

## **Samuel Terry Absolute Return Fund and Samuel Terry Absolute Return Active Fund (together, *the Fund*) – June 2020 quarterly report**

The Fund's performance (Founder units, pre-tax, net of fees) and those of the Australian All Ordinaries Accumulation Index and the MSCI World Equities Index, are as follow:

To 30 June 2020	STAR	All Ords	MSCI (\$A)
1 quarter	7.1%	17.8%	6.8%
1 year	15.5%	-7.2%	2.9%
3 years (%p.a.)	20.1%	5.4%	9.2%
5 years (%p.a.)	22.4%	6.2%	8.3%
7 years (%p.a.)	25.0%	7.7%	11.9%
10 years (%p.a.)	24.6%	7.8%	11.3%
Since inception on 1 Nov 2003 (%p.a.)	15.8%	8.1%	7.4%

The Fund's relative underperformance during the quarter was mainly due to our 25-30% cash weighting<sup>1</sup> and lack of exposure to booming technology shares like Afterpay and Amazon. Our winners included **AMP** (5.4% of the Fund), which rose 38%, **Nine Entertainment** (3.7% of the Fund), which rose 20% and **Goldman Sachs**, (3.3% of the Fund) which rose 29%.

We invested 9% of the Fund in bonds issued by **Diamond Offshore**, an American firm which owns 15 oil drilling vessels. Most of our bonds were bought soon after Diamond entered bankruptcy. The oil drilling industry is in a deep slump. We expect most of Diamond's competitors to also become bankrupt, if they have not already done so. The attached presentation discusses Diamond. We also invested over 6% of the Fund in another distressed bond, and hope to buy more.

We invested 3% of the Fund in **Loews Corp**, an American investment company, which invests in insurance, hotels and gas pipelines. Loews has outperformed the S&P Index over many years, while usually maintaining a conservative balance sheet. We bought Loews shares at just over 50% of its net asset value, which is unusually cheap for a company of this quality.

**The fund is open to new investors.** While equities are generally expensive, we are raising cash for future opportunities, especially in distressed debt.

The Fund's net asset value was \$259m or \$3.3414 per Founder unit and \$12.9144 per A Class unit (up 6.87%) at quarter end. 19% of the Fund was in cash, mostly gold. The Fund owned securities issued by 31 companies.

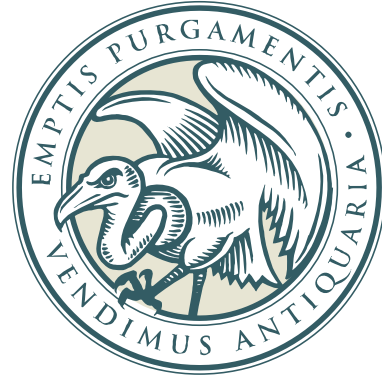
Fred Woollard, Nigel Burgess and Mitch Taylor  
14 July 2020



<https://twitter.com/FredWoollard>

---

<sup>1</sup> This includes OneMarket and Salmat. OneMarket paid us in June and Salmat will pay us this quarter.



SAMUEL TERRY  
ASSET MANAGEMENT

Samuel Terry Absolute Return Group - A Class Units

July 2020



# Fund Summary

Fund Name	Samuel Terry Absolute Return Group comprising Samuel Terry Absolute Return Fund and Samuel Terry Absolute Return Active Fund*
APIR Code	STP9437AU
Fund inception	November 2003
Fund Size	A\$262m
Base Currency	Australian Dollars
Investor eligibility	Wholesale investors only
Fund Liquidity	Monthly for applications and redemptions
Administrator and Custodian	Link Fund Solutions
Auditor	Grant Thornton
Management fee	1.5% plus GST p.a
Performance fee	20% of benchmark outperformance, with a high water mark, paid annually
Benchmark	RBA cash rate plus 2% p.a
Buy/Sell spread	0.5%
Platform availability	Powerwrap, Netwealth, Ausmaq

\*See Appendix A for representation of legal structure



# People | Small team. Experience through market cycles and across asset classes

## Investment Team



**Fred Woollard**  
Founder and Managing Director

Fred has worked in financial markets since 1981. Prior to founding Samuel Terry in 2003, Fred worked for Hunter Hall International Limited, a European family office and various stockbroking firms in Australia and the UK. Fred has an Economics degree from University of Sydney.



**Nigel Burgess**  
Director

Nigel has worked in financial markets since 1985. Prior to joining Samuel Terry in 2009, Nigel also worked at Hunter Hall International Limited, the same European family office, Friends Provident and GIO Australia. Nigel has an Economics/Finance degree and an Accounting Masters degree, both from University of NSW.



**Mitch Taylor**  
Portfolio Manager

Mitch has worked in financial markets since 2009. Prior to joining Samuel Terry in 2017, Mitch worked for a boutique Australian fund manager. Mitch has a Commerce degree from University of Sydney and a Master of Applied Finance from Macquarie University.

## Support Team



**Therese Cochrane**  
General Manager

Therese started work as a banking and finance and commercial lawyer in 1987. She has worked in private practice in Sydney and in-house for investment banks in London. She has an Economics degree, majoring in Accounting and Economics and a Law degree, both from University of Sydney and a Masters in Law from University of Cambridge.



**Mike Conway**  
Business Development

Mike has worked in financial markets since 1993. Mike was a leading institutional stockbroker at UBS and Bank of America before retiring from stockbroking in 2016. Mike has relocated to Byron Bay and remains entrenched in financial markets. Mike has a business degree from UTS.



