

Interim Financial Report

- iShares Physical Gold ETF
ARSN 671 470 009

iShares Physical Gold ETF

ARSN 671 470 009

Condensed Financial Report - for the period 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023

Contents

	Page
Directors' Report	1
Auditor's Independence Declaration	4
Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	5
Condensed Statement of Financial Position	6
Condensed Statement of Changes in Equity	7
Condensed Statement of Cash Flows	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9
Directors' Declaration	23
Independent Auditor's Review Report to the Unitholders of iShares Physical Gold ETF	24

Directors' Report

The directors of BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Limited (ABN 13 006 165 975) (the "Responsible Entity"), the Responsible Entity of iShares Physical Gold ETF (the "Fund"), present their interim report together with the condensed financial statements of the Fund, for the period 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023 and the auditor's report thereon.

These condensed financial statements have been prepared for the iShares Physical Gold ETF as it is a disclosing entity under the Corporations Act 2001.

Fund Objectives

The Fund aims to provide investors with the performance of the spot price of gold, before fees and expenses.

Responsible Entity

The registered office and principal place of business of the Responsible Entity and the Fund is Level 37 Chifley Tower, 2 Chifley Square, Sydney NSW 2000.

Principal Activities

The Fund invest in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitutions.

The Fund was registered on 19 September 2023 and commenced its operations on 27 October 2023.

The Fund is currently listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX). The admission date for iShares Physical Gold ETF was 1 November 2023.

The Fund did not have any employees during the period 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the Fund's activities during the period 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Directors

The following persons held office as directors of the Responsible Entity during the period or since the end of the period and up to the date of this report:

Director	Date appointed
M S McCorry	Appointed 2 December 2009
J Collins	Appointed 29 July 2015
A Landman	Appointed 3 February 2020
I Davila	Appointed 5 March 2020

Review and Results of Operations

During the period, the Fund invest in accordance with target asset allocations 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:

	For the period 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023 \$'000
Profit/(loss) for the period	(41)
Distributions paid and payable	-

Directors' Report (continued)

Review and Results of Operations (continued)

Returns

The table below demonstrates the performance of the Fund as represented by the total return.

	Returns* 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023 %
iShares Physical Gold ETF	-**

* Returns (after fees) are calculated on the assumption that all distributions are reinvested in the Fund, and include the effect of compounding.

** Returns are Nil as the Fund has not completed the target period since inception.

Significant Changes in State of Affairs

The Fund was constituted on 19 September 2023 and commenced its operations on 27 October 2023.

In the opinion of the directors, there were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Fund that occurred during the financial period under review.

Rounding of Amounts

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

Additional Disclosure

The Fund has applied the relief available in ASIC Corporations (Disclosing Entities) Instrument 2015/839 issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission in the preparation of this report. This class order allows registered schemes with a common responsible entity to include multiple financial statements in adjacent columns in a single financial report.

The Fund has applied the relief available in ASIC Corporations (Directors' Report Relief) Instrument 2016/188 issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission in the preparation of this report. Accordingly, the additional information otherwise required to be included in the directors' report has been disclosed in Note 5 of the financial statements.

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 4.

The condensed financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors on 1 March 2024.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



Director
J Collins

Sydney
01 March 2024

1 March 2024

The Board of Directors
BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Limited
Level 37 Chifley Tower, 2 Chifley Square
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Directors

Auditor's Independence Declaration to iShares Physical Gold ETF (or the "Fund")

In accordance with section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the directors of BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Limited as Responsible Entity of iShares Physical Gold ETF.

As lead audit partner for the review of the financial report of iShares Physical Gold ETF for the financial period 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- The auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the review and
- Any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

Yours faithfully



DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU



Neil Brown
Partner
Chartered Accountants

iShares Physical Gold ETF
Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the period 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023

Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

	Notes	For the period 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023 \$'000
<i>Investment income</i>		
Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments held at fair value through profit or loss (including any FX gains/(losses))	4	(40)
Fee rebates from related schemes	7	3
<i>Total net investment income/(loss)</i>		<u>(37)</u>
<i>Expenses</i>		
Management fees	7	4
<i>Total operating expenses</i>		<u>4</u>
<i>Profit/(loss) for the period</i>		<u>(41)</u>
Other comprehensive income		-
<i>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the period</i>		<u>(41)</u>

The above Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Condensed Statement of Financial Position

	Notes	As at 31 December 2023 \$'000
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents		4
Financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss	6	20,305
Receivables		<u>3</u>
Total assets		<u>20,312</u>
Liabilities		
Payables		<u>5</u>
Total liabilities		<u>5</u>
Net assets attributable to unitholders - equity	5	<u><u>20,307</u></u>

The above Condensed Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Condensed Statement of Changes in Equity

