

K2 Australian Absolute Return Fund

ARSN 106 882 302

Interim report

For the half-year ended 31 December 2017

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This interim report does not include all the notes of the type normally included in an annual financial report. Accordingly, this report should be read in conjunction with the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2017 and any public announcements made in respect of K2 Australian Absolute Return Fund during the interim reporting period in accordance with the continuous disclosure requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Directors' report

The directors of K2 Asset Management Ltd (ABN 95 085 445 094), the Responsible Entity of K2 Australian Absolute Return Fund, present their report together with the financial statements of K2 Australian Absolute Return Fund (the "Fund") for the half-year ended 31 December 2017 and the auditor's review report thereon.

Principal activities

The Fund continued to invest in accordance with target asset allocations as set out in the current Product Disclosure Statement and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The Fund did not have any employees during the half-year.

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

The Fund is a registered managed investment scheme domiciled in Australia.

Directors

The following persons held office as directors of K2 Asset Management Ltd during the half-year or since the end of the half-year and up to the date of this report:

Campbell W Neal
Mark S Newman
Robert C Hand
Hollie A Wight
Matthew W Lawler

Service providers

The Responsible Entity and Investment Manager of the Fund is K2 Asset Management Ltd.

The Custodians of the Fund are Morgan Stanley & Co International Plc and State Street Australia Limited.

The Administrator of the Fund is State Street Australia Limited.

The Unit Registry service provider of the Fund is OneVue Fund Services Pty Limited.

The registered office and principal place of business of the Responsible Entity and the Fund is Level 32, 101 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.

Review and results of operations

The Fund maintains its long/short investment strategy in listed equities and other investment instruments in Australia and New Zealand as permitted by the Fund's Constitution.

The investment policy of the Fund continues to be that detailed in the current Product Disclosure Statement and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

Directors' report (continued)

Review and results of operations (continued)

Results

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

	Half-year ended	
	31 December 2017	31 December 2016
Operating profit/(loss) before finance costs attributable to unitholders (\$'000)	25,955	33,236

Distributions

Distributions paid and payable (\$'000)	-	-
Distribution (dollars per unit)	-	-

Net Asset Value per unit

NAV per unit (quoted ex-distribution) are shown as follows:

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
At 31 December	185.63	184.89

Significant changes in state of affairs

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

Likely developments and expected results of operations

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.

Further information on likely developments in the operations of the Fund and the expected results of those operations have not been included in this report because the Responsible Entity believes it would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Fund.

Rounding of amounts to the nearest thousand dollars

The Fund is an entity of a kind referred to in ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191 issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) relating to the "rounding off" of amounts in the Directors' report. Amounts in the Directors' report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars in accordance with that ASIC Corporations Instrument, unless otherwise indicated.

Directors' report (continued)

Lead auditor's independence declaration

A copy of the Lead auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 5 and forms part of the Directors' report.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors of K2 Asset Management Ltd.



Hollie A Wight
Director

Melbourne
14 February 2018



Lead Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To the Directors of K2 Asset Management Ltd

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit of K2 Australian Absolute Return Fund for the half-year ended 31 December 2017 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.

KPMG

KPMG

Dean Waters

Partner

Melbourne

14 February 2018

Statement of comprehensive income

	Notes	Half-year ended	
		31 December 2017	31 December 2016
		\$'000	\$'000
Investment income			
Interest income		564	121
Dividend and distribution income		4,194	6,594
Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments held at fair value through profit or loss		29,696	36,927
Net foreign exchange gains/(losses)		<u>(720)</u>	<u>4</u>
Total Investment income/(loss)		<u>33,734</u>	<u>43,646</u>
Expenses			
Responsible Entity's fees	7	100	137
Management fees	7	1,817	2,905
Auditor's remuneration		4	3
Transaction costs		726	1,082
Performance fees	7	4,516	5,766
Administrative expenses		194	261
Short dividend expense		211	111
Other operating expenses		<u>211</u>	<u>145</u>
Operating expenses before finance costs		<u>7,779</u>	<u>10,410</u>
Profit/(loss) from operating activities		<u>25,955</u>	<u>33,236</u>
Finance costs attributable to unitholders			
Distributions to unitholders		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders (total comprehensive income)	5	<u>25,955</u>	<u>33,236</u>