**Michelle Espie**  
Executive Assistant

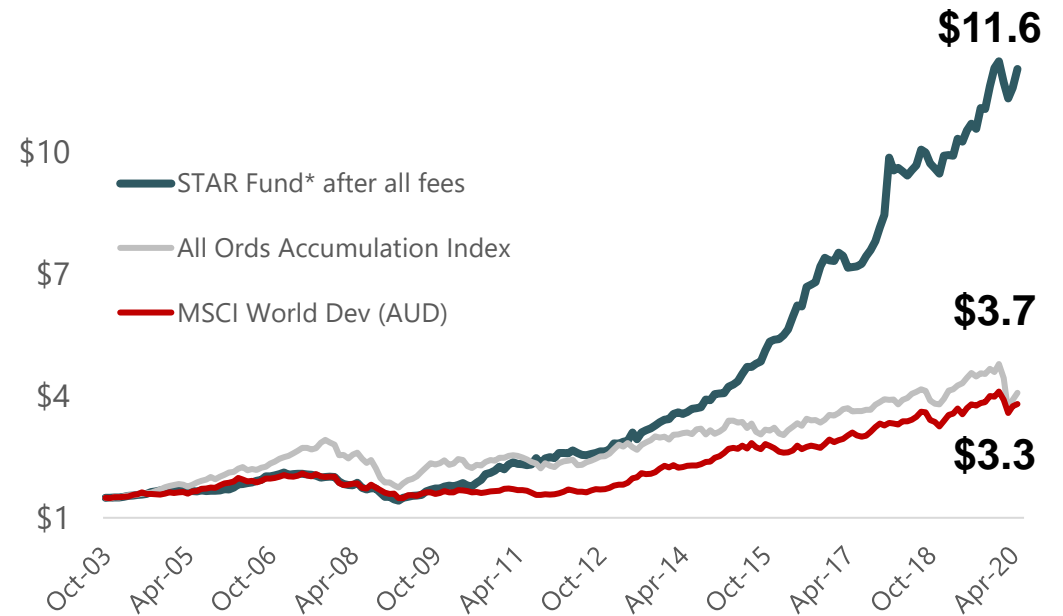
Michelle has worked in support services for over 20 years. Prior to joining Samuel Terry in 2016 she worked at Pattersons Securities, Merrill Lynch, Credit Suisse, Citigroup and Macquarie.



# Performance | Good returns for 16 years

To 30 June 2020	STAR Fund* after fees	All Ords Accumulation Index	MSCI World Developed Index (AUD)
1 month	0.4%	2.3%	-0.3%
1 quarter	7.1%	17.8%	6.8%
1 year	15.5%	-7.2%	2.9%
3 years (%p.a.)	20.1%	5.4%	9.2%
5 years (%p.a.)	22.4%	6.2%	8.3%
7 years (%p.a.)	25.0%	7.7%	11.9%
10 years (%p.a.)	24.6%	7.8%	11.3%
Since inception	15.8%	8.1%	7.4%

## Value of \$1 invested since inception



\*Founder units – A class units have a different hurdle rate.



# What makes the fund different? | We have significant personal investments in the fund... we eat our own cooking



## Flexible

- NOT attempting to track any index.
- Invests globally, although have a bias to Australia.
- Looks beyond equities. At times capital allocated to distressed debt and options.
- Invests across the range of market capitalisations, from Microsoft to <\$50m.
- Willing and able to invest in unlisted and illiquid securities.
- Willing and able to be active investors.



## Conservative

- Often holds lots of cash. Since inception, the average cash weighting has been 18%.
- NO borrowing or leveraging of the fund.
- NO short selling
- Does not write options, will only buy them periodically.
- The majority of investments are usually in companies which themselves have net cash. This helps us sleep at night, especially when markets are slumping.



## Uncomplicated

- Invests only in companies and financial instruments we understand.
- Low frequency traders. Since inception, annual portfolio turnover has been less than 50%.
- We have limited brain space and limited good ideas. Invests heavily in our best ideas. The portfolio is more concentrated than most.
- If we cannot find investments which offer attractive risk/reward, we will hold cash and wait.
- Provides a high degree of transparency.

***We aim to maximise post tax returns for our Australian unit holders.***



## What makes the fund different? | Unique Approach. Wide opportunity set, looking for simple characteristics

### "One way bets"

Heads, I win...  
Tails, I don't lose...

Typically ~80% of  
capital employed.

### "Irrational odds"

Heads, I win \$5...  
Tails, I only lose \$1...

Typically less than 20%  
of capital employed.



## Current Portfolio | Portfolio Snapshot at 14 July 2020

- **33%** of capital invested in companies with net cash, of which **15%** is in companies whose net cash exceeds their market capitalisation.
- **21%** of capital is invested in corporate credit.
- **0%** of capital is invested in options.
- We aim to hold securities issued by **15-35** diverse names.
- Top 20 holdings represent 90% of capital. The Fund currently owns securities issued by **31** names.

Top Holdings	% of NAV
Cash (gold is 15.0% of total)	20.2%
Diamond Offshore Drilling bonds	8.2%
Australian Banks (Westpac and NAB)	6.8%
Undisclosed corporate bond	6.5%
Salmat (in wind-down)	5.2%
AMP	5.0%
UK banks (Lloyds, Barclays, Virgin Money)	5.0%
Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers	4.8%
Carnival Corporation 2022 bonds	4.7%
Nine Entertainment	3.8%