	Notes	For the period 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023 \$'000
<i>Total equity at the beginning of the financial period</i>		-
<i>Comprehensive income for the period</i>		
Profit/(loss) for the period		<u>(41)</u>
<i>Total comprehensive income for the period</i>		<u>(41)</u>
<i>Transactions with unitholders</i>		
Creations	5	32,612
Redemptions	5	<u>(12,264)</u>
<i>Total transactions with unitholders</i>		<u>20,348</u>
<i>Total equity at the end of the financial period</i>		<u><u>20,307</u></u>

The above Condensed Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Condensed Statement of Cash Flows

	Notes	For the period 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023 \$'000
<i>Cash flows from operating activities</i>		
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments held at fair value through profit or loss		12,165
Purchases of financial instruments held at fair value through profit or loss		<u>(32,509)</u>
<i>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</i>		<u>(20,344)</u>
<i>Cash flows from financing activities</i>		
Proceeds from creations by unitholders		32,612
Payments for redemptions by unitholders		<u>(12,264)</u>
<i>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities</i>		<u>20,348</u>
<i>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</i>		<u>4</u>
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period</i>		<u><u>4</u></u>

The above Condensed Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1 Statement of Compliance

The condensed financial statements are general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting*. Compliance with AASB 134 ensures compliance with International Financial Reporting Standard IAS 34 *Interim Financial Reporting*.

These condensed financial statements do not include all the notes normally included in an annual financial report. Accordingly, these financial statements are to be read in conjunction with any public announcements made during the interim reporting period in accordance with the continuous disclosure requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

2 Basis of Preparation and Accounting Policies

These condensed financial statements include financial statements for iShares Physical Gold ETF (the "Fund") as individual entity. The Fund was constituted on 19 September 2023 and commenced its operations on 27 October 2023.

The accounting policies and methods of computation adopted in the preparation of the interim financial statements are consistent with AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting* and other applicable accounting standards.

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these interim financial statements are set out below.

(a) Statement of Compliance and Basis of Preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements issued by the Accounting Standards Board and the *Corporations Act 2001* in Australia. The Fund is a for-profit unit trust for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared on the basis of historical costs, except for financial assets and financial liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss, that are measured at fair value.

The Condensed 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 at fair value through profit or loss and net assets attributable to unitholders. The amount expected to be recovered or settled within twelve months after the end of each reporting period cannot be reliably determined.

(i) Compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards

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

(ii) New and amended standards adopted by the Fund

There are no new standards, interpretations or amendments to existing standards that are effective for the first time for the financial period beginning 19 September 2023 that would be expected to have a material impact on the Fund.

(b) Financial Instruments

(i) Classification

The Fund's investments are classified as at fair value through profit or loss. They comprise:

- Derivative financial instruments such as futures, forward foreign exchange contracts, options and swaps. The Fund does not designate any derivatives as hedges in a hedging relationship.
- Investments in listed equities, listed unit trusts, unlisted unit trusts, interest bearing securities and money market securities.

Financial assets and financial liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss are those that are managed and their performance 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 instruments on a fair value basis together with other related financial information.

Short sales are classified as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss. Short sales are where borrowed securities are sold in anticipation of a decline in the market value of those securities and are made or may be used for various arbitrage transactions.

(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 has expired or the Fund has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

2 Basis of Preparation and Accounting Policies (continued)

(b) Financial Instruments (continued)

(iii) Measurement

Financial assets and liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets and liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss are measured initially at fair value excluding any transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of the financial asset or financial liability. Transaction costs on financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are expensed immediately. Subsequent to initial recognition, all instruments held at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value with changes in their fair value recognised in the Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

- Fair value in an active market

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 date without any deduction for estimated future selling costs. The quoted market price used for financial assets and financial liabilities held by the Fund is the last traded market price.

- Fair value in an inactive or unquoted market

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 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.

Accordingly, there may be a difference between the fair value at initial recognition and amounts determined using a valuation technique. If such a difference exists, the Fund recognises the difference in the Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income to reflect a change in factors, including time, that market participants would consider in setting a price.

Investments in other unlisted unit trusts are recorded at the net asset value per unit as reported by the Responsible Entity of such funds.

(c) Offsetting Financial Instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are reported on a gross basis in the Condensed Statement of Financial Position. Where 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 on default or in the ordinary course of business, the financial assets and liabilities will be offset and reported on a net basis in notes to the financial statements.

(d) Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders

Units are redeemable at the unitholders' option, however, creations 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, which is equal to a proportionate share of the Fund's net asset value attributable to the unitholders.

The units are carried at the redemption amount that is payable at balance sheet date if the holder exercises the right to put the unit 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.

