

# **First Sentier Australian Small Companies Long Short Opportunities Fund**

ARSN 658 022 238

## **Interim Report**

**For the period from 4 October 2022 to 31 December 2022**

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This interim financial report does not include all the notes of the type normally included in an annual financial report. Accordingly, this interim report should be read in conjunction with the annual report and any public announcements made in respect of First Sentier Australian Small Companies Long Short Opportunities Fund during the interim reporting period in accordance with the continuous disclosure requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

This interim report covers First Sentier Australian Small Companies Long Short Opportunities Fund as an individual entity. The Responsible Entity of First Sentier Australian Small Companies Long Short Opportunities Fund is The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited (ABN 45 003 278 831) (AFSL 235 150). The Responsible Entity's registered office is Level 18, 123 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

## Directors' Report

The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited (ABN 45 003 278 831) (AFSL 235150) is the responsible entity (the "Responsible Entity") of First Sentier Australian Small Companies Long Short Opportunities Fund (the "Fund"). The directors of the Responsible Entity (the "Directors") present their report together with the interim financial statements of the Fund for the period from 4 October 2022 to 31 December 2022.

### Principal activities

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

The principal activities of the Fund are to invest in accordance with the investment objectives and guidelines as set out in the current Product Disclosure Statement of the Fund and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The Fund was constituted on 3 March 2022 and commenced operations in 4 October 2022.

The Fund did not have any employees during the period.

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

### Directors

The Directors of The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited during the period and up to the date of this report are shown below. The Directors were in office for this entire period except where stated otherwise:

#### Name

Glenn Foster	
Simone Mosse	Resigned as Director on 23 January 2023
Vicki Riggio	
Phillip Blackmore	Alternate Director for Vicki Riggio
Christopher Green	Appointed as Director on 23 January 2023

### Review and results of operations

During the period, the Fund invested in accordance with the investment objective and guidelines as set out in the governing documents of the Fund and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

### Results

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

	Period from 4 October 2022 to 31 December 2022
Operating profit/(loss) (\$'000)	<u>209</u>

### Significant changes in the state of affairs

The current geopolitical events have had a global market impact and uncertainty exists as to their implications. Such disruptions can adversely affect the assets, performance and liquidity of investment funds.

Recognising the Russia/Ukraine conflict as well as Australia's broadening of its existing autonomous sanctions, the Directors and management continue to remain abreast of developments in this area and monitor the potential impacts across the Fund.

## Directors' Report (continued)

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

### Matters subsequent to the end of the financial period

On 23 January 2023, Simone Mosse resigned as Director and Christopher Green was appointed as Director.

Market disruptions associated with current geopolitical events have had a global impact, and uncertainty exists as to their implications. Such disruptions can adversely affect assets of the Fund and thus performance of the Fund. Management is continuing to monitor this development and evaluate its impact on the Fund.

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2022 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:

- (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 governing documents of the Fund and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

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 and auditors

No insurance premiums are paid for out of the assets of the Fund in regards to insurance cover provided to either the officers of the Responsible Entity or the auditors of the Fund. So long as the officers of the Responsible Entity act in accordance with the Fund's Constitution and the *Corporations Act 2001*, the officers remain indemnified out of the assets of the Fund against losses incurred while acting on behalf of the Fund.

The auditors of the Fund are in no way indemnified out of the assets of the Fund.

### Units in the Fund

The movement in units on issue in the Fund during the period is disclosed in Note 6 of 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 3 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.

### 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 the *ASIC Corporations Instrument*, unless otherwise indicated.

## Directors' Report (continued)

### 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 5.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors of The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited.



Director  
The Trust Company (RE Services)  
Limited

Sydney  
13 March 2023



## Auditor's Independence Declaration

As lead auditor for the review of First Sentier Australian Small Companies Long Short Opportunities Fund for the period 4 October 2022 to 31 December 2022, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the review; and
- (b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Collins'.