Australian Securities	Non- Australian Securities	Cash & Gold
59.7%	30.1%	20.2%



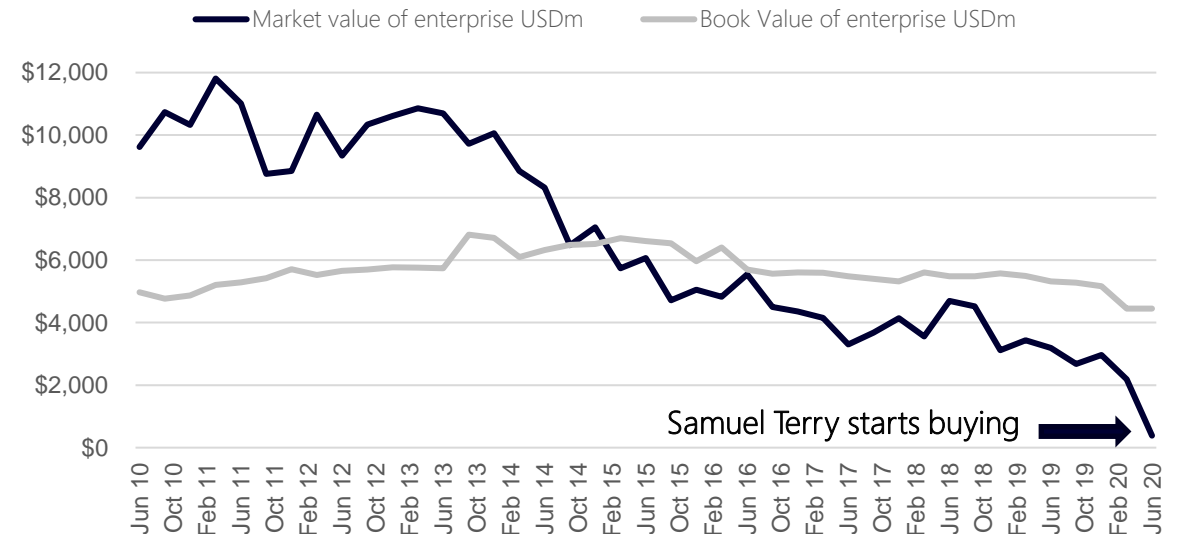


# Current Holding | Diamond Offshore Drilling unsecured bonds. EV: USD250m

- Diamond is an offshore driller with a history of rational capital allocation decisions. It owns and operates 15 drilling vessels with a book value in excess of USD4bln.
- In April 2020 Diamond selectively entered Ch11 bankruptcy to restructure its USD2.4bln of debt and create a sustainable capital structure. In response, Diamond's unsecured bonds were sold aggressively in the secondary market.
- We bought 6.5% of Diamond's outstanding unsecured bonds at around 12c per dollar of face value. This equates to an enterprise value of less than USD250m, a fraction of the market value just 6 months ago.
- With approximately 60% of the fleet under contract for the next two years, a simple capital structure and no shipyard liabilities; short term visibility of cash flow is better than peers.
- Diamond is currently negotiating with creditors. We hope and expect our claim will be converted to equity. We expect Diamond will emerge from bankruptcy within 12 months with limited debt, however may need more capital at some stage.
- Offshore drilling is cyclical. In the future, oil companies could restart exploring for oil offshore, and Diamond's ships could again be very valuable. In the meantime, we are comfortable holding the least leveraged player with rational managers.



**Diamond is trading cheaply, when compared to history**

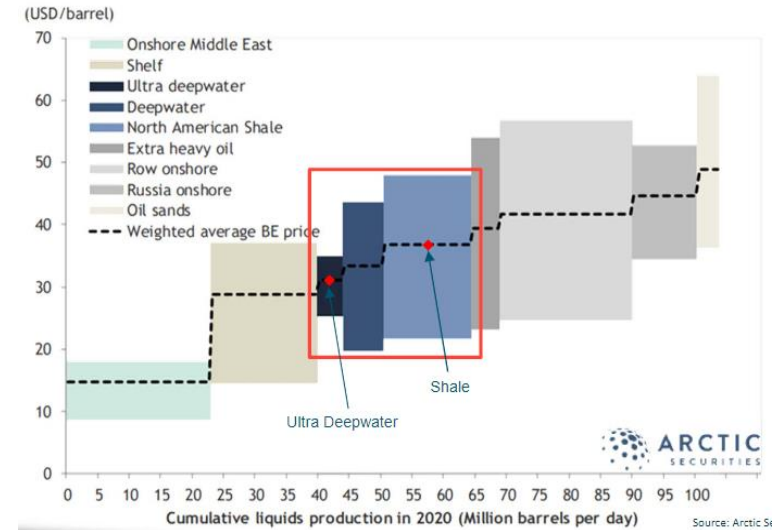




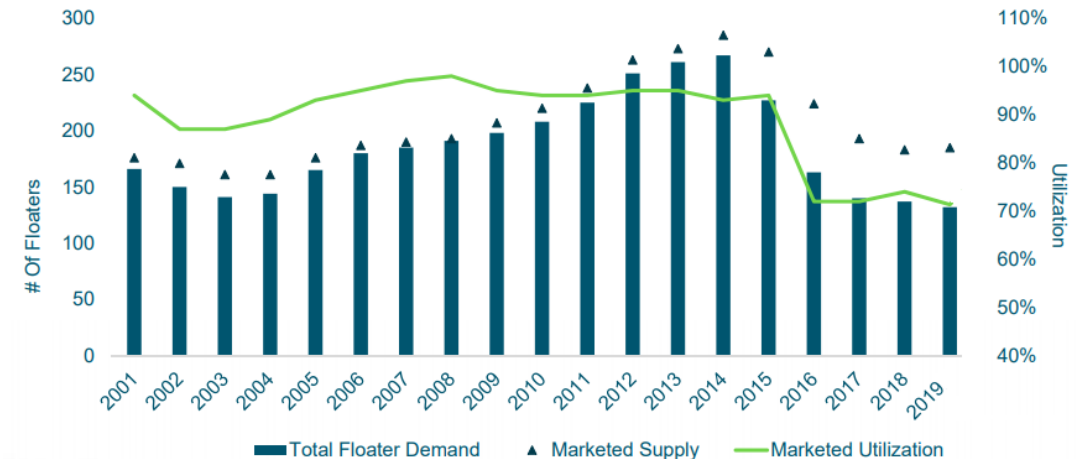
# Current Holding | Diamond Offshore Drilling unsecured bonds. EV: USD250m

- Offshore oil accounts for approximately 30% of global oil production and now operates at attractive “break-even” oil prices. We think offshore oil production will exist in 10 years, however the industry is likely in structural decline.
- High oil prices from 2011- 2014 spurred a boom in offshore oil drilling, and corresponding a boom in new vessel building. Drilling vessels take years to build and some are only just completing.
- Since 2015 the industry has been oversupplied. Although offshore drilling has sustained, shorter (higher break-even) paybacks available in unconventional oil, and lower general oil CAPEX has limited demand. We don’t think demand will return to 2014 peaks.
- Legacy term contracts have enabled the industry to stall the inevitable retirement of sub-economic vessels. Recent oil volatility has prompted majors to defer CAPEX. The likely impact is a string of bankruptcies. New vessel owners may be more pragmatic on rig retirement decisions which could in-turn reduce supply to more sustainable levels.
- At the price we paid for Diamond, not a lot needs to go right.

## Deepwater oil has high CAPEX but attractive break-even



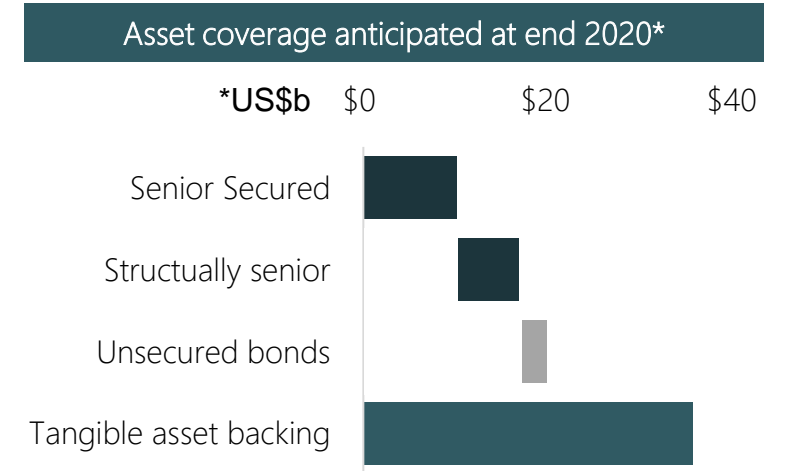
## The market for vessels was oversupplied even before COVID-19