In addition to the instrument having all the above features, paragraph 16B of AASB 132 requires that the issuer have no other financial instrument or contract that has:

- Total cash flows based substantially on the profit or loss, the change in the recognized net assets or the change in fair value of the recognised and unrecognised net assets of the entity.
- The effect of substantially restricting or fixing the residual return to the puttable instrument holders.

2 Basis of Preparation and Accounting Policies (continued)

(d) Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders (continued)

The Fund's units have been classified as equity as they satisfied all the above criteria.

(e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents may include cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts and cash will be netted off on the Condensed Statement of Financial Position if both are present.

Payments and receipts relating to the purchase and sale of investment securities 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.

(f) Margin Accounts

Margin accounts comprise of cash held for derivative transactions and short sales. The cash is held by the broker and is only available to meet margin calls. Unrestricted margin account balances and restricted margin accounts balances, where the derivative transactions' original maturities are within three months, are classified as cash and cash equivalents. Restricted margin accounts where the derivative transactions' original maturities are not within three months are classified as cash held on collateral.

(g) Investment Income and Expenses

Interest income and expenses are recognised in the Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for all interest bearing securities using the effective interest method. Interest on assets held at fair value through profit or loss is included in the net gains/(losses) on financial instruments. Other changes in fair value for such instruments are recorded in accordance with the policies described in Note 2(b).

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset or financial liability and of allocating the interest income or interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts throughout the expected life of the financial instrument, or a shorter period where appropriate, to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or liability. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Fund estimates cash flows, considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument (for example, prepayment options), but do not consider future credit losses.

The calculation includes all fees and points paid or received between the parties to the contract that are an integral part of the effective interest rate, transaction costs and all other premiums or discounts.

Dividend income is recognised on the ex-dividend date. The Fund may incur withholding tax imposed by certain countries on investment income. Such income is recorded net of withholding tax in the Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income. If a portion of the foreign withholding taxes is reclaimable, it is recorded as an asset.

Trust distributions are recognised on an entitlements basis.

Dividends declared on securities sold short are recorded as a dividend expense on the ex-dividend date.

(h) Expenses

All expenses, including management fees and performance fees, are recognised in the Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income on an accruals basis.

(i) Income Tax

Under current legislation, the Fund is not subject to income tax provided the taxable income of the Fund is attributed either by way of cash or reinvestment (i.e. unitholders are presently entitled to the income of the Fund).

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

(j) Distributions to Unitholders

In accordance with the Fund's Constitution, the Fund attributes its taxable income, and any other amounts determined by the Responsible Entity, to unitholders by cash or reinvestment. Distributions are recognised in the Condensed Statement of Changes in Equity as distributions paid and payable.

2 Basis of Preparation and Accounting Policies (continued)

(k) Increase/Decrease in Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders

Movements in net assets attributable to unitholders are recognised in the Condensed Statement of Changes in Equity for the period ended 31 December 2023.

(l) 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.

(ii) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the date of the transactions. 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 Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

The Fund does not isolate that portion of gains or losses on securities and derivative financial instruments which is due to changes in foreign exchange rates from that which is due to changes in the market price of securities. Such fluctuations are included with the net gains or losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss.

Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was determined. Translation differences on assets and liabilities carried at fair value are reported as part of the fair value gain or loss.

(m) Receivables

Receivables may include amounts for dividends, interest, trust distributions, amounts due from brokers and creations receivable. Dividends and trust distributions are accrued when the right to receive payment is established. Interest is accrued at the end of the reporting date from the time of the last payment using the effective interest rate method. Amounts due from brokers represent receivables for securities that have been contracted for but not yet delivered by the end of the reporting date. Creations receivable are recorded when the creations are made for units in the Fund with the consideration yet to be received as at the end of the reporting date.

These amounts are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. At each reporting date, the Fund shall measure the loss allowance on receivables at an amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses 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 expected credit losses. 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 gross 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.

The amount of the impairment loss is recognised in the Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other 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 Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

(n) Payables

Payables include liabilities and accrued expenses owing by the Fund and redemptions payable which are unpaid as at the end of the reporting period.

Trades are recorded on trade date, and normally settled within three business days. Purchases of financial instruments that are unsettled at reporting date are included in payables. Redemptions payable are recognised when the unitholder returns their holdings back into the Fund foregoing all rights associated with the units, with the payment yet to be released.

The distribution amount payable to unitholders as at reporting date is recognised separately on the Condensed Statement of Financial Position when unitholders are presently entitled to the distributable income under the Fund's Constitution.

2 Basis of Preparation and Accounting Policies (continued)

(o) Creations and Redemptions

Creations 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 units redeemed.

Unit redemption prices are determined by reference to the net assets for unit pricing purposes of the Fund, divided by the number of units on issue at or immediately prior to close of business each day. Creations and redemptions of units are processed simultaneously.