Paul Collins  
Partner  
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Sydney  
13 March 2023

## Statement of comprehensive income

	Notes	Period from 4 October 2022 to 31 December 2022 \$'000
<b>Investment income</b>		
Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost		1
Dividend/Trust distribution income		66
Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		239
Other income		<u>34</u>
<b>Total investment income</b>		<u>340</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Management fees		19
Performance fees		58
Administration and custody fees		24
Transaction costs		17
Other expenses		<u>13</u>
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<u>131</u>
<b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>		<u>209</u>
<b>Profit/(loss) for the period</b>	6	<u>209</u>
Other comprehensive income		<u>-</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>		<u>209</u>

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

## Statement of financial position

	Notes	As at 31 December 2022 \$'000
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents		521
Margin accounts		17
Receivables		93
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	4	<u>17,980</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>18,611</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Due to brokers		77
Management fees payable		20
Performance fees payable		62
Administration and custody fees payable		25
Other payables		11
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	5	<u>3,170</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>3,365</u>
<b>Net assets attributable to unitholders - equity</b>	6	<u>15,246</u>

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



## Statement of changes in equity

	Notes	Period from 4 October 2022 to 31 December 2022 \$'000
<b>Total equity at the beginning of the period</b>	6	-
<b>Comprehensive income for the period</b>		
Profit/(loss) for the period		<u>209</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>		<u>209</u>
<b>Transactions with unitholders</b>		
Applications	6	<u>15,037</u>
<b>Total transactions with unitholders</b>		<u>15,037</u>
 <b>Total equity at the end of the period</b>		 <u>15,246</u>

*The above Statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

## Statement of cash flows

	Period from 4 October 2022 to 31 December 2022 \$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	4,066
Payments for purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	(18,560)
Dividends/distribution received	16
Interest received	1
Amount received from/(paid to) brokers for margin	(17)
Payment of other expenses	(22)
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b>	<b>(14,516)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	
Proceeds from applications by unitholders	15,037
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities</b>	<b>15,037</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>521</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	-
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>521</b>

*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 General information

These interim financial statements cover the First Sentier Australian Small Companies Long Short Opportunities Fund (the “Fund”) as an individual entity. The Fund was constituted on 3 March 2022, registered by Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) as a managed investment scheme on 28 March 2022 and commenced operations in 4 October 2022. The Fund will terminate in accordance with the provisions of the Fund’s Constitution.

The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited (ABN 45 003 278 831) is the responsible entity of the Fund (the “Responsible Entity”). The Responsible Entity’s registered office is Level 18 Angel Place, 123 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000.

The investment manager of the Fund is First Sentier Investors (Australia) IM Limited (the “Investment Manager”).

The principal activities of the Fund are to invest in accordance with the investment objectives and guidelines as set out in the current Product Disclosure Statement of the Fund and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund’s Constitution.

The interim financial statements of the Fund are for the period from 4 October 2022 to 31 December 2022. The interim financial statements are presented in the Australian currency.

The interim financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors of the Responsible Entity (the “Directors of the Responsible Entity”) on 13 March 2023. The Directors of the Responsible Entity have the power to amend and reissue the interim financial statements.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied throughout the period 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 fund 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 are not distinguished between current and non-current. All balances are expected to be recovered or settled within twelve months, except for investments in financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss 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 twelve months, however, an estimate of that amount cannot be determined as at period end.

In the case of net assets attributable to unitholders, the units are redeemed on demand at the unitholder’s option. However, unitholders typically retain units for the medium to long-term. As such, the amount expected to be settled within twelve months cannot be reliably determined.

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

The financial statements of the Fund also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

#### (ii) New and amended standards adopted by the Fund

There are no standards, interpretations or amendments to existing standards that are effective for the first time for the financial period beginning 4 October 2022 that will affect the current or future periods.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (a) Basis of preparation (continued)

(iii) *New standards, amendments and interpretations effective after 1 January 2023 and have not been early adopted*

A number of new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 January 2023, 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*

- **Assets:**

The Fund classifies its investments 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 and derivatives, 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.

Derivative and equity instruments are measured at fair value through profit or loss unless, for equity instruments not held for trading, an irrevocable option is taken to measure at fair value through other comprehensive income. The financial assets are subject to the expected credit loss ("ECL") model impairment model under AASB 9.

- **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 held for trading and are consequently classified as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss.

Derivative contracts that have a negative fair value are presented as 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 (Responsible Entity's fees payable, management fees payable, administration and custody fees payable, due to brokers, distributions payable and other payables).

(ii) *Recognition/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.

Investments are derecognised when the right to receive cash flows from the investments have expired or the Fund has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

(iii) *Measurement*

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 financial 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. This also includes dividend expense on short sales of securities, which have been classified at fair value through profit or loss.

Further details on how the fair values of financial instruments are determined are disclosed in Note 3.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (b) Financial Instruments (continued)

#### (iv) Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Statement of financial position when there is 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. Refer to Note to the financial statements for further information.