# Current Holding | Carnival Corp unsecured bonds due 2022: EV: USD25bln

- Carnival Corporation is the world's largest owner and operator of cruise ships. It owns 104 ships including the now infamous Diamond Princess and Ruby Princess.
- The outbreak of COVID 19 has forced the company to stop operating, cut costs and refund customer deposits. The shut-down will cost Carnival USD1bln per month. Carnival's shares have fallen 80%, and bonds more than 30%. To fund anticipated losses, the company has been forced to raise USD6.25bln in debt and equity.
- We have bought the 2022 unsecured bonds in the secondary market at **a yield above 17%**.
- Our bonds have significant asset coverage with a total LVR less than 60%. On last year's earnings, even after adjusting for this year's anticipated losses, the group's total debt is less than 4x EBITDA.
- Carnival is the largest player in a global oligopoly, has a history of consistent returns on assets, a favourable demographic exposure and pays negligible tax.
- If the situation only halts operations for 1 year and Carnival eventually returns to profitability, or if it gets worse but Carnival continues to have positive equity value – we will earn 17% for the next few years.
- If the situation gets significantly worse and cruise operators are closed for the next two years, litigation spikes or significant capital is required – we will likely be converted to equity at what we expect could be attractive prices.



Source: Bloomberg

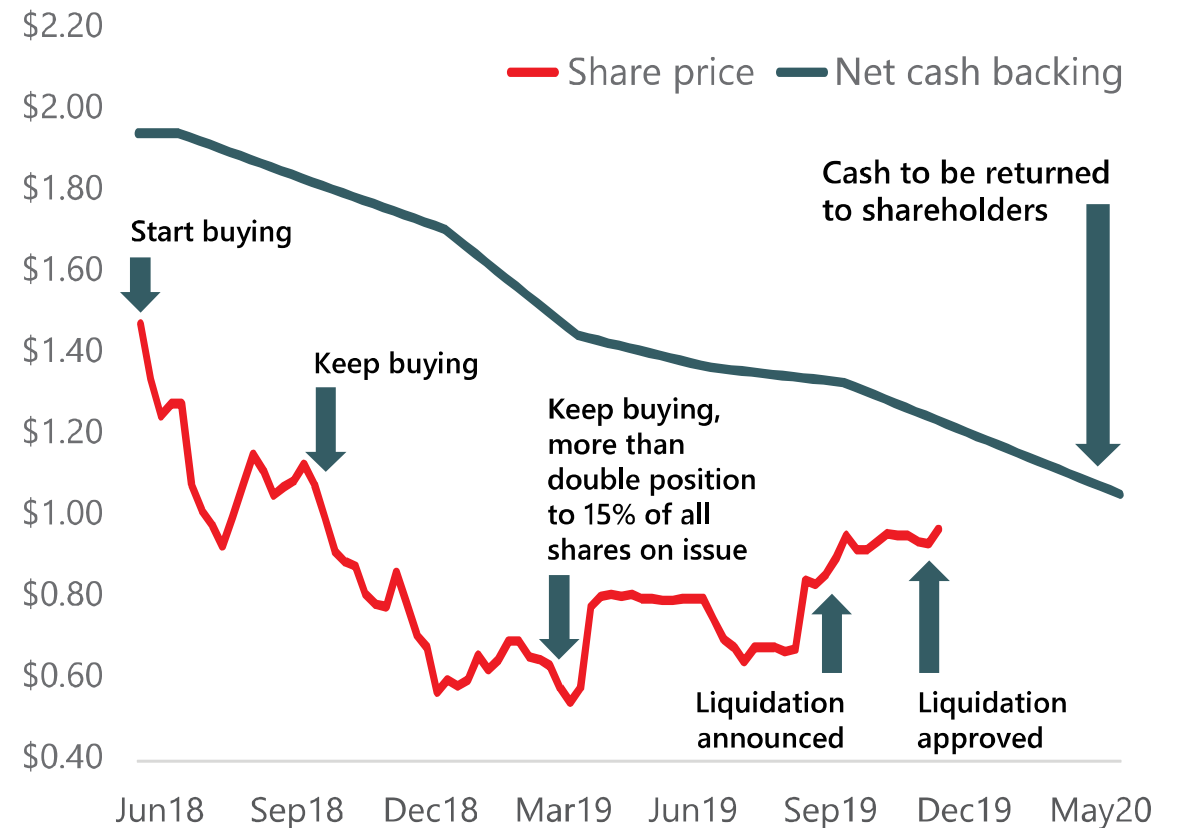
\*Samuel Terry forecast



## Historical Holding | OneMarket Limited. Market cap: \$112m (immediately prior distribution in June 2020)

- OneMarket is a former technology business, now in liquidation. The company will return \$1.08 in cash to shareholders in June 2020.
- Spun-out of Westfield Corporation in June 2018. For every \$100 worth of Westfield shares, holders received less than \$1 of OneMarket shares. Many holders were motivated sellers.
- We originally bought shares because they were trading for less than cash backing and a fraction of invested capital. We thought investing in the company's technology was a worthy investment with significant upside.
- The management and Board were first class, we expected they would act rationally and return cash if further investment in the technology was irrational.
- Unfortunately the technology did not work out. However, the company was liquidated with significant cash remaining.
- We still made a profit.