(p) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The GST incurred on the costs of various services provided to the Fund by third parties such as custodial services and investment management fees have been passed onto the Fund. The Fund qualifies for Reduced Input Tax Credits (RITC) hence, investment management fees, custodial fees and other expenses have been recognised in the Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income net of the amount of GST recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Accounts payable and accrued expenses are inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from the ATO is included in receivables in the Condensed Statement of Financial Position. Cash flows relating to GST are included in the Condensed Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis.

(q) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations

There are no standards that are not yet effective and that are expected to have a material impact on the Fund in future reporting periods and on foreseeable future transactions.

(r) Use of Estimates and Critical Accounting Judgments

The Fund makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date. 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 or unquoted securities are fair valued using valuation techniques. Where valuation techniques (for example, pricing models) are used to determine fair values, they are validated and reviewed by experienced personnel of the Responsible Entity, independent of the area that created them. Models are calibrated by back-testing to actual transactions to ensure that outputs are reliable.

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

For certain other financial instruments, including amounts due from/to brokers and payables, the carrying amounts approximate fair value due to the immediate or short term nature of these financial instruments.

(s) Rounding of Amounts

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

(t) Cash Held on Collateral

Cash held on collateral includes restricted margin accounts where the derivative transactions' original maturities are not within three months as well as restricted cash for short sales. Short positions are taken on securities which have relatively poor return expectations. To facilitate settlement, securities are borrowed with collateral requirements. These requirements are satisfied with cash and/or other securities. Cash used to satisfy collateral requirements is disclosed as cash held on collateral on the Condensed Statement of Financial Position.

3 Financial Risk Management

The Fund's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: credit risk, liquidity risk, and market risk (including price risk, currency risk and interest rate risk). The Fund's overall risk management program focuses on ensuring compliance with the Fund's Product Disclosure Statements and seeks to maximise the returns derived for the level of risk to which the Fund is exposed. The Fund may use derivative financial instruments to moderate and create certain risk exposures. Financial risk management is carried out by the Investment Risk Management Working Group (IRMWG) under policies approved by the Board of Directors of the Responsible Entity (the "Board").

The Fund uses different methods to measure different types of risk to which it is exposed. These methods include Value at Risk ("VaR") analysis in the case of interest rate, foreign exchange and other price risks and ratings analysis for credit risk. VaR analysis is explained in Note 3(b).

(a) Market Risk

Market risk is managed and monitored by the Responsible Entity on a portfolio basis, with risks managed through ensuring that investment activities are undertaken in accordance with the Fund's investment model which is reviewed and updated regularly.

(i) Price Risk

The Fund is exposed to price risk. This arises from investments held by the Fund for which prices in the future are uncertain. They are classified in the Condensed Statement of Financial Position as fair value through profit or loss. Where non-monetary financial instruments are denominated in currencies other than the Australian Dollar, the price in the future will also fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. Note 3(a)(ii) below sets out how this component of price risk is managed and measured. All securities investments present a risk of loss of capital. Except for equities sold short and derivative instruments, the maximum risk resulting from financial instruments is determined by the fair value of the financial instruments. Possible losses from equities sold short can be unlimited. Local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, the spread of infectious illness or other public health issue, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, recessions, climate change or other events could have a significant impact on the Fund and its investments and could result in increased premiums or discounts to the Fund's net asset value.

The Responsible Entity continuously monitors the Fund's holdings relative to the recommended portfolio, and the exposure of the Fund is monitored to ensure that it remains within designated ranges or asset allocation constraints, taking into account any derivative position being used to manage risks.

In addition, the IRMWG regularly reviews the Fund to ensure the Fund is following the appropriate investment model, its portfolio is in accordance with its stated guidelines and restrictions, and the performance of the Fund remains in expected bounds.

The summarised VaR analysis in Note 3(b) explains how the risk is measured and summarises the potential exposure of the Fund's net assets attributable to unitholders.

(ii) Foreign Exchange Risk

The Fund holds monetary and non-monetary assets denominated in currencies other than the Australian Dollar. The foreign exchange risk relating to non-monetary assets and liabilities is a component of price risk. Foreign exchange risk arises as the value of monetary securities denominated in other currencies will fluctuate due to changes in exchange rates.

The summarised VaR analysis in Note 3(b) explains how the risk is measured and summarises the potential exposure of the Fund's net assets attributable to unitholders.

Foreign exchange risk is managed using forward foreign exchange contracts and other derivatives in accordance with Fund guidelines and restrictions. Daily monitoring is undertaken to ensure instruments used and exposures created are consistent with the investment strategy and objectives of the Fund. For accounting purposes, the Fund does not designate any derivatives as hedges in a hedging relationship, and hence these derivative financial instruments are classified as at fair value through profit or loss.