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

Statement of financial position

		As at	
		31 December 2017	30 June 2017
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	36,130	148,577
Receivables		118	596
Due from brokers - receivable for securities sold		-	6,163
Financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss	3	<u>251,571</u>	<u>166,800</u>
Total assets		<u>287,819</u>	<u>322,136</u>
Liabilities			
Bank overdrafts	6	3,485	-
Payables		660	1,236
Performance fee payable	7	4,387	-
Due to brokers - payable for securities purchased		297	1,679
Distributions payable		-	25,708
Financial liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss	4	<u>7,764</u>	<u>13,447</u>
Total liabilities (excluding net assets attributable to unitholders)		<u>16,593</u>	<u>42,070</u>
Net assets attributable to unitholders - liability	5	<u>271,226</u>	<u>280,066</u>

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

Statement of changes in equity

The Fund's net assets attributable to unitholders are classified as a liability under AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*. As the Fund has no equity, the Fund has not presented any items of changes in equity for the current or comparative period.

Statement of cash flows

	Half-year ended	
	31 December 2017	31 December 2016
Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Dividends and distributions received	4,600	7,964
Interest (paid)/received	588	117
Other income received	33	-
Responsible Entity's fees paid	(103)	(138)
Management fees paid	(1,929)	(2,924)
Performance fees paid	(129)	(565)
Payment of other operating expenses	(1,295)	(1,516)
Net foreign exchange gain/(loss)	(76)	24
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	<u>1,689</u>	<u>2,962</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments held at fair value through profit or loss	149,882	286,393
Purchase of financial instruments held at fair value through profit or loss	(205,859)	(260,611)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities	<u>(55,977)</u>	<u>25,782</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from applications by unitholders	5,149	13,115
Payments for redemptions by unitholders	(50,707)	(53,787)
Distributions paid	(15,442)	(5,041)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities	<u>(61,000)</u>	<u>(45,713)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(115,288)	(16,969)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the half-year	148,577	35,997
Effects of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(644)	(20)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the half-year	<u>6</u> 32,645	<u>19,008</u>

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

Contents of the notes to the interim financial statements

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1 Basis of preparation of interim report

This interim report covers the K2 Australian Absolute Return Fund (the "Fund") as an individual entity which is a registered managed investment scheme under the *Corporations Act 2001*. The Fund was registered with ASIC as a registered managed investment scheme on 13 November 2003 and began operations on 1 October 1999. The Fund will terminate on 16 August 2079 unless terminated earlier in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The Responsible Entity of the Fund is K2 Asset Management Ltd (the "Responsible Entity"). The Responsible Entity's registered office is Level 32, 101 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000. The financial statements are presented in Australian currency.

These general purpose financial statements for the half-year ended 31 December 2017 have been prepared in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and Australian Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting*.

This interim report does not include all the notes of the type normally included in an annual financial report. Accordingly, this report is to be read in conjunction with the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2017, any public announcements made in respect of K2 Australian Absolute Return Fund during the interim reporting period in accordance with the continuous disclosure requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the current Product Disclosure Statement.

This interim report was authorised for issue by the directors on 14 February 2018.

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year and corresponding interim reporting period. There have been no significant changes in the risk management policies and processes of the Fund since previous financial year end.

2 Fair value measurement

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

- Financial assets / liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (see note 3 and 4)
- Financial assets / liabilities held for trading (see note 3 and 4)
- Derivative financial instruments

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

AASB 13 requires disclosure of fair value measurements by level of the following fair value hierarchy:

- quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1);
- inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly (level 2); 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 is based on their quoted market prices 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 annual report. 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 is the last traded price. When the Fund holds derivatives with offsetting market risks, it uses last traded prices as a basis for establishing fair values for the offsetting risk positions and applies this last traded price to the net open position, as appropriate.