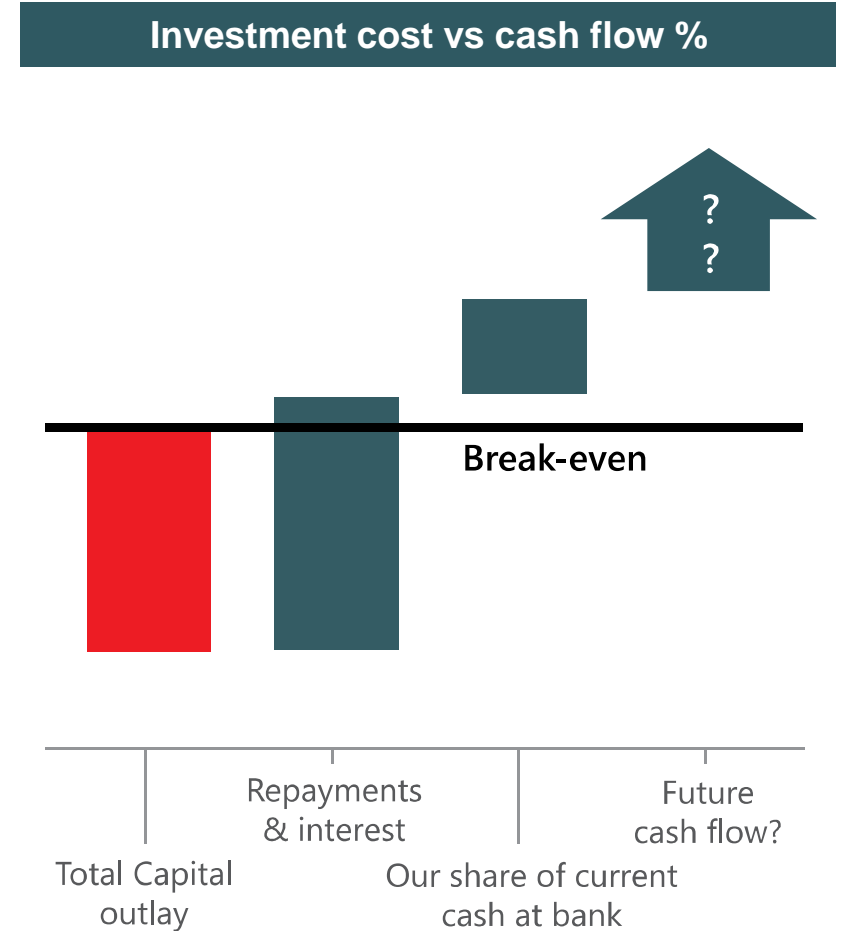
OneMarket Limited share price vs net cash backing





## Current Holding | Yellow Holdings NZ. Unlisted

- Yellow Holdings is an unlisted company which owns the NZ yellow pages and a suite of associated digital businesses. We own 86%.
- Sold by Telecom NZ to private equity in 2007 for more than \$2bln. Since then Yellow has been through numerous restructurings. It has consistently generated cash, at a declining rate.
- We acquired our interest between Dec 2018 and August 2019 in the secondary market. We bought from motivated sellers at attractive prices.
- Since taking control, we have restructured the Board, capital structure and management incentives. We are now in safe hands.
- Cash generation has continued. We have already been paid back more than our investment.
- The company should continue to generate cash at a declining rate. It has no material long-term liabilities.
- We are optimistic about the company's outlook despite it being part of a declining industry.

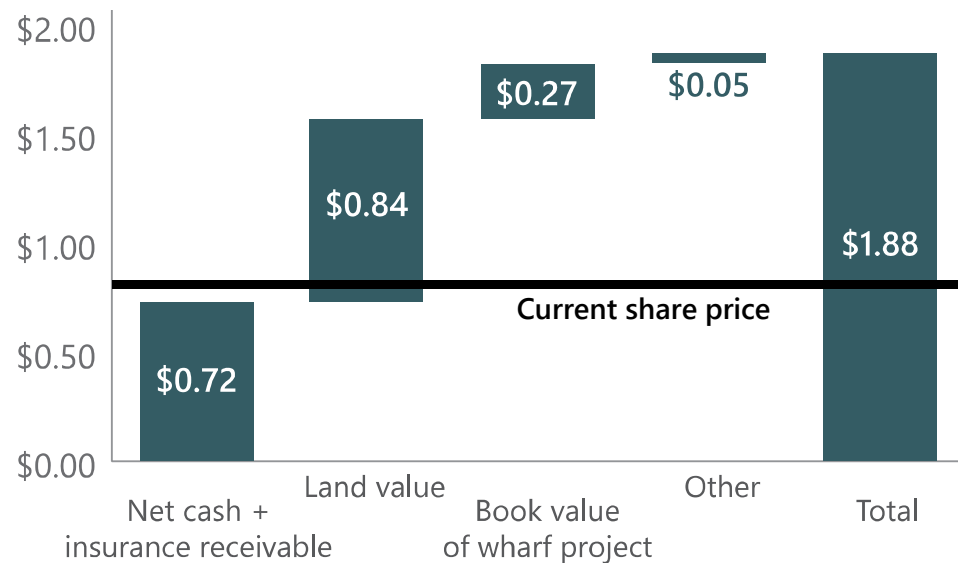




# Current Holding | Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers. Market cap: \$48m

- Estate ravaged by Kangaroo Island wild-fires in January 2020. 95% of timberland fire affected.
- Unfortunate timing, the timber resource was ready for export and the company expected operations to start within 18 months.
- Significant potential profits have been lost. The share price has fallen more than 50%.
- The company is reassessing strategy to maximise the value of its assets. Significant insurance proceeds will be received in the short term.
- Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers (KPT) still owns 26,000 Ha of highly productive agricultural land, a significant potential wharf infrastructure project, and has net cash.

**KPT NTA at 31 Dec 2020. Adjusted for fires and insurance**







## Re-opening the fund | Market conditions have changed; we are anticipating attractive investment opportunities

- For the past several years we have been vocally cautious on equity and debt securities. Despite strong demand, we limited the fund's capacity as attractive opportunities were scarce.
- The March 2020 market panic changed this dynamic. We became more excited about the investment opportunity set and were increasingly discovering motivated sellers in both equity and debt securities.
- Global equity markets have since retraced much of their losses; although we continue to find value in select pockets. Credit market bargains have persisted, particularly in the distressed space.
- We are unable to predict markets and do not know whether prices will trend higher or collapse. Our observation is only that sentiment is favourable. We are raising capital to take advantage of opportunities as they appear.
- Our track record shows that we perform well out of depressed markets and can generate good returns in both large and small securities across the capital structure. We have confidence that we can continue to generate good returns with larger funds under management.
- It is in the interest of all unit holders for us to only grow in accordance with the available opportunity set. We will close the fund when it reaches a level where we are no longer confident in our ability to generate good returns.

