29 September 2023, and Additional Information Guide, dated 29 September 2023 is available at www.janushenderson.com/australia and contains more information on the investment objective, how we make ESG assessments and identify 'Sustainable' and 'Impact' investments contributing to 'People' and 'Planet' themes.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Performance source: Morningstar, Janus Henderson. Performance figures are calculated using the exit price net of fees and assume distributions are reinvested. Due to rounding the figures in the holdings, breakdowns may not add up to 100%. The information in this monthly report was prepared by Janus Henderson Investors (Australia) Funds Management Limited ABN 43 164 177 244, AFS Licence 444268 (Janus Henderson) in respect of the Janus Henderson Sustainable Credit Fund (**Fund**) and should not be considered a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold any particular security. Securities and sectors mentioned in this monthly report are presented to illustrate companies and sectors in which the Fund has invested. Holdings are subject to change daily.

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No person guarantees the performance of, rate of return from, nor the repayment of capital in relation to the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit with, nor another liability of, Janus Henderson Investors (Australia) Funds Management Limited nor any of the Janus Henderson group entities nor any of their related bodies corporate, associates, affiliates, officers, employees or agents. An investment in the Fund is subject to risk, including possible delays in repayment and loss of income and capital invested. Prospective investors should refer to the risk sections in the PDS for full disclosure of all risks associated with an investment.

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