#### (v) Impairment

At each reporting date, the Fund shall measure the loss allowance on financial assets at amortised cost (cash, due from broker and receivables) at an amount equal to the lifetime ECL 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 ECL. Significant financial difficulties of the counterparty, probability that the counterparty will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default in payments are all considered indicators that a loss allowance may be required. If the credit risk increases to the point that it is considered to be credit impaired, interest income will be calculated based on the net 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.

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

The units are carried at the redemption amount that is payable at balance sheet date if the unitholder exercises the right to put the units back to the Fund. This amount represents the expected cash flows on redemption of these units.

Units are classified as equity when they satisfy the following criteria under *AASB 132 Financial Instruments: Presentation*:

- the puttable financial instrument entitles the holder to a pro-rata share of net assets in the event of the Fund's liquidation;
- the puttable financial instrument is in the class of instruments that is subordinate to all other classes of instruments and class features are identical;
- the puttable financial instrument does not include any contractual obligations to deliver cash or another financial asset, or to exchange financial instruments with another entity under potentially unfavourable conditions to the Fund, and it is not a contract settled in the Fund's own equity instruments; and
- the total expected cash flows attributable to the puttable financial instrument over the life are based substantially on the profit or loss.

The Fund's units have been classified as equity as they satisfied all the above criteria. This has been consistently applied during the period.

### (d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises deposits held at custodian bank(s). Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash, are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and are held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments rather than for investment or other purposes.

Payments and receipts relating to the purchase and sale of financial instruments are classified as cash flows from operating activities, as movements in the fair value of these securities represent the Fund's main income generating activity.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (e) 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. Interest from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is determined based on the contractual coupon interest rate and includes interest from debt securities.

Dividend and distribution income from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income within dividend income and distribution income when the Fund's right to receive payments is established.

Dividend and distribution 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.

Other changes in fair value for such instruments are recorded in accordance with the policies described in note 2(b) to the financial statements. Other income is recognized on an accruals basis.

### (f) Expenses

All expenses are inclusive of GST, including management fees, Responsible Entity's fees, administration fees and custody fees, are recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income on an accruals basis.

### (g) 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.

### (h) Distributions

Distributions are payable as set out in the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement. Such distributions are determined by the Responsible Entity of the Fund. Distributable income includes capital gains arising from the disposal of financial instruments. Unrealised gains and losses on financial instruments that are recognised as income are transferred to net assets attributable to unitholders and are not assessable and distributable until realised.

Financial instruments at fair value may include unrealised capital gains. Should such a gain be realised, that portion of the gain that is subject to capital gains tax will be distributed so that the Fund is not subject to capital gains tax.

Realised capital losses are not distributed to unitholders but are retained in the Fund to be offset against any realised capital gains. If realised capital gains exceed realised capital losses, the excess is distributed to unitholders.

The benefits of imputation credits and foreign tax paid are passed on to unitholders.

### (i) Increase/decrease in net assets attributable to unitholders

Income not distributed is included in net assets attributable to unitholders. As the Fund's units are classified as equities, movements in net assets attributable to unitholders are recognised in the Statement of changes in equity.

### (j) Foreign currency translation

#### (i) Functional and presentation currency

Items 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.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (j) Foreign currency translation (continued)

#### (ii) Transactions and balances

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into the functional currency at the prevailing exchange rate at the valuation date. Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into the functional currency at the prevailing exchange rate on the date of the transaction. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translations at period end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income. The Fund's income earned and expense incurred on foreign denominated balances are translated into the functional currency at the prevailing exchange rate on the date of such activity.

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. Translation differences on assets and liabilities carried at fair value are reported in the Statement of comprehensive income on a net basis within net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss.

### (k) 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 period. The due from brokers balance is held for collection and consequently measured at amortised cost.

### (l) Receivables

Receivables include amounts for dividends, interest and trust distributions. Interest is accrued at each dealing date in accordance with the policy set out in Note 2(e) above. Trust distributions are accrued when the right to receive payment is established. Amounts are generally received within 30 days of being recorded as receivables.

Receivables also include such items as Reduced Input Tax Credits ("RITC") and application monies receivable from unitholders.

Receivables are recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any allowance for Expected Credit Loss (ECL). The Fund has applied a simplified approach to measuring ECL, which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance. To measure the ECL, receivables have been grouped based on days overdue.

The amount of the impairment loss, if any, is recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income within other expenses. When a trade receivable for which an impairment allowance had been recognised becomes uncollectible in a subsequent period, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in the Statement of comprehensive income.