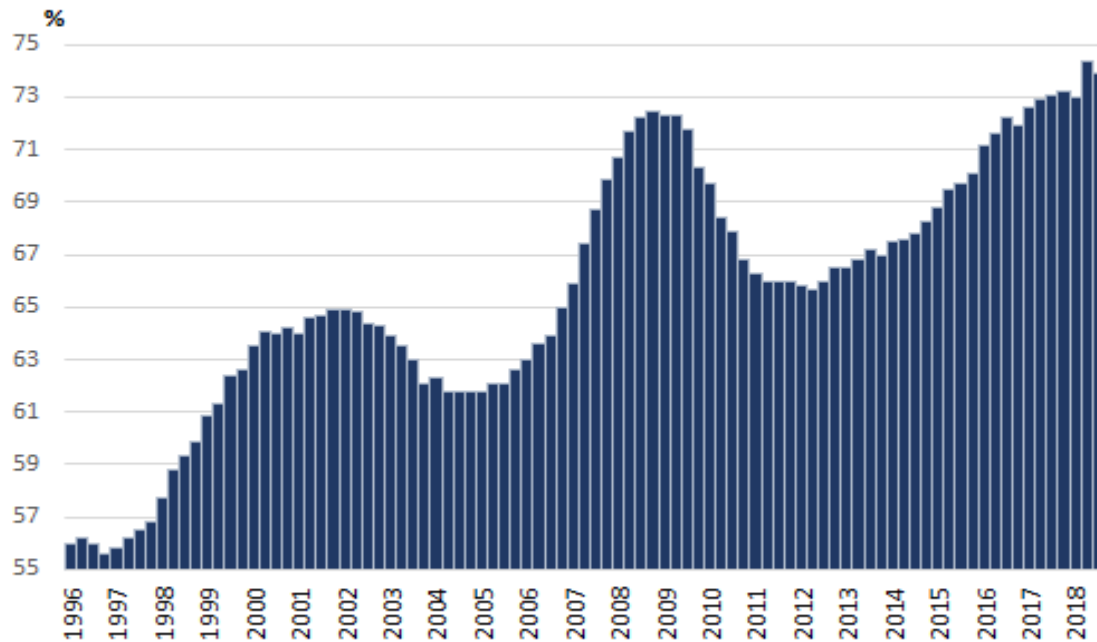


# Re-opening the Fund | Opportunities in distressed debt.

Over the last 5 years, corporates have taken advantage of low interest rates and increased borrowings

## USA Corporate Debt to GDP

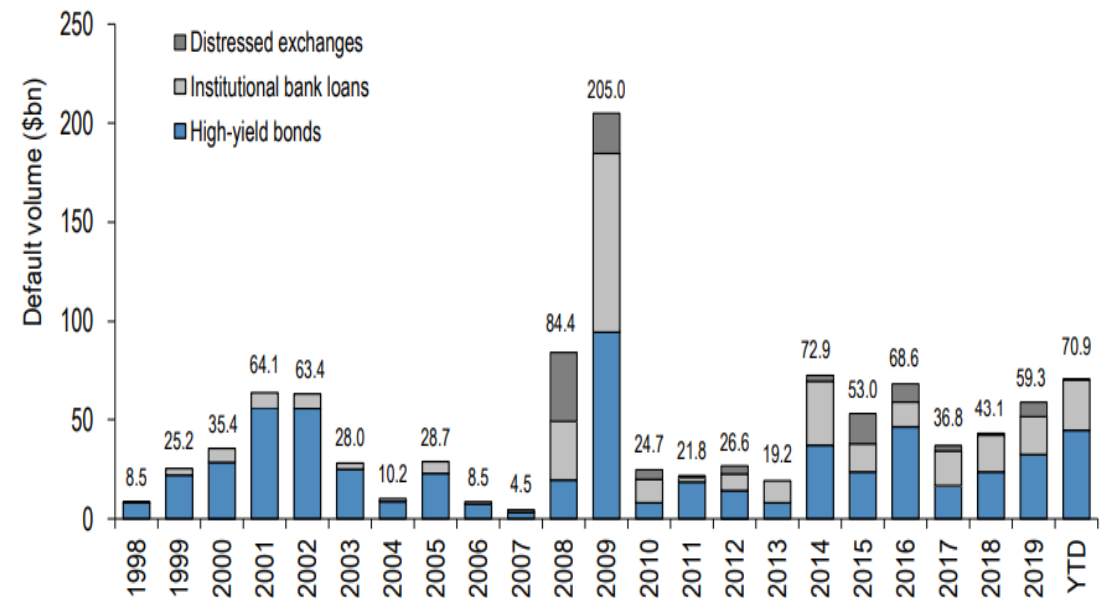
Nonfinancial corporate debt as % of GDP



Source of data: BIS

WOLFSTREET.com

Year to date US default/distressed exchange volume already ranks as the fourth highest annual total on record, and it is only June



Source: J.P. Morgan.

We have significant experience in distressed debt. However, until recently, we have not had material exposure since the GFC.

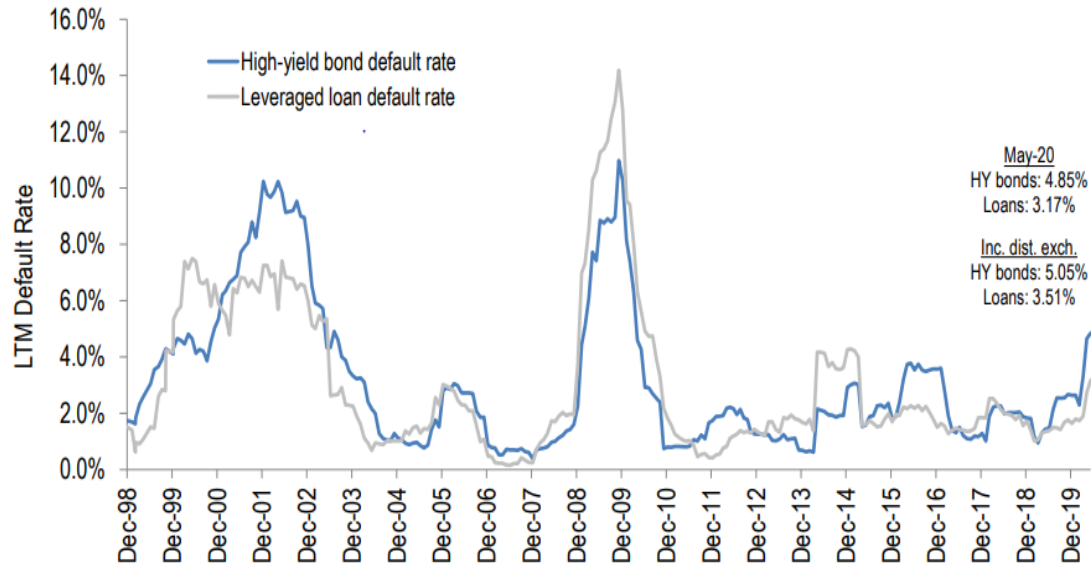




# Re-opening the Fund | Opportunities in distressed debt. Although defaults are already large by volume, there may be a way to go.