This disclosure for the Fund has not been made on a look through basis for investments held indirectly through underlying fund. The disclosure of foreign exchange risk may not present the true foreign exchange risk profile of the Fund where the underlying fund has a significant exposure to foreign exchange risk.

(iii) Interest Rate Risk

The majority of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities are non-interest bearing. As a result, the Fund is not subject to significant amounts of risk due to fluctuations in the prevailing levels of markets interest rates.

The Fund's exposure to cash flow interest rate risk is limited to its cash and cash equivalents, which are floating rate interest bearing investments. As at 31 December 2023 the total investment in cash accounts of the Fund was \$4,124.

3 Financial Risk Management (continued)

(a) Market Risk (continued)

(iii) Interest Rate Risk (continued)

Interest rate risk is mitigated through ensuring activities are transacted in accordance with mandates, overall investment strategy and within approved limits.

The summarised VaR analysis in Note 3(b) explains how the risk is measured and summarises the potential exposure of the Fund's net assets attributable to unitholders.

The disclosure for the Fund has not been made on a look through basis for investments held indirectly through the underlying fund. The disclosure of interest rate risk may not present the true interest rate risk profile of the Fund where the underlying fund has significant exposure to interest rate risk.

(b) Summarised VaR Analysis

Value at Risk (VaR) is a risk model used to estimate the potential losses that could occur on the Fund's net asset value position due to movements in interest rates, currency and market prices over a given period and for a specified degree of confidence.

The Responsible Entity uses VaR analysis and/or tracking error estimates to measure and manage risk as these are commonly used and understood models, are easily interpreted and are consistent across different types, asset classes and types of funds. For the purpose of these accounts VaR analysis has been presented. The objective in all cases is to estimate potential losses and manage the downside risk.

The following table summarises the outputs of the VaR model in relation to interest rate, currency and price risk exposures. The total VaR figures are not the sum of individual risk components as this does not include correlations between different risk factors.

The Responsible Entity calculates the VaR relative to the Fund's total value. The analysis implies that the Manager can be 95% confident that the value of the portfolio will not decrease by any more than the figures in the table below over the 5 day period from 31 December.

	31 December 2023	
	\$'000 [^]	%
Total Portfolio Risk	579	2.85

[^]VaR has been calculated on Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders before rounding.

Detailed information about the models

There are a number of different VaR models used within the Funds Management industry. The Responsible Entity uses one or more of ex-ante and ex-post estimates of portfolio risk and the Monte Carlo simulation model depending on the fund type. Models are calculated using historical data and a covariance matrix where applicable.

The models used by the Responsible Entity have the following features:

- VaR is calculated to a 95 per cent confidence level. VaR at a confidence level identifies the maximum expected loss under that confidence level;
- VaR is calculated for a 5 day holding period. The time horizon of five days is selected to coincide with the period used to analyse the portfolio positions. The risk data is examined in various daily, weekly and monthly forums; and
- The portfolio VaR is not the simple sum of individual asset stand alone VaRs; the correlations among assets in the portfolio are considered.

3 Financial Risk Management (continued)

(b) Summarised VaR Analysis (continued)

Detailed information about the models (continued)

Although VaR is a valuable risk management tool it should be interpreted, as with all predictive models, with consideration to its assumptions and limitations. The main assumptions and limitations are listed below:

- Some models assume certain financial variables are normally distributed: The normality assumption allows the Responsible Entity to scale portfolio risk estimates to the appropriate confidence levels. The normality assumption is derived from statistical analysis for examining sample populations of observations and the implications of not assuming normality would preclude the use of most statistical tools including mainstream commercial models for risk measurement.
- The use of historical returns and correlations between assets would not take into account future potential events: It is a commonly stated and well recognised limitation that past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.
- Model risk, in general terms, is a known limitation that includes: the quality or accuracy of the underlying data, where significant events occur within the data, the changing sensitivity of the Fund's assets to external market factors over time, and appreciating that using only one model may be limiting in itself to obtaining the best understanding of a Fund's risk position.

The Responsible Entity acknowledges these limitations and thus compares ex-ante and ex-post risk estimates to review expectations versus actual outcomes. Should ex-post values differ significantly from ex-ante returns, an assessment of the reasons for this will be made.

The Fund's risk is managed with constant review of both performance and risk numbers by the investment professionals within the business. These reviews consist of:

- Weekly meetings between the global members of Risk & Quantitative Analysis (RQA). These meetings include RQA Australia.
- Monthly meetings between RQA and the Fund Managers.
- Monthly meetings between RQA and the Chief Investment Officer.
- Ad hoc presentations to the Investment Risk Management Working Group (IRMWG) to keep IRMWG abreast of RQA processes and latest updates.
- Daily report of performance figures along with a comparison of ex-ante versus ex-post returns sent to RQA London.
- RQA professionals work closely with the Fund Managers every day.

(c) Credit Risk Exposure

Credit risk is the risk that the counterparty will fail to perform contractual obligations, either in whole or in part, when they fall due.

Credit risk primarily arises from the Fund's investment in debt instruments and from trading derivative products. Other credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents, deposits with banks and other financial institutions, amounts due from brokers and other receivables.

Market prices generally incorporate credit risk assessments into valuations and risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the carrying value of financial assets and liabilities as they are marked to market.

(i) Interest Bearing Securities

The Fund does not have any direct holding in interest bearing securities. As a result, the Fund may be exposed to other credit risk from cash and cash equivalents, deposits with banks and other financial institutions, amounts due from brokers and other receivables.

(ii) Derivatives

All exchange traded derivatives are executed through brokers, and cleared through a clearing broker and approved by the IRMWG. Over the counter derivative transactions are conducted only with approved counterparties, who meet the applicable specific Fund requirements and where trading documentation is in place.

To minimise credit risk, the Fund only transacts with counterparties of investment grade quality (BBB- or above as rated by Standard & Poor's). The Responsible Entity has a process in place to assess the creditworthiness of counterparties and assess that the risk is evenly distributed. Matters arising in relation to counterparties are reviewed regularly by the RQA.

3 Financial Risk Management (continued)

(c) Credit Risk Exposure (continued)

(iii) Settlement of Securities Transactions

All transactions are settled/paid for upon delivery using approved brokers. The risk of default is considered minimal as delivery of securities sold is only made once the broker has received payment. Payment is made on a purchase once the securities have been received by the broker. The trade will fail if either party fails to meet its obligation.

(iv) Other Credit Risk

The exposure to credit risk for cash and cash equivalents, deposits with banks and other financial institutions is considered to be minimal due to the high credit rating of the relevant financial institution. VaR analysis is also used to manage and measure the credit risk of the Fund.

The Fund is not materially exposed to credit risk on other financial assets.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets.

The clearing and depository operations for the Fund's security transactions are mainly concentrated with one counterparty, namely JP Morgan Chase Bank NA ("J.P. Morgan"). J.P. Morgan is a member of a major securities exchange, and at 31 December 2023 had a credit rating of A-1. At 31 December 2023, substantially all cash and cash equivalents, balances due from brokers and investments are held in custody by J.P. Morgan.

(d) Liquidity and Cash Flow Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund may not be able to generate sufficient cash resources to settle its obligations in full as they fall due or can only do so on terms that are materially disadvantageous. The Condensed Statement of Financial Position is presented on a liquidity basis and disclosed in Note 2(a).

The Fund is exposed to daily cash redemptions of redeemable units and daily margin calls on derivatives. The liquidity risks associated with the need to satisfy unitholders' requests for redemptions are mitigated by maintaining adequate liquidity to satisfy usual redemption volumes and restricting the investment activities of the Fund to securities that are actively traded and highly liquid. The Fund also maintains continuous monitoring of forecast and actual cash flows and matching the maturity profiles of financial assets and liabilities. The Responsible Entity considers and maintains the liquidity of the Fund, in the context of the investment objectives and liquidity requirements of the Fund. Operational procedures are in place to review margin requirements on futures contracts. IRMWG reviews liquidity reports to ensure the Fund has sufficient liquidity to pay client redemptions and meet margin calls as required.

(e) Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

The carrying amounts of the Fund's assets and liabilities at the end of each reporting period approximate their fair values.

Financial assets and liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss are measured initially at fair value. Transaction costs on financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are expensed immediately. Subsequent to initial recognition, all instruments held at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value with changes in their fair value recognised in the Condensed Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

The carrying value of other receivables (less impairment provision) and payables are assumed to approximate their fair value. 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.

(i) Fair value in an active market

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets is based on their last traded 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(b). 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 held by the Fund is the last traded market price. Where the last traded price does not fall within the bid-ask spread, an assessment is performed by the Responsible Entity to determine the appropriate valuation price to use that is most representative of fair value.

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 regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

3 Financial Risk Management (continued)

(e) Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities (continued)

(ii) Fair value in an inactive or unquoted market

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 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.

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 end of the reporting period taking into account current market conditions (volatility and appropriate yield curve) and the current creditworthiness of the counterparties. The fair value of a forward foreign exchange contract is determined as a net present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at appropriate market rates as at the valuation date.

Investments in other unlisted unit trusts are recorded at the net asset value per unit as reported by the Responsible Entity of such funds.

(f) Fair Value Hierarchy

The Fund classifies fair value measurements using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the subjectivity of the inputs used in making the measurements. The fair value hierarchy has the following levels:

- 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 (that is, as prices) or indirectly (that is, derived from prices) (level 2).
- Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (that is, unobservable inputs) (level 3).

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is categorised in its entirety is determined on the basis of the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. For this purpose, the significance of an input is assessed against the fair value measurement in its entirety. If a fair value measurement uses observable inputs that require significant adjustment based on unobservable inputs, that measurement is a level 3 measurement. Assessing the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment, considering factors specific to the asset or liability.

The determination of what constitutes 'observable' requires significant judgment by the Responsible Entity. The Responsible Entity 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.

The following table present the Fund's financial assets and liabilities (by class) measured at fair value according to the fair value hierarchy at 31 December 2023.

As at 31 December 2023	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
Financial assets				
Listed unit trusts	20,305	-	-	20,305
Total	<u>20,305</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,305</u>

Investments whose values are based on quoted market prices in active markets, and therefore classified within level 1, include active listed equities, trusts, exchange traded derivatives and money market securities.

Financial instruments that trade in markets that are not considered to be active but are valued based on quoted market prices, dealer quotations or alternative pricing sources supported by observable inputs are classified within level 2. These include investment grade corporate bonds, certain listed equities, certain unlisted unit trusts, and over-the-counter derivatives. As level 2 investments include positions that are not traded in active markets and/or are subject to transfer restrictions, valuations may be adjusted to reflect illiquidity and/or non-transferability, which are generally based on available market information.

3 Financial Risk Management (continued)

(f) Fair Value Hierarchy (continued)

Investments classified within level 3 have significant unobservable inputs, as they are infrequently traded. As observable prices are not available for these securities, the Responsible Entity has used valuation techniques to derive fair value.

The Fund's assets and liabilities not measured at fair value on a recurring basis (but fair value disclosures are required) at 31 December 2023 have been classified as level 2. The carrying amounts of these assets and liabilities approximate their fair values as at the end of the reporting date.

The Fund did not hold any level 3 instruments during the period ended 31 December 2023.

There were no transfers between levels for recurring fair value measurements during the period ended 31 December 2023.

(g) Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are reported on a gross basis in the Condensed Statement of Financial Position. Fund did not hold any derivative instruments during the period ended 31 December 2023.

4 Net Gains/(Losses) on Financial Instruments Held at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss

The net gains/(losses) recognised in relation to financial assets and financial liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss:

	For the period 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023 \$'000
Net gains/(losses) on financial assets and liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss (including any FX gains/(losses))	(40)
	(40)

5 Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders

Under AASB 132 *Financial instruments: Presentation*, puttable financial instruments that meet the definition of a financial liability to be classified as equity where certain strict criteria are met. The Fund shall classify a financial instrument as an equity instrument from the date when the instrument has all the features and meets the conditions.

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 Funds' 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.

In addition to the instrument having all the above features, paragraph 16B of AASB 132 requires that the issuer have no other financial instrument or contract that has:

- Total cash flows based substantially on the profit or loss, the change in the recognised net assets or the change in fair value of the recognised and unrecognised net assets of the entity.
- The effect of substantially restricting or fixing the residual return to the puttable instrument holders.

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. Units are created and redeemed at the unitholders' option at prices based on the value of the Fund's net assets at the time of creation/redemption less transaction costs.

5 Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders (continued)

The Fund meets the criteria set out under AASB 132 and net assets attributable to unitholders is classified as equity.

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

	31 December 2023 No.'000	31 December 2023 \$'000
Profit/(loss) for the period	-	(41)
Creations	1,340	32,612
Redemptions	(500)	(12,264)
Closing balance	840	20,307

Capital Risk Management

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

The Fund monitors the level of daily creations and redemptions relative to the liquid assets in the Fund. As of 31 December 2023 the capital of the Fund is represented in the net assets attributable to unitholders table.

In the event of a significant redemption, the Fund's Constitution allows the delay of payment beyond the usual redemption timeframe but no later than the maximum number of days specified in the Constitutions for satisfying redemption requests. Further, in certain circumstances such as disrupted markets, the Constitution allows payment to be delayed beyond the maximum number of days.

6 Financial Assets Held at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss

	As at 31 December 2023 \$'000
Listed unit trusts	20,305
Total financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss	20,305

An overview of the risk exposures relating to financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss is included in Note 3.

There are no past due (not impaired) or expected credit losses included in the above receivables as at 31 December 2023.

7 Related Party Transactions

Responsible Entity

The Responsible Entity of the iShares Physical Gold ETF is BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Limited (ABN 13 006 165 975, AFSL 230523) whose ultimate holding company is BlackRock, Inc.

BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Limited is incorporated in Australia and BlackRock, Inc. is incorporated in the United States of America.

7 Related Party Transactions (continued)

Key management personnel

Directors

Key management personnel include persons who were directors of the Responsible Entity at any time during the financial period as follows:

Director	Date appointed
M S McCorry	Appointed 2 December 2009
J Collins	Appointed 29 July 2015
A Landman	Appointed 3 February 2020
I Davila	Appointed 5 March 2020

Other key management personnel

No other person had authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Fund, directly or indirectly during the financial period.

Key management personnel unitholdings

At 31 December 2023 no key management personnel held units in the Fund.

Key management personnel compensation

Key management personnel are paid by the Responsible Entity. Payments made from the Fund to the Responsible Entity do not include any amounts attributable to the compensation of key management personnel.

Key management personnel loan disclosures

The Fund has not made, guaranteed or secured, directly or indirectly, any loans to the key management personnel or their personally related entities at any time during the reporting period.

Responsible Entity's fees and other transactions

In accordance with the Fund's Constitution, the Responsible Entity was entitled to receive fees for the provision of services to the Fund.

	Management fees \$	Fee rebates from related schemes \$
At 31 December 2023		
iShares Physical Gold ETF	4,365	2,913

Investments

The Fund held investments in the following schemes which were also managed by the Responsible Entity or its related parties:

	Number of units held at period end Units	Fair value of units held at period end \$	Value of units purchased during the period \$	Value of units sold during the period \$	Interest held at period end %	Distribution received/receivable during the period \$
31 December 2023						
iShares Physical Gold ETC	344,562	20,304,592	32,646,654	12,265,226	0.10	-*

* The amount is net of withholding taxes

Related party schemes' unit holdings

The Responsible Entity and its related parties did not hold any units in the Fund as at 31 December 2023.

7 Related Party Transactions (continued)

Other transactions with the Fund

Apart from those details disclosed in this note, no key management personnel have entered into a material contract with the Fund since the inception of the Fund and there were no material contracts involving key management personnel's interests subsisting at period end.

8 Segment Information

The Fund operates solely in the business of providing investors with the performance of the market, before fees and expenses, as represented by the iShares Physical Gold ETF. The Responsible Entity, which is the chief operating decision maker for the purposes of assessing performance and determining the allocation of resources, ensures that the Fund's holdings and performance are in accordance with the iShares Physical Gold ETF. Accordingly, no additional qualitative or quantitative disclosures are required.

9 Events Occurring After the Reporting Period

No significant events have occurred since the end of the reporting period up to the date of signing the Condensed Financial Report which would impact on the financial position of the Fund disclosed in the Condensed Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2023 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the period ended on that date.

Directors' Declaration

The directors of the Responsible Entity declare that:

- (a) In the opinion of the directors of the Responsible Entity, 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
- (b) In the opinion of the directors of the Responsible Entity, the attached financial statements and notes thereto are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including compliance with accounting standards and giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Fund.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Responsible Entity made pursuant to s.303(5) of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

On behalf of the directors of the Responsible Entity.



Director
J Collins

Sydney
01 March 2024

Independent Auditor's Review Report to the Unitholders of iShares Physical Gold ETF

Conclusion

We have reviewed the half-year financial report of iShares Physical Gold ETF (or the "Fund"), which comprises the condensed statements of financial position as at 31 December 2023, and the condensed statements of profit or loss and comprehensive income, the condensed statements of cash flows and the condensed statements of changes in equity for period 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration as set out on pages 5 to 23.

Based on our review, which is not an audit, we have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the accompanying half-year financial report of the Fund does not comply with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- Giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its performance for period 19 September 2023 to 31 December 2023; and
- 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*. Our responsibilities are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Review of the Half-year Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) ("the Code") that are relevant to our audit of the annual financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001* which has been given to the directors of BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Limited (the "Responsible Entity"), as Responsible Entity for the Fund, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's review report.

Directors' Responsibilities for the Half-year Financial Report

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Review of the Half-year Financial Report

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the half-year 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 half-year 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 2023 and its performance for the half-year ended on that date, and complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

A review of a half-year 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.



DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU



Neil Brown
Partner
Chartered Accountants

Melbourne, 1 March 2024

Want to know more?

www.blackrock.com/au | 1300 366 100

© 2024 BlackRock, Inc. All Rights reserved. BLACKROCK, BLACKROCK SOLUTIONS, iSHARES, SO WHAT DO I DO WITH MY MONEY, INVESTING FOR A NEW WORLD, and BUILT FOR THESE TIMES are registered and unregistered trademarks of BlackRock, Inc. or its subsidiaries in the United States and elsewhere. All other trademarks are those of their respective owners.

iShares[®]
by **BlackRock**