A financial instrument is regarded as quoted in an active market if quoted prices are readily and regularly available from an exchange, and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

2 Fair value measurement (continued)

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

The fair value of financial assets and 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.

Where discounted cash flow techniques are used, estimated future cash flows are based on management's best estimates and the discount rate used is a market rate at the end of the reporting period applicable for an instrument with similar terms and conditions.

For other pricing models, inputs are based on market data at the reporting date. Fair values for unquoted equity investments are estimated, if possible, using applicable price/earnings ratios for similar listed companies adjusted to reflect the specific circumstances of the issuer.

The fair value of derivatives that are not exchange traded is estimated at the amount that the Fund would receive or pay to terminate the contract at the reporting date taking into account current market conditions (volatility and appropriate yield curve) and the current creditworthiness of the counterparties. The fair value of a forward contract is determined as a net present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at appropriate market rates as at the valuation date. The fair value of an option contract is determined by applying the Black Scholes option valuation model.

The output of a model is always an estimate or approximation of a value that cannot be determined with certainty, and valuation techniques employed may not fully reflect all factors relevant to the positions the Fund holds. Valuations are therefore adjusted, where appropriate, to allow for additional factors including liquidity risk and counterparty risk.

Recognised fair value measurements

The following table presents the Fund's assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value as at 31 December 2017 and 30 June 2017.

As at 31 December 2017	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
Financial assets				
Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss:				
Equity securities	<u>251,571</u>	-	-	<u>251,571</u>
Total	<u>251,571</u>	-	-	<u>251,571</u>
Financial liabilities				
Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss:				
Equity securities - short	<u>7,764</u>	-	-	<u>7,764</u>
Total	<u>7,764</u>	-	-	<u>7,764</u>

2 Fair value measurement (continued)

Recognised fair value measurements (continued)

As at 30 June 2017	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
Financial assets				
Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss:				
Equity securities	<u>166,800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166,800</u>
Total	<u>166,800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166,800</u>
Financial liabilities				
Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss:				
Equity securities - short	<u>13,447</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,447</u>
Total	<u>13,447</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,447</u>

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

(i) Transfers between levels

There were no transfers between levels in the fair value hierarchy for the half year ended 31 December 2017 and year ended 30 June 2017. There were also no changes made to any of the valuation techniques applied as of 30 June 2017.

Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy are deemed to have occurred at the end of the reporting period.

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

All financial instruments held by the Fund with fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs at 31 December 2017 and 30 June 2017 have been valued at \$0.

(iii) Valuation processes

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

Further analysis, should it be required, is undertaken to determine the accounting significance of the identification. For certain security types, in selecting the most appropriate valuation model, management performs back testing and considers actual market transactions. Changes in allocation to or from level 3 are analysed at the end of each reporting period.

(iv) Fair values of other financial instruments

The Fund did not hold any financial instruments which were not measured at fair value in the statement of financial position. Due to their short term nature, the carrying amounts of receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair value.

3 Financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss

	As at	
	31 December 2017	30 June 2017
	\$'000	\$'000
Designated at fair value through profit or loss		
Australian equity securities	244,565	163,998
New Zealand equity securities	<u>7,006</u>	<u>2,802</u>
Total designated at fair value through profit or loss	<u>251,571</u>	<u>166,800</u>
Total financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss	<u>251,571</u>	<u>166,800</u>

4 Financial liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss

	As at	
	31 December 2017	30 June 2017
	\$'000	\$'000
Designated at fair value through profit or loss		
Australian equity securities - short	<u>7,764</u>	<u>13,447</u>
Total designated at fair value through profit or loss	<u>7,764</u>	<u>13,447</u>
Total financial liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss	<u>7,764</u>	<u>13,447</u>

5 Net assets attributable to unitholders

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

	Half-year ended			
	31 December 2017	31 December 2016	31 December 2017	31 December 2016
	No. '000	No. '000	\$'000	\$'000
Net assets attributable to unitholders				
Opening balance	1,660	2,160	280,066	365,128
Applications	30	73	5,143	13,072
Redemptions	(290)	(299)	(50,204)	(53,528)
Units issued upon reinvestment of distributions	61	20	10,266	3,369
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,955</u>	<u>33,236</u>
Closing balance	<u>1,461</u>	<u>1,954</u>	<u>271,226</u>	<u>361,277</u>

As stipulated within the Fund's Constitution, each unit represents a right to an individual share in the Fund and does not extend to a right to the underlying assets of the Fund. There are no separate classes of units and each unit has the same rights attaching to it as all other units of the Fund.