Default rates are still low in the context of the current recession

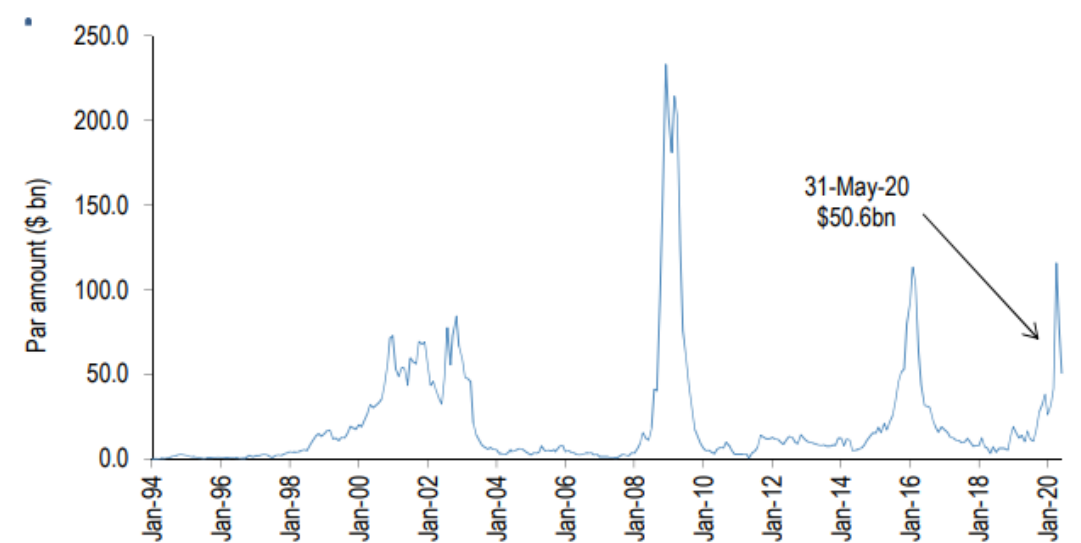
Figure 3: High yield bond and loan default rates



Source: J.P. Morgan.

If default rates rise there may be large increases in distressed debt

Distressed debt



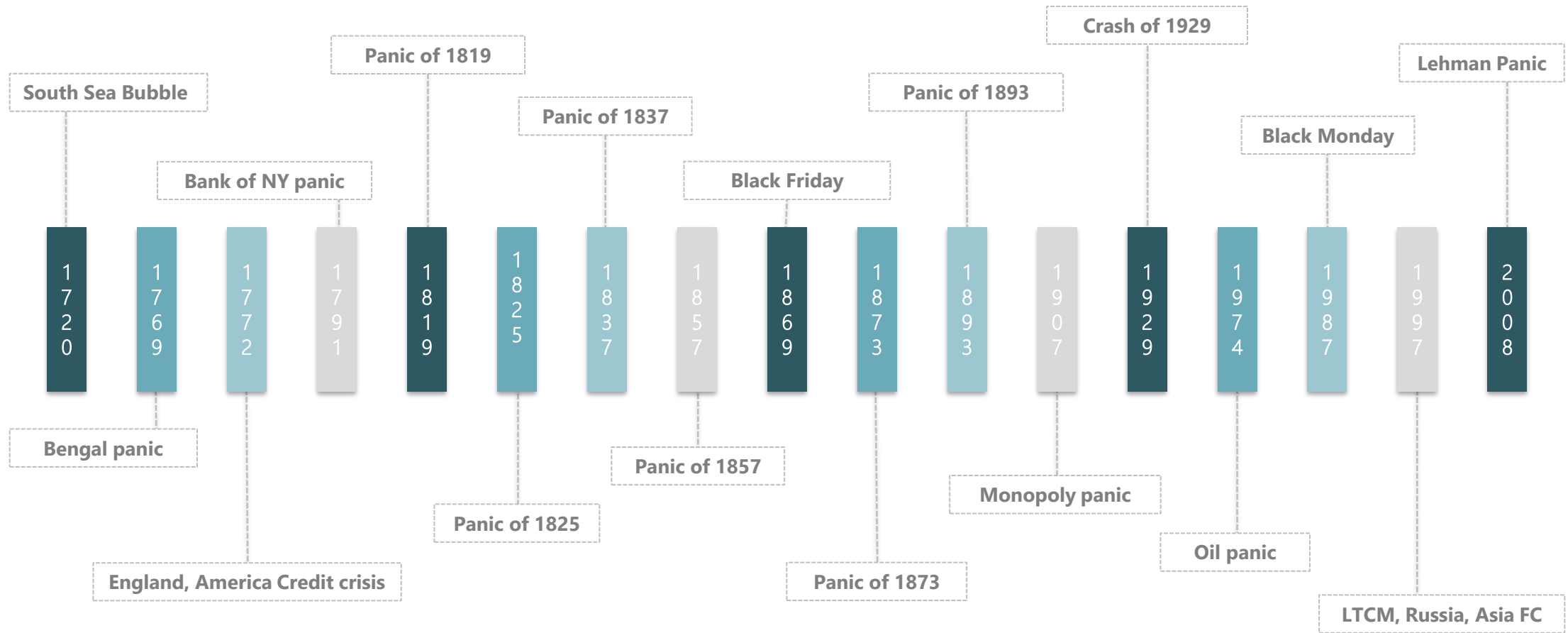
Source: J.P. Morgan

Note: Distressed debt is defined as bonds trading at or below 50% of par or accreted value

We see opportunity for attractive risk/reward in the secondary market as default volumes rise.



# Re-opening the Fund | Panics are not new; leverage periodically facilitates forced selling



We do not know whether the general market will increase or decrease. Nor do we know how deep the COVID 19 global recession will be. However, we believe we will get to the other side, and that there may be attractive investment opportunities in the interim.