### (m) Payables

Payables include liabilities and accrued expenses owing by the Fund which are unpaid as at the end of the reporting period. Payables may include amounts for redemptions of units in the Fund where settlement has not yet occurred. These amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

The distribution amount payable to unitholders as at the end of the reporting period is recognised separately on the Statement of financial position as unitholders are presently entitled to the distributable income under the Fund's Constitution.

### (n) Applications and redemptions

Applications received for units in the Fund are recorded net of any entry fees payable prior to the issue of units in the Fund. Redemptions from the Fund are recorded gross of any exit fees payable after the cancellation of the units redeemed.



## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (o) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The GST incurred on the costs of various services provided to the Fund by third parties such as audit fees, custodian services and management fees have been passed onto the Fund. The Fund qualifies for Reduced Input Tax Credits ("RITC") at a rate of 55% or 75%, hence Management fees, Administration and custody 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"). Accounts 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.

### (p) Use of estimates

The Fund makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial period. Estimates are continually evaluated and 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. However, certain financial instruments, for example over-the-counter derivatives, are fair valued using valuation techniques determined by the Investment Manager, in accordance with the valuation procedures approved by the Responsible Entity. Where valuation techniques (for example, pricing models) are used to determine fair values, they are validated and periodically reviewed by experienced personnel of the Investment Manager, independent of the area that created them.

Models use observable data, to the extent practicable. However, areas such as credit risk (both own and counterparty), volatilities and correlations require Investment Manager to make estimates. Changes in assumptions about these factors could affect the reported fair value of financial instruments.

For certain other balances reported on Statement of financial position, including amounts due from/to brokers, accounts payable and accrued expenses, the carrying amounts approximate fair value due to the immediate or short-term nature of these financial instruments.

### (q) Rounding of amounts

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 financial statements. Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars in accordance with that *ASIC Corporations Instrument*, unless otherwise indicated.

## 3 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 (FVTPL) (see Notes 4 and 5)
- 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 *Fair Value Measurement* requires disclosure of fair value measurements by level of the following fair value hierarchy:

- (a) quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1);
- (b) inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly (level 2); and
- (c) inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs) (level 3).

### 3 Fair value measurement (continued)

*(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 interim financial statements. For the majority of investments, information provided by independent pricing services is relied upon for valuation of investments.

The quoted market price used to fair value financial assets and financial liabilities held by the Fund is the last-traded prices.

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) Valuation techniques used to derive level 2 and level 3 fair value*

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not exchange-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. If all significant inputs required to fair value an instrument are observable, the instrument is included in level 2. If one or more of the significant inputs is not based on observable market data, the instrument is included in level 3. This may be the case for certain unlisted shares, certain corporate debt securities and managed funds with suspended applications and withdrawals.

Where discounted cash flow techniques are used, estimated future cash flows are based on the Investment Manager'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 end of the reporting period. 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.

Investments in other managed funds are recorded at the redemption value per unit as reported by the investment managers of such funds. The Fund may make adjustments to the redemption value based on considerations such as liquidity of the fund or its underlying investments, or any restrictions on redemptions and the basis of accounting.

Some of the inputs to these models may not be market observable and are therefore estimated based on assumptions.

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.

The carrying value less impairment provision of other receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values. The fair value of financial liabilities for disclosure purposes is estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the Fund for similar financial instruments.

The determination of what constitutes 'observable' requires significant judgment by the Investment Manager. The Investment Manager considers observable data to be that market data that is readily available, regularly distributed or updated, reliable and verifiable, not proprietary and provided by independent sources that are actively involved in the relevant market.

### 3 Fair value measurement (continued)

#### Recognised fair value measurement

The following table presents the Fund's financial assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value as at 31 December 2022.

As at 31 December 2022	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</b>				
Equities securities	15,890	-	-	15,890
Listed unit trusts	2,090	-	-	2,090
<b>Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>17,980</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,980</b>
<b>Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss</b>				
Futures	3	-	-	3
Equities securities- short	3,167	-	-	3,167
<b>Total financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>3,170</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,170</b>

#### (i) Transfers between levels

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.

There have been no transfers between levels in the fair value hierarchy for the period ended 31 December 2022.

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

The Fund did not hold any financial instruments with fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs during the period ended 31 December 2022.

#### (iii) Valuation processes

Portfolio reviews are undertaken regularly by the Investment Manager 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, the Investment Manager 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 fair value.