6 Cash and cash equivalents

	As at	
	31 December 2017 \$'000	30 June 2017 \$'000
Cash at bank	<u>36,130</u>	<u>148,577</u>
	<u>36,130</u>	<u>148,577</u>

Reconciliation to cash at the end of the half-year

The above figures are reconciled to cash at the end of the half-year as shown in the statement of cash flows as follows:

	As at	
	31 December 2017 \$'000	30 June 2017 \$'000
Balances as above	36,130	148,577
Bank overdrafts	<u>(3,485)</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance per statement of cash flows	<u>32,645</u>	<u>148,577</u>

7 Related party transactions

Transactions and balances with related parties

Transactions with K2 Asset Management Ltd in its role as the Responsible Entity and Investment Manager have taken place at arm's length, in the ordinary course of business and are as follows:

	Half-year ended	
	31 December 2017 \$	31 December 2016 \$
Management fees expense for the financial half-year	1,817,170	2,904,870
Performance fees expense for the financial half-year	4,516,199	5,765,625
Responsible Entity's fees expense for the financial half-year	99,926	136,538

	As at	
	31 December 2017 \$	30 June 2017 \$
Management fees payable at the end of each financial half-year/year	284,076	396,056
Performance fees payable at the end of each financial half-year/year	4,386,840	-
Responsible Entity's fees payable at the end of each financial half-year/year	15,649	18,617

For further information please refer to the Product Disclosure Statement.

There have been no significant changes to the related parties transactions disclosed in the annual report for the half-year ended 31 December 2017.

8 Events occurring after the reporting period

No significant events have occurred since the end of the reporting period and up to the date of this report which would impact on the financial position of the Fund disclosed in the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the half-year ended on that date.

9 Contingent assets and liabilities and commitments

There are no outstanding contingent assets, liabilities or commitments as at 31 December 2017 and 30 June 2017.

Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the directors of the Responsible Entity:

- (a) The financial statements and notes set out on pages 6 to 16 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - (i) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
 - (ii) giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 31 December 2017 and of its performance for the half-year ended on that date; and
- (b) the financial statements also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in note 2; and
- (c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Fund will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors of K2 Asset Management Ltd.



Hollie A Wight
Director

Melbourne
14 February 2018



Independent Auditor's Review Report

To the unitholders of K2 Australian Absolute Return Fund

Conclusion

We have reviewed the accompanying **Interim Financial Report** of K2 Australian Absolute Return Fund (the Scheme).

Based on our review, which is not an audit, we have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the Interim Financial Report of K2 Australian Absolute Return Fund is not in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Scheme's financial position as at 31 December 2017 and of its performance for the half-year ended on that date; and
- complying with *Australian Accounting Standard AASB 134 Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

The **Interim Financial Report** comprises:

- Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017;
- Statement of comprehensive income, Statement of changes in equity and Statement of cash flows for the half-year ended on that date;
- Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- The Directors' Declaration.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Interim Financial Report

The Directors of K2 Asset Management Limited (the Responsible Entity) are responsible for:

- the preparation of the Interim Financial Report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards* and the *Corporations Act 2001*; and
- for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the Interim Financial Report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



Auditor's responsibility for the review of the Interim Financial Report

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the Interim Financial Report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with *Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2410 Review of a Financial Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, we have become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the Interim Financial Report is not in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* including: giving a true and fair view of the Scheme's financial position as at 31 December 2017 and its performance for the half-year ended on that date; and complying with *Australian Accounting Standard AASB 134 Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*. As auditor of K2 Australian Absolute Return Fund, *ASRE 2410* requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the audit of the annual financial report.

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

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

KPMG

KPMG

Dean Waters

Partner

Melbourne

14 February 2018