## Reasons NOT to invest | Our fund is not for everyone

1. The Fund has a more concentrated portfolio than most other funds.
2. Although performance in recent years has been favourable, the Fund has had periods of poor performance, and will do so again.
3. Illiquid and/or obscure securities comprise part of the Fund's portfolio. If you want to invest only in well-known, blue-chip securities, this Fund is not for you.
4. The Fund's illiquid securities could be difficult to sell quickly if the Fund receives a large number of redemption requests at once.
5. At times, a small proportion of the Fund will be invested in speculative securities. Some of these will pay off. Others will become worthless, as some have done.
6. The Fund is managed with the objective of maximizing after-tax returns for Australian residents, rather than maximizing pre-tax returns.
7. The Fund has been designed to be unsuitable for investors seeking a short-term home for their money.
8. The Fund is unlikely to pay a regular income.
9. Most of the Fund's portfolio will usually be risk-averse and defensive; but in times of panic you should expect the Fund to be an aggressive buyer of more speculative securities if their prices fall to levels judged to be ridiculously cheap. Some people do not feel comfortable with this approach, even though it generated good returns for the Fund following the panic of 2008-2009.

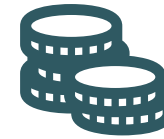


## Reasons **NOT** to invest | Our fees are higher than those of many other funds, especially index funds



### Management Fee

- 1.5% p.a.



### Performance Fee

- 20% above the RBA Cash Rate + 2% pa, with a high-water mark



# Still interested?

Feel free to contact us to hear more.

**Samuel Terry Asset Management Pty Ltd**  
120B Underwood Street  
Paddington NSW 2021  
AUSTRALIA

PO Box R1743  
Royal Exchange NSW 1225  
AUSTRALIA

Fred Woollard  
Founder and Managing Director of Samuel Terry Asset Management  
**M:** 0400 001976  
**E:** [fred@samuelterry.com.au](mailto:fred@samuelterry.com.au)

[www.samuelterry.com.au](http://www.samuelterry.com.au)

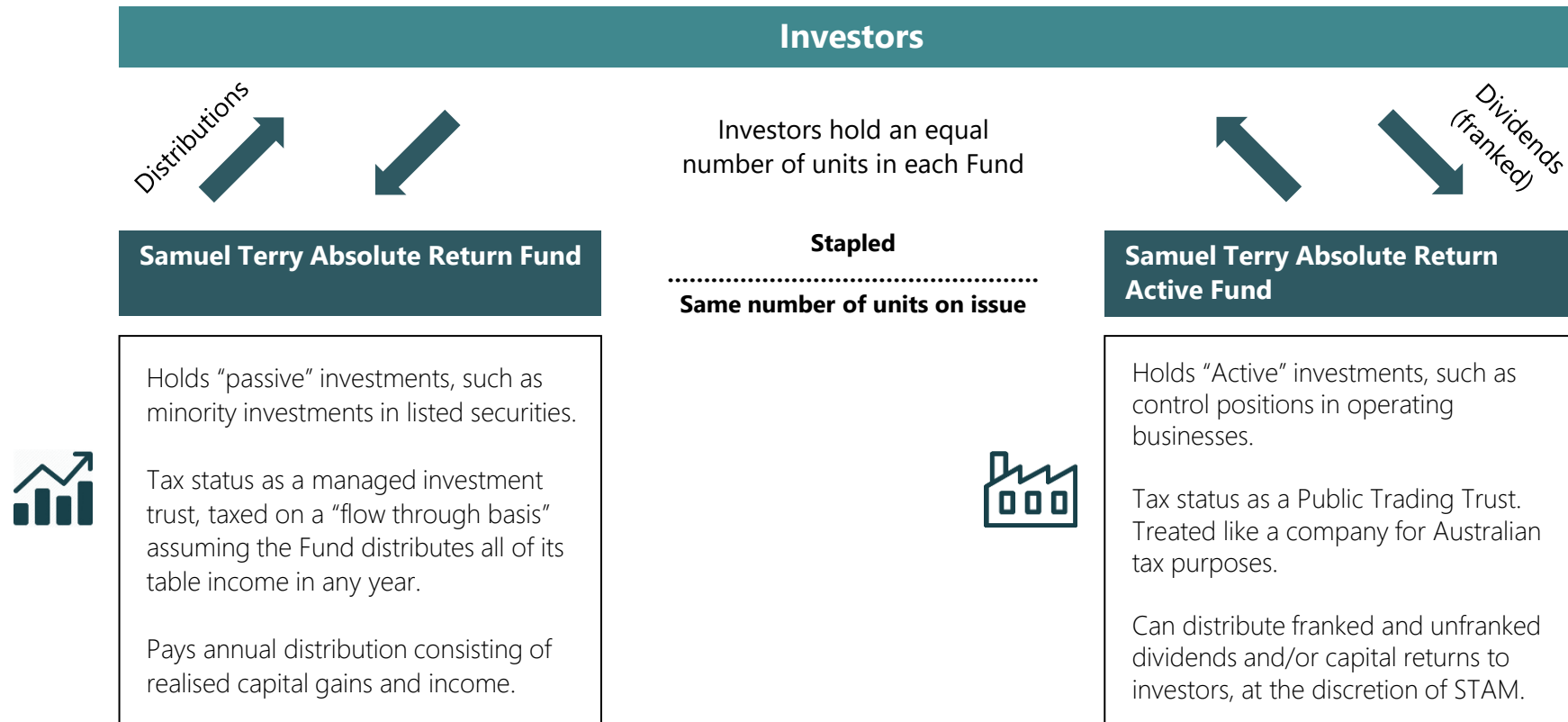


**SAMUEL TERRY**  
ASSET MANAGEMENT



# Appendix A – Fund structure

In 2019 Samuel Terry Absolute Return Active Fund (STAR Active) was established to acquire STAR Fund’s interest in an operating business (Yellow NZ). This was done in an effort to maximise after tax returns to Australian Unit holders. Unit holders resolved to staple STAR Active to STAR Fund. Stapling in this way is quite common in the market.



STAM receives management and performance fees based on the aggregate net assets of both trusts.



# Disclaimer

*Samuel Terry Asset Management Pty Limited (AFSL 278294) does not guarantee the repayment of capital or any particular rate of return from the Trust. Past performance is no guarantee or indication of future performance. The unit price can go down as well as up. Investment returns have been calculated in accordance with normal industry practice utilising movements in the unit price and assuming reinvestment of all distribution of income and realized profits. The presentation does not take into account a reader's investment objectives, particular needs or financial situation. It is general information only and should not be considered as investment advice and should not be relied on as an investment recommendation.*

*We cannot and are not providing tax advice, and encourage you to seek independent tax advice before investing.*

*STAM may pass on part of its management and performance fees to financial advisers and other third parties that introduce investors to the Fund.*