#### 4 Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

	As at 31 December 2022 \$'000
<b>Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</b>	
Equities securities	15,890
Listed unit trusts	<u>2,090</u>
<b>Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</b>	<u>17,980</u>

#### 5 Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

	As at 31 December 2022 \$'000
<b>Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss</b>	
Futures	3
Equities securities- short	<u>3,167</u>
<b>Total financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss</b>	<u>3,170</u>

#### 6 Net assets attributable to unitholders

Under AASB 132 *Financial instruments: Presentation*, puttable financial instruments meet the definition of a financial liability to be classified as equity where certain strict criteria are met. The Fund has elected into the AMIT tax regime and consequently the Fund's Constitution has been amended. The Fund does not have a contractual obligation to pay distributions to unitholders. Therefore, the net assets attributable to unitholders of the Fund meet the criteria set out under AASB 132 and are classified as equity.

## 6 Net assets attributable to unitholders (continued)

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

	Period from 4 October 2022 to 31 December 2022 No.'000	Period from 4 October 2022 to 31 December 2022 \$'000
<b>Net assets attributable to unitholders</b>		
Opening balance	-	-
Applications	14,213	15,037
Profit/(loss) for the period	-	209
Closing balance	<u>14,213</u>	<u>15,246</u>
<b>Total net assets attributable to unitholders</b>		<u>15,246</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.

### Capital risk management

The Fund classifies its net assets attributable to unitholders as equity. The amount of net assets attributable to unitholders can change significantly on a daily basis as the Fund is subject to daily applications and redemptions at the discretion of unitholders.

Daily applications and redemptions are reviewed relative to the liquidity of the Fund's underlying assets 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 the unitholders.

## 7 Distributions to unitholders

There were no distributions declared for the period ended 31 December 2022.

## 8 Significant events during the period

The current geopolitical events have had a global market impact and uncertainty exists as to their implications. Such disruptions can adversely affect the assets, performance and liquidity of investment funds.

Recognising the Russia/Ukraine conflict as well as Australia's broadening of its existing autonomous sanctions, the Directors and management continue to remain abreast of developments in this area and monitor the potential impacts across the Fund.

There were no other significant events during the period.

## 9 Events occurring after the reporting period

On 23 January 2023, Simone Mosse resigned as a Director and Christopher Green was appointed as Director.

## **9 Events occurring after the reporting period (continued)**

Market disruptions associated with current geopolitical events have had a global impact, and uncertainty exists as to their implications. Such disruptions can adversely affect assets of the Fund and thus performance of the Fund. Management is continuing to monitor this development and evaluate its impact on the Fund.

The Directors are not aware of any event or circumstance since the end of the financial period not otherwise addressed within these interim financial statements that has affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Fund, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Fund in subsequent years. The Fund continues to operate as a going concern.

## **10 Contingent assets and liabilities and commitments**

There are no outstanding contingent assets, liabilities or commitments as at 31 December 2022.

## Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the Directors of the Responsible Entity:

- (a) the interim financial statements and notes set out on pages 6 to 21 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - (i) complying with Australian Accounting Standards AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting*, 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 2022 and of its performance for the financial period 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 interim financial statements also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors of The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited.



Director  
The Trust Company (RE Services)  
Limited

Sydney  
13 March 2023



## **Independent auditor's review report to the unitholders of First Sentier Australian Small Companies Long Short Opportunities Fund**

### **Report on the financial report**

#### **Conclusion**

We have reviewed the financial report of First Sentier Australian Small Companies Long Short Opportunities Fund (the Fund) which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the period 4 October 2022 to 31 December 2022, significant accounting policies and explanatory notes and the directors of the Responsible Entity' declaration.

Based on our review, which is not an audit, we have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the accompanying financial report of First Sentier Australian Small Companies Long Short Opportunities Fund does not comply with the *Corporations Act 2001* including:

1. giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 31 December 2022 and of its performance for the period 4 October 2022 to 31 December 2022
2. complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

#### **Basis for conclusion**

We conducted our review in accordance with ASRE 2410 *Review of a Financial Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity* (ASRE 2410). Our responsibilities are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the financial report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Registered Scheme in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to the audit of the annual financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

#### **Responsibilities of the directors of the Responsible Entity for the financial report**

The directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for the preparation of the 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 of the Responsible Entity determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

**PricewaterhouseCoopers, ABN 52 780 433 757**

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### **Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the financial report**

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. ASRE 2410 requires us to conclude whether we have become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the financial report is not in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* including giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 31 December 2022 and of its performance for the period 4 October 2022 to 31 December 2022 and complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

A review of a 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'PricewaterhouseCoopers'.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Paul Collins'.

Paul Collins  
Partner

Sydney  
13 